

IEEE Central Texas Section

# ***ANALOG NEWSLETTER***

**Volume 51-4**

**April 2007**

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

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Published monthly  
(Deadline for inclusion is the 25th day of the previous month). Dawn Roberson, Editor, (robersondj@ieee.org). Have a question or comment? [Contact us](#).

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#### 4. Local Conferences

##### **2007 IEEE Workshop on Silicon Errors in Logic-System Effects (SELSE)**

will be held April 3-4 in Austin on the UT campus. The website is:  
<http://www.selse.org>.

##### **2007 IEEE International Conference on System of Systems Engineering (SoSE)**

will be held April 16-18, 2007 in the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX .  
<http://engineering.utsa.edu/2007ieeesose>

##### **2007 IEEE International Conference on IC Design & Technology (ICICDT)**

will be held 30 May - 1 Jun in Austin.  
<http://www.icicdt.org/>

##### **IEEE Int'l Symposium on Consumer Electronics (ISCE 2007)**

will be held June 20-23 in Dallas at the Westin DFW Airport. Abstracts for paper submissions are due Feb 2.  
[Conference website.](#)

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#### 4. [Local Conferences](#)

- 2007 IEEE Workshop on Silicon Errors in Logic System Effects (SELSE)
- 2007 IEEE International Conference on System of Systems Engineering (SoSE)
- 2007 IEEE International Conference on IC Design & Technology (ICICDT)
- IEEE Int'l Symposium on Consumer Electronics (ISCE 2007)
- 2007 IEEE International Engineering Management Conference - EM 2007 (IEMC)
- IEEE Intl Conference on Image Processing 2007 (ICIP)
- 2007 8th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Grid Computing (GRID)

#### 5. [Presentations of Interest](#)

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#### 1. Section Activities

**2007 IEEE International Engineering Management Conference - EM 2007 (IEMC)** will be held 29 Jul - 1 Aug at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Lost Pines.

<http://www.iemc07.org>

**IEEE Intl Conference on Image Processing 2007 (ICIP)** will be held Sept 16-19 in San Antonio. The Call for Papers can be found on the [conference website](#).

**2007 8th IEEE/ACM Intl Conference on Grid Computing (GRID)** will be held 19-21 Sept at the Omni Hotel in Austin.

<http://www.grid2007.org>

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## **5. Presentations of Interest**

If you're interested in more **presentations in Austin**, the Austin Chamber has started a newsletter, called "TechBytes from the Human Capital". Free signup at [www.austinhumancapital.com](http://www.austinhumancapital.com).

## ***Chairman's Column***

The Central Texas Section calendar shows the month of April is filled with IEEE events, including a host of chapter meetings, three area conferences, and the Region 5 meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The agenda for the Region 5 meeting calls for remarks from candidates for IEEE President-Elect as well as a host of other topics of interest. The section officers who will be attending along with me will benefit from the opportunity to network with members from all over the Region 5, meet with colleagues, see old friends, and find out about new ideas.

It has been good to see so many successful meetings taking place in our section and the wise use of our resources. I have personally attended several meetings and have been pleased by how well they have been planned and executed. I always enjoy speaking with the members of our Section and find that I often learn something that I can use to advance my career.

In the month of April, the section will approve the section budget. The details will be communicated to the chapter officers. The section is financially healthy, and I hope that we are meeting your expectations.

As I mentioned in our January issue, IEEE is an all-volunteer organization and to maximize your membership value you must participate. I've had the pleasure of introducing several new volunteers to you in past Chairman's columns, but there is still room for you. Please feel compelled to contact me and let me know how you would like to improve your career.

Be sure to consult the Central Texas Section Website, [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central\\_texas/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central_texas/) for meetings, conference dates, and news.

Thanks to all who volunteer their time and skill to the Central Texas Section of IEEE. Please let me know how I can help you participate.

Clif Denny  
Chairman  
Central Texas Section

[c.denny@ieee.org](mailto:c.denny@ieee.org)  
Senior Member IEEE

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To contribute information to this electronic newsletter, please send it by e-mail to [robersondj@ieee.org](mailto:robersondj@ieee.org).



