



The IEEE

APRIL 1999
(VOL 46, NO. 8)

MONITOR

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS

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PERIODICAL
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Chairman's Column



To begin with, I would like to thank those of you who have read my past articles – especially those of you who took the time to reply, whether you agreed with me or not. It's nice to know that the time

spent is not “for naught”. I'm telling you, I felt like a celebrity when some of you came up to me at the Winter Power Meeting and commented that you liked my writing. I told my wife “That is really something for an engineer.” She, the English major, tells me that my writing is fine, except she thinks that I failed “commas”. She also proofs my musings before I send them to be published, so you all think that I did pass “commas.”

Last year, our then Chairman, Bertil Lindberg, wrote an “Open Letter to CEOs.” In this letter he listed many of the benefits companies derive from their employees being members of IEEE. I don't want to just reprint that article, but it is very important to our strength and growth that we continue to get the support of our local companies. By the same token, if there is anything that we can do benefit your company, please let us know.

I also believe that this open letter should really be addressed to more than just CEOs. His letter pertains to many executives, whether they are the Electrical Partner, the Chief Electrical Engineer, the Department Head, the Project Manager etc. Many of our Chapters run courses and sessions on a multitude of subjects; if your people were involved, these subjects could be more tailored to your needs. We encourage this,

because more often than not, your needs are also someone else's needs. Bertil mentioned: the business contacts and networking derived from involvement in IEEE, your company's image enhancement and staying current and competitive in the professional marketplace, among other things. A sometimes-forgotten plus is that when employees see that their company is an involved one, they are more apt to get involved themselves and not only in IEEE.

Right about now I am starting to get concerned. Not about IEEE, but about the weather. It has been so mild for the last three winters that I'm starting to think about retiring right here in the Northeast. That's scary. I hope that April is as nice as the start of March. However, I can vividly remember a sales meeting in Massachusetts 18 years ago, when we first started Tri-Tech Sales. It was April 4, and we got 30 inches of snow. It was an interesting sales meeting because we were stuck in the hotel and couldn't get to the plant. When the snow was finally manageable, it was time to go home.

In past issues we addressed some of the Y2K questions. But before we get to January 1, 2000, one of the things we didn't discuss is: will anything happen on September 9, 1999? Why this date? Because it is 9/9/99 or 9999. This is sometimes used as an end of program code. When something is dated 9999, will it cause the program to stop? Maybe some of our Computer Society members would care to comment on this or any other aspect of the strange-entry syndrome.

William Perlman, Chairman
New York Section

Professional Activities Information Page

This page dedicated to member professional activities information

New York Section PACE Calendar of Upcoming Events. The following are proposed Section activities. Dates and locations will be announced in future issues when they become available. Please plan to attend at least one meeting seminar or workshop.

April	14	General Meeting
May:	19	Election Meeting
June:	9	General Meeting

If you have suggestions on areas of professional activities which interest you please contact me.

Peter Greco PACE Chairman
Tel.: 212-614-3357 Fax: 212-529 5237
email: p.j.greco@ieee.org

IEEE - USA EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Job-hunting, *like engineering*, is an exact science. **Be Employed for Life**

Conduct an electronic job search and locate great jobs. And find “search tools” other than the newspaper.

Learn how to write a new “searchable resume that showcases your experience and skills.

Network, everyone talks about it. Learn how to create and use a career network. Consider consulting as an employment alternative.

Apply knowledge on transitioning from school to work, researching prospective

employers and interviewing and negotiating the job offer. After all good jobs don't come to you by chance. No matter where you are in your engineering career - starting out, in your prime time or starting over - you need reliable career skills and knowledge.

The Engineers Guide to Lifelong Employability can teach you these skills. It is a practical complete resource book on locating and obtaining good jobs throughout your career. Features over 200 pages of in-depth text that will allow you to master the engineering job search..

