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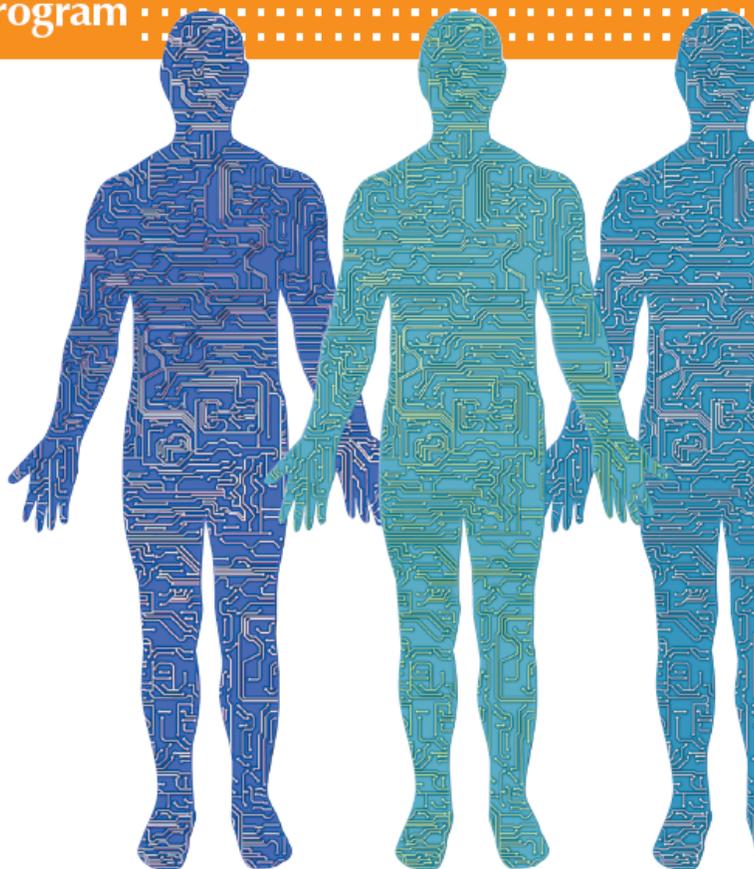
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 6

6:00 pm -8:00 pm : Guest Speaker

Women In Engineering and Broadcast Technology Society will be providing a guest speaker.

Topic is to be determined

Contact: Darlene E. Rivera

Telephone: 914-967-5800 ext.250

E-mail: drivera@bergerlehman.com

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm : Guest Speaker: Randy Hoffner

Broadcast Technology Society will be hosting BTS - TBD. Topic to be determined.

Location: 47 W. 66th St., New York, NY A, B, C trains.

Contact: Darlene E. Rivera

Telephone: 914-967-5800 ext.250

E-mail: drivera@bergerlehman.com

Wednesday, January 25

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Joint Meeting WIE/Computer Society

GuestSpeaker: Mary Y Wisniewski IBM TJ Watson Research Center

Contact: Darlene E. Rivera

Telephone: 914-967-5800 ext.250

E-mail: drivera@bergerlehman.com

Or

Wilson Milian

Telephone (212) 883-7448

E-mail wmilian@ieee.org

**Happy
Kwanzaa**



Happy Holidays From IEEE

Please visit our web site for updates throughout the months:
http://ewh.ieee.org/r1/new_york/monitor



Ideas

By Kenneth Vought
2006 NY Section Chairman Elect

As IEEE members, our problem solving skills are or should be continuously honed to create new combinations or ideas. In solving design, manufacturing, system integration, installation and operating problems we continuously practice and refine our ability to recognize interactions and relationships of our targeted problem elements.

Like problem solving, the key to idea production is disciplined practice.

When we selected Electrical, Electronics, or Computer Engineering as a career path, many believed us to be geniuses. They were right! Self doubts, if any, can and must be removed by practice.

In our competitive, technology driven economy, Electrical and Electronics Engineer generated ideas ignite the development and expansion of civilization and public well being, world-wide. Rather than lament the export of yesterday's USA technology and engineering opportunities, we should understand the principles and practice the techniques to develop technological innovation or simply put we must produce ideas.

Many of our IEEE Members have made notable technological and business contributions that led to their recognition as being a Genius. Let us examine how five types of Geniuses generated their break thru ideas.

One of five classified types of Genius is the **Seer**. Seers have the power to visualize images or pictures in their mind. Their images become the impetus for ingenious ideas. We all have this capacity to some extent. Many try to suppress this idea generating resource.