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Central Texas Section Chair

### ***Chapter News***

#### ***Free (Brain) Party!***

The Greater Austin Chamber and IEEE cordially invites you to attend the first ever [Austin Brain Party](#) - a celebration of Austin engineering!

Engineers drive Austin's Tech industry and the Austin Chamber and IEEE would like to recognize engineers by throwing an engineer only party. So, if you are an engineer and would like to meet other engineers come on out May 1st and to hang out with your fellow engineers, have a toast, and listen to some Austin music!

This event is exclusive to engineers and to attend you do need to pre-register.

**Details:**

**Location:** AMPLIFY Austin parking lot, 2608 Brockton (Burnet Road one block north of Braker)

**Date:** May 1

**Time:** 6:30-9:00p

**RSVP:** [vsegna@austinchamber.com](mailto:vsegna@austinchamber.com)

**Musical Guest:** Guy Forsyth

**Sponsors:** Dell and AMPLIFY

#### ***Washington Fly-in***

*Our very own Sherry Gillespie participated in the IEEE USA Fly-in to Washington March 13-14, and submits this summary.*

IEEE USA sponsored a Fly-In event on Mar. 13 and 14 to support lobbying efforts for high-skill immigration. 55 IEEE members from across the country came to Washington for a coaching session followed by a day of appointments with their Senators and Congressional Representatives. The key message we wanted to get across was that the U.S. needs a permanent immigration program for high-skilled workers, and in particular, engineers. This can be achieved through providing access to EB visas which are permanent immigration visas as well as to F-4 visas. F-4 visas would be available to any non-American who receives a Masters or Ph.D. from an American college or university and would allow for expedited access to green cards. The current focus in Congress is on expanding the H-1B visa program. However, the H-1B type of visa is only a temporary work permit and does not provide for long-term employment. In practice, the H-1B visa has resulted in training high-skilled engineers who then must leave the country when their visas expire. A great deal of supporting detail was provided on these types of visas by IEEE USA. Russ Harrison, IEEE USA legislative representative for grassroots activities conducted the coaching

session. Many of us in CTS heard Russ speak on these issues at a Section meeting held last November in Austin.

I participated in the Fly-In and had appointments with key staffers for Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). I found these staffers to be bright and knowledgeable and very well versed in the issues. The process is slow but they each indicated that it was very timely for this issue to be addressed. I also had an appointment with a staffer for Lamar Smith (R-TX), representative for Congressional district 21. Unfortunately, he was not involved with these issues but promised to provide the materials I left to the right person. Overall, the message is that it takes persistence and visibility to keep focus on these issues. IEEE USA has a staff of lobbyists dealing with this on a daily basis and the purpose of the Fly-In was to get entrée to key legislators through their own constituents. I found this to be a very worthwhile effort.

#### ***Continuing Education***

**NEED CEUs?** The University of Texas at Austin offers a wide array of continuing engineering education opportunities geared towards Texas engineers. All of the training awards continuing education units (CEUs) which Texas PEs are now required to submit for their annual renewal. We event boast CEU Conferences where you can get all required 1.5 CEUs – including 1 hour of engineering ethics – in just a few days! Visit [www.UTclee.org](http://www.UTclee.org) for more information.

Upcoming opportunities include:

**[Software Project Management Certificate Program \(online or onsite\)](#)** • ongoing

#### ***Student Branches***

Robotics and circuit design teams are finalizing their projects in preparation for the Region 5 competition at the University of Arkansas April 21-22.

