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Cedar Rapids Section - Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
Serving Engineering Professionals in Eastern Iowa

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2011 January

Message From The Chair by Vickie Ozburn, 2011 Section Chair

It gives me great pleasure to announce the Cedar Rapids Section officers for 2011:

- Chair: Vickie Ozburn
- Vice-Chair: Robert (Bob) Bruckman
- Secretary: Himanshu (Him) Rawell
- Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Dawson

Most of my involvement with the Cedar Rapids Section for the past 12 years has been as a ProCon conference committee member or as Conference Chairman the past 7 years. ProCon is a Section sponsored professional development conference held each spring, this will be our fourteenth year...and still going strong. I encourage each of you to mark the date of May 3rd, 2011 on your calendar and plan to join us. With that being said I have really learned a lot about our Section and the great volunteers who worked diligently at providing learning opportunities over the past year as Vice-Chair. Thank you to Shana Fliginger, the IEEE Section officers and Committee chairs for their support and guidance over the past year.

Though the years there have been many valuable volunteers who for various reasons have gone on to different endeavors. The Cedar Rapids Section owes much to them also. I thank them and the current volunteers deeply and sincerely for their wonderful spirit and the effective work they perform. I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to join our team and find out how wonderful it can be to be a Section volunteer.

We welcome your involvement in our section committees and monthly meetings to support, plan, and present activities like the ProCon Conference, technical events, and other educational events for our members. If you enjoy behind the scenes as well as front stage action, enjoy planning activities, or just really enjoy networking with other professionals please contact me directly to determine how you can best get involved to achieve your personal and professional goals. I can be reached at vaozburn@rockwellcollins.com or vaozburn@mchsi.com.

A full list of section officers can be found on the section web site at the IEEE Web Site at [ieee-cr-section.org](http://www.ieee-cr-section.org); click on the Contact tab at top right, then click on "Contacts" on the left or enter this URL: http://ewh.ieee.org/r4/cedar_rapids/index.php/contacts/officers for the elected officers or http://ewh.ieee.org/r4/cedar_rapids/index.php/contacts/other-members for Standing Committees / Societies / Affinities / Branches and Volunteers.

World Wide Wild Energy Projects Thursday, January 27th

Topic: Our increasing use of imported energy is of concern to many. Any means of reducing this trend by avoiding fossil fuels should be evaluated seriously. Several novel projects will be discussed ranging from electric power generation to hydrogen production and solar power installations. Some projects are domestic whereas others are located in Iceland, Africa, Israel, and Jordan.

Speaker: C. Robert White, retired since 1997, graduated from Iowa State University with an EE degree in 1950. He has had twenty years experience in the electric utility business designing and building electric power generating plants. He has also had 27 years experience as a consulting engineer specializing in energy management strategies and energy conservation projects for various clients. He is a Senior Member of IEEE and was a registered professional engineer in Iowa for 44 years while actively working.

Where: Metro Buffet, 2745 Blairs Ferry Rd NE in Cedar Rapids

When: 5:30 PM Social; 6:00 PM Dinner;
6:30 PM to ~8:00 PM Presentation/Q&A

Price: No charge for the presentation only (Dinner price includes Buffet, Drink, Tax, and Gratuity)

IEEE Members and one guest: \$13

IEEE Student Members: \$8

Non-Members \$15

Corona on the WEB

Sign up to receive the Corona online reducing costs and saving the environment. Additionally, you will receive an e-mail alert letting you know the newest issue of the Corona is live on the site.

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E-mail: Corona-Editor@ieee-cr-section.org
Mail: Cedar Rapids Section, IEEE, Attention: Corona Editor, P.O. Box 451, Marion, IA 52302
Include your full name, old and new address.

Upcoming Events

Early 2011 Communications Society Meeting

Feb 23 2011 IEEE MTT Meeting

May 03 2011 ProCon Conference

Spring 2011 Computer Society Meetings

Spring 2011 Consultants Network updates

**Also check the Website for Upcoming Events.
Guests are always welcome.**



If you are not an IEEE member, please consider IEEE membership. For information on membership and its benefits, visit the IEEE Web Site at www.ieee.org/membership

Future City Competition Sponsored by IEEE Cedar Rapids Section

On January 22, 2011 at Prairie Center Middle School, the Future City Competition will take place. Future City is collaboration between teachers, engineering mentors, and junior high students to compete at a regional competition. The total competition consists of several parts. The students construct a model city from recycled materials, play the game Sim City 4000 (which is separately scored,) must perform an oral presentation, and write a narrative like it would be a commercial for visitors to come to their city.

If students do well at this regional competition, they can then compete at the national level for awards, recognition and fun. National winners get to go to Space Camp for a week, receive scholarships and in the past, have been invited to the White House to meet the President. How cool is that?

This competition was started by the IEEE-USA, and now has support of many of the major professional engineering organizations.

Judges are needed for two areas of competition: special awards and presentations. The special award judges will require about 2 hours of service on Saturday morning, Jan.22, to determine the qualified recipient. The criteria, name of the award, and type of award are to be determined by the executive committee. If you have suggestions or input, please contact them or me.

