

Highlights

NECEC 2004 Conference

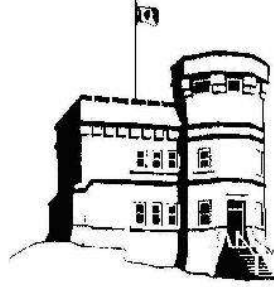
Upcoming

Annual General Meeting



IEEE

IEEE Newfoundland & Labrador Section
www.ieee.org/newfoundland_labrador



A Newsletter of the Newfoundland and Labrador IEEE Section, Volume 04, No. 2, Nov 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS

NF & Lab IEEE Section Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday, December 8, 2005

Location: S. J. Carew Building, MUN

Time: 7:00 p.m. start

IEEE members are invited to attend our upcoming AGM. As a prelude to the meeting, we are trying to arrange for a representative from either White Rose or Hebron to provide an update on their offshore activities. Details have yet to be finalized. Please check our website for further information.

http://ewh.ieee.org/r7/newfoundland_labrador/events.html

A wine and cheese reception will follow. We hope to see you there!

Technical Activities

Keep an eye on our website for details on technical activities taking place in the new year. Everyone is encouraged to take a couple of hours and participate in the activities that the Section organizes. It's always an opportunity to learn and network with your local colleagues.

Note that attendance at IEEE Technical Meetings (including the technical presentation at our AGM) normally counts for "Informal Activity" hours under the APEGN Professional Development Program.

International Engineering Management Conference (IEMC)

September 11-13, 2005

Location: Fairmont Hotel, St. John's

Ever since our proposal was approved to host the 2005 International Engineering Management Conference (IEMC) in St. John's, the planning committee has been working on preparations for this prestigious conference. This large conference is affiliated with the Engineering Management Society (EMS) of IEEE.

We would encourage any members interested to become involved in this initiative. We are in the process of updating our IEMC 2005 site at <http://www.iemc2005.org>. To become involved in planning activities, please contact either Charles Randell (Charles.Randell@c-core.ca) or Kathleen Chafe (chafek@ieee.org).

RECENT EVENTS

NECEC 2004

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

Location: Holiday Inn, St. John's

By all accounts NECEC 2004 was a resounding success. Over 100 people attended from academia and industry to view a selection of the over 40 papers presented on a broad range of topics ranging from automatic meter reading (AMR) to radio frequency identification (RFID).

Jack Casey of Newfoundland Power was this year's Conference Chair and he did a wonderful job of keeping the busy itinerary on track throughout the day.



Yvonne Raymond and Cathy Purcell at the registration desk. Note the corporate sponsors listed on the banner in the background.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Cecilia Moloney (NSERC/Petro-Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering). She provided an overview of the participation of women in electrical and computer engineering with emphasis on the current status, barriers to entry, and strategies for overcoming those barriers.

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Wally Read who provided some light-hearted insight into the evolution of the Newfoundland dialect.



Wally Read addressing the conference during lunch after being introduced by Jack Casey

A number of awards were handed out during the luncheon ceremonies. "Friend of the IEEE" awards were presented to Aliant, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yvonne Raymond.

The NECEC 2004 Wally Read Best Student Paper Award was awarded to David Green and the NECEC 2004 Wally Read Best GOLD Paper Award was awarded to Yair Linn.

More detail on these awards follows later in this newsletter.



Region 7 Meeting

October 1-3, 2004
Calgary, AB

The fall meeting of IEEE Canada (Region 7) was held recently in Calgary. Mike Janes, Section Chair, and Kathleen Chafe, Section Vice-Chair, were pleased to represent the Newfoundland and Labrador Section.

The business component of the meetings, in addition to the usual discussions relating to regional activities and budgets, included a presentation from IEEE Canada President Bill Kennedy outlining his goals for 2005. The goals include increasing membership by 1500, elevating 200 members to senior membership, establishing GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) and Women in Engineering Affinity Groups in all Sections, promoting professional development seminars, providing Section Executive members with training, coordinating Distinguished Lecturer Tours, and improving administration processes.

