



The Lehigh Valley

IEEE Newsletter

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

December 2008

Lehigh University Student Takes First Place in Walter B. Morton Contest

On April 17th the 50th annual Walter B. Morton Prize Paper Contest was held at the Sinclair Laboratory Auditorium of Lehigh University. The activities opened with remarks by Don Talhelm, LVS Education Chairman. He reviewed the history of the contest, explained the contest rules and introduced several past winners who were invited to attend as part of the 50th anniversary.

The students presented their papers to the Judging Committee. Each presenter was allowed 15 minutes for the paper presentation and a five-minute question period. Judges for the contest were Prof. Robert A Bartkowiak of Pennsylvania State University, Allentown Campus, Stephen Csaszars, Senior Software Systems Engineer, Computer Science Corp., Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, and David Thompson, Consulting Member of Technical Staff, LSI, Inc.

Judging of the papers included a prior evaluation of the written paper as well as the oral presentation.

Final results declared Jonathan M. Their of Lehigh University First Place winner for his paper "Pressure Controlled Alarm Clock System". Second Place went to Jim Quigley of Lehigh University. Peter C. Coppa and Christopher Samuels of the University of Scranton were third place winners. In addition to monetary prizes each student author received a certificate. The Lehigh University Student Branch received a plaque, presented at a departmental seminar on September 27th.

Following the contest, the participants were the guests of the Section at the dinner meeting held in the University Center. The principal speaker was Mr. David DeCampli, President of PPL Utilities, Allentown, PA. His topic was "Electricity Outlook - 2008 and Beyond".

The 51st contest will be held on the campus of Bucknell University on Thursday, April 16th, 2009.

Society Chapter Possibilities

At present the Section has active Chapters of the Power and Energy, Circuits and Systems, and Signal Processing Societies. Our Education Society Chapter is being reorganized as this newsletter goes to press. Several other possibilities exist for creating additional Chapters to address the interests of our members.

Chapters can be formed by petition to the Executive Committee signed by 12 members of a Society.

Once formed, Chapter can receive support from the parent Society. Societies with more than 12 members in the Lehigh Valley Section, in addition to those with existing Chapters, are: Communications, Computer,

Consumer Electronics, Control Systems, Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Industrial Applications, Lasers and Electro-Optics, Microwave Theory and Techniques, Power Electronics, and Solid State Circuits.

Steve Csaszar, Vice Chairman, is contacting Computer Society members to see if there is any interest among the 206 members to start a chapter.

If you are interested in starting a chapter for any of the Societies listed, please contact Dave Thompson, Section Secretary at dave.thompson@lsi.com.

Members in the News

Power and Energy Society (PES) selects local engineer as President-Elect. Alan C. Rotz, Senior Member of IEEE, has been selected as President-Elect for 2008-2009. Alan is the manager of the Attachment & Telecom Business Services unit of PPL. He has served as the Treasurer of PES and Chair of the Finance Committee since 2004. He has also served on the PES Long Range Planning Committee since 2005.



Missing Persons File

The Section has been unable to contact via email for several months those people listed below. The email addresses on file with IEEE are invalid. Email sent to the addresses result in returned mail for various reasons: host unknown, addressee unknown, etc. If your name is on the list please send an email to dltO@lehigh.edu or, if you know the correct email address of someone on the list please forward that information.

Ann Alexander
Alejandro F. Schnekofsky
Robert A. Provenchar
Chester M. Gangaware
Charles G. Hoppel
Danny L. Johnson
Donald A. Reinert
Douglas G. Marsh
Gregory S. Wetzell
Joseph T. Hayden
John Ioannidi
Jonathan J. Sinclair
James E. Regan
Jerry Comtois
Luis E. Caceras-Perkins

Mark J. McManus
N. R. Gruenberg
Amit Okar
Joseph J. Obrien
Paul F. Cary
Jason J. Dutt
Richard B. Dell
Ronald L. Ferrara
Richard Kuscan
Richard C. Riddle
Richard C. Noll
Richard Parvesse
Sabatini J. Monatesti
Stan Spotts
Mark S. Trapp
David M. Yulke

Do you call Wilkes-Barre or Scranton your home?