IEEE Members : \$19.95

IEEE-USA National Job Listing Service: This highly rated job listing service gives members free information on job openings in every region of the country. To obtain current job listing, set your ewb browser to URL **www.ieee.org/jobs.html**. This service now includes a new searchable format for jobs, as well as a separate Entry - Level Job Listing Service at: **www.ieee.org/usab/EMPLOYMENT/entry.html**

Electrotechnology Resume Referral Service: IEEE-USA cosponsors Resume Link's Electrotechnology Resume Referral Service, a national database that is accessed by employers with job openings. U.S. IEEE members may register at no charge for the service by contacting Resume Link at 614-529-0429 or at Web URI **www.resume-link.com/**.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS CONFERENCES

Engineers must be technically proficient, professionally astute and clearly aware of their responsibility to society. Student Professional Awareness Conferences (S-PACs) explore the nontechnical subjects that affect engineers' careers regardless of how well they prepare themselves technically.

First introduced in 1979, S-PACs are an effective vehicle to transmit the professional considerations in an engineering career to students and young engineers. This knowledge enhances the technical education they receive in engineering schools.

S-PACs permit students to learn from the varied experience of successful engineers. The conferences have potential to increase student membership and to encourage ongoing participation in IEEE. S-PACs are becoming a strong force for improving the electrical engineering profession over the coming years.

S-PACs TOPICS:

Six categories represent the professional awareness issues of concern to IEEE student members:

1. CAREER GROWTH:

Professional registration and certification, continuing education (including post-graduate degrees), changes in job responsibility (e.g. technical to management), intellectual property rights (trade secrets, patents, copyrights), oral and written communication methods and other career maintenance and development issues.

2. WORKING:

The realities of getting a job and being successful in the working environment, including job hunting, resume writing and job interview skills, creating one's own company, consulting careers, role models and mentors, and office climate and working conditions.

3. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Ethical standards and conduct of engineers in dealing with employees, colleagues, clients and the public, professional integrity versus corporate loyalty, whistle blowing, product liability litigation, the engineer as "expert witness" the relationship between technology and society, and promoting public understanding of the engineering profession.

4. SELF MANAGEMENT:

Developing personal and management skills, including financial planning for the future, insurance, pensions, investments, time management skills and managing committees and meetings.

5. ENGINEERS AND PUBLIC POLICY:

Shaping and directing public policy by interacting with government and regulatory agencies, drafting and introducing legislation, lobbying, being technologically competitive, and creating technology policies.

6. ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY:

How professional societies, such as IEEE, conduct volunteer activities, provide opportunities for professional development and personal growth, and report on the state of the art and practice of engineering.

Who Organizes and Participates:

The Student Branches of IEEE plan, organize and implement S-PACs. Presenting an S-PAC allows students to gain valuable management experience and self confidence. The initial suggestion of an S-PAC may come from the students themselves or from other IEEE members such as university professors or section representatives. IEEE volunteers can provide experienced counsel and encouragement, but the students bear full responsibility for producing S-PACs. Electrical engineering students are the primary participants in S-PACs, although students in other engineering disciplines may be invited. Students at nearby schools may also be asked to participate to ensure larger audiences.

How to plan and manage an S-PAC:

Taking a few simple steps will help ensure a successful S-PAC:

1. Contact IEEE:

An IEEE Student Branch interested holding an S-PAC should request information from the IEEE-USA Office, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1202, Washington,DC 20036-5104; Phone: (202) 785 0017; Fax: (202) 785 0835. E-Mail: ieeusa@ieee.org

A variety of material that will help in planning a successful S-PAC are available.

Your Regional S-PAC Coordinator (Region 1) is:

Joseph V. PAPA, 24 Neptune Drive, Middletown, N.J. 07748,

Phone: (908) 495 1740 Internet: j.papa@ieee.org

He will provide guidance and orientation that will get planning off to a good start and keep it on the right track.

2. Appoint a Planning Committee and Set a Date:

The Student Branch should establish a tentative date for its S-PAC, with a recommended lead time of six months. Next, a Planning Committee should be appointed, with six to ten members, who will be responsible for organizing the program, obtaining financial support, and making meeting arrangements.

3. Outline the Program:

Successful S-PAC programs usually include two or three speakers and a panel discussion. The Planning Committee must contact the Regional S-PAC Coordinator (see above). This individual will provide valuable counseling on program content and speaker selection.