**St Mary's University** - San Antonio ([for more information](#))

Faculty Advisor: Djaffer Ibaroudene, Email: [dibaroudene@stmarytx.edu](mailto:dibaroudene@stmarytx.edu)

Branch President: Joshua Cavazos, email: [jcavazos1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:jcavazos1@stmarytx.edu)

**Trinity University** - San Antonio

Faculty Advisor: Farzan Aminian, Email: [farzan@engr.trinity.edu](mailto:farzan@engr.trinity.edu)

Branch President: Will Johnson, email: [William.johnson@trinity.edu](mailto:William.johnson@trinity.edu)

**University of Texas at Austin** ([for more information](#))

Faculty Advisor: Sriram Vishwanath, email: [sriram@ece.utexas.edu](mailto:sriram@ece.utexas.edu)

Branch chair: Rossen Tzartzev, email: [chair@ieeetexas.edu](mailto:chair@ieeetexas.edu)

**University of Texas at San Antonio** ([for more information](#))

Faculty Advisor: Yufang Jin, Email: [Yufang.Jin@utsa.edu](mailto:Yufang.Jin@utsa.edu)

Branch chair: Nickolas Grady, [gradyn@hotmail.com](mailto:gradyn@hotmail.com)

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 [Calls for Volunteers](#)

***ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair Judge***

The ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair is the State science fair offering two levels of competition: Juniors for students in grades 6 through 8, and seniors for students in 9th through 12th grades. Students enrolled in accredited home-school programs are also eligible.

To qualify for state competition, students must win first, second, or third place in their category at an ISEF-sanctioned regional science fair. There is no other mechanism through which students can advance to the state fair, and no exceptions can be made regarding grade level requirements.

The event is Friday, April 6, 2007 at the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Judges are briefed at about 8am on their duties, (breakfast begins at 7am), and shortly thereafter enter the display area to begin their duties. Check out their website (<http://emtsef.org>) and sign up. You get to indicate a preference for an area of expertise. (*ed note: I did this and it was alot of fun! These kids are bright and interested! They are short of technical types of judges - especially engineers!*)

***PBS Design Squad Comes to Austin!***

Your help is needed Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>! Austin will host a PBS Design Squad event for 9-14 year olds and their families. Volunteers are needed to help students design and build creative solutions to fun challenges. Sign up to volunteer now: <http://www.engr.utexas.edu/sos/survey/43787597/index.cfm>

Austin Design Squad Event:

When: Saturday, April 14th

When: Saturday, April 14th,

Volunteer shifts available 9a.m.- 3p.m.

Where: Kealing Middle School; 1607 Pennsylvania Ave. Austin, TX

What: An interactive event for students and their families highlighting a new engineering-themed PBS Kids show and engaging participants in fun activities.

Students will get a chance to design and build rubber band racers, kinetic sculptures, a hidden alarm and more.

Check out the Design Squad show on KLRU or online: <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/>

This event is completely free to participants thanks to generous support from Intel Texas. Volunteers are essential for a successful event; sign up today: <http://www.engr.utexas.edu/sos/survey/43787597/index.cfm>

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## 2. Chapter Activities

### *Multiple Chapters*

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#### *Joint Circuits and Systems/Solid-State Circuits*

**Topic or Presentation Title:** Selected Topics in Analog and RF Design from the 2007 IEEE ISSCS Conference

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 10, 6:30PM

**Cost:**

**Reservations:**

**Meeting Location:** UT Campus - ACES 2.402 Auditorium

Anyone interested in becoming a Chapter Officer, participating as a Volunteer, or desires to participate in the planning of 2007 CTS CAS/SSC Chapter activities should attend.

This meeting is open to the public and interested parties. Additional details will be posted at

[http://ewh.ieee.org/r5/central\\_texas/ssc\\_css/](http://ewh.ieee.org/r5/central_texas/ssc_css/).

If you have any questions about this meeting or this group, please contact [dferguson@ieee.org](mailto:dferguson@ieee.org).

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***Computer Society - Austin*** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Using Virtualization to Improve Testing*

**Speaker:** Anil Desai

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 6:30-8:30p

**Cost:** Free

**Meeting Location:** [National Instruments, 11500 North MoPac, Building C, room 1S13, Austin, TX 78759](#)

May 16: Mnemonic Password Formulas by Druid (Founder, Computer Academic Underground)

See <http://austin-cs.org/> for detailed directions and for last minute information. This presentation is open to the public.

