



Wavelengths



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Chapter

Volunteers Needed for Spring Section Conference

By Mark Ciechanowski, P.E., Section Vice Chair

The Spring 2005 Section Conference planning is well under way. Now is the time to volunteer to help with the preparations. Some of the tasks that need assistance include:

- Selecting chapter speakers and technical topics (in February)
- Advertising (11"x17" poster is provided) (in March)
- Company showcase table sales (in February and March)
- Student sponsorship tables sales (in February and March)
- On-site set-up and volunteers (April 6)
- On-site registration (April 6)



Members, including student members, who would like to help with any of these activities should contact me, Mark Ciechanowski at mark.ciechanowski@ieee.org.

The Conference agenda is similar to last year. We begin with simultaneous one-hour technical presentations by speakers from all technical chapters starting at 5:30pm. The chapter speakers will be followed by dinner at 7pm then by the Keynote Address by Tony England (see the announcement in this edition of Wavelengths).

The Spring 2005 Section Conference and Dinner will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2005 at the same location as last year, the b.p.s. Conference and Training Center. The Conference Center is located on the corner of 13 Mile Road and Evergreen in Beverly Hills, Michigan. The cost will be the same as last year, \$30 early registration for members including dinner, \$5 for technical sessions only. The Conference is provided by our Section as a benefit to IEEE members -- this is not a fund raising event. The admission charge helps to offset the large cost of the conference. Look for the web registration information on the Section web site in March and the announcement in the next Wavelengths newsletter.

Tony England to Keynote Section Conference

By Mark Ciechanowski, P.E., Section Vice Chair

We are pleased to announce that Tony England will be our Keynote Speaker for the Spring 2005 Section Conference. The topic will be "Engineering Challenges for NASA Future Plans". Dr. England will discuss the engineering challenges NASA faces in executing their plans to establish a base on the Moon and also to send people to Mars. Dr. England is a Shuttle astronaut, is an IEEE Fellow, and is currently Associate Dean of Engineering at the University of Michigan.

The Conference will begin with simultaneous one-hour technical presentations by speakers from all technical chapters starting at 5:30pm. The chapter speakers will be followed by dinner at 7pm then by the Keynote Address.

The Spring 2005 Section Conference and Dinner will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2005 at the same location as last year, the b.p.s. Conference and Training Center. Look for the web registration information in March.

On Frequency

Where are the EE Blogs?

By Dan Romanchik, Wavelengths Editor

A recent report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project reports that blog readership shot up 58% in 2004, and that six million Americans now regularly read blogs. In addition, seven percent of the 120 million U.S. adults who use the Internet say they have created a blog or web-based diary.

The question, though, is where are the electrical and electronics engineering blogs? A Google search for "electronic engineering blog" turned up a few links, but the were mostly blogs sponsored by trade magazines or software companies. The former are just online editorials; the latter limited to talking about Microsoft products.

I blog, but my blog describes my adventures in amateur radio, a long-time hobby. (Newsweek recently called ham radio "faintly embarrassing," but that's fodder for another column.) I'm afraid that I'm not really qualified any more to write about the day-to-day practice of electronics engineering as I haven't done it for quite some time.

Why don't EEs blog? Well, one reason, I suppose, is that EEs are notoriously bad writers. I also suppose that EEs are more reserved than most people, and it takes a certain amount of openness to write an interesting blog. It takes time, too, a commodity that practicing engineers probably don't have a lot of.

I think a good EE blog would be great for the profession. For one thing, kids are attuned to blogs, and a well-written blog--one that effectively conveys the excitement of electronics engineering--would go far in attracting kids to the profession. Anyone up to this challenge?



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Visit the
IEEE-SEM website

<http://www.ieee-sem.org>

for the latest section news
and events calendar.

Science Fair Judges Needed March 9!

by Don C. Bramlett,
PE - IEEE/SEM Advisor



For the eleventh year, the IEEE-SEM Section will provide a dedicated team of judges and awards for projects related to electrical, electronics and computer engineering subjects at the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit (SEFMD). Judging for the 48th annual Science Fair will be conducted on Wednesday, March 9, 2005 in the Michigan Hall, on the lower level (0) or Congress Street level of Cobo Hall, near the waterfront in downtown Detroit. We will have a judges orientation meeting from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM, and the judging will be from 8:45 AM to 12:00 noon. Bypass the normal judges check-in at the entrance and check-in with the chief judge at the "Professional Awards Judging Desk" (near the donuts and coffee), where we will also meet Free coffee, donuts, and a small \$5 stipend for food/parking are available that day for the judges. This pleasurable and fulfilling task only takes half a day and you are done by noon.

IEEE-SEM provides judging and awards in both the Junior (middle school) Division and the Senior (high school) Division. IEEE-SEM usually provides two Grand Awards, certificates and money, and a number of Honorable Mention certificates. Response from Section members willing to be judges has been outstanding each year; please volunteer to be among those to comprise the team of IEEE professional award judges.

I encourage anyone that has an interest in the science and math education of our youth or an interest in student outreach programs to consider being a judge at the Science Fair. As a judge myself in previous years, I have found the experience of talking with the students, finding out their interests and observing their projects/presentations to be very rewarding. So come out and spend the morning with us as we meet with some of the potential engineers, scientists and Nobel Prize winners of the future.