4. Develop A Budget:

The Planning Committee should estimate the costs involved and identify income sources. Financial contributions may come from the branch treasury, local schools, industry, IEEE Sections, Areas, Councils or the Region. IEEE normally reimburses travel and accommodation expenses for S-PAC speakers.

Management:

As the S-PAC time approaches, the Planning Committee should meet frequently to monitor the progress. To resolve any problems that may arise, and to collect all expected information needed to submit to IEEE the required final report.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER
of
THE IEEE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY
sponsors a full-day conference on
BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION PUBLIC NETWORK
Thursday, April 22, 1999, Registration 8:30 to 9:00 AM, Seminar 9:00 AM to 4:15 PM
The 19th Floor Auditorium at Consolidated Edison, 4 Irving Place, New York, New York

This one day conference will focus on selected technologies and the alternative strategies being explored by a broad range of service providers who plan to successfully deliver *next generation* data, voice and video services demanded by Internet/intranet end-users.

Transport, switching, provisioning and loop technology/strategy, will be presented by experts, whom these service providers are depending upon, to develop technology that will, in some cases, transform an existing incumbent local exchange carrier or permit a small burgeoning start-up the opportunity to make-it in the forthcoming bandwidth-rich environment.

Paper	Speaker	Position	Company
Keynote Speaker: The Next Generation Public Switched Telephone Networks (PSTN)	George Dobrowski, Director,	Broadband Switching & Signaling Technology	Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore).
Bell Atlantic Target Network Architecture	Joseph A. Gansert, Executive Director	Network Architecture Planning	Bell Atlantic
The New World of Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs)	George Holland, President and General Manager,	New York Office	Covad Communications Co.
Voice over IP (Internet Protocol)	Lior Haramaty, Co-Founder and Vice President	Technical Marketing - North America	VocalTec Communications
ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) vs. IP (Internet Protocol)	Chris Metz, Consulting Systems Engineer		Cisco Systems
SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) vs. IP (Internet Protocol) over DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing)	Lee Dayton, Vice President	Transmission Systems	Fujitsu
Transforming Circuit Switched Infrastructure to a Packet, IP Optimized Network	Grahame Rance, Vice President and General Manager	Next Generation Networks	Nortel Networks

For more information contact: Jim Barbera, E-Mail: j.p.barbera@ieee.org, Fax (212) 465-8877; Dimitar Georgievski, telephone (212) 963-4946; E-Mail georgievski.unprofor@un.org, or visit our website at <http://www.comsoc.org/socstr/chptrs/NYC/com19ny4.htm>;

Registration fee, including lunch and snacks: IEEE member \$150
 Student \$35
 Other \$175

Registration:

Complete the following form and send it to Robert E. Puttre, 637 Stratford Road, Baldwin, NY 11510-1031 together with your check made out to **NY IEEE COMSOC**, or company purchase order.

=====

REGISTRATION for NY IEEE ComSoc Conference on Building the Next Generation Public Network.

Your Name: IEEE Membership No.

Your Title:

Your Company:

Address:

City: State: ZIP:

Your telephone number: E-mail:

• Bill my Company. Purchase Order No.:

• My check No. in the amount of \$ is enclosed.

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**POWER ENGINEERING SOCIETY AND
INDUSTRY APPLICATION SOCIETY
NEW YORK & LONG ISLAND CHAPTER**



Electrical System Overcurrent Protection

Mr. Edward T. Gimbut is a District Sales Engineer for Cooper-Bussmann, a BSEE graduate of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y. He has worked for various consulting engineering firms in N.Y. and N.J. He is a licensed electrical inspector in State of New Jersey, and also certified by the State of N.J. to teach the National Electrical Code.

Discussion Topics:

Industry Fuse Standards – Presentation will be focus on various type of current limiting and none current-limiting fuses. Review UL Classifications of fuses, current limitation, and how to apply Fuse-Let-Thru-Charts.

Motor Circuit Protection – Discuss and analyze NEC Section 430, covering the protection of motor circuits, and sizing of overcurrent devices. Also covers Type 2 Protection of motor starters.

