



November 2009

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November 2009 Section Meeting

"Astronomy with HST after the Last Servicing Mission" & IEEE's 125th Anniversary Celebration

This year the IEEE is 125 years old. IEEE Susquehanna Section's leadership invites you to celebrate this anniversary with us by attending our November meeting. It will feature an interesting talk by Dr. John Wood from NASA. In addition, the Victorian Dance Ensemble will demonstrate a few dances of the 19th century. This would have been an example of the kind of entertainment that the IEEE members enjoyed when the institute was first established. The Victorian Dance Ensemble is a group of living historians who share a love for the grace and beauty of mid-nineteenth century dancing; devoted to promoting and advancing educational, cultural, preservation, commemoration and performing arts programs related to the Civil War and Victorian eras.

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Time: Dinner: 6:00 PM
Victorian Dance: 7:00 PM
Presentation: 7:30 PM
Program: Astronomy with HST after the Last Servicing Mission
Presenters: Dr. John Wood, Optics Branch, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center
Place: Eden Resort
222 Eden Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Dinner Cost: IEEE members (plus 1 guest): \$15 each
Non members: \$25
Students: \$10
Contact: To register and for additional information, contact Bob Gray, email: rxg31@psu.edu, phone: 717-948-6636
RSVP (preferably by Email) by Wednesday 11/04/09 so we can get the catering count right for our hosts.

Dr. H. John Wood is an astronomer and serves as an optical engineer for the Optics Branch at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Since June 1990, he has been Optics Lead Engineer on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Project. He

led the team that successfully determined the optical prescription of HST while on orbit. He then led NASA's effort to develop and test the corrective optics for HST. In addition to his work on Hubble, he served as Science Liaison in the Instrument Synthesis & Analysis Laboratory for new Earth Science and Space Science instrument engineering design at Goddard. He participated in 114 concept studies over eight years in the lab. In addition to his work on the Hubble Space Telescope, he has recently been assigned as optics lead engineer for the ATLAS project, a lidar altimeter aboard ICESat-2, to measure the ice on both poles of the Earth.

A graduate of Swarthmore College, Dr. Wood earned the M.A. and Ph.D. in Astronomy from Indiana University. He has been at Goddard Space Flight Center for over 20 years. In addition to the Hubble Project, he has been Lead Optical Engineer on other Goddard projects: the Mars Observer Laser Altimeter and the Diffuse Infrared Background Experiment aboard the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE). Dr. Wood is the winner of the 1992 NASA exceptional service medal and the 1994 NASA exceptional achievement medal for his work on COBE and HST, he is the author of more than 50 research papers in astronomy and space optics. He recently received the 2009 NASA Medal for exceptional service in outreach on the HST project. He was also awarded the 2009 Robert H. Goddard award of Merit for exceptional achievement.

Orbiting high above the turbulence of the earth's atmosphere, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is providing breathtaking views of astronomical objects never before seen in such detail. The steady images allow this medium-size telescope to reach the faintest galaxies ever seen by mankind. Some of these galaxies are seen as early as 2 billion years after the Big Bang in a 13.7 billion year old universe. HST has provided dramatic advances in all fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics since its launch in April 1990. Servicing by the Space Shuttle has allowed correction of the optics and installation of new state-of-the-art instruments over the 19 years the telescope has been in orbit. The last servicing mission has upgraded the telescope to an unprecedented level with two new scientific instruments and repairs to STIS and ACS making them fully functional.

Now, after 19 years of successful operations in space, the HST has provided John with another discovery: the meaning of objects in the sky. A selection of some of the most beautiful images will demonstrate the power and utility of the HST; and John hopes that you will leave with a greater understanding of the meaning of the images.

Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and York.

Directions from Harrisburg to Eden Resort & Suites

Follow Rt. 283 for approximately 25-30 miles to Lancaster; Rt. 283 East automatically becomes Rt. 30 East (just past sign for Exit to Rt. 30 West). Proceed on Rt. 30 East approximately ½ mile to 1st Exit (Rts. 501, 272, Lititz Pike, Oregon Pike). Exit off to right and proceed on service road to second light (Route 272 – Oregon Pike). Make a left on to Route 272 N and proceed thru underpass to 1st stop light (Sheetz Convenience Store on right). At light, make a right onto Eden Road and hotel is immediately on your right.

Directions from York to Eden Resort & Suites

Follow US-30 E to Lancaster. Take the exit toward PA-501/PA-272/PA-222/Lititz Pike/Oregon Pike. Merge onto Chester Rd. Turn left at Oregon Pike/PA-272 N. Take the 1st right onto Eden Rd.

Officer Nominations

All Section members are invited to submit nominations for Susquehanna Section officer positions for year 2010. Nominations can be forwarded to current Chair Sedig Agili at ssa10@psu.edu or Vice-Chair Robert Gray at rxg31@psu.edu. The primary officer positions that are open for election are Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. It is helpful to obtain in advance the concurrence of any person you are nominating. All other positions in the section as noted in the box below are also possible if you are interested. Please submit nominations by November 17th 2009.

Engineer’s Week Award Nomination

Central Pennsylvania Engineers Week Council (CPEWC) has applications on-line for Engineer of the Year (EOY), Young Engineer of the Year (YEOY), and Technical Achievement Award (TAA). The CPEWC site is at www.cpewc.com. The website is new, and some materials in it are not complete at this point. Final day for submitting applications for EOY, YEOY, and TAA is November 25, 2009. Applications are to be filled out electronically. For more information please contact Robert W. Klinger presklinger@verizon.net.

Important Note: Dinner no-shows will be charged if not canceled by November 4. Also, we cannot guarantee late dinner reservations. There is no charge for attending the talks or tour sessions of our section meetings provided that you register in advance and clearly specify that you are not interested in the dinner.

Useful Information Column

Susquehanna Section Chair

Sedig Agili
Telephone: 717-948-6109
FAX: 717-948-6352
E-mail: ssa10@psu.edu

Vice Chair (Programs)

Robert Gray
717-948-6636
E-mail: rxg31@psu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Mohammad-Reza (Soheil) Tofighi
Telephone: 717-948-6112
mtofighi@psu.edu

Webmaster

David Sarraf
david.sarraf@paonline.com

Q/A-C Column

Do you have any questions or comments? Call, email or FAX it to our Chair at the above address.

Newsletter Mailing or WEB Page Notification

If you do not receive your Newsletter, please notify AB Shafaye mes121@psu.edu or Soheil Tofighi mtofighi@psu.edu. If you would like to convert from paper copy mailing of the Newsletter to WEB page delivery, please notify AB Shafaye, who serves as our Publisher.

Address Changes and Updates

There are several ways to correct member information with IEEE. They update their directory from the information you provide, and pass the changes to us monthly. Keeping your address information up to date will ensure accurate mailings.

There is a WEB based interactive “change of address” form at:

<http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm>

You can send an email to: address-changes@ieee.org

Call IEEE Member Services at 1-800-678-IEEE

Mail changes to:

IEEE
445 Hoes Lane
P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
FAX changes to 1-732-981-9667

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