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***Computer Society - San Antonio*** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Annual Student Night*

**Speaker:** Student Presentations

**Date and Time:** Thursday, April 19, 2007

6:30 p.m. - Networking; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner; 8 p.m. - presentation

**Cost:** Pizza Night: Free

**Reservations:** Email [Yu Zhang](#) by Tue, April 17, (210) 999-7399

**Location:** MEB 322, Moody Engineering Building, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX.

**Directions:** More information on the program will be available at our Web site <http://www.ieee-cs-cts.org>. Please note that we will have parking instructions on the Web site. The Alamo Stadium parking is reserved for Alamo Stadium Event parking. Please check out the instructions at [http://www.ieee-cs-cts.org/meeting\\_details.htm](http://www.ieee-cs-cts.org/meeting_details.htm) for the parking by Laurie Auditorium. Please check the Web site to see if we get the close parking near the Moody Engineering Building.

More information on the program is available at our Web site <http://www.ieee-cs-cts.org>. This meeting is



open to the public - please come and see what the graduating students have been doing!

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 **Consultants Network** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic:** *Threat Modeling*

**Speaker:** Ron L Mendell, MS, CISSP

**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 26, 2007

Networking at 6:00 pm, Business and program from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Cost:** \$5.00 minimum charge for the restaurant.. Supper is at optional extra cost

**Reservations:** Not required

**Meeting Location:** China Star Restaurant, 6134 Hwy 290 E, Austin TX

**Directions:** Westbound access road of 290E, just east of IH 35

The Consultants web directory is to be found at <http://www.alesu.com/xltp/ieeecocons/listzero.htm>

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 **Electromagnetic Compatibility Society** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, - food at 7:00, speaker at 7:30

**Cost:**

**Reservations:**

**Meeting Location:** Tipping Point Technologies on 360 in Austin

**Map:**

Neither IEEE nor EMC membership is required and all visitors are invited to attend. For additional information, including map to the meeting location, please see our web site at

<http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/emcs/chapters/centraltexas/index.html>

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 **Electron Devices Society** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, , 6p-7:30p (Refreshments: 6:00-6:30pm )

**Meeting Location:**

**Directions:** <http://www.sematech.org/corporate/map.htm>

Please RSVP to [wade.xiong@atdf.com](mailto:wade.xiong@atdf.com) . We need accurate count to purchase refreshments.

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 **Engineering in Medicine and Biology** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Contemporary Management of Wartime Vascular Injury with Emphasis on Technological Advances*

**Speaker:** Lt Col Todd Rasmussen

**Date and Time:** Wed, April 18

6:30 p.m. - Networking; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner; 8:00 p.m. - Program

**Cost:** \$10 members/ free for students/\$15 non-members

**Reservations:** RSVP to [Garrett Polhamus](#)

**Meeting Location:** BSE 2.102 on the UTSA Campus, San Antonio

**Directions:** From I-10, take the UTSA Blvd exit, and head west. Turn at the second traffic light onto the UTSA campus, and take the 1st right and follow it to the last parking lot. The Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building is the newest building on campus, and is the building on your left. The conference room is on the second floor.

**May 16:** Dr Charles Filipe will be talking at KCI.

For further information, please contact [Dawn Roberson](#), 210-458-5520.

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 **Engineering Management** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Leading an Effective Engineering Team*

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 3, 5:45p-8:00pm

**Cost:** \$15 includes dinner and tea or coffee

**RSVP:** [lmartinich@ieee.org](mailto:lmartinich@ieee.org)

**For more info:** [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central\\_texas/ems/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central_texas/ems/)

For engineers transitioning into a leadership role, now is the time to sign up for the **Engineering**

For engineers transitioning into a leadership role, now is the time to sign up for the **Engineering Leadership Institute**. The next two-year program begins on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and the early bird discount for the program ends on April 16. This program helps build the skills critical for success in your new role. For more information and to register, see [http://lifelong.engr.utexas.edu/shortcourse.cfm?course\\_num=1068](http://lifelong.engr.utexas.edu/shortcourse.cfm?course_num=1068)

Also, make plans now to attend the International Engineering Management Conference, to be held July 29 - August 1, 2007, at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa. You'll hear from international experts on the topic of "Managing Creativity." For more info, see <http://www.iemc07.org>

For other information about the Engineering Management Society activities, see the the web site: [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central\\_texas/ems/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/central_texas/ems/)

For information regarding chapter activities (and those wanting to volunteer), contact Leslie Martinich ([leslie@competitivefocus.com](mailto:leslie@competitivefocus.com)) (512-423-5121).