Thursday, April 22, 1999

IEEE Technical Discussion Group, NY Chapter PES/IAS

Refreshments: 5:30pm

Program: Starting at 6:00pm

Location: Con Edison 19th Floor (Executive Dining Room)
4 Irving Place
Manhattan, NY 10003

Nearest Subway: Union Square

Further information:

James R. Nucito, P.E., TDG Chairman @ 212-563-7400
David M. Lau, P.E., TDG committee member @ 212-330-6268

No charge for admission
Presentation is open to all interested parties

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, INC.

**The Institute of Electrical and Electronics
Engineers Inc.-USA**
IEEE-USA

**SPEAKERS ON TECHNICAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP SOUGHT FOR IEEE-USA
S-PAC SPEAKERS BUREAU**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1999 -- The IEEE-USA Student Professional Awareness Committee is recruiting speakers to join the national Student Professional Awareness Conference (S-PAC) speakers bureau.

According to Committee Chair Julie Gaevert, "We are specifically looking for speakers who can talk to engineering students about the pros, cons and how-tos of starting a business or becoming a consultant." The committee reimburses the travel expenses of S-PAC speakers.

S-PACs are student-planned and -executed conferences on nontechnical, career-related subjects not usually covered in the standard engineering curriculum.

Those interested in sharing their wisdom and experience on entrepreneurship topics should contact IEEE-USA's Ann Hartfiel at a.hartfiel@ieee.org or 202-785-0017, ext. 341.

IEEE-USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the 1999 IEEE-USA Board of Directors met on February 11, 1999 in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Robert Noberini, who was appointed by the IEEE-USA Assembly to fill the unexpired 1999-2000 Member-at-Large term created by the passing of Michael Mulder.

Nominations for ComSoc Officers

The slate for NY ComSoc is:
Chair: Frank P. Jones
Vice Chair: James P. Barbera
Treasurer: Dimitar Georgievski
Secretary: Karl Wummer

Elections will be held with NY Section on Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Nominations for NY Section Officers

The Nominations Committee of the New York Section, IEEE chaired by Junior Past Chairman, Bertil Lindberg, has proposed the following members for Section office in the 1999-2000 term.

Chairman - Michael Miller
Vice Chairman - Jalal Gohari
Vice Chairman - Alan Osborn
Treasurer - Ralph Tapino
Secretary - Robert Pellegrino

The Section elections will be held on Wednesday May 19, 1999. For details call Ralph Tapino at (718) 904-4526

**Nominations for PES & IAS New York
and L.I. Chapter Officers**

Mr. Joseph Conners - Chairman
Mr. Paul Sartori - Vice Chairman
Mr. James Nucito - Secretary
Mr. Uwe Enke - Treasurer
Mr. Michael Miller - Senior Member at large
Mr. Neil Weisenfeld - Junior Member at large

Elections will be held with NY Section on Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Help Wanted

Facilities Consultant:

A s/w development systems integration & management consulting firm, located in Hoboken, NJ is looking for a facilities person to work on their year 2000 project team at their hospital client site in the Bronx. Duration of the project is 9-12 months and compensation will be paid on a daily rate.

If interested, contact:

Stella Accoo - Recruiter

Phone: 609 786-3334

e-mail: saccoo@meta4inc.com

IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB)

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE...

...the recipients of the IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB) awards.
Congratulations to the following individuals who received their awards at the November RAB meeting.

RAB Achievement Award:

Zbigniew Ciok, Region 8

Citation: "For outstanding service as Section Chairman which accelerated the development of the IEEE in Poland and Eastern Europe."

Zbigniew H. Czyz, Region 8

Citation: "For exemplary service to the IEEE Poland Section."

K. Wendy Tang, Region 1

Citation: "For her strong leadership role in, and her outstanding service and support for, engineering student activities and projects that assist women pursuing careers in engineering and science."

RAB Innovation Award:

Gerald M. Karam, Region 1

Citation: "For aggressively developing and pursuing innovative solutions to the issue of student retention."

