

CURRENT



SOURCE

The IEEE North Saskatchewan Section Newsletter

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome from the IEEE North Saskatchewan executive. This Current Source is full of information on upcoming events as well as the ones held so far this year.

I am pleased to announce that the NSS received the 2008 Small Section Award from IEEE Canada this spring. This was due to the hard work done by the previous executive in 2007 and I would like all our members to join me in thanking them.

In September, IEEE representatives from around the world met in Quebec City for Sections Congress 2008. I was one of three from the NSS selected to attend and am glad I was able to participate in the event which is held every three years. There were a number of presentations on new programs and offerings by the IEEE and I brought back pamphlets for display at the AGM for interested members.

It will be the 125th anniversary of the creation of the IEEE in 2009 and there will be events to celebrate this all over the world. We hope to have more details on this early in the new year. As part of our preparations we are trying to record the NSS history and I would ask any longtime members who may know of significant events (such as who formed the section or started a chapter) to please contact me so it can be recorded.

Do you know a NSS member that has done something truly deserving of recognition? The nomination deadline for the IEEE Canada Awards is fast approaching (Nov. 30, 2008). For more information on the awards available please visit <http://www.ieee.ca/awards/nominate.htm> or contact a NSS Executive member for help with a nomination.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual General Meeting this fall. As always, please contact me with any questions or suggestions about activities we should be pursuing, I can be reached at gatesj@ieee.org.

Jeremy Gates
IEEE North Saskatchewan Chair

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IEEE NSS AGM RSVP PDQ

The North Saskatchewan Section of the IEEE will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Saskatoon. The tentative agenda is as follows:

6:00 PM Cocktails (cash bar)
6:30 PM A Delicious Dinner
8:00 PM Program
Brief Announcements
Presentations (honouring our members)
A very interesting Feature Speaker!
9:00 PM Annual Business Meeting
9:15 Adjourn

Come and enjoy a social evening with fellow members and friends and enjoy an interesting presentation on Saskatoon's new RiverGreen Development by a representative from Prairie Ecovillage Development Corporation:

"Rivergreen Ecovillage is a beautiful, friendly and convenient place to live and work. Environmental and social sustainability, along with economic viability, are its primary operating principles. Rivergreen is a diverse community, with high-quality, value-added residential and commercial property available at competitive market prices. Residents and businesses contribute to the sustainability and wellbeing of surrounding neighbourhoods and the city as a whole. Saskatoon's first ecovillage positively influences the city's development practices and environmental policies."

"Prairie Ecovillage Development Corporation (PEDCO) is a not-for-profit development corporation that was formed in 2005 and incorporated in 2006. PEDCO aims to educate on sustainable community options through action. The Prairie Ecovillage Development Corporation creates sustainable living options in Saskatoon through the development of ecovillages, full-featured and human-scaled developments in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a manner that is supportive of

healthy human development and economic and social sustainability for the indefinite future.” (More information available at <http://www.prairie-ecovillage.org/>)

For more information or to reserve your tickets, please contact Denard Lynch, denard.lynch@ieee.org, Bus: 966-5473, Res: 242-8080.

STUDENT BRANCH GREETINGS

Hello to Everyone! Welcome back to Electrical and Computer Engineering!

This year is looking to be a great one. We had the Annual NSS BBQ on Sept 30th, with a turn out of 44 people, which took up half of Specklebelly's. It was great to see so many Professors come out and enjoy themselves. It was even better that many 2nd years came out as well. The food was great and everyone had fun.

SPARC (Small Practical And Realistic Circuits) is underway every Wednesday at 5:30pm as of Oct 1st. Any 2nd years looking to have fun building circuits and learning how to use the lab equipment are welcome. Plans to have a design project are underway and if you have a good idea we are all ears! You can email Dave Williams at academic@ieee.usask.ca. We hope to see you there.

IEEE Robotics is back in full swing, with this year's plan to build SUMO Bots! I am very excited to help Mr. Chandler Janzen continue its' success. This event is for anyone. No technical experience or knowledge is required because we teach you everything you need to know. If you are interested, you can email Chandler at cdj971@mail.usask.ca. We meet every Friday at 4:30pm so come out and have fun!

Bi-Elections are almost here. We still have HVC Coordinators positions open so apply now. For those unfamiliar, HVC is the High Voltage Classic 32 hour Road Hockey Tournament (as you can see HVC is much easier to say). Last March we raised over \$11000 for the Ronald McDonald House. As one of the largest student run Charities in Canada, HVC has cumulatively raised over \$300 000 over the past 23 years. We have typically had it in front of City Hall blocking the street off. We have live bands and beer gardens and it's a good time for everyone. If you are interested in helping out, just email hvc@ieee.usask.ca. The more people that help, the more successful it is!

