

CURRENT



SOURCE

The IEEE North Saskatchewan Section Newsletter

Report from the Chair

Annual General Meeting

Welcome from the IEEE North Saskatchewan section. We have had a number of activities since the last Current Source including a seminar from SED Systems about XM Satellite Radio, a seminar from VCom about its business, and a BBQ at the Forestry Farm.

The big event was the Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE) held May 1-4, 2005. While we do not have the final financial number yet, it looks like the section should be receiving quite a healthy profit from the conference which we can use to finance expanded events in the future. Special thanks to all the people you spend countless hours to organize the conference.

A special item of note is the creation of a new chapter in our section. Congratulations to Bill Hayne for driving the creation of a new Industry Applications/Power Engineering Joint Society. Also congratulations for a very successful first event for the society, "Determining Arc Flash Hazards & Categorizing Areas for Adequate PPE" seminar that was held on September 29, 2005.

Our Annual General Meeting Banquet and Speaker is being planned for Friday, November 18th, 2005 (more detailed information can be found in this issue). Our executive is elected for a two-year term and this is the year when elections need to be held. So I will be moving on from my post as Chair but look forward to still being able to contribute to the section.

I hope many of you are able to attend some of our upcoming events and we look forward to increasing the activities in the IEEE North Saskatchewan section.

Andrew Kostiuk
IEEE North Saskatchewan Chair

Speaker: Dianne Wilson

Topic: The IEEE North Saskatchewan Section has picked a heritage theme to honour the centennial of our province this year and lead into the centennial celebration of our city next year.

Title: *"Marvels of Saskatoon's History"*

Biographical Data: Dianne Wilson originally trained as an archaeologist. Later she transferred her interest in things historical to the built heritage of Saskatoon. Dianne is a member of the Saskatoon Heritage Society and is on the Marr Residence Management Board. She has led historic walking tours through Nutana, Caswell Hill, Riversdale and Saskatoon's downtown. Dianne is a great storyteller who makes the people of our city's history come alive.

Location: Estevan Room in the Hilton Garden Inn, 90-22nd St. E. (across from the Bay in Midtown Plaza)

When: Friday, November 18th, 2005

Schedule:

- 6:00-6:30 p.m. Cocktails
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30-8:15 p.m. Speaker
- 8:15-8:30 p.m. AGM
- 8:30-9:00 p.m. Socializing

Cost: \$10 for IEEE members and \$10 for their guest.
\$20 for general public

Registration: Contact Ms. Vera Ljubovic at 668-9300 or email to ljubovic@sask.trilabs.ca by November 14th. Please give any dietary requirements.

A Successful CCECE05!

The 18th Annual Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering was held Sunday May 1 to Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at the Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Canada. The Conference was sponsored by IEEE Canada and the Saskatchewan Sections. 505 International registrants (representing authors from over 35 countries) arrived in Saskatoon this May to present 535 published papers drawn from 1100 submitted abstracts. The papers were presented in 30 oral and 5 multi-topic poster sessions that highlighted recent work in a broad range of technical areas.

Educational opportunities were also available. Three Conference Workshops that were held on Sunday, May 1:

- Fuzzy Neural Computing Systems: Theory and Applications, presented by Dr. Madan M. Gupta
 - Transient Simulation Workshop, presented by Dr. Dharshana Muthumuni
 - The National Microelectronics and Photonics Testing Collaboratory: Remote Access to Advanced Test Labs, presented by Bob Stevenson, Jeetendar Narsinghani, and James Dietrich
- Six different tours times were arranged to the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron so that a large number of the Conference Attendees could take to opportunity to see the facility first hand.

One of the major Conference events was the IEEE Annual Awards Banquet, held Monday, May 2. Outstanding individuals were honoured through the presentation of several annual awards: the McNaughton Medal to Antony B. Sturton, the Fessenden Medal to Tho Le-Ngoc, Outstanding Engineering Educator Award to Konstantin Plataniotis, the Wallace S. Read Service Award to Miro G. Forest, the Ted Glass Western Canada Council Merit Award to Witold Kinsner, the M. B. Broughton Central Canada Council Merit Award to Ronald H. Potts, and the J. J. Archambault Eastern Canada Council Merit Award to Andre Morin.

Another feature event was the Student Paper Competition which was integrated into the Conference presentation schedule. To qualify, the first author of the paper must have been a student. The winners, whose papers are published elsewhere in this issue of the Journal, were:

- Stella Chang and Siva Sivathamam, University of Waterloo, Canada
- Samad Sheikhaei, Shahriar Mirabbasi and Andre Ivanov, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Wijarn Wangdee and Roy Billinton, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Saswat Panigrahi and Tho Le-Ngoc, McGill University, Canada
- Karthik Mayasandra, Hanif M. Ladak and Wei Wang, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Finally, a flexible schedule of tours was available which were heavily utilized by participants to enjoy many Saskatoon and area attractions.

The 2005 Organizing Committee wishes to thank the many authors, participants, sponsors and supporters who contributed the success of this years conference. We look forward to another successful Conference in Ottawa in 2006!

Denard Lynch
General Secretary - CCECE05

Industrial Applications & Power Engineering Joint Society Introduction

I would like to introduce everyone to a new North Saskatchewan Section technical affiliate, the Industrial Applications & Power Engineering Joint Society. I would first like to acknowledge the executive committee for the society:

Chair – Bill Hayne

Vice Chair (Industrial Applications) – Shanta Shakya

Vice Chair (Power Engineering) – Rajesh Karki

Secretary – Ramakrishna Gokaraju

Treasurer – Rezaul Haque

Administrative Director – Jose Azucena

Activities Committee Chair – Brett Lovas

The society was formed in the Spring of 2005 and has already been displaying its abilities.