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### *Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD)*

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:**

**Cost:**

**Reservations:** Kristi Hummel, [khummel@ieee.org](mailto:khummel@ieee.org)

**Meeting Location:**

**Directions:**

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### *Laser and Electro Optics Society*

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:**

**Cost:**

**Reservations:**

**Meeting Location:**

**Directions:**

For more information, contact Ray Chen [raychen@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:raychen@uts.cc.utexas.edu).

 **Power Engineering Society**

**Power Engineering Society - Austin** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Transformers*

**Speaker:** Blane Leuschner, Regional Manager of Square D's Power System Engineering group..

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 24 with the social beginning at 6pm

**Cost:** \$12 IEEE Members and accompanying spouses, \$15 non-IEEE members, free for full-time students

**Reservations:** Please RSVP to [Stan Friend](#) or go to our web site at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/pes/centraltexas/index.htm>.

**Meeting Location:** El Gallo Mexican Restaurant at 2910 S Congress

**Directions:**

For further information, please contact [Stan Friend](#)

**Speaker Bio:** Blane Leuschner is responsible for power system studies, design, and monitoring services for Square D customers, as well as engineering support for Square D's field service operations. He is knowledgeable in power system design, grounding, protection, equipment, and power quality. Blane received the BS degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas in 1993. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a licensed engineer in the state of Texas.

**Power Engineering Society - San Antonio** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *How to Analyze a Power System Event*

**Speaker:** David Costello, SEL

**Date and Time:** Thursday, April 26

6:00 Social, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

**Cost:** \$10 members, \$13 non-members, FREE for students

(Cash only please, no checks or credit cards)

**Meeting Location:** Grady's, 6510 San Pedro, San Antonio (210 806-8036) *New location!*

**Directions:** Available on our website.

**Reservations:**

Meal: BarBQ meal includes 2 meats, 2 sides and tea/water.

RSVP: Please RSVP to [Steven Mouser](#) @ 210-658-7250.

For more information go to our web site at <http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/pes/centraltexas/sanantonio/index.html>

As always you do not have to be an IEEE member to attend.

For more information go to our web site at <http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/pes/centraltexas/sanantonio>

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 **Product Safety Engineering Society** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, , 6:30pm

**Cost:** None

**Reservations:** None

**Meeting Location:** Dell, Parmer Campus, Parmer South Building 4, Victoria Conference Room.

**Directions:** Call Dale Ritzen (512) 651-5338 for details and directions.

We encourage you, others in your organization, or other interested parties to participate in our meetings. The PSES meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30, with the program starting at 7pm. Instead of a regular meeting in November or December, a combined monthly meeting is held in early December to allow members and guests to enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. For further information about the PSES, please contact Dale Ritzen at (512) 651-5338.

Chapter Chair: Gary Schrempp([gary\\_schrempp@dell.com](mailto:gary_schrempp@dell.com)).

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 **Joint Signal Processing/Communications Society** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:** *Metro Mesh Solutions*

**Speaker:** Fred Juch, Sr. Technical Consultant - Metro Mobility, Hewlett-Packard

**Date and Time:** Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 7pm

**Cost:** Free; Sandwiches and soft drinks will be served

**Reservations:** RSVP to Steve Crowl [stevenc@stedwards.edu](mailto:stevenc@stedwards.edu)

**Meeting Location:** AT&T (formerly SBC) Labs - 9505 Arboretum Blvd, Austin, TX 78759

**Directions:**

[http://maps.yahoo.com/maps\\_result?newFL=Use+Address+Below&addr=9505+arboretum+blvd&csz=7875](http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result?newFL=Use+Address+Below&addr=9505+arboretum+blvd&csz=7875)

**Topic:** This talk will describe the process for designing Metropolitan Wireless Mesh networks using off-the shelf components including how the solutions are designed, some of the tools involved like the Motorola MeshPlanner software, and experiences designing the award winning St Cloud, Florida city wide network.