You will listen to a 5 to 7 minute oral presentation, and this might include some basic visual posters and references to the city model. You are given time to ask questions and make suggestions, then you fill out the score sheets. A team of three judges will visit and score approximately 8 teams.

The presentation judges are given an orientation, judging criteria, and a schedule of teams to score. The judging process shouldn't go past noon. If you desire, lunch is available on site. You may even be provided vouchers for free food. Judges can be any adult interested in seeing these students excel, judges don't have to be engineers. Recruit your spouses, friends and neighbors.

Please consider volunteering for this worthy cause. The next generation of technologists will be in the auditorium, seeking your guidance, wisdom and attention. See www.futurecity.org. Our local web site presence is at www.futurecityiowa.org.

Please contact me at g.d.bishop@ieee.org, or 319-295-2780. Thanks.

By Gary Bishop

Consultants Network updates

My name is Raman Aravamudhan. I have been a proud Member of the IEEE for about 18 years and Senior Member since 2002. Currently, I am heading the Eastern Iowa Consultants' Network of the IEEE Cedar Rapids Section. In the past I have chaired the Programs committee for the Cedar Rapids Section. With about 25 years of experience in software /IT industry, I currently lead the operations at Ramaanchar Technologies, Inc. (<http://www.ramaanchar.com>), located at the University of Iowa Research park. I also serve as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Iowa Computer Science department.

The Cedar Rapids Section of IEEE has formed an exclusive forum for Consultants in the area to Network.

Our Eastern Iowa Consultants' Network, will provide an opportunity to network via a group email list, have roundtable meetings, lunch and learn sessions, discuss issues of interest to consultants, and possibly work with each other. Our Network will only be as good as your participation. While we have many other opportunities to participate in meetings with technology and management themes, the Eastern Iowa Consultants' Network is specifically designed for consultants and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The challenges faced by upcoming entrepreneurs and consultants are very many. Strangely they are not always new issues; by tapping the prior experience of peers in an active network of consultants, you may be able to address them efficiently and swiftly. And that is what we are trying to support.

All you need to do is to email your contact information consisting of your email address, contact telephone # and applicable business name if any to Raman Aravamudhan, (Email: amudhan@ieee.org).

Himanshu Rawell (Him) My Self Introduction

Him, originally from Mumbai, India came to the United States on January 19, 1984. He has Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Computer Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 1989. He has been an IEEE member since college and has found both IEEE research useful for courses, his graduate research, and employment while IEEE insurance provided benefits when employers did not.

Him worked at IBM as Software Engineer for 3 years before switching to a Operating Systems Test Engineer on IBM PCs with mentorship by two benevolent managers. Later work at Motorola provided much learning by professional enrichment. His use of IEEE career resources yielded an engineering job at Rockwell Collins where he worked for 3 years prior to entering the teaching profession for several years. Him is presently searching for opportunities in the engineering profession.

These days, Him finds that IEEE professional development workshops provide good enrichment and skills education that is immediately applicable on projects at work. As can be observed, IEEE and IEEE members have been good, helpful, and effective professional friends. And, he sees a moral obligation to be of service to IEEE and IEEE members because of their generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MTT Meeting small is BIG – The World of MEMS Wednesday, Feb 23rd

Topic: The potential of very small machines was appreciated before the technology existed to make them. Richard Feynman's famous 1959 lecture "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom" became a catalyst to five decades of small machine research and development activity.

Since that time, the technology to build MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS) on a monolithic substrate has positively impacted the state-of-the-art in micro-fluidics, optics, physical sensing, and signal processing.

This presentation will discuss MEMS from the journalist's viewpoint:

- Who is involved in MEMS R&D and production?
- What is MEMS technology in general?
- What applications is MEMS technology suitable for?
- When did the major MEMS history milestones occur?
- Why is MEMS useful i.e. what is its value proposition?)
- How are MEMS devices manufactured?

Speaker: Paul K. Wagner was born in Lansing, Michigan. He received the BSEE degree with honors from Michigan State University, East Lansing MI. He has also taken graduate study at Florida Institute of

Technology, Penn State University and Iowa State University.

He is currently employed by Rockwell Collins Government Systems in Cedar Rapids IA. He has also worked at ITT, Thomson, the NASA Glenn Research Center, General Electric, Singer and Harris. His professional interests include advanced SATCOM systems, MODEM design and simulation, real-time DSP and systems engineering.

Where: TBD

When: 5:30 PM Social; 6:00 PM Dinner;
6:30 PM to ~8:00 PM Presentation/Q&A

Price: TBD

Watch for more information...Go to the section web site at:

<http://ieee-cr-section.org/>

SAVE THE DATE ProCon 2011

To be on held Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Rapids.

Plan to attend the Fourteenth Annual Cedar Rapids professional development conference, ProCon 2011, to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Rapids. This one-day, low cost, two track regional event is great for all professionals.

This year's topics:

Emotional Intelligence – It isn't just About Book Smarts Anymore and the **Leadership is a Choice, Not a Position** presented by Ginny Wilson-Peters President of Integrity Integrated, *Creating, building and connecting Leaders.*

Project Risk Management and Project Execution and Evaluation presented by Tarek Lahdhiri, Ph.D., P.E., P.M.P.