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Subject: IEEE Huntsville Section Report for March 2010 Region 3 Meeting
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The IEEE Huntsville Section

The Huntsville Section has six technical societies and one GOLD affinity group, two student branches, and over 1,300 active members. Our technical societies include the Aerospace Electronics Systems Society (AESS), Computer Society, Controls Society, EMC Society, Technology Management Council (TMC), and a Joint Communications, Antenna Propagation, and Microwave Theory and Techniques (JCAM) Society. Please visit [our new website](#) for more details.

Recent Activities

Since the last SoutheastCon, we have hosted numerous events by our technical and affinity groups. Most recently, a joint meeting by the AES and JCAM Societies featured IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Larry Chasteen, Ph.D., with [a fantastic presentation called National Missile Defense](#) - an event that drew over 70 attendees. The AES Society and EMC Society have been highly active, with the AES Society also hosting a [presentation on Cognitive Radio Research](#), and one on commercial avionics equipment. The EMC Society recently hosted a session called [Who's Afraid of Maxwell's Equations?](#) and [Abraham Lincoln Assists with EMI Testing](#). The Technical Management Council provided a presentation called [Creating and Managing an Innovation Environment](#).

We participated in the Tektronics Trade Show, an event that gained additional exposure for the Section and allowed us to pick up several new members. We supported several educational activities in the region, by providing financial sponsorship as well as volunteer hours in coordination, planning, and judging competitions. These events include the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair, the North Alabama Science and Engineering Fair, Tennessee Valley BEST robotics competition, the FIRST robotics competition, and the Science and Engineering Education and Training (STEDTRAIN) Seed Grant.

In January of this year, we hosted the [2010 Alabama Regional Future City Competition](#), an activity founded by National Engineers Week, in which 7th and 8th graders compete to design a city of the future by creating a scale model, computer simulation and written essays, along with a formal presentation. The event culminates with the National Future City Competition in Washington, D.C., during National Engineers Week. This was the third consecutive year that the event was hosted by the IEEE Huntsville Section, and indeed, the State of Alabama did not participate in this competition for several years prior to the Section reviving the event.

We drew well over 500 attendees to the [IEEE 125th Anniversary Celebration](#) at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, providing admission to the USSRC museum and free lunches to all, including nonmembers. The event featured a demonstration of local robotics talents, including winners and participants in the aforementioned competitions.

The [UAHuntsville Student Branch](#) is highly active, and has recently hosted an Engineering Open House, and annually hosts Advanced Charger Trainer sessions to teach junior students principles of engineering and robotics, and to welcome them into the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department. They also host frequent social activities, such as camping and canoeing trips, and volunteer at the annual Big Spring Jam, a music concert in downtown Big Spring Park, to raise funds for their activities. Both the UAHuntsville and Alabama A&M University Student Branches provided a resume writing workshop during this past year.

Upcoming Events

We plan to participate again in the Tektronics Trade Show in April of this year, and several volunteers are actively working to improve our public relations at these events with proper displays, handouts and flyers for the Section, in addition to the membership development materials that we receive each year.

On April 20th, the EMC Society will host a one day [training session with IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Larry Bogatin](#). They are also planning their semi-annual Tabletop Event for this summer: a one day training session and trade show that draws hundreds of attendees and exhibitors.

With the impending closure of Continental Automotive, and the continued layoffs and economic strains, many in the area are seeking work or soon to be doing so. The Section plans to host a workshop on resume writing and job hunting; these plans are currently being drafted, but we hope to offer this session within the next month.

We plan to support the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair in April, as well as STEDTRAIN, and will no doubt continue with many more technical sessions from our societies throughout the year.

Operational Changes

In 2009, we chartered a Strategy Committee, chaired by Eric Grigorian, which is using the Balance Score Card methodology to assess Section operations, and has used Section surveys and brainstorming sessions to define business operations perspectives and themes of operation. This is still a work in progress, with the next step to be a brainstorming session on the themes of operation.

Ron Ogan brought the wonderful idea of instituting an Industry Relations Chair. As such, he will reach out to recognize local businesses and seek support for the Section.

Communications Strategy

The Section has updated its website to a modern and collaborative format that is inline with the IEEE Visual Identity Guidelines. We now have [LiveWire Blog](#), [a LinkedIn group](#), [a Facebook group](#), and a [Flickr account to manage and share our photographs](#) - as well as several other tools to manage communications. We have created a position for an Electronic Communications Chair, who is responsible for maintaining and moderating these new communications approaches, including enforcing the visual identity guidelines in all of our emails, blog posts, and other means of communication. Electronic Communications Training for officers was hosted in February, with a second session to follow in April.

Sincerely,

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