

## **2014 Winston-Salem Section Report**

### **SoutheastCon 2015 – Fort Lauderdale, FL – April 9-12, 2015**

The Winston-Salem Section has 189 members, composed as follows:

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| - 88 General   | - 13 Affiliates        |
| - 3 Associates | - 14 Seniors           |
| - 14 Life      | - 9 Life Seniors       |
| - 37 Students  | - 11 Graduate Students |

We are fortunate to have the Wake Forest/Virginia Tech School of Bioengineering that gives us a constant flow of new Graduate Student Members but when they graduate, the majority of them accept jobs in other parts of the country. The ones that do stay continue with our Section.

Our Graduate Student Chair attended Sections Congress in Amsterdam and returned with great ideas for not only the Section but her EMBS group as well. She and her EMBS colleagues use their own time to host several STEM activities at a local dedicated STEM high school teaching students about engineering careers. They also host IEEE tables at other local schools to encourage student interest in engineering.

We conducted 12 meetings throughout the year: 4 Professional, 2 Technical, 1 Non-technical and 5 ExCom. Our technical meetings were in the biomedical field due to Wake Forest's extensive work in research, development and patient care including state-of-the-art tissue regeneration and a new Center of Excellence in cancer treatment.

Five of our officers attended the well-received North Carolina Council's Officer Training session held in Greensboro, NC in conjunction with the Central North Carolina Section.

During the year we published and snail-mailed two newsletters to all Section members. We have converted to email distribution this year to save money on printing and postage.

Over a year ago our Section lost an excellent venue for monthly meetings where we averaged attendance of 24 to 32 members with several meetings reaching over 50 members. We have struggled to find a convenient and affordable venue. We need to be convenient to the medical school so our grad students can attend and still get back to their classes, labs and studies. We have recently been fortunate in securing a great venue for a minimal fee and are excited about starting our monthly meetings there in August.

Winston-Salem has a wonderful new resource in the Center for Design Innovation (CDI) that is a creative initiative by the University of North Carolina system covering all 17 campuses. In May CDI will move to a beautiful new facility in Winston-Salem and have invited us to have our July meeting there for lunch and a private tour. Two of their primary interests are in high-resolution 3D printing and STEaM initiatives combining art with STEM activities. We are excited about building a strong relationship with CDI.

Our goals for 2015 are to strengthen enthusiasm in our membership, generate more member involvement in our activities, recruit more Senior Members and increase our visibility to the community. We also hope to have more activity, involvement and synergism with our fellow IEEE Sections in North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Williams, D.Sc.  
Chair, Winston-Salem Section