If interested in more information concerning being a judge for the IEEE-SEM professional awards at the Science Fair contact Don Bramlett at (313) 235-7549 during normal weekday business hours, or at home at (734) 591-1452 or by email at d.bramlett@ieee.org.

General information on the Science Fair and last year's Grand Award Winners may be found on the SEFMD website www.sefmd.org. The SEFMD Committee also needs General Category Judges in the 13 categories, including engineering, of exhibits being judged. Inquiries related to being a General Category Judge for the Science Fair organization can be made to the SEFMD office at (248) 471-9900 or on the SEFMD website. Public viewing of the projects will be on Thursday and Friday, March 10 and 11 from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Come on out and see the exhibits and talk to the students at this truly outstanding pre-college education experience

Join us!! You'll like it!!

Email List for Officer and Volunteers Growing

By Mark Ciechanowski, P.E., Section Vice Chair

Our email list is growing. We currently have 114 subscribers, up from 82 subscribers in July 2004.

All members are welcome to join. The email list is where all the volunteers constantly exchange information about volunteer activities. By joining, you will receive all the information that the volunteers and officers receive. In the regular emails you will find volunteer tasks that need your involvement. The section and chapters always need assistance in carrying out activities such as: Section Conference planning, choosing technical speakers, suggesting presentation topics, event judging, etc. Each activity has a contact person looking for you to volunteer.

Our email list is a on LISTSERV. LISTSERV is software for email list management. Our list is hosted by IEEE. The name of our list is "semichigan-officers". You don't need to be an IEEE officer to join list, it is open to all IEEE members. You can find information about subscribing at <http://www.ieee-sem.org/admin.html> on the link "Officers and Volunteers Email List Information". The information page looks like the following:

This page has the basic functions you need to learn about the list and maintain your subscription. We could use someone's help to make this information more presentable. Contact me if you are interested in helping.

To post a message to the list, send email to semichigan-officers@ieee.org. We encourage you to use this list to communicate announcements to all section volunteers, but please don't abuse the list! Use proper email etiquette. Make sure your messages are relevant to all officers. Section announcements are relevant. Call for volunteers are also relevant. If you have a specific question for a particular officer that is not relevant to all officers then email that person directly and don't "cc" this email list. If you need assistance in determining whom to contact or how to address your email message, send your question to me, the list owner, at semichigan-officers-request@ieee.org. You will receive an automated reply email stating "Your message has been forwarded to the list owner...".

If you want more information about the list, you can get a LISTSERV guide called "FAQ and Guide For IEEE Mailing List Subscribers" at <http://listserv.ieee.org>. The guide explains how you can maintain your personal list information online yourself. The first time you want to use the LISTSERV web system, you will need to signup by establishing a password at <http://listserv.ieee.org>.

Events

Friday, Feb 11th

4:00 PM

Trident Chapter: "One-Dimensional Transistors: Physics, Status, U-M, Ann Arbor, Dow 1017

Mark Lundstrom of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University, will examine the device physics, current status, and future prospects for nanotube and nanowire transistors.

Contact: Hossein Mosallaei, 734-764-4474, hosseinm@engin.umich.edu

Tuesday, Mar 1st

6:00 PM

Section Conference Planning Committee Meeting
Univ. of Michigan, Dearborn Professional Education Center Bldg
Planning committee meeting for the Spring 2005 Section Conference and Dinner.

Contact: Mark Ciechanowski, 248-755-4477, mark.ciechanowski@ieee.org

Tuesday, Mar 1st

6:00 PM

Executive Committee (XCOM) Meeting
Univ. of Michigan, Dearborn Professional Education Center Bldg
All are invited to attend.

6:00pm - Dinner
6:30pm - Meeting

Contact: Suleiman Barada, 313-565-8438, 313-550-0525, sbarada@ieee.org

Fri, Mar 11th

1:00 AM

IEEE-USA Leadership Training Workshop (PACE)
Tucson, AZ

Mon, Apr 4th

6:00 PM

Section Conference Planning Committee Meeting
Univ. of Michigan, Dearborn Professional Education Center Bldg
Planning committee meeting for the Spring 2005 Section Conference and Dinner.

Contact: Mark Ciechanowski, 248-755-4477, mark.ciechanowski@ieee.org

Mon, Apr 4th

6:00 PM

Executive Committee (XCOM) Meeting
Univ. of Michigan, Dearborn Professional Education Center Bldg
All are invited to attend.

6:00pm - Dinner
6:30pm - Meeting

Contact: Suleiman Barada, 313-565-8438, 313-550-0525, sbarada@ieee.org

Wed, Apr 6th

5:30 PM

Spring Section Conference and Dinner
bps Training and Conference Center, Beverly Hills
Keynote Speaker: Tony England, Shuttle Astronaut and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, University of Michigan

Want to have your event listed here?

Fill out and submit the Event Submission Form at <http://www.ieee-sem.org/?q=eventform.html>

Advertising in *Wavelengths*

Wavelengths is published eight times a year and sent to more than 3,500 members. These readers are responsible for specifying and purchasing a wide range of electronics components, equipment, and services.

There is no extra charge for color. Special placements can be requested, and will be accommodated if possible. Payment must accompany insertion order. For more information, contact:

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