**Speaker:** Fred Juch is a Senior Technical Consultant for HPS Consulting & Integration. He has been with HP since January 1983 and has 20 years of network design and implementation experience. His current professional focus is on developing and delivering HP's Wireless LAN solutions in the Mobile Internet area. Fred has designed city wide Metropolitan Area Networks for several customers. One of these has even been tested and awarded the best wireless city in the country award.

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 **Women in Engineering** [\[for more information\]](#)

**Topic or Presentation Title:**

**Speaker:**

**Date and Time:** Thursday

**Cost:**

**Reservations:**

**Meeting Location:**

Women in Engineering has been an Affinity Group of the Central Texas Section since the Fall of 2002.

Additional information is on the WIE website at <http://www.austin-wie.org>.

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### *Editor's Notes*

The goal of this newsletter is to provide the more than 6500 members of the Section with up-to-date and meaningful information. We welcome contributions and suggestions that will improve the newsletter. Please contact the editor, Dawn Roberson at [robersondj@ieee.org](mailto:robersondj@ieee.org) if you have any thoughts or suggestions. The deadline for submission is the 25th of the month.


To add your name to the list who get the Analog, send an email from the address to be added to [listserv@listserv.ieee.org](mailto:listserv@listserv.ieee.org). Put only the following text in the body of the message: subscribe cts-section.

If you no longer wish to receive the Analog, follow the directions as listed above, but instead of subscribe, put 'unsubscribe cts-section'.

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### 3. IEEE Info

THE INSTITUTE  can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/theinstitute>

#### **IEEE Member Benefit:**

IEEE Members access the world of technology. Search more than 1,100,000 documents in IEEE Xplore. Subscribe to IEEE Society publications at low, member-only rates. Purchase papers online for just \$13 each -- or save even more when you subscribe to the IEEE Member Digital Library.

Get the most from your IEEE membership -- find out how today:

<http://boldfish.ieee.org/u/market8+/04196044>

[IEEE-USA NEWS & VIEWS](#) : IEEE Career-Building Resources: \*BOOKMARK THIS SITE\*: For career-building resources, including articles and product and service notices, visit IEEE-USA's CAREER NAVIGATOR at: <http://ieeusa.org/careers/>. IEEE XELL [a.k.a. Expert Now IEEE] GAINS SOCIETIES' SUPPORT

### Educational Activities Board 2007 Call for Nominations Includes New Award

The IEEE Educational Activities Board is seeking nominations for its 2007 Education Awards. In addition to its seven existing recognitions, a newly-established annual award for Meritorious Achievement in Informal Education will be presented this year. The Meritorious Achievement in Informal Education award recognizes IEEE members who volunteer as librarians, docents, tour guides, or curators; or who act as technical advisors to or serve as board members of aquariums, museums, parks, zoos or similar settings where teachers, students, and the public benefit from their professional expertise in science and technology. The deadline for all nominations is 30 April.

For descriptions of the full list of the awards, visit

<http://www.ieee.org/web/education/EABAwards/index.html>. For access to nomination packets, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/education/EABAwards/calls.html> and click on the award for which you would like to submit a nomination. Questions can be sent to [eab-awards@ieee.org](mailto:eab-awards@ieee.org).

## **Preview Online IEEE-backed, engineering-based reality PBS TV Show, 'Design Squad'**

WASHINGTON (22 February 2007) -- As National Engineers Week and George Washington's birthday are being celebrated in the United States this week, the first of 13 episodes of a new IEEE-backed engineering-based reality TV show, "Design Squad" is being broadcast in a "sneak preview" on selected local public television stations nationwide.