RAB Larry K. Wilson Transnational Award:

Erling Hesla and Kao Chen, Region 6

Citation: "For creating and implementing an innovative technical and administrative partnership program to promote IEEE globalization."

RAB Leadership Award:

James H. Beall, Region 3

Citation: "For the improvement of communications between the IEEE Florida West Coast Section and the Institute, and for outstanding leadership in the solicitation of, preparation for, and management of technical conferences in the Tampa Bay area."

Merrill D. Wittman, Region 7

Citation: "For outstanding contributions to the IEEE Vancouver Section in a sustained and effective leadership role to build and maintain the members' interest and enthusiasm in pursuing the goals of the IEEE Regional Activities Board."

Gerald W. Gordon, Region 2

Citation: "For exemplary leadership and synergy in many diverse areas over many years supporting specific membership, organizational, technical, educational and professional activities at the Chapter, Section, Region and Institute levels of IEEE."

Y2K COUNTDOWN

The last day of December 1999 and the first day of January 2000 are probably the most important dates in the Y2K computer problem equation, but are you aware of the other dates that require attention in the Y2K test lab as well? They are:

-3 January: The first business day of 2000.

-28 and 29 February and 1 March: The days surrounding the leap-year date.

-31 October: The first two-digit day and month of 2000.

-1 January 2001: The first day of the 21st century (the true first day of the third millennium).

The first critical day before all of these is 9 September 1999 (9-9-99). In the early days of computer programming, a sequence of 9s was often used to signal the end line of a program. It is possible that some computer systems may recognize this number as an "end" code rather than a date, and end the program. Like most Y2K problems, the extent of this date problem is unknown. As a result, the IEEE is doing extensive testing before 9 September. There are less than 350 days remaining to 2000. Are you ready? Be Prepared...Be Compliant.

Y2K TRAVEL WOES

In anticipation of the millennium, some larger companies are putting a travel embargo into effect for the latter part of this year and early next year. This could significantly impact registration numbers for meetings and conferences that are scheduled to occur during the period beginning around 9 September 1999 and ending some time in March of 2000. Please advise your meeting and conference organizers of the potential for reduced participation as a result of the Y2K travel embargoes that may be imposed during the above period. For additional information contact Ken Maze - IEEE Controller's Office.

TERMINATION DATE

Sounds rather final and scary, doesn't it? Actually, it is just a reference to the dates that IEEE runs the program that will identify the members in our database that have not renewed membership for 1999, and tags them as inactive. The termination date for members in Regions 1 through 7 is 26 February 1999. A later date of 30 April 1999 is set for Regions 8, 9, and 10. The extra few weeks are given to allow for additional mailing time, but keep in mind the convenience of renewing membership from the IEEE Web site, www.ieee.org/membership/renewal. You may want to include a reminder of these dates in your meetings and newsletters.

LOOK DISTINGUISHED!

The IEEE encourages you to reach out to your constituents to identify their needs and discuss potential activities and programs. The IEEE Distinguished Lecturers Handbook is an excellent tool available to facilitate these efforts and to assist Sections and Chapters in planning high quality meetings and programs for their members. The Handbook lists the names, topics and contact information for lecturers from the IEEE Societies and Technical Councils that participate in the program. You can find out about the specifics of each Distinguished Lecturer Program, including costs and requirements. The program is available through auto retrievable email files, with the complete listing of the aliases from: info.distlec@ieee.org or on the WEB at www.ieee.org/tab/ciaindex.html. For more information, please send your request to society-lecturers@ieee.org.

ARE YOU FEELING REJUVENATED?

Many Sections and Chapters experience a "slow period," but if your slow period turns into months or more, you know you have a problem. An ad hoc committee has been established to define and implement strategies for Section/Chapter rejuvenation, and we'd like your help. If you have had the experience of breathing new life into a Section or Chapter that was suffering from a lack of activity, we'd like to hear how you did it. We're compiling "Best Practices" and other documentation that might be published on a web site to assist entity officers in this situation. Please share your ideas and experiences with us by writing to sec-chap-support@ieee.org.