Do you live in or near Luzerne and Lackawanna counties? If so, you are part of IEEE's Lehigh Valley section and we need to hear your voice. If you are interested in bringing IEEE activities closer to home or just want to connect with local IEEE members, please send an e-mail with your contact information to Bill McFarland at wmcfarland@borton-lawson.com or call him directly at 570-821-1994x344. Bill is working on a collaborative effort to re-energize IEEE's Lehigh Valley section across the Wyoming Valley. *Bill McFarland, PE, LEED AP, RPA, FMA, Senior Electrical Engineer, Borton-Lawson' 613 Baltimore Drive, Suite 300' Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7903*

Update Your Contact Information

If you have **not** been getting emails about Lehigh Valley Section activities, it is because the email address that we use is not current. Email sent to about 75 addresses bounce. Please inform IEEE headquarters if your email address has changed. This includes former employees of Agere who now work for LSI, Inc. Although agere.com used to work, it has been phased out.

Change your email address on your membership renewal form or you can inform IEEE directly, go to www.ieee.org/web/membership/join/update_profile.html.

This website will allow you to update your entire profile. It is not sufficient to just inform the Section.

REMINDER for LIFE MEMBERS

If you are in the fortunate class of members known as life member because your years of membership and age equal 100, you no longer pay dues. However, you must still return the annual renewal of membership forms that have recently been distributed. If you do not, your membership will be terminated regardless of your membership grade. If you have been terminated, you can be reinstated by contacting IEEE.

Dave Thompson Honored at Microprocessor Standards Committee Awards Dinner



At the Microprocessor Standards Committee Awards Dinner meeting on October 13, 2008, LSI's Dave Thompson received an award for his contribution to the IEEE 1394-2008 standard. The 1394-2008 High Performance Serial Bus Standard updates and revises all prior 1394 standards dating back to the original 1394-1995 version, and including 1394a, 1394b, 1394c, enhanced UTP, and the 1394 beta plus PHY-Link interface. It also incorporates the complete specifications for S1600 (1.6 Gigabit/second bandwidth) and for S3200 (3.2 Gigabit/second bandwidth). Dave Thompson's most significant contribution has been to the 3.2 Gigabit/second bandwidth electrical signaling specification. Additional details about the IEEE 1394-2008 standard are available in the 1394 Trade Association press release.

Other members of the IEEE 1394-2008 specification revision team include Apple, Congruent Technologies, Oxford Semiconductor, Quantum Parametrics, Symwave and Texas Instruments. The 1394 Trade Association is a worldwide organization dedicated to the advancement of the IEEE 1394 (FireWire) standard, which is used today in mass-market computer, entertainment, and professional products, and in a wide range of specialty applications such as music, defense, aerospace, industrial, and robotics products. (Dave Thompson is a Distinguished Engineer in the System Application Engineering group in the Network Storage and Products Group.)

Calling all IEEE Computer Society Members within the Lehigh Valley section interested in re-starting the LV Computer Society Chapter

There are more than one hundred Computer Society members in the Lehigh Valley!

This is call to all H/W bit heads, DB mongers, S/W weenies, IT demagogues, and hackers extraordinaire; **Let us resurrect the Lehigh Valley IEEE Computer Society Chapter and make it our technical home!** We need a signed petition of 12 Computer Society members above student grade (11 plus myself) to be submitted through the Lehigh Valley section executive committee to IEEE corporate to restart the Chapter.

To maintain a Chapter, a regular election of officers and a minimum of 2 annual meetings reported back to corporate needs to occur. Some funding for Chapter maintenance expenses can be available from the Society. Meetings can be held at any facility large enough and at any organization willing to support us. (Lehigh University has been providing space for both

the IEEE section executive meetings and lecture halls for presentations for many years.)

Benefits of a Lehigh Valley IEEE Computer Society could include a presentation forum for those digitally inclined, access to Expert Now educational courses, organized trips to organization of interest and, **most importantly in this economy, somewhere to network with other geeks of our kind.** Since the financial downturn, job hunting has gone from bad to worse and the need to maintain our technical edge and locally reinvigorate the profession has become even more critical.

Email messages to the Computer Society members have already been sent out. Please respond with your interest or contact me directly at:
Stephen.J.Csaszar@ieee.org.
Stephen Csaszar, Vice Chair - IEEE Lehigh Valley Section

NEW STUDENT CHAPTER

A Student Chapter of the IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS) was formed in August 2008 at Lehigh University. The effort to form the new Chapter was led by graduate students Ravi S, Tummidu, Chee-Loon Tan and Kang-Baek Kim, all of whom are associated with the Center for Optical Technologies at Lehigh. Chee-Loon Tan is the current

Chairman of the Chapter. Dr. Boon Ooi, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering is the Chapter's Faculty Advisor. At present the Chapter has 14 members.

Since its formation, the Chapter has had presentations by LEOS Distinguished Lectures and an Inaugural Symposium of student research papers. We wish the Chapter continued success!



*The
Institute of
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