One key agenda item was a motion to approve the restructuring of the Region Committee as per a new proposed IEEE Canada Governance Structure which outlined the format and roles and responsibilities of IEEE Canada bodies. This item generated much debate but, ultimately, received Committee approval for the new structure. One of the changes that will result from the new structure is the conversion of the current Councils to Areas.

As usual, the Councils held their meetings coincident with the regional meeting. The Eastern Canada Council meeting consisted mostly of discussions related to the proposed new Governance Structure.

Lobster Boil

June 19, 2004
St. John's, NL



There was a great turnout to this year's annual Lobster Boil which was held at the Fluvarium in St. John's. Attendees feasted on their choice of steak, vegetarian, or, of course, lobster. In addition, each person also received a ticket for wine, beer, or spirits to help wash down the meal or to cheer on the recipients of the various door prizes which were handed out at the end of the meal.

Feedback was quite positive and, as can be seen from the pictures below, everyone enjoyed the socializing component of the event. We hope to see you next year!



Socializing



The Main Event

AWARDS

The last academic year has been a very encouraging one for our Section especially in terms of awards and scholarships. Recently, local IEEE scholarships were awarded to as yet unnamed student members in each of Terms 3 and 6 of the Engineering Program at Memorial University.

As mentioned earlier, at NECEC 2004 three 'Friend of the IEEE' awards and two 'Wally Read Best Paper' awards were presented.

Term 3 and Term 6 Scholarships

For the last number of years the IEEE Newfoundland and Labrador Section has supported two scholarships valued at \$1000 for worthy student members enrolled in Terms 3 and 6 of the Electrical or Computer Engineering Programs at Memorial University. The objectives of these scholarships include (1) increasing student interest in and recognition of the IEEE, (2) enhancing promising students' abilities to succeed at the undergraduate level and (3) providing students with a reason and opportunity to think seriously about their professional goals. The names of this year's recipients will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Wally Read Best Paper Awards

For the last couple of years, the Technical Committee of NECEC has provided awards in the following categories: (1) Best Student Paper and (2) Best GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Paper. The award bears the name of prominent local and international IEEE member Dr. Wally Read, former President of IEEE and a founding father of the IEEE Newfoundland & Labrador Section.

This year's recipient of the Best Student Paper Award was **Mr. David Green**. Mr. Green is a graduate student in the M. Eng. Program at Memorial University and he received the award based on his paper entitled "Extracting Wind

Parameters from High Frequency Ground Wave Radar Backscatter".



David accepts his award from Wally

This year's recipient of the Best GOLD Paper Award was **Mr. Yair Linn**. Mr. Linn, who has several years of industry experience and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia, submitted a paper entitled "An Adaptive M-PSK Phase Detector for Achieving Optimal Carrier Synchronization PLL Operation". It's worth noting that Yair traveled from British Columbia to present his paper at this year's NECEC.



Yair receives his award

Congratulations and best wishes for future career success are extended to these well-deserving winners!

Friend of the IEEE Award

In the previous year, the Section made successful nominations in three categories (individual, institutional, and industrial) of the Friend of the IEEE Award overseen by the Regional Activities Board. The winners were announced last fall and the awards were recently presented at NECEC'04.

Aliant was recognized for its substantial ongoing support of many IEEE activities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Many current and former Section volunteers are employed by Aliant. Aliant has given freely of its meeting facilities and its employees' time. In addition, Aliant has been a long-standing financial sponsor of NECEC.

Memorial University was cited for its substantial organizational contributions to NECEC from its inception in 1990. In particular, university personnel have been responsible for the booking of suitable sites for the conference each year and have overseen registration and many of the accounting procedures. Memorial has also provided space for regular meetings of the IEEE executive and has been the vehicle for distribution of local IEEE literature.