**If you have moved or have new contact information, please notify the IEEE at address-change@ieee.org. Volunteer officers should also inform the IEEE Regional Activities Department at scs-officer-report@ieee.org. **

PUT IT ON DISPLAY

The IEEE Marketing Exhibits Department is offering a special incentive to all volunteers who may be interested in sponsoring a Cooperative Display. If you are planning on hosting or attending a meeting/conference and would like an IEEE presence of membership applications, catalogues, brochures, promotional items or books, the Exhibits Department will pay up to \$250 in the U.S. and \$500 outside of the U.S. towards the printing of price lists, shipping, and labor charges. For information and to be placed on the 1999 IEEE exhibits schedule, contact Beverly Banks, IEEE Marketing.

STOP IN AND VISIT

If you have not visited the IEEE Chapter Home Page recently, please stop by! It is in the process of being modified to include listings of Chapter locations and contacts, a forum for announcing Chapter meetings, and guidelines for the development of new Chapters. Once complete, Chapter development reports will be updated twice a year. Future plans for the site will include links to and from Society and/or Chapter home pages and the student programs and services listing. You can visit us at www.ieee.org/tab/ciaindex.html. Comments and suggestions are always welcome and encouraged. They can be submitted to Linda La Motta in the Technical Activities Department.

GRANTS AWARDED TO THE IEEE

IEEE received the following grants from external agencies during the 4th Quarter of 1998:

- Office of Naval Research: US \$8,000 to the 1999 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium for publications. US\$3,000 to the 1998 International Topical Meeting on Microwave for general conference support.
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: US \$138,000 to use the World Wide Web to document the recent history of electrical engineering and computer science.
- Bell Atlantic Foundation: US \$1,000 to expand the TLC Network

If you have any questions or wish to pursue external grant opportunities for an IEEE conference or project, please contact Karen Galuchie, Grant Administrator.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Would you like to be part of an ongoing effort to ensure future leadership within the Societies? We would love your help! The Technical Activities Society Chapter Coordinator is collecting information about the benefits and programs offered by Societies and Chapters to their student members. Submissions will be posted on the IEEE Chapter Home Page web site, where they can be shared with other Societies and Chapters as part of a centralized listing for the benefit of student members. Societies and Chapters are urged to take part in this important project. If you would like to be involved in this project or would like to submit program information to be included on the site, please contact Linda La Motta, Technical Activities Department.

New IEEE Web Site Features Virtual Reading Room

PISCATAWAY, NJ, 3 March 1999 – The IEEE Educational Activities Department announces the release of its Online Education Reading Room at <http://www.ieee.org/eab>.

Once inside the virtual room, viewers can click on any book in the best-selling IEEE Selected Readings series or *Engineers' Guides To Business Series*, and “flip through” the full text of its pages. Titles up for browsing include *Cellular Radio And Personal Communications*, *Smart Antennas*, *Recent Developments in Power Electronics*, *Marketing for Engineers*, *Working In A Global Environment*, *Writing For Career Growth*, and more!

Logical and user-friendly in its design, the reading room features:

- Keyword, title, and author search options
- Full table-of-contents displays for each title
- Navigation tools that enable viewers to move from page to page and section to section, and to zoom in for a closer look at diagrams and formulas
- Online ordering options

For more information about the reading room contact Alan Trembly at a.trembly@ieee.org.

The IEEE LEADERSHIP WIRE

A report from the staff to volunteer leaders of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETS 1999 GOAL

The IEEE Membership Development Committee has established its 1999 membership goal at 349,000, up from the 1998 goal of 330,000. January growth continues upward spurred on by Web applications. It appears that 1999 will be an even more successful year than 1998 for Web-based member applications, which accounted for 54 percent of higher-grade membership applications received last year. In January, the IEEE received 1,762 new higher-grade member applications, 64 percent via the Web. While higher-grade applications in January are up 11 percent compared to the same period in 1998, Web applications are up 33 percent. IEEE membership for January totaled 339,745 for an increase of 5.2 percent or 16,772 members over January 1998. Society memberships also grew to 291,285, a 6.2 percent increase over January 1998. For more information, call contact Jill Levy, Regional Activities, at "j.levy@ieee.org".