The first PBS program on "The Need for Speed" can be viewed now online at <http://www.pbskids.org/designsquad>

Intended for youngsters in the critical "tween" age group of 9 to 13, the series is part of a national, multimedia initiative designed to pique interest -- especially among girls and minorities -- in engineering concepts and challenges, such as designing an alarm that can be turned on and off and is small enough to hide. "Design Squad" will air on many PBS stations in the U.S. following local pledge weeks in March and April.

To find local PBS stations and listings, go to <http://pbskids.org/tvschedules/localizer.html?dest=/designsquad/show/index.html&nola=DESQ&station>

Major funding for the program is provided by the National Science Foundation and the Intel Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the IEEE, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Tyco Electronics and others.

"Design Squad" features two teams of real-life high-school students (in collaboration with two 20-something engineer hosts) who use their problem-solving skills to design, construct and test engineering projects. The projects include a machine that automatically makes pancakes and (in the first episode) a motorized red wagon that can reach speeds up to 20 miles per hour.

In the first episode, the red and blue teams are challenged to turn the wagon into a dragster using drills as a motor. The teams engage in brainstorming, designing and building, redesigning and building, and finally



testing and evaluating.

During "Design Squad," key engineering and science concepts are illustrated through dynamic animations. The design process guides teammates as they take on every engineering challenge. And problem-solving "habits of mind," such as learning from failure and drawing simple models to communicate ideas, are tools the youngsters adopt as they construct their machines.

For more information on how you can support and participate in "Design Squad," go to <http://www.pbskids.org/designsquad>

## **IEEE Foundation Seeking 2007 Grant Applications**

The IEEE Foundation is seeking grant applications for 2007 projects in accordance with its objective to improve the technological literacy of society from childhood through adulthood.

During 2007, unsolicited applications will be accepted in three cycles from IEEE units and other organizations working in areas of relevance and importance to the IEEE and its membership. Projects should achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- \* Improve primary and secondary science, technology, and math learning
- \* Encourage pre-university students to consider engineering as a career path
- \* Increase the public's understanding of the role of engineers and technology in society
- \* Preserve the history of IEEE associated technologies
- \* Tap the technological expertise of IEEE members
- \* Demonstrate ability to be replicated

Applications are considered twice during the year. The application deadlines are: (1) 13 April 2007 for consideration at the June 2007 IEEE Foundation Board meeting; or (2) 7 September 2007 for consideration at the November 2007 IEEE Foundation Board meeting.

To learn more about the IEEE Foundation's grant guidelines, and to submit an online application, visit <http://www.ieeefoundation.org>.

## **The Institute seeks Section, Region and Society News**

The IEEE Institute member newspaper is seeking more Section, Region and Society news items in an effort to broaden its coverage and help these entities publicize their activities.

Appropriate subjects include:

- \* Recognitions that members receive such as promotions, appointments, awards, or honors from their community or government.
- \* Recognition that members receive from an IEEE entity, such as an award
- \* Interesting jobs or hobbies for member profile pieces.
- \* News about IEEE student members, student branches, student activities, and competitions.
- \* New products, services, or activities that the Society, Section, Region or Student Branch is offering.
- \* Successful social or technical events or meetings.
- \* Obituaries on members.

Send the basic "who, what, when, where, and how," and the Institute editors will be in contact if more information is needed.

The editors are also looking for suggestions for topics to write about, whether it's IEEE related or something about the engineering field. Email your news to: [theinstitute@ieee.org](mailto:theinstitute@ieee.org).

## **IEEE-USA Offers Resources to Assist Tech-Based Entrepreneurs**

The new IEEE-USA Entrepreneurs Village is an online portal designed to provide high-tech entrepreneurs with tools and resources conducive to innovation and company growth. The portal links high-tech entrepreneurs with their peers, and prospective entrepreneurs with mentors. Village members can seek advice and information on such topics as organization, funding, marketing, human resources, asset requirements, growth, best practices, and legal and government issues. A search engine will assist you in finding the right match for your needs. Experienced entrepreneurs are encouraged to become mentors.