Basketball geniuses Bill Russell and Michael Jordon visualized and prepared antidotes for skilled and aggressive opponents' offensive ball handling and defensive positioning. During their games, and particularly in advance of the final buzzer, they executed previously visualized shot blocking and scoring techniques. Bill Russell's shared genius like insights convinced me not to suppress but to practice and refine this path to create ideas.

Another Genius classification is that of an **Observer**. Observers have the power to notice detail. We all are observers, to some extent.

The universally recognized advertising genius, James Webb Young wrote a virtual idea bible. His "**A Technique for Producing Ideas**" describes a rigorous five step method to observe, document, recognize relationships, formulate, and validate a "new combination" that he calls a good idea. This idea generation methodology reminds me of finding the values of five unknowns in five simultaneous equations. Not fun, but with time doable. We need good ideas, not just any idea.

A third Genius classification is that of an **Alchemist**. The Alchemist has the power to connect fragments of different technologies or ideas to come up with a break through innovation or idea.

After billions were invested to control nuclear powered submarines at high underwater speeds, the most qualified and dedicated Naval Architects were made to recognize that they had empirically developed and applied previously proven Aeronautical Engineering principles within a more viscous (water vs. air) fluid. This clueless example of waste offers reason to attend and cross train at technology sharing forums sponsored by other than your own IEEE Society Chapter.

The most difficult Genius classification to describe is that of a **Fool**. Fools apply their vivid intuitions that recognize otherwise obscure truths. This type of Genius sees absurdity in "conventional wisdom" and can only prevail by persistently bucking the system and/or by flukes of luck. The brilliant actor, Tom Hanks portrayed the perfect fool genius, "Forest Gump." Amazon.com and Wal-Mart founders have been found to meet the Fool classification of Geniuses as do the inventors of Teflon and vulcanized rubber.

The fifth and most laudable Genius classification is that of a **Sage**. Unlike the Fool, a Sage has the power to simplify. The process of reducing problems to their essence, allows a Sage to assess critical relationships and there by formulate new combinations, called ingenious ideas.

Now that we understand how at least five different types of

(Continued from page 5)

Genius can be classified, let's revisit the myth that as Electrical Engineers must be or at least think we are geniuses.

To survive, and more importantly prevail, in today's global economy, I will not suggest that we spend time or energy to protest exporting yesterday's USA engineering career opportunities or the hiring of non USA citizen engineers. Rather, we should commit our time and energies to learn and refine the best, proven idea generating practices and techniques. If we diligently and continuously apply the disciplines of creating ideas, we will deserve and enjoy continuous professional growth and personal gratification.

It is privilege to have this opportunity to address peer IEEE Members, geniuses, and prospective geniuses. Please join us and invite your peer Electrical, Electronics, and Computer System Engineers to join us at future NY Section and Society sponsored technology sharing forums.

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Thursday, December 1, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC400

INTEGRATED DIGITAL MEDIA

Friday, December 2, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - RH204

MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

Tuesday, Dec 6, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC400

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Wednesday, December 7, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC102

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, December 7, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC400

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Thursday, December 8, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC102

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Thursday, December 8, 2005
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Brooklyn Campus - LC400





Professional Activities Committee for Engineers (P.A.C.E.)

HOT TOPICS IN PUBLIC POLICY

VISION

"To advance global prosperity by fostering technological innovation, enabling members' careers and promoting community world-wide."

MISSION

"The IEEE promotes the engineering process of creating, developing, integrating, sharing, and applying knowledge about electro and information technologies and sciences for the benefit of humanity and the profession."

Everyone agrees that the IEEE vision and mission statements (above) are honorable and worthwhile endeavors, making the IEEE one of the most reputable and respected professional and technical societies in the world. **Unfortunately many members are not aware that IEEE-USA works toward protecting its members from laws and policies that may hinder our professional careers. Two hot topics are discussed here.**

In October of 2005, the Senate began discussion of a bill to raise the number of H-1B visas by 60,000 and increase the cost of obtaining said visas, sending all fees to general revenue. One can look at this from different perspectives. On one hand, businesses will be able to hire more engineers at lower wages, increasing their net income and competitiveness. On the other hand, the engineers who are currently either in school or working will have fewer and fewer options to find financially rewarding and worthwhile employment at a time when the cost of living continues to rise.

