

CURRENT SOURCE

The IEEE North Saskatchewan Section Newsletter

Report from the Chair

With technologies advancing faster than ever, there's never been a more important time to be involved in the IEEE. From social networking, to educational opportunities to technical standard and information, the resources available through the IEEE can help you maintain and improve your professional competence and advance your career.

My IEEE

Recent changes have made it easier than ever to join the IEEE and maintain your membership. Also, a new web interface has made accessing the benefits available easier than ever. "My IEEE" is a new web interface that puts all the links you would normally access right on one customizable desktop. It will even suggest articles and highlight news items and conferences based on your interests profile as well as provide helpful contact information including your local Section. If you haven't already signed up for a web account and set up your "My IEEE" home page, visit www.ieee.org/web/membership/myieee.html today.

Events and Activities

Your Section Executive is committed to helping you exploit the benefits of membership. Over the past year we have organized or sponsored numerous activities designed to bring the IEEE advantage to your doorstep. Technical talks, workshops and seminars as well as social and networking events are held throughout the year and are available to members at a discounted rate (if not free). If you are a Professional Engineer in Saskatchewan, many of these events will contribute towards your "Continuing Professional Excellence". Over the past year, your Section has made a variety of events available to you including:

- Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering 2005
- Gold Affinity Group BBQ Mixer
- U of S Graduate Student Symposiums (Various Presenters)
- Member – Student Fall Mixer
- Determining Arc Flash Hazards (Barry Brusso)
- Professional Reporting Requirements for Engineers in Training (APEGS)
- 2006 Canadian Electrical Code Essentials (Robert Nelson)
- Marvels of Saskatoon History (Diane Wilson)
- Static Hazards (VCom speaker)
- Chemical and Biological Agent Detection (Larry Cooper)
- XM Radio (SED speaker)
- Professional Development Seminar (Carl Selinger)

Watch for our email notices for upcoming events and take advantage of the work your team of volunteers have invested on your behalf.

Volunteering and Growth

The IEEE runs on the strength of its volunteers, backed up by a staff of professionals at IEEE headquarters. Responsibility for all the conferences, technical standards, educational and networking activities available through the IEEE rests on the shoulders of this base of volunteers. Please consider volunteering yourself. Any time you spend supporting these important activities, you will gain back in personal growth.

Over the past two years, under the leadership of our past Chair Andrew Kostiuk, the North Saskatchewan Section has established a GOLD Affinity group (Graduates of the Last Decade) and a joint Power Electronics / Industrial Applications Chapter. These two groups have been active in bringing benefits to these specific interest groups in our area. In the near future we plan to establish a Women in Engineering Affinity group. If you have an interest in helping establish this interest group or have an interest in any other IEEE area, please contact us and consider gaining the benefits of being an IEEE volunteer. In closing, I would like to thank our past and current volunteers for all their work and support, and I look forward to working with them to serve you in the future.

Denard Lynch
Chair 2006-2007

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Visit: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/guesthome.jsp>

Student Branch Chair's Report

Well it has been an exciting year so far. We have had above average turnout at the majority of our events and membership has increased considerably from last year. The McNaughton Centre has been busy as usual this year, which is always good to see, and participation in the branch's events and clubs has been excellent. This enthusiasm has carried us through yet another busy IEEE-event-filled year and it is welcomed for the remainder of this year's events.

We have several upcoming branch events. At our highest priority right now is the 21st Annual High Voltage Classic 32-hour Road Hockey Tournament. This year's charity of choice is the Law Enforcement Guardians. The tournament is being held on March 18th and 19th, with the annual HVC Pub Crawl the day before on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day!!!). We are still looking for teams to register and raffle and pub crawl tickets are available from the HVC Directors. For more information, please contact Cam Buskell and Nick Dietrick, the HVC Directors at hvc@ieee.usask.ca, or visit HVC's website at <http://www.highvoltageclassic.com>.

This year we had a few new additions to our McNaughton Centre thanks to a grant from the IEEE Canadian Foundation. The grant assisted us in purchasing a number of new items for the centre including two new computers, a printer/scanner, a digital camera, microcontroller development boards for SPARC, and microcontroller programming software for the Robotics Club. These new purchases will be contributing to our branch for year's to come.

The Branch is also in the midst of elections. We are looking for electrical engineering students who are willing to carry the torch on from this year and maintain the strong traditions of the U of S IEEE Student Branch. Similar to last year, the following positions are available for nominations: Chair, Vice Chair, Academic Director, Finance Director, Social Director, Public Relations Director, McNaughton Centre Director, HVC Directors(2), and Graduate Student Representative. Elections will be held on Monday, March 27th and nomination forms are due on Friday, March 24th. For more information please contact chair@ieee.usask.ca.

We also have several social events approaching. The annual Billinton Cup has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th. For those of you who haven't heard about this event before, it is the annual billiards tournament between the graduating EE students and the professors. This is always a fun and eventful tournament, so I encourage anyone graduating this year to take part in this fun event.

