

Rabins elected to policy board

Dr. Michael J. Rabins of Farmington Hills, chairman of the mechanical engineering department at Wayne State, became vice president of the policy board (communications) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at the society's annual meeting held recently in Reno.

Within ASME, Rabins has been active, holding a number of offices including member-at-large, policy board, communications; chairman, automatic control division, founding editor of the ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement and Control; and serving as liaison from the basic engineering department to the policy board, communications.

Dr. Rabins, who has been with Wayne State University since 1977, is acting director of the newly formed Urban Transportation Institute. Earlier he was on the faculty of the Polytechnic Institute of New York from 1970 to 1977.

Between 1975 and 1977 Rabins was on leave to the U.S. Department of

Transportation, where he was director of the Office of University Research. He has also been a lecturer for the Agency for International Development in Calcutta, India and a visiting professor to the Polytechnic Institut de Grenoble and to the University of Tokyo.

Among the honors he holds are the Lindback teaching award, the Department of Transportation's Silver Medal and the DOT secretary's award.

Dr. Rabins received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his master's from the Carnegie Institute. He received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1959.

ASME is a technical and educational organization with a membership of 100,000. It conducts one of the largest technical publishing operations, including 13 transactions, quarterly, a monthly newspaper and magazine, numerous meeting and proceedings, frequent special publications and codes, standards and operating principles for industry.

How to use less gas on your next vacation

Even with the high price of gasoline, you can pay less for your driving vacation by using simple fuel-conservation methods, the Automotive Information Council said.

The Southfield-based group said there are several ways to cut gas costs on a vacation. The following are some suggestions offered by the automobile-advocacy organization.

PACKING THE CAR properly can save fuel. Try limiting the amount of luggage each person brings because extra weight robs fuel. Piling suitcases on top of the car increases wind resistance and uses more gas, so try to put all the luggage in the trunk.

Observe the 55 mph speed limit. For every five mph over 50 there is a loss of one mile to the gallon.

If you do a lot of open-road driving, the AIC said, a cruise-control option may be worthwhile, since it will maintain a steady speed, which saves fuel.

Plan driving routes ahead of time to avoid bottlenecks. Avoid driving during rush hours and other peak driving times. Try to plan meal and rest stops to coincide with heavy-traffic periods.

On long trips during the summer, start early to avoid bad weather and minimize the need for air conditioning. Use the fresh-air vents when the outside temperature is still comfortable.

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