



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SECTION

Forty Year Anniversary in 2005

Newsletter for 1st Quarter, 2005

There are a lot of things happening in your IEEE - WNC Section and we thought it would be a good idea to start publishing a Newsletter to keep everyone informed. This will probably be a quarterly event, unless for some unforeseen circumstance we get more (or less) news than would warrant additional (or fewer) Newsletters. Also, check the Section Website for up-to-date information: (<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/wnc>)

Please submit next quarter Newsletter items to Jim Corr.

- **OFFICER ELECTIONS for 2005:**
 - **Chairperson: Fred Orland** (fredorland@ieee.org)
 - **Vice Chair: Jim Erickson** (james.erickson@ieee.org)
 - **Treasurer: Tory Wickwire**
 - **Secretary: Jim Corr** (jimcorr@ieee.org)

- **UNC-ASHEVILLE and WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (WCU)**
 - **Career Roundtables** - IEEE members spent an evening on January 18, 2005 with EE students from UNCA and another evening on October 21, 2004, to discuss Engineering career choices. Fred Orland gave a general outline of the Engineering field along with some of the things that the students could expect after they graduated. Bob Pettigrew gave a talk on Professionalism and Ethics in Engineering. Six members gave a short biography of their Engineering career and then the floor was opened for questions. The questions from the students and a variety of answers from the attending members provided a very enjoyable evening for the members and a, hopefully, enlightening evening for the students. The event was well attended on both occasions by both students and regular members. The cafeteria dinners held prior to the events gave members and students an opportunity to get to know each other.
 - **Senior Project Design Reviews** – On December 8, 2004, approximately 10 members performed a design review on 8 separate projects at WCU. On Thursday March 3, 2005, four regular members volunteered to critique the designs being done by the UNCA Mechatronics Seniors for their Senior Design Project. The idea was to help the students understand what they could expect in industry, when confronted with a design project and a Design Review of their project.

Underclassmen are encouraged to attend. Excellent insights were provided to the students, which we hope to see implemented when we view the final results (see below).

- **Senior Project Final Presentation** – IEEE members are invited to see the final results of the Senior Design Projects for both WCU and UNCA, described above. The meeting is scheduled as follows:
 - ♣ **WCU:** April 27, 2005.
 - ♣ **UNCA:** April 28, 2005
 - **Robotics Summer Workshop at UNCA** – Every summer the Mechatronics Engineering Department sponsors a Robotics Workshop, inviting engineering students from around the state. This year IEEE WCU Section and Region 3 are helping to sponsor this program. Region 3 Director Bill Harrison and the SSVR project have provided \$1800 for the support of this workshop.
 - **Student Grant Program** – The WNC Section has donated \$500 to each of the UNCA and WCU Engineering Departments for Scholarships and other Engineering activities
 - **EE Student Mentoring** - The WNC Section has begun a student mentoring program which allows EE's from both schools to contact regular members, via email, for questions. Members are encouraged to participate – contact Fred to get on the list.
 - **Professionalism and Ethics Seminar** – Bob Pettigrew has put together a seminar on Professionalism and Ethics in Engineering and has offered provide it for both schools.
- **Professional Activities**

In and effort to provide the best possible service to our members and our community, several activities have been initiated at the suggestion of some of the members.

 - **WNC IEEE Resources Directory** – Our WNC Section is somewhat unique with the large percentage of Consultants and retirees among our members. Many of the retired members continue to be active and healthy and would entertain the idea of going back to work on a part-time, or temporary basis (2 to 3 months a year). We anticipate the number of retirees in the area will increase fairly dramatically in the next few years as more and more “baby boomers” retire. WNC intends to set up a Resources Data Base which will contain the resumes of all interested members and which can be accessed by local technology companies looking for help on any number of projects. There are very few large technology employers in WNC, but there is a thriving community of small businesses, that have only a small or no permanent Engineering staff, but that could use some talented helpers, on occasion, on a contract or on a consulting basis. Since most of the retirees already have “benefits” and a modest income, it should be very cost effective for the small businesses to obtain the technical

knowledge of our very talented IEEE members. And, the retirees can continue to be technically active and contribute at a rate that they desire. Further, when the job is done there will be no ‘lay-off’ hardships to deal with. We believe this to be very much of a win/win situation for all. This idea was discussed with the North Carolina Small Business and Technology Development Center and the Advantage West folks and they were extremely encouraging. We are planning to have a booth at the ‘17 Futures Forum’ at WNC in April. The actual implementation of this plan is still in-work. Anyone interested in participating in anyway should contact either Chuck Stonecypher (chuk@ieee.org) or Jim Corr (jimcorr@ieee.org).

- **WNC IEEE Networking** – The Section has an ongoing effort to help unemployed members connected with local employers. If you are having problems with employment, we would like to try to help. Come to a meeting, or send one of the officers an email to let us know your situation. We all want to help, if we can. Also, if a working member hears of openings within your company, let us know so we can get the word out.
- **Regular WNC Section Meetings** – Ongoing monthly meetings including local business/government tours of interest to members, presentations, dinners, etc.
 - ✦ **April - WCU Students Projects presentations.** [April 27, Dinner @ 6:00PM, Presentations at 7:00PM.](#)
- **UNCA Student Projects presentation.** [April 28.](#)
 - ✦ **May - PARI Tour.** [May 24th.](#)
 - ✦ **Next Fall.** Technical program on [Digital Photography.](#)
- **SoutheastCon in Ft Lauderdale.** Fred Orland will be going down to Ft. Lauderdale, April 8 and 9, to represent our Section at the SoutheastCon and attend NC Council and Region 3 meetings while he is there. If there are any issues that you would like Fred to bring up at these meeting, please contact Fred. Anyone else wishing to attend should contact Fred also.
- **Senior Member Upgrades:** Several members were upgraded to Senior Member last year. WNC Section encourages all members with 10 years experience to apply for upgrade to Senior Member. Contact any of the officers for assistance and references. There is no change in: annual dues.
- **AWARDS:**
 - ✦ **Dr. Robert Moog** – WNC Section has submitted the nomination of Dr. Robert Moog for **Region 3 "ENGINEER of the Year Award"**. The selection for this award is expected to be announced this April.