On July 20th, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee passed S. 1418 which would invest significant resources (\$116M thus far) into increasing the use of IT by medical professionals. S. 1418 establishes a new government office, the Office of National Health Information Technology, within the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill instructs the new office to develop standards for the electronic exchange of medical information. The Office will also work with stakeholders to

identify and develop plans for overcoming obstacles for adopting these standards.

It is important for all engineers to take note of political actions being taken that affect us. We can make a difference, but it is necessary to speak with your Senator and Representatives and tell them what you think. Remember, politicians are people too, and they can make mistakes. It is our job to show them our perspective on the issues at hand.

For more information on government policies effecting engineers, login to the IEEE-USA Legislative Action Center (IEEE web account required):

<https://www.capitolconnect.com/ieee>

Regards,

Matthew B. Nissen, PACE Chair
(212) 529-5969 x316
Matt.Nissen@ieee.org

Eyal Novotny, PACE Vice-Chair
(212) 629-1544
Eyal.Novotny@ieee.org

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a NY Section Volunteer, please let us know by submitting a resume and a cover letter indicating areas of interest and a brief bio.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring/hosting NY Section activities, please contact myself or the respective chapter/section officer.

[NY Section P.A.C.E. Web Site](http://www.ieee.org/NYS-PACE)

<http://www.ieee.org/NYS-PACE>

[IEEE-USA's and IEEE Sites:](http://ieeusa.org/)

<http://ieeusa.org/>

<http://careers.ieee.org/>

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/careers/>

The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the March 2005 (Issue 67) IEEE History Center Newsletter. I found it of great interest and quite pertinent to the history of electrical engineering. I am hopeful that it will be equally enjoyed by the Monitor readership.....Mel Olken

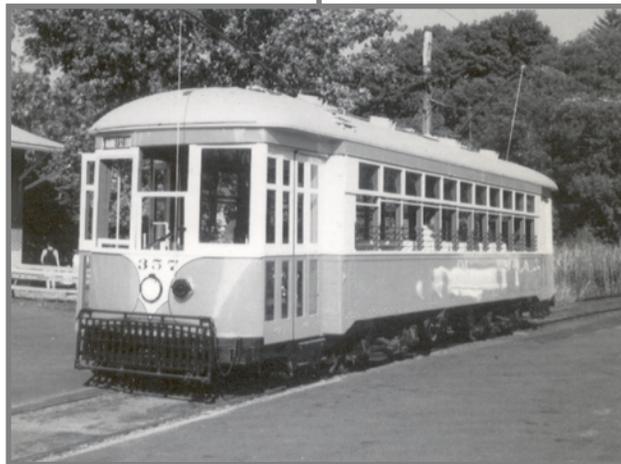
**Electrical Technologies in the Movies:
Streetcars**

In 1842, just a dozen years after the opening of the first public steam-powered railway, Robert Davidson demonstrated a battery-driven electric locomotive on the Edinburgh-Glasgow line. It proved, though, too expensive for commercial use. In 1881 Werner von Siemens opened a public electric railway in Lichterfeld, near Berlin. Siemens's train drew power from an electrified rail, and it was soon clear that this was too dangerous for street railways. However, in the next half dozen years two engineers in the United States, Frank J. Sprague and Charles Van Depoele, developed a practical and safe streetcar system, with power provided by an overhead wire.

Because most cities already had horse-powered streetcar systems, it was relatively easy to adopt the new technology, and in the years 1888 through 1891 more than 100 U.S. cities did so. By 1902 ninety-four percent of urban transit lines in the U.S. were electrified, and in the mid 1930s about forty percent of the urban working class took the streetcar to work. But in the 1930s and 1940s streetcars gave way to the automobile and, indeed, disappeared from almost all U.S. cities. Fortunately we have movies to provide us a view of yesteryear's streetcar city.

The most famous streetcar may well be the one shown in the 1951 movie "A Streetcar Named Desire" based on the Tennessee Williams play. One line of the New Orleans transit system was named Desire, after Desire Street, and in the

movie we see a streetcar with this sign on front. The most famous song about streetcars is probably "The trolley song", written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Bane and sung memorably by Judy Garland in the 1944 Vincente Minnelli movie "Meet Me in St. Louis". The most foolish way to ride a trolley, on the top of the car, is demonstrated by Gene Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain" (1952).



