

February 2010 Edition

View from the Chair

First, let me welcome in the new year by thanking Mitch Hobish for the excellent job that he did as chair in 2009. It was great to have a member of the engineering community with Mitch's expertise volunteer his time and energy to the growth of our section. More volunteers needed!

As we begin the new decade, we have some great opportunities ahead of us, and I hope that the agenda for the Montana section will provide some insights to our members. In the coming weeks we have two meetings scheduled on extremely relevant topics to all of us. Russ Harrison, IEEE USA's legislative representative for grass roots affairs will be here on February 17 to talk to us about what is going on in the US Congress. Recent views of the proposed 2011 budget indicate significant funding for student fellowships and loans, as well as major increases in funding for civilian research and development activities. The following week, on February 24, we will be hosting Dave Lankutis who is a MSU EE graduate and currently is manager of reliability/operation at a utility in Rapid City. Dave will be talking about new career opportunities in the rapidly changing power industry.

Finally, thanks to Nic Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering for his highly informative presentation to the section on February 3 on his research with drive simulators.

—Mitch Hobish

IEEE Montana Section News

Student chapter fund raiser

Our student chapter is having a fund raiser to support their activities and are selling pint glasses etched with the MSU College of Engineering logo. Contact Danica Patrick to purchase your glass!

danica.patrick@msu.montana.edu

• Student paper contest

The annual IEEE student paper contest will be held this spring. The Northeast area contest will be on May 1 in Idaho Falls. Each student chapter can enter one paper in the area contest and the payoff is worth the effort: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place, and the winner is entered in the Region 6 contest.

Papers are rated on communication rather than on originality or innovation. Work done reporting senior design projects or other undergraduate creative work qualifies. Remember that entrants must be undergraduate students and must be IEEE members!

Contact Richard Wolff or Brock LaMeres for more information.

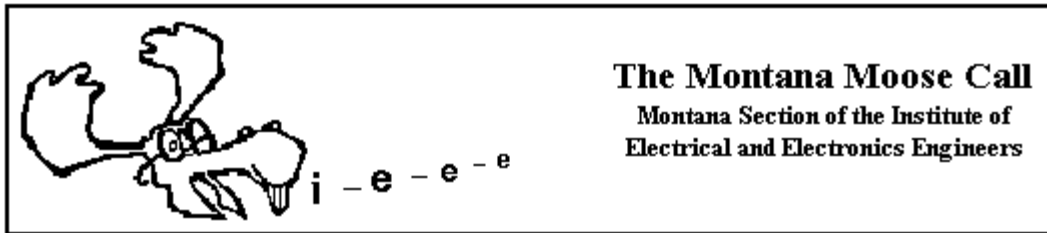
• Montana Section Annual Awards Banquet

We will be holding our annual awards banquet in the MSU SUB on **Monday, March 29, 2010**. Guest speaker will be President Waded Cruzado! We are honored to have her join us and hope to see a large turn out of engineers, spouses and friends from the Bozeman community. President Cruzado will present the IEEE Fellow award to Professor Hashem Nehrir.

Save the date! More details to follow

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February Meeting Announcements

How Engineers can work with Congress - and Why We Would Want to

Russell T. Harrison
Senior Legislative Representative - Grassroots Affairs IEEE-USA

Every year Congress debates dozens of bills that could directly affect engineers and engineering. Want to know what they are? Join IEEE-USA lobbyist Russ Harrison for a discussion of patent reform, immigration reform, education reform, NASA and other issues that will directly impact your profession. We will discuss what Congress is doing and what we can do about it

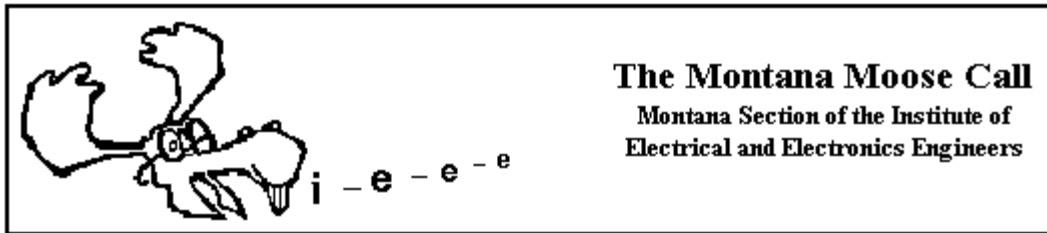
Wednesday, February 17

General Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Montana State University, 108 EPS
(Near 7th and Grant, South of Cobleigh Hall)

Free pizza!

Please call Richard Wolff at 994-7172 (or e-mail: rwolff@montana.edu) or sign up via the Section website, <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/montana>, to make reservations by 6 p.m., February 16, 2010.



February Meeting Announcements

Smart People Needed for a Smarter Electric Industry

Russell J. David Lankutis, PE
Manager, Planning/Reliability
Electric Utilities Group
Black Hills

The electric utility industry is evolving at a breathtaking pace. Conflicting mandates by governmental agencies and electric consumers for increased efficiency, use of renewable resources, system reliability and security are going to require innovative systems to be designed and implemented. 40% of the engineers and technicians in the industry will be eligible for retirement in the next 10 years. Industry and academic institutions must find ways to work together to motivate and train the engineers and technicians that will be needed to address these challenges.

Wednesday, February 24

General Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Montana State University, 108 EPS
(Near 7th and Grant, South of Cobleigh Hall)

Free pizza!

Please call Richard Wolff at 994-7172 (or e-mail: rwolff@montana.edu) or sign up via the Section website, <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/montana>, to make reservations by 6 p.m., February 23, 2010.