The 2nd annual McNaughton Kicker Poker Tournament has been scheduled for Monday, March 27th (following elections) at Louis'. This is a fun-filled tournament with a small registration fee and lots of great prizes. I encourage you all to take part in the event. For more information, please contact Erin Gaucher, the branch's Vice Chair at vicechair@ieee.usask.ca.

The annual IEEE Student Branch Year End Banquet is also creeping closer as it has been scheduled for Friday, March 31st. This is a last chance to say goodbye to your classmates and professors. I encourage EE students from all years to attend this

event as it also doubles as the Electrical Engineering Grad Banquet. For more information about this event or any other IEEE social event, please contact Dave Pedersen, the branch's Social Director at social@ieee.usask.ca.

Lastly, I would like to promote some IEEE awards that IEEE members are eligible to apply for:

Telus Innovation Award

IEEE members currently enrolled in 4th Year EE/EP design are encouraged to submit a written report outlining their project to Professor Dinh, our Branch Counselor, by May 15th. The winning report at the branch level will be submitted into the regional competition where the report is reviewed by a panel of judges. If the report is successful, the authors of the report will be invited to the presentation portion of the competition where their project will be evaluated by the panel. 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

If you are in 4th year design please consider submitting a report. As you can see by the prizes, it can be well worth your time and effort. For more information please visit http://www.ieee.ca/students/telus_award/index.htm or e-mail chair@ieee.usask.ca.

Student Paper Competition

There are two paper competition awards that IEEE members are eligible for:

- Life Member Award \$500 for best overall paper
- Hackbusch Award \$250 for best paper by University student(s)

The paper competitions submission method is similar to the Telus Innovation Award in that the first tier is at the branch level. The submission deadline will also be May 15th. There will be more information released about this competition at a later date, but for now please visit last year's website, http://www.ieee.ca/students/pap_comp.htm or e-mail chair@ieee.usask.ca. Please note: updated information on the competition should be posted on the website shortly.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Year End Banquet and all of the other events between now and then. For those of you graduating this year, I wish you the best in your future. And for those of you who still have some time left at the U of S, I strongly encourage you to step up to the plate and get involved with the IEEE.

Cheers!

Brett Lovas
Chair, IEEE Student Branch

Industry Applications / Power Engineering Joint Society Report

Elevate Your Membership!!

Past seminars have included:

- a) Arc Flash seminar with IEEE distinguished lecturers, Bruce McClung and Barry Brusso.
- b) EIT preparation for Professional designation hosted by Tina Fisher, registrar at APEGS (in conjunction with Saskatoon Engineering Society).
- c) Canadian Electrical Code (2006) Essentials workshop hosted by Robert Nelson of CSA.

Two planned events:

- a) A Programmable Logic Controller workshop planned at U of S on March 31. Workshop will deal with creating ladder logic, debugging and simulating programs. Admission is free and a maximum of 40 people will be permitted on a first come first serve basis.
- b) A power seminar in September. Prof. Roy Billinton has agreed to give a talk on the application of probabilistic techniques on reliability assessment and power system planning. Rama Krishna is working to put together talks on power system protection and control.

Future seminars under consideration are:

- a) System grounding seminar based on the IEEE green book. Many inspectors reference this book for grounding systems due to the great detail and organization of material compared to the CE Code Book.
- b) CSA hazardous locations workshop.

The IA/PE society would like to hear from anyone interested in the above topics or on any other relevant topics that are of interest. For any questions, please contact Bill Hayne, IA/PE joint society chair at 306-651-6365.

GOLD Report

The IEEE GOLD group is becoming more active each year. The big event recently was a Professional Development Seminar featuring a keynote speaker from New York, Mr. Carl Selinger. The event was well received by 25 attendees (18 rated it as Good, 5 as Excellent). A special thanks go out to the GOLD sponsors PMC Sierra and SIL as well as Silver Sponsor VCom. Look forward to more events in the near future and if you have any ideas, please feel free to contact me at dan.coode@ieee.org.

Best Regards,
Dan Coode
NSS IEEE GOLD Chair

An increase in your grade of membership will give you additional professional recognition as well as allow you to become more involved in the leadership of the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology.

Recent changes in membership criteria recognize the contribution of many disciplines, other than engineering, that support the objectives of the IEEE and are now eligible to join at Member grade. If you are currently an Affiliate or an Associate member, you can self-apply for elevation to Member grade.

Senior membership is the highest grade of membership for which you can apply. It signals to your professional community that you have reached a level of professional maturity that deserves special recognition. If you have at least 10 years of professional experience, you may be surprised to find that you already meet the criteria for Senior membership! Your local Section Executive can help you through the application process, including finding the three references required.

For more information and online application instructions, visit the IEEE's web site at www.ieee.org/web/membership/grade_elevation/grade_elevation.html or contact our Membership Development Chair.

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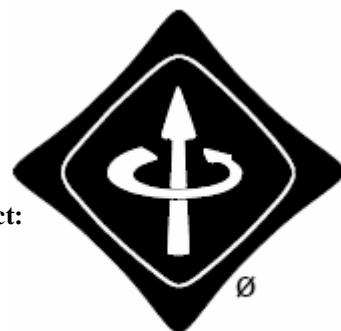
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