The IA & PE Society's first event, an Arc Flash Safety Seminar, was a remarkable achievement! The seminar was held on September 29th and had engineering personnel from numerous industrial companies in attendance – totalling 58 people. The lectures were provided by two IEEE delegates – Barry Brusso and Bruce McClung – who both hold vast knowledge of power systems and arc flash particulars. The event provided fundamental arc flash information and introduced the society to Saskatchewan's industrial electrical engineering community.

Next on the agenda is a short seminar on Work Experience Reporting and Exam Preparation for EITs who are priming for their transition into a Professional Engineer. The society is teaming-up with the Saskatoon Engineering Society (SES) for the seminar which will be held from 5:30pm-6:30pm on Thursday, November 24th. Refreshments will be served and the location of this information session will be disclosed at a later date. For more information please contact Bill Hayne, bhayne@marchconsulting.com.

Keep your eyes open for other upcoming events such as a Canadian Electrical Code seminar and a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) course! If there are any questions or suggestions, please contact myself or Bill Hayne.

Brett Lovas
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Student Branch Chair's Report

Well, so far this year has been going great. In September, I had an opportunity to attend the annual IEEE Canada Student Congress in Vancouver. This allowed me to meet with various IEEE student and professional members from across Canada. The convention also provided me with a chance to confirm that the U of S IEEE Student Branch is in fact the most active IEEE Student Branch in Canada! As members of our branch you should be proud of your hard work and efforts! Besides networking and learning about the fundamental operations of an IEEE Student Branch, I discovered that our branch is due for a **McNaughton Centre Grant** from the IEEE Canadian Foundation. This program allows student branches to apply for funding to improve their McNaughton Centres. Although, furniture is exempt from the funding, we are eligible to make proposals for many other items. If anyone has any

Student Branch Chair's Report (cont'd)

suggestions, please let me know before the end of October.

While attending the IEEE Canada Student Congress I was also informed about a new design competition called the “**IEEE Te-lus Student Competition**,” which was first held this year. The now annual event encourages graduating students to enter their 4th year design projects into the competition. The first level of the contest is held within the branch. The winning team of the branch competition is then eligible to enter into the regional competition where a written report is submitted to the judges. If the report is successful, the students will be invited to the presentation portion of the competition where the project will be evaluated by the panel of judges. At this level of the competition, the prizes are as follows:

1st award prize: CAD 10,000 cash honorarium and certificates for the student/student team.

2nd award prize: CAD 5,000 cash honorarium and certificates for the student/student team.

3rd award prize: CAD 2,000 cash honorarium and certificates for the student/student team.

Up to 6 runner-ups: CAD 500.00 cash honorarium and certificates for the student/student team

This is an excellent opportunity to display your 4th year design project at a branch level and potentially across Canada. I encourage everyone who is in design this year to seriously consider including this contest in your yearly goals. If anyone would like more information on this event please contact me!

Our first social event of the year – the New Members BBQ – was a great success! Over 60 students, faculty, and industry members were in attendance for the occasion held at our sponsor pub – Specklebelly's. This provided second years with an opportunity to meet the upper year students and their instructors in a relaxed environment; all while tending to a healthy serving of dry ribs and a glass of their favorite refreshment. Thanks goes out to Dave Pedersen for all of the hard work and effort he put in to make this event such a blast!

As most of the students will know, we have been driving IEEE memberships and distributing Specklebelly's promo cards like wildfire at a table in the Engineering Building. This has been rather successful as we have attracted many of the incoming second year students to the organization. Our executives plan to catalyze this trend throughout the remainder of the school year. Second year involvement in the academic program has been exceptional so far this year. This is largely attributable to Don Fentie's hard work. Don's **SPARC** (Small Practical and Realistic Circuits) program has been intriguing a good portion of the second years – keeping them thirsty for more water from his fountain of knowledge! Some of the projects and workshops that Don intends to include in this year's agenda are:

Basic logic workshop

Diodes workshop – LEDs & rectifiers

Microprocessor development board fabrication project

Soldering workshop

TraxMaker (Printed Circuit Board layout software) tutorial

In addition to SPARC, this term's IEEE Book Sale has proved to be very worthwhile yet again. The branch sold an above average number of electrical engineering and computer science textbooks.

Now, let's talk about the fun stuff – upcoming events! The annual **Mech-Elec Pub Crawl** has been tentatively scheduled for November 4th. Last year's crawl had over 500 attendees – the largest pub crawl between Calgary and Winnipeg! So keep your eyes peeled for tickets! Also, make sure you come out to our first beer night at Specklebelly's – tentatively booked for October 21st!

Besides these great events, make sure you mark the following IEEE events on your calendar:

Calgary Trip – January 5th – 8th

This Year the IEEE is teaming up with SPE!

Illumination Conference – January 27th & 28th

Also, keep your eyes open and ears perked for some of the other forthcoming activities such as: the Big Brother's Christmas Party and Prof/Student Bowling! For more information on these and other events and activities please check out the new “**Event Calendar**” on the IEEE Student Branch website at <http://ieee.usask.ca>.

Cheers!

Brett Lovas

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