Half Year Dues Payment Period begins 1 March A Great Time to Recruit! Beginning 1 March and extending through 15 August, applicants to IEEE and its technical societies pay half the full annual rates. This means now is a great time to join IEEE, as new applicants will receive service for the remainder of 1999, at reduced rates. This is an especially good time for graduating students to consider joining IEEE and its societies because student members (regardless of how long they have been student members) receiving their first professional degree can receive up to four years of discounted dues and society membership fees if their student membership is in effect when they graduate.

IEEE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION'S "IEEE-SANEWS"

The IEEE Standards Association recently sent out its first edition of "ieee-sanews", a fast-paced, interactive e-mail "news wire" for IEEE Standards Association members. It provides up-to-the-minute news briefs on policies, programs and products, meeting agenda and minutes postings, as well as notification of the need for feedback from our members. "ieee-sanews" will be sent out immediately following the IEEE Standards Association Standards Board meetings and the IEEE Standards Association Board of Governors meetings, as well as other times when we need to share information or need member feedback. For more information contact Karen McCabe, Manager, Marketing IEEE Standards Activities at "k.mccabe@ieee.org"; tel. 732-562-3824.

MILESTONE FOR STUDENT BRANCHES

The IEEE student branches have hit a milestone. One hundred branches have registered for the online student-application program, 15 in February alone. Student Branches are finding the online application to be a great tool for recruiting new members. Since last September, more than 2,400 students have joined the IEEE online. For more information, call Laura Durrett, Regional Activities, "l.durrett@ieee.org" or call 732-562-5523.

PERSONNEL

New Hires:

Kathleen Whalen, Systems Administrator, IEEE Computer Society, DC

Melissa Laudisi, Advertising Production Coordinator, Publications

Maria Vuolo, Administrative Assistant, Section/Chapter Support, Regional Activities.

Veronica de la Mata, HRIS Trainee, Human Resources

Barbara Della Salla, Mail Desk Clerk, Member Services

Judith Prow, Associate Editor - IT Pro, IEEE Computer Society

Promoted:

Sherry Russ, Manager - Meeting Planning Services, Corporate Activities

Left Company:

Elizabeth Maglori, Administrative Assistant, Technical Activities

Caryn Radick, Editorial Assistant, Periodicals

Christopher Cheplic, Editorial Assistant, Periodicals Promotions:

IN THE NEWS

The IEEE, its members, and its products and services are mentioned frequently in journalists' reports on technology and the engineering profession. Here are just a few recent references.

12 Feb. 99 -- NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (WNYC, New York) -- A story during the nightly broadcast of "All Things Considered" featured an interview with David Morton, IEEE History Center, on magnetic recording. Morton gave a historical perspective on recording technologies and explained how data recorded using technologies that have become obsolete are being recovered.

1 Feb. 99 -- FORTUNE -- A cover story, entitled "Finished at Forty", described the new economy where the skills that come with age are being discounted. The story stated that employees in some industries, such as computer engineering, are experiencing shorter half-lives. The article quoted IEEE-USA president Paul Kostek who said age challenges in employment are affecting people in their late 30s.

24 Jan. 99 -- Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.) -- A Sunday edition feature titled, "More Power for Less," explained how computer technology is becoming more powerful and sophisticated while the costs are decreasing. The article described numerous product advances. It attributed improvements to such innovations as the Universal Serial Bus and the IEEE 1394 high-speed interface.

Jan. 99 -- INTECH -- A feature story covering the 1999 outlook for the technology industry described the benefits of IEEE standard 1451.2, the technical electronic data sheet (TEDS). According to the article, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) "demonstrated how the emerging IEEE 1451 family of approved and proposed standards can make easier the assembly, expansion and modification of measurement and control systems." The article also quoted Kang Lee, chair of the Sensors Technology Committee of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society, who predicted that TEDS will minimize human calibration error.