There are many more events in the works. Mech-Elec pubcrawl, the largest pubcrawl in Saskatchewan, is a great time with over 650 people being bussed around Saskatoon's various bars. It is tentatively set for November 14th. Prof/Student Bowling is coming up and the Big Brother Big Sister Christmas party where I had the pleasure for the last 2 years of being Santa and having 20 kids attack me with popcorn will be around the end of November. Calgary Trip is gonna be changed up this year and we will be going to Edmonton. Illumination, Billinton

Cup, and Year End Banquet will all be coming up in the new year so watch for details. By now you can see how we are the most active IEEE Student Branch in Canada.

For the most up to date news and events, check out our calendar on the Student Branch website at <http://ieee.usask.ca>. The calendar is updated all the time and you can even subscribe to it to help keep track of all our awesome events.

Your IEEE Student Branch Chair,
Jon Poulin

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group invited Julita Vassileva, Professor in Computer Science and NSERC/CAMECO Prairie Chair for Women in Science and Engineering to give a talk. Her presentation entitled "Representation of Women in Science and Engineering in Canada and Europe" presented the statistics of the representation of Women in various academic science and engineering disciplines. In most countries women are underrepresented; especially at the higher levels i.e. full Professors. In order to tackle this problem different countries have come up with different programs to help women to progress. She mentioned in particular NSERC's UFA (University Faculty Awards) program which was established to help Women find a job in academia more easily. However, this program was discontinued last year due to the argument that these women would have found a job anyway as the UFA program was very selective and only allowed the best women to win the award. She concluded that still a lot of work need to be done to shrink the gap between female and male faculty members further.

The next event will be given by Kim Morrison and held some time in November. It will be a general talk on women in the male-dominated profession with a focus on the work environment, its differential impacts on men and women and the strategies women use to navigate a masculine workplace throughout their careers. More information will follow.

Simone Ludwig
Chair of WIE Affinity Group

GOLD REPORT

Dear IEEE Members of the North Saskatchewan Section,
Thanks to everyone who attended the GOLD Industry BBQ this summer. This event, held on July 10 at the Forestry Farm, saw 78 attendees representing more than 15 companies from the Saskatoon area. Thanks especially to SED Systems for their sponsorship of the event.

The IEEE GOLD Industry BBQ is designed to promote interaction between graduating electrical engineers and members of industry in and around Saskatoon. The BBQ is an informal affair, providing a relaxed atmosphere for attendees to network with both new and experienced technical professionals from the local community. The objectives of this event are to:

- Introduce new and recent graduates to local industry
- Provide an opportunity for current professionals in Saskatoon and area to see old colleagues and meet the new ones they will soon work with
- Provide a casual forum for current professionals to promote their companies to prospective employees and the technical community in general
- Help attendees find out about the diverse career paths of fellow professionals
- Help attendees learn about potential opportunities in the Saskatoon area
- Help foster a community of technical professionals in the Saskatoon area

Initial planning has already begun for next year's BBQ, as well as the next GOLD Mentorship Night. Details will be announced closer to these events. Please let us know if you have any feedback or suggestions, or if you would like to be involved in planning the next event; you can contact me at kris.breen@ieee.org.

About GOLD:

GOLD stands for "Graduates of the Last Decade". GOLD was developed by the IEEE to help young professionals transition from being a student to entering the professional world. If you are an IEEE Member who has received your first professional degree within the last ten years, you are automatically part of IEEE GOLD. Those of you who will be graduating soon will also automatically become members of GOLD upon graduation!

In Saskatoon and area, we have a really unique situation. We clearly have a healthy economy and there are many compelling local career opportunities. At the same time, we technical professionals still make up a relatively small group compared to bigger centers. This environment makes it conducive for us to form tight relationships and build a strong sense of community as we grow our careers.

What we aim to do as the GOLD committee for Saskatoon and area is help young professionals:

- Gain familiarity with the local industry so they know what opportunities are available
- Foster a sense of community, and establish strong relationships among ourselves
- Provide unique opportunities to young professionals that aren't available through normal channels

The North Saskatchewan Section GOLD Committee currently consists of 4 GOLD members: Kris Breen, Kevin Antony, Terence Monteith, and Dan Coode. We meet approximately once per month, and welcome newcomers who would like to contribute. Feel free to contact me at kris.breen@ieee.org if you are interested!

Kris Breen

GOLD Chair

IEEE North Saskatchewan Section



COMPUTER SCIENCE CHAPTER

As of the 26th of September a new IEEE North Saskatchewan Section Computer Society Chapter was established. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Ralph Deters at (deters@cs.usask.ca).

Events:

The new IEEE North Saskatchewan Section Computer Society Chapter has started an ERLANG (functional programming language) group that meets very Wednesday at 16:30 in Thorvaldson 274 (UofS). We welcome visitors that want to learn more about this new programming language or share their experiences.

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We like FEEDBACK! Please contact:

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