Charlie Chaplin's last and perhaps best short-movie was "Pay Day" (1922). In a long sequence it shows the Chaplin character trying to ride—overcrowding makes it difficult—and then finally riding the streetcar. The Fred

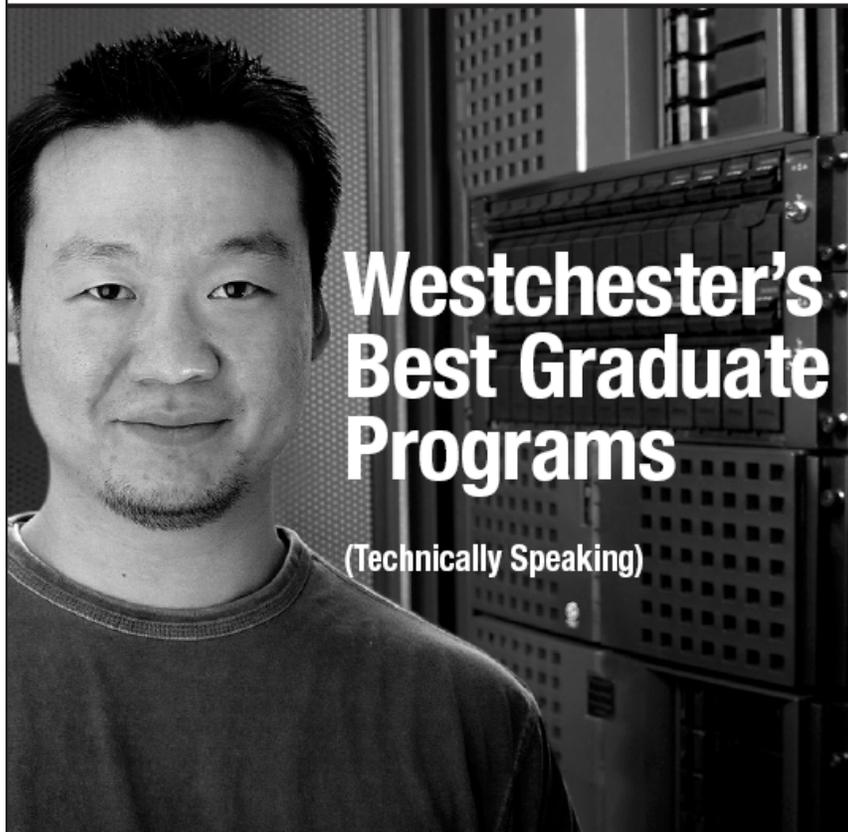
Astaire and Ginger Rogers movie "The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle" (1939) shows streetcars in use in New York City in 1911. The trolleys of another part of the city are shown in the 1945 movie "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"; from this movie we learn that it cost a nickel to ride the trolley, and doing so was regarded as a luxury, at least for children. The very recent movie "Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius" shows the streetcars of Atlanta in about 1918. We can see Baltimore's trolleys in "Avalon" (1990), where a streetcar comes off the tracks and crashes into a car, and in "Liberty Heights" (1999), where we are given a close-up of the overhead contact and of the wheels and brakes.

The forerunner technology can be seen in many movies, such as the 1942 Orson Welles film

"The Magnificent Ambersons" (1942), which shows a horse-drawn streetcar in use in the 1870s, and "Hello, Dolly!" (1969), which shows horse-drawn trolleys in New York City in 1890. In the "The Great Jasper" (1933) the main character, at the beginning of the 20th century in New York, drives a horse-drawn trolley at the time it is being replaced by an electric system. Half a century later, the trolley system of Los Angeles was being decommissioned. In the 1988 movie "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" this is presented as the result of a conspiracy among automobile interests; the down-at-the-heels private eye Eddie Valiant, after hitching on a ride on the back of a trolley, comments "We've got the best public transit system in the world."

In many foreign cities the streetcar systems have remained in heavy use for more than a hundred years. Particularly good depictions are in "Temptress Moon" (1996), which shows Shanghai streetcars in the 1920s, and "The Pianist" (2002), where we see Warsaw streetcars during World War II. In Luis Buñuel's 1954 movie "Illusion Travels by Streetcar" ("La ilusión viaja en tranvía"), two transit workers, learning that their favorite streetcar is to be decommissioned, take the car out for an all-night and all-day final trip around Mexico City. The main character of "Black Orpheus" (1959) is a streetcar driver in Rio de Janeiro; we see him at work and at the end of the day, when he disengages the pantograph from the electric lines.

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Tuesday, January 10, 5-7:30 pm

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Email: westinfo@west.poly.edu

Online: www.poly.edu/west



IEEE-WIE: Presentation of the Con Ed Manhattan Control Center



transmission to power distribution.