Ms. Yvonne Raymond received an individual award in recognition of her extensive organizational contributions to NECEC from 1990 to the present. Yvonne's skill in overseeing many of the details associated with the conferences' registration procedure has been exceptional and always plays a major role in the success of these conferences.

This was the first time that this prestigious international award has been presented in Newfoundland and Labrador. The IEEE Newfoundland and Labrador Section is proud to have three such deserving recipients for this inaugural presentation.

Nominations Requested

Over the years, the Newfoundland and Labrador Section has been successful in its nomination of members for a variety of IEEE awards. With a changing executive, it is important that the membership at large be aware of the many possibilities of becoming involved in the awards nomination process so that deserving members can continue to be recognized at the local, national and international levels of the organization. Should anyone know individuals who would be suitable nominees for such honors, please email the local Scholarships and Awards Chairperson, Dr. Eric Gill, at egill@engr.mun.ca or phone 737-8922. Information about awards can be found at the following web pages:

IEEE International:
<http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/>

IEEE Canada:
<http://www.ieee.ca/awards/index.html>

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The membership development of our section has had a steady growth over the last year. The number of IEEE members has increased to 73 by the end of October 2004 from 61. The student membership also increased from 39 to 47. While the other membership status numbers remain unchanged, i.e., Life Fellow (1), Fellow (1), Senior Member (12), Life Member (1), Associate (2), Affiliate (10), the total membership count reaches 142 (compared to a total of 126 one year ago).

It's time to renew your membership for 2004. You can do so online at <http://www.ieee.org/renewal>

Please contact **Cheng Li**, Membership Development Chair, licheng@engr.mun.ca, if you have any feedback or questions about membership.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

This semester has been an active one for the IEEE Student Branch (Society "A"). We have been outfitting the new McNaughton Centre location with equipment, running fundraisers, resurrecting the fine old tradition of the Lunch 'n' Learn, and helping out with NECEC.

As part of the drive to make the new **McNaughton Centre** a general-purpose facility of use to all student members, we have acquired some new equipment this semester, and are hoping to add even more functionality in the future. So far our purchases have consisted of a new whiteboard and a printer/scanner/copier, but in the future we will consider other items that will help sell the McNaughton Centre, and indeed, the IEEE Student

Branch, as an enabler for the various activities and projects that are a part of student life at Memorial.

The money for these purchases, as well as several subsidies for new student members, has come from fundraising activities. As in previous semesters, we have provided a duplication and distribution service for course notes and scheduled hot dog lunches. We also raised funds by providing Proceedings CDs to NECEC.

One special event that we put off this semester was a **Lunch 'n' Learn** with Dr. Howard Heys, Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Heys was gracious enough to give a lunchtime seminar on his research area of cryptography. Students and staff from both inside and outside the Faculty of Engineering attended and comments were very positive. We hope to hold more of these lunchtime talks in the future.

Finally, we were pleased to send several student volunteers, most of them new members and junior students, to NECEC. Responsible for the operation of audio/visual equipment, these volunteers were able to attend a very interesting and educational event.

We look forward to continuing our activities for the rest of the semester and beyond.

SECTION EXECUTIVE

Chair – **Mike Janes**
Vice Chair – **Kathleen Chafe**
Past Chair – **Dennis Peters**
Treasurer – **Paul Thorburn**
Secretary – **Brenda Stoyles**
Technical Activities – **Gerard Dunphy**
Membership Development – **Cheng Li**
Awards & Scholarships – **Eric Gill**
Newsletter – **Kathleen Chafe**
Student Activities – **Vlastimil Masek**
Pre-College Activities – **Yves Fontaine**
Webmaster – **Dennis Peters**
Student Branch – **Jonathon Anderson**
We would like to take this opportunity to invite *anyone* interested in volunteering

some time to the Section to please contact any executive member: we are always seeking out new faces, fresh ideas and novel approaches to serving our members!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Any event notices, technical information, potential technical activities or suggestions and comments are welcome for Newsletter submission. Please e-mail any suggestions to chafek@ieee.org or mike.janes@ieee.org.

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