



IEEE Boise Section Newsletter May 2001

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, 5 September - Annual Fall Picnic

Time: 5pm

Location: Municiple Park

Spouses and children welcome! Election of officers will take place at this time. See article on page 3.

Wednesday, 12 September - Project Management Workshop

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Speaker: Dr. Ginger Levin

**Topic: Using a Project Management Maturity Assessment for Project Mgmt Improvement
(Assessing and improving the methods used to manage projects in your organization)**

How do you know that your work in project management truly is making a difference and contributing to organizational success? This presentation will discuss the purpose and use of project management maturity assessments, will describe what is involved in an actual assessment, and will present guidelines to maximize the benefits and value of conducting a maturity assessment for your organization.

Every organization should ask itself questions such as: “Are we achieving the project results we desire?” “Are we consistently meeting the objectives of our projects?” “Are we meeting customer requirements and success criteria?” and “Are we achieving our desired return on investment?” Organizational success is contingent upon being able to make accurate predictions and meet commitments to customers. With projects increasingly becoming the delivery system of choice, it is important to demonstrate to an organization’s management the value added through project management methodologies, techniques, practices, and tools.

This workshop will provide the basis to evaluate progress in pursuit of best-in-class project management capability and help an organization understand its current project management capabilities, identify areas for improvement, establish a capability baseline, and provide the know-how to improve project management practices.

Dr. Ginger Levin has over 25 years experience in project management in the public and private sectors. Dr. Levin has completed recent projects for First USA, UPS, Citibank, the Food and Drug Administration, BellSouth, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the past five years, she has been active in project management maturity at the organizational and personal levels and in the development of educational programs in project management. Dr. Levin was the principal author of ESI International’s project management maturity model, Project Framework, is the U.S. representative for LSM in its automated maturity model, PMA 2000, and is a member of PMI’s Organizational Project Management Maturity volunteer team.

More details on the seminar will appear in the August newsletter. Mark your calendar now.

Tuesday, 11 December – Annual Awards Banquet

Time: 7pm (tentative)

Location: BSU Student Union Building

Speaker: Dr. David Stork, “The HAL9000 Computer and the Vision of 2001: A Space Odyssey”

It’s 2001: Where’s HAL? 2001: A Space Odyssey, Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clark’s 1968 epic film about space exploration and the evolution of intelligence, was the most carefully researched and scientifically precise feature film ever made. Now, in its namesake year, we can compare the film’s computer science “visions” with current technological fact – in particular those related to its central character, the HAL 9000 computer, which could speak, reason, see, play chess, plan, and express emotions. In some domains reality has surpassed the vision in the film: computer chess, computer hardware, and graphics. In numerous others, reality has fallen far short: computer speech, language, vision, lipreading, planning, and common

sense. The film showed no laptops or PDAs and HAL as large as a school bus, but in reality computers got small. As such, the film provides a remarkable perspective on the sweep of developments in the modern era of computer technology.

This non-technical talk is profusely illustrated with clips from 2001 and current research and sheds new light on key moments of the film. You will never see the film the same way again.

David G. Stork is Chief Scientist at Ricoh California Research Lab. He is author of a book entitled "HAL's Legacy" (MIT Press) and Pattern Classification (2nd ed.) by R.O. Duda, P.E. Hart and D.G. Stork. An PBS special on the topic is due to air this fall.

More details on the banquet will be announced in the August and November newsletters. Mark your calendar now.

Other tentative events: **October** – tour of Statesman News Printing Office and Equipment
November – David Scott, Topic: Getting to the Value: Practical Application of Earned Value Analysis

Recent Events:

Talk on Power Pricing & Deregulation (joint w/ PE&IA). On Feb 21st we had a well attended talk by Mr. Greg Said. This was the first event of the newly organized joint chapter of the Power Engineering and Industry Applications Societies. It was also in celebration of National Engineers Week.

E-mail:

If you haven't been receiving the newsletter or event notices electronically, check what we have for your email address on your mailing label. Please notify both the IEEE (<http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm>) and the Boise section (EBarneySmith@boisestate.edu) so we can add you to our electronic mailing list (we get address corrections only once a month from the IEEE). Plans often come about for events between newsletters. We are aiming at quarterly newsletters with occasional email updates, unless volunteers to make more frequent publications can be found. To assure that you get timely information about IEEE Boise events, please make sure we have your correct email address in our address database.

Chapter & Branch News:

Electron Device Society Chapter: The Boise EDS plans to hold a couple of technical talks this fall. More information will be posted to the Boise IEEE website as it is available.

Joint Chapter of the Power Engineering and Industry Applications Societies:

It is official. As of 30 March 2001, the formation of the Joint Chapter of the Power Engineering and Industry Applications Societies Signatures has been approved by the IEEE. Contact Said Ahmed-Zaid (426-4073, SAhmedZaid@boisestate.edu) if you want to get involved in suggesting events to be held throughout the year. If you are interested in Power Engineering and Industry Applications but aren't a society member, consider joining. Power Engineering costs \$22 per year, Industrial Applications costs \$18. Activities of the local chapter is funded by part of the Society dues.

