

IEEE Huntsville Section Summary Report January 2008

Section Officers: Chair - Willie Fitzpatrick, PhD; Vice-Chair - Courtney Spivey; Treasurer - Will Goins; Secretary - Buddy Bishop, PhD; Members at Large - Bob Robinson, John Piccirillo, PhD; Past Chairs - Keith Jadus, Sonya Hutchinson

Active Society Chapters or Affinity Group Chairs:
Aerospace Electronics and Systems (AES) Keith Jadus
Joint Communications/APS/MTT (JCAMS) Hans Schantz
Computer (CS) Bob Robinson
Controls Systems (CSS) Wayne Kendrick
Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Doug Parker
Engineering Management (EMS) Sonya Hutchinson
Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Jeff Cotten

The Section hosted monthly ExCom meetings. The Chapters have been quite active with regular meetings. The AES was successful in hosting a well attended presentation - "Latest and Greatest on Unmanned Aircraft Systems." The CS Chapter hosted several presentations, including one on "Scrum Software Development - Disciplined Agile Product Delivery with High Reliability." The CSS Chapter finished the year with a presentation on Kalman Filtering by Wayne Kendrick. The EMC Chapter hosted five technical presentations last year and is in the planning stages for hosting Huntsville EMC 2008. The EMS Chapter hosted a two-part lecture on Risk Management and a presentation on Earned Value Management. The GOLD group hosted a cook-out that was well received by the members of the Section. Additionally, one of our members was recognized by IEEE-USA with the Professional Achievement Award during September 2007. In December 2007, Ms Courtney Spivey organized a seminar sponsored by PACE and hosted by the GOLD, which included speakers providing advice and experience on Being your on Boss and Capturing business opportunities.

The Educational Activities Committee was very active in 2007. We provided judges and category sponsorship at both the 2007 North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the 2007 Alabama Science and Engineering Fair. We also supplied judges for the Alabama Council for Technology in Education. The Section continued support of the local HATS STEDTRAIN K-12 seed grant program. The Section, in cooperation with The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) hosted the Alabama Regional Future City Competition (ARFCC) in January 2007 and completed the final plans to host the ARFCC in January 2008. The Section served on the 2007 Tennessee Valley Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology (TV BEST) Steering Committee and provided volunteers to serve on the Technical Team for the TV BEST Competition held on October 6, 2007. The Section will participate in these same activities for 2008.

The SoutheastCon 2008 Committee held monthly planning meetings in 2007 and continued to do so in January 2008. Everyone has shifted to high gear in ensuring all of the planning is coming together to have an exciting and highly successful SoutheastCon 2008 during April 3-6, 2008. Interesting and relevant Tutorials have been planned along with reviewers. The Section supported the UAH Student Branch at the SoutheastCon 2007 in various competitions and is utilizing their support along with representatives from Alabama A&M University in the planning for SoutheastCon 2008.

As many Sections in the Region, we are also challenged with a reduction in membership and increase in arrears members. However, several of our Chapters were highly successful in increasing membership in their respective areas.

Our goals for 2008 include: providing stimulating and relevant technical and social events for our members and the engineering community; Increase attendance at various technical meetings; increase the number of active volunteers within the Section; increase the number of members applying for elevation to Senior Member; continue to reach out to middle and high school students to encourage interest in engineering and other scientific disciplines.

Submitted by
Willie J. Fitzpatrick, PhD
Chair, IEEE Huntsville Section
wfitzpatrick@ieee.org
256-876-9945 (W)/256-883-4387(H)