On Wednesday November 2, 2005, the IEEE Women in Engineering Affinity Group (WIE) hosted a presentation of the Con Edison Manhattan Electric Distribution Control Center given by Mr. Bob Pellegrino. Mr. Pellegrino is the Manager of Environmental Operations of the Manhattan Control Center and is Senior Past Chair of the IEEE NY Section as well as Chair of the Tappan Zee Subsection. Mr. Pellegrino has worked in various departments in Con Edison from power

The presentation was held in a conference room overlooking the entire Manhattan Control Center through a wall of glass windows. Mr. Pellegrino began with an overview of Con Edison, which provides electric, steam and gas services to over 3 million customers in a 600 square mile area. He noted that in Manhattan one customer could be considered an entire high-rise building or individual apartments depending on how the metering service was implemented. The



presentation focused on the electrical distribution service in Manhattan. Mr. Pellegrino noted that all of Manhattan's distribution system was entirely underground, unlike other areas Con Ed serviced, i.e. Westchester and the Outer boroughs. Mr. Pellegrino explained the Control Center was responsible for directing and maintaining the operation and maintenance of the electrical supply to all customers in the Manhattan service area. He also described the layout and various responsibilities of each table in the Control Center. The internal communications of the Control Center with other departments and the external communications with public as well as private organizations were discussed.

Mr. Pellegrino stated that Con Edison's reliability was second to none and this was in part due to the redundancy built in to both the transmission and distribution systems throughout Manhattan. The feeder restoration process was reviewed and a map of the underground feeder system shown. The dual feeder system was designed to have back ups such that in case a primary feeder is out of service, Con Edison's customers would not be affected. The presentation ended with a segment of questions and answers for the attendees.

IEEE Delegates attend Polytechnic University's Career Fair

On Wednesday, October 19, Brooklyn Polytechnic University held its 28th Annual Fall Career Fair. One notable difference this year was that volunteer officers representing IEEE (Matt Nissen, Nick Nonis, and Eyal Novotny) were invited to hold an IEEE Booth at the Career Fair.

Our purpose in attending was to discuss with students and upcoming college graduates IEEE's mission to get the younger generation of engineers more involved in New York Section (initially through professional development and networking events). These events include next month's "Signals" Networking event on November 10, a venue for people from different professional backgrounds and experiences to mingle and get to know one another. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, students included.



We were pleased to see that students at Polytechnic were organizing the IEEE Student Branch. Students on board positions include Ophir Gaaphon (president), Steven Huang (vice president), and Terry Chu (secretary). The current student members were kind enough to offer us assistance at the career fair by promoting IEEE events, handing out brochures, and trying to get other students more involved. All New York Section students are encouraged to attend upcoming meetings and volunteer if they have the time.

Upon learning about how beneficial our programs are to students, as well as professionals, many students gave us their contact information. Some even offered to volunteer their services in upcoming events.

For those who are interested in attending professional and career development programs and events go to www.ieee.org/NYS-PACE/ where you will find a list of upcoming events.



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**Women in Engineering (WIE)
and The Broadcast Technology Society
Present**

Evolution of Television and the Convergence of Technology

The speaker will be Eileen Pedersen, ABC Broadcasting. Ms. Pedersen joined ABC in the early 80's where she went on to become the first Chief Engineer of 1125 Productions—one of the first Hi-Definition facilities. Later on Ms. Pedersen became the Director of Engineering and Maintenance for USA and Sci-Fi Networks. At USA, she was part of a team that built one of the first State of the Art Digital Facilities. She went on to work as a consultant on a number of High Definition builds including CNN and ESPN and currently, works as a System Design Engineer for ABC.

On
Tuesday, December 6 2005
6:00PM-8:00PM

Refreshments will be provided.

Advanced Registration is required send e-mail by Monday October 24, 2005 to:
Darlene E. Rivera, WIE Chair at drivera938@ieee.org or Warner W. Johnston, Broadcast Technology Society Chair, at Warner.W.Johnston@abc.com.

Please provide Name and Company affiliation.

No Walk-ins Allowed for Security Reasons

Location: ABC Cafeteria
Lobby Floor
47 West 66th St
New York, New York 10023



**Women in Engineering (WIE)
and
IEEE Computer Society**



YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEETING
of the IEEE – WIE and Computer Society, New York Section.
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

PRESENTING:

"Connectivity in the Silicon Brain: On-chip wiring requirements in high-performance microprocessors"

The speaker will be Dr. Mary Y Lanzerotti, Research Staff Member, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center and IEEE Senior Member. Dr. Lanzerotti joined IBM as a Research Staff Member in 1996. In 2003, she received an IBM First Plateau Patent Achievement Award, and in 1998 she received an IBM Research Division Outstanding Contribution Award "in recognition of the design and realization of the Alliance (G5) Microprocessor." Her current research interests are the design and implementation of on-chip interconnections for low-power, high-performance, high-yield chips. She is the author or coauthor of 26 refereed publications, 19 conference presentations, and holds one patent.