Call for 2002 officer nominations: 3 positions: chair, vice-chair and secretary/treasurer.

Call for speakers and/or tours: 2 in the fall to be arranged.

If you want to be an officer or can help arrange an activity, please contact Said.

Computer Society Chapter:

We are still collecting signatures to form a Boise chapter of the Computer Society. If you are interested in seeing more activities (technical or social) related to that theme, please let us know. Chapter activities may include guest speakers, workshops, and seminars. The Computer Society has

the largest membership of any society within the Boise Section. How can we enhance your career? Contact Joe Hartman (joehartman@ieee.org, 426-5714) if you are interested.

BSU Student IEEE Branch:

The past two months have been a period of transition for the Boise Idaho Student Branch. New officers were elected and began training with the former officers. The new leadership is organized as follows:

- Chair-Ben Millemon
- Vice Chair-Carrie Lawrence
- Treasurer-Vaughn Johnson
- Secretary-Jonathan Fix
- Membership chair-Enrique Camarillo

The branch members volunteered at the Discovery Center, a local science museum for children on April 28th. We had just as much fun as the kids did. We will be organizing a regular schedule with them next semester. We also helped organize and run a National Engineers' Week "Robot Expo" on Wednesday 21 February. We are working on a Micromouse autonomous robot project which we hope will be ready to enter a competition in the fall.

Our final meeting was led by the new officers and had a good turnout. The BSU Student Support Coordinator for the college of engineering spoke about the local economy and the status of local employers.

In order to provide our members with professional development, we are planning an S-PAC (Student Professional Awareness Conference) for the fall semester. We want the conference to provide members with a broad range of information on various engineering disciplines. Volunteers to speak at our conference will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me for updated details at bmillemon@hotmail.com if you are interested.

And the big news is that a team of our members consisting of Julie Morgan, James Spencer and Barbara Cobb entered the student paper contest of the North East Area of IEEE Region 6 and came away with 1st place. They will now advance to enter the Region 6 contest to be held in October in San Jose at the WESCON trade show.

GOLD Affinity Group (Graduates Of the Last Decade):

The GOLD affinity group welcomes the new graduates of BSU's engineering program and other recent graduates just moving into the Boise section. We are looking for ideas for GOLD events, some of which may be financially sponsored by the Boise section or IEEE Region 6. Contact Randy Wolff by phone at 363-1764 or by email at rrwolff@micron.com .

News & Notes:

Boise Section Officer Nominations

We are now accepting (and actively seeking) nominations for many positions in the section for the year 2002. Some of our current officers will not be continuing next year. The Executive Committee consists of: chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary. The Operations Committee exists of: membership chair, newsletter editor, web page editor, professional activities chair, events chair, GOLD affinity group chair, publicity chair, company liaisons and student branch chair. If you have even a couple of hours a month to put towards your professional organization, we really need your help. We are trying to bring events to members to make your participation worth while. The chair of a small IEEE section said that he phones every member on his roster until the positions are full. With more than 550 members, this is not feasible for our section. Please nominate yourself, or nominate a friend. Elections will take place at the September picnic.

PACE – Professional Activities Committee for Engineers (IEEE-USA)

The Boise section is in the process of planning some professional development activities. The first of this series will take place September 12th and is described earlier in this newsletter. We are tentatively planning one for every other month this fall. We would make these workshops open to all people in the Treasure Valley, but offer them free to IEEE members. If you would be interested in these or any other professional development topics, contact the Boise section's PACE chair, Syed Ahmad <SAhmad@micron.com> .

What do you want from the Boise section?

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are aware that some of your IEEE dues goes to the Boise section (such as to pay for this letter). What else do you want for your money? Let your officers know. You just might get it.

Current Officers:IEEE Boise Section:

Chair: Elisa H. Barney Smith, 426-2214
EBarneySmith@boisestate.edu

Vice-Chair: Sunish Gupta:
supergupta@hotmail.com

Secretary: Stephen Parke:
Sparke@boisestate.edu

Treasurer, PACE: Syed Ahmad:
SAhmad@micron.com

Boise EDS Chapter:

Chair: Fernando Gonzalez:
Fgonzalez@micron.com

Vice-Chair: Kunal Parekh:
Kparekh@micron.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Suraj Mathew:
SJMathew@micron.com

Boise PE&IA Chapter:

Acting Chair: Said Ahmed-Zaid:
SahmedZaid@boisestate.edu

Section officer nominations in progress. Elections at the September picnic.

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r6/boise>

IEEE Boise Section
c/o Elisa Barney Smith
4432 S. Silverwood Pl.
Boise, ID 83716-6635

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