From Under the Rock

DILBERT

It is always fun poking fun -- well because it is just funny. Something can be said for making people laugh. Life can be painful if you haven't learned how to deal with imperfection, and laughing is one of the ways to relieve the stress of imperfection. Laughing enables you to stand back and see that you may be taking life too seriously. I once remarked that the Egyptians made the pyramids just to make a point. If you stand back from the serious intent of these master builders what do you see -- a point of course. Although humor is an effective way to deal with our foibles, the best way is to work.

Laughter and work have one thing in common and that is they are absorbing distractions. You might believe that you must work to live and of course you would be right; of course I am not including "cheats." However, think of all the work people are involved with that go beyond just food and shelter, which is basic living. One example is gardening. Think of all the hours that are spent in the spring preparing the soil for spring planting so that in the summer we have beautiful flowers -flowers that will only die with the arrival of the first frost. For those of us who love to garden, you might say that gardening is not work because it is enjoyable. Although in the strictest definition of work, work is defined by activity and not whether it is enjoyable or not.

Dilbert reminds us how foolish we can be. Not only are we foolish, we have a penchant for repeating the same mistakes. One of the common errors is in the use of time. If there is one thing we are limited to is time. And yet we treat it as if it is an inexhaustible supply. No one can tell you how to spend your time; it is that personal. When it comes to a personal choice, spending time is like spending money. People derive different benefits from the expenditure of both. If you are interested in your health you will spend some time exercising. Some people only become interested in health when they believe they are losing it.

One of the biggest time wasters is complaining. All the complainer does is to describe the imperfections

of the system. We all know the world is not perfect because of its composition of imperfect people. By the way the only person you have a chance at changing is yourself, and that is difficult enough. Since there are so many things you can hope to make perfect you have to first find those things you want to excel at. An interesting story regarding excellence is in the case of Albert Einstein who excelled at physics, but in his quest destroyed his marriage and was estranged from his children. It seems this genius couldn't be a great physicist and family man at the same time. There are countless stories about people who excelled in one area at the expense of another.

The complainer may waste time but the worst trait is "criticizing." The critical person not only wastes time, he or she destroys relationships. I was once criticized by a subordinate for not being critical. The complainer said I was too positive and that I should be more critical of the work of others. I explained that criticizing is most often just a waste of time and in fact it hurts people simply because the person who is being criticized will defend themselves. Well of course the person wasn't satisfied with my response. Then I said if you would like some criticism I will describe your faults. After a brief description of his shortcomings, he vehemently objected as I expected him to. Then of course I made the point through his response of the futility of criticism. The natural reaction of a person being criticized is to defend himself.

You may ask that if there is no criticism then how are improvements made. Improvements are made through an increase in knowledge and skill. If you can't cook, what you need is a cookbook, not someone telling you can't cook. It is obvious that improvements are only made by knowing a better way.

It is the Engineer's job to develop a better way. Of course this is done by applying science. Dilbert may show through humor what we may be doing wrong as a society, but is the Engineer through honest work that shows what we are doing right in our society.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 18, 19, 1999 (Sunday, April 18th) 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM (Monday, April 19th) 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Fifty Plus Expo
Madison Square Garden, 4 Pennsylvania Plaza, New York City
For more information call (212) 631-7574

April 22, 1999 (Thursday) 6:00 PM Refreshments at 5:30 PM
New York Section, the New York/Long Island PES & IAS Chapter,
Electrical System Overcurrent Protection
Con Edison 19th Floor Executive Dining Area, 4 Irving Place, Manhattan, New York
For information call James Nucito at 212 563-7400 or David Lau at 212 330-6268

April 22, 1999 (Thursday)
New York Chapter Communications Society "Building the Next Generation Public Network"
Con Edison 19th Floor Auditorium, 4 Irving Place, Manhattan, New York
For more information e-mail James P. Barbera at j.p.barbera@ieee.org or fax to: (212) 465-8877 or
Call Dimitar Georgievski at (212) 963-4946 or e-mail georgievski.unprofor@un.org or visit COMSOC's
website at <http://www.comsoc.org/socstr/chptrs/NYC/com19ny4.htm>.

Deadlines for information to be placed into future issues of The Monitor

September Issue	July 23, 1999
October Issue.....	August 20, 1999
November Issue.....	September 24, 1999
December Issue	October 22, 1999