From 1995-2000, she was an Associate Editor of the IEEE-LEOS Newsletter (LEOS = Lasers and Electro-Optics Society), and since January, 2001, she has been the Executive Editor of the IEEE-LEOS Newsletter. She is also one of twelve elected members of the IEEE-LEOS Board of Governors and is serving a three-year term from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005. Dr. Lanzerotti received the A. B. degree summa cum laude from Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, in 1989, the M. Phil. degree from Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K., in 1991, the M. Sci. from Cornell University in 1994, and the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, in 1997, all in physics.

Refreshments: 5:30 pm

Program: Starting at 6:00 pm

Location: Con Edison, 4 Irving Place, NY 10003

Nearest Subway: Union Square

RSVP by 1/24/06 to:
Darlene Rivera at drivera938@ieee.org or
Wilson Milian, at wmilian@ieee.org

Due to heightened security no walk-ins allowed.

Engineering Management Society New York Section

You are invited to a special presentation:

Quality Assurance Management for The World Trade Center Downtown Restoration Program

January 12, 2006 5:30 pm



The challenges of managing the Quality Assurance Program for the World Trade Center (WTC) Downtown Restoration Program (DRP) in accordance with the strict FTA (Grantor) guidelines, through design and construction, are considerable. **Dr. Mewburn Humphrey, P.E., of The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey** is the Quality Assurance Manager for the WTC DRP. Dr. Humphrey will discuss the Port Authority's QA/QC Program that has been established to manage the Quality Management System and assure the delivery of a quality product that meets the Contract, PA and Grantor requirements, as well as deliver a safe, high quality environment for the Downtown Residents, visitors to the New York City/New Jersey Region, the WTC Site Complex, and PATH users.

Dr. Humphrey holds a B. Eng Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Guyana, the Post Graduate Professional Engineering Training Diploma from the Royal School of Military Engineering, UK, a M.E.C.E. Degree from the City College of New York; and a M. Phil. and Ph.D. Degrees in Civil Engineering from the City University of New York. He is also an adjunct professor at the New York City College of Technology and City College of New York.

Refreshments will be served

Location: Urban Engineers of New York, located on the 60th floor of the Empire State Building, 350 5th Avenue, N.Y., N.Y.

Nearest Subway: 34th street station (N,R,W,Q,B,D,F)

Limited Space, please RSVP by January 9, 2006 to: **Victor Simuoli, EMS Vice Chair, NY Section 212-736-9100 x2237**

vrsimuoli@urbanengineers.com

**All Invited !!!
Please Post**

THE NEW YORK SECTION'S 2006 AWARDS DINNER DANCE

The 2006 NY Section Awards Dinner Dance honoring the Section's Awardees will be held on Saturday evening, February 11, 2006.

This year, our dinner dance (black tie optional) will be held in the beautiful Mercury Ballroom, located on the third level (coat check is on the second) of the New York Hilton Hotel and Towers at Rockefeller Center, 1335 Avenue of the Americas (between 53rd and 54th Streets).

Festivities will begin at 6:30 P.M. with crudite and cocktails in the Mercury Rotunda. Here we will have a chance to relax, get acquainted and reacquainted.

You will have the opportunity to pamper your palate with a choice of either a succulent filet mignon or a delicious fresh salmon steak. Each gourmet entree will be accompanied by an appetizer, salad and dessert. There will be a brief awards ceremony after dinner and dancing to the sounds of the New Horizon Orchestra.

For those wishing to spend the night, hotel reservations may be made on-line at various web service providers or directly with the hotel at 212-586-7000. There are no special arrangements made for parking.

Reservations for the affair may be made by completing the coupon below and forwarding it to William Perlman at the address indicated before February 1, 2006. Corporate sponsors: Table of 10 at \$1700.00

**A special non-transferrable rate of \$90 for each ticket is available to IEEE members.
Note that this rate is for the attending IEEE member and a guest only.**

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Ralph Tapino (718) 761-5104
William Perlman (973) 763-9392**

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Send to: William Perlman
267 Richmond Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079

Please indicate meal selections:

Meat _____
Fish _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

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