To read the related news release, visit: <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/2682/135523>

Visit the Village at: <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/2683/135523>.

## **IEEE Expert Now Courses Now Available to IEEE Members Through IEEE Xplore**

IEEE members can now purchase individual courses from the IEEE Expert Now collection directly through

IEEE members can now purchase their own courses from the IEEE Expert Now collection directly through the IEEE Xplore digital library. IEEE Expert Now courses feature the best of IEEE's educational content delivered in one-hour, online courses. The interactive, multimedia tutorials contain the latest information on emerging technologies and cutting-edge trends presented by the leading experts in IEEE fields of interest. Continuing Education Units for maintaining professional licensure and certifications are available upon successfully passing the assessment, at no additional charge. All courses are peer-reviewed to ensure quality. IEEE members can purchase each one-hour course for \$69.95, with unlimited online access for 30-days from date of purchase. To review the course catalog, visit <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/modules/modulebrowse.jsp>. Contact Beth Babeu Kelly, [b.babeu@ieee.org](mailto:b.babeu@ieee.org), Tara Gallus, [t.gallus@ieee.org](mailto:t.gallus@ieee.org), or Jill Bagley, [j.bagley@ieee.org](mailto:j.bagley@ieee.org) if you have any questions about IEEE Expert Now.

## Sign Up for SET Congressional Visits Day

Join with hundreds of other engineers and scientists for the the Twelfth Annual Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day (1-2 May) to help deliver to Congress the message that federally funded research helps secure the nation's future. U.S. IEEE members who have not participated in past CVDs are encouraged to register. For more information, visit: <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/5725/126927>

## IEEE Teams with IBM to Launch TRYENGINEERING.ORG

IEEE and IBM have collaborated to launch a new website that combines interactive activities with information on careers in engineering. TryEngineering.org is designed to educate a variety of audiences about the different engineering disciplines and the impact engineers have on society. Targeted toward teachers, school counselors, parents and students, TryEngineering.org lets site visitors explore how to prepare for an engineering career, ask designated experts engineer-related questions and play interactive games. Tools for teachers include lesson plans and engineering projects as well as a list of student competitions and science and engineering-oriented summer camps.

The site will be launched on 5 June with a searchable list of accredited engineering programs in the U.S. and Canada, and will be expanded to include programs in other English-speaking countries as well as Germany and France. For more information contact Doug Gorham, Educational Activities, at [d.g.gorham@ieee.org](mailto:d.g.gorham@ieee.org) or +1 732 562 5483 or Allison Ickowicz at [a.m.ickowicz@ieee.org](mailto:a.m.ickowicz@ieee.org) or +1 732 562 5496.

## Is Digital Copyright Legislation Going Too Far?

Tinkerers and electronic consumers beware. Legislation involving new electronic recording devices and digital, audio, or video playback technology severely compromise electronics industry innovation. According to IEEE Spectrum's Tekla Perry, "The Digital Millennium Copyright Act was the first federal law passed that directly attacks the fair use rights of consumers and product developers. But more such laws are in the pipeline." Tune into IEEE Spectrum Online's exclusive radio report at <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3497/00757617>

## **John Brogan (San Antonio) selected by IEEE to be ABET Evaluator**

John A. Brogan PE, with CPS Energy, was recently selected by IEEE to be an IEEE EAC (Engineering Accreditation Commission) Program Evaluator for ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). Currently, ABET accredits some 2,700 programs at more than 550 colleges and universities nationwide. John was selected by IEEE to represent the needs of industry for electrical engineering graduates. John was one of 20 candidates chosen from a group of 60 that applied last fall. He will serve a six year term and be sent to educational institutions that need to have their Electrical Engineering program accredited. Each year, this voluntary effort entails approximately 40 hours of document review prior to a university site visit which lasts for three days.

## **IEEE membership portal**

We hope all Section members are taking advantage of the new IEEE Membership Portal. The IEEE History Center is supplying interesting content which will be featured on the main page. Visit it at <http://www.ieee.org/myieee>.

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