



# THE POCKET SCOPE



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

Volume 55, Number 4

December 2004

## SCOPE NOTES

### December Houston Section News

here: ESS (Houston Engineering and Scientific Society)  
430 Westheimer@Yorktown

hen: Thursday, December 2, 2004  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner  
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Speaker

ost: 10.00 - IEEE Members with 48-hour advance reservations.  
20.00 - non-members  
5.00 - students  
all (713) 207-IEEE to make your reservations.

See Page 3 for the Continuing Education Schedule!

IEEEWEB ADDRESS  
<http://www.ieee-houston.org>

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460443  
Houston, Texas  
770568014

## The Chairman's Message

**Gilroy Dolor**



### The Chairman's Message

This is my last Chair Message as Scott Ballew will be your new Chairman starting January 1, 2004. Being involved with the Houston Section has been a wonderful experience and I would like to thank everyone who made this an exciting and successful year. We have had many achievements this year to be proud of starting with our Continuing Education program. This renowned program continues to set the standard for the whole IEEE organization-worldwide! I would like to personally thank Paul Barrett and Roy Cosse, who continue to drive and grow this program. It continues to run like a well-oiled machine. Without their commitment and dedication, this program would not be where it is today.

We had four outstanding Section meetings this year. Each meeting was well-attended with the anticipation of enjoying a wonderful presentation. And they certainly did! If you were not able to attend a Section meeting, you certainly missed some wonderful and informative presentations. But don't fret; we expect to have some great presentations next year. Many thanks go to our Programs Chair, Justo Benitez, for finding these presenters and making this all happen.

A major highlight of the year was the bon voyage party for Peri Ktonas thanking him for his many contributions to IEEE. Peri has been a very active and dedicated IEEE member for more than twenty years and has done an outstanding job leading the EMBS. While Region 5, and notably, the Houston Section, lost a very dedicated member, we have gained a new member, George Zouridakis who, I am sure, will continue to lead the EMBS to bigger and better things.

And, of course, we have seen the continued success of our Scholarship Golf Tournament. This year we built on the accomplishments of the last two years and I would like to thank Scott Ballew, for his dedication and efforts in making this year's tournament another rousing success. With the success of this year's tournament, we will be able to award another five scholarships next year. Earlier this year, the Section awarded five scholarships to some very deserving and, might I say, very appreciative students who were either IEEE members or related to an IEEE member. The Executive Committee is always looking for ways to give back to the membership. With Scott taking the reins as the Section Chair, I will assume this responsibility and will work with the Section to continue and grow this event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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## Chair Message-CONT

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Finally, I would like to thank the entire Houston Section Executive Committee. They have been tireless in their efforts and it was through their efforts that we have been able to achieve so much.

It has been very rewarding serving you this year as your Chair. It has been an excellent personal and professional growth experience for me and I greatly appreciate the opportunity. I expect next year to be another great year with Scott Ballew at the helm. He will undoubtedly do an outstanding job leading us through the year ahead.

Gilroy Dolor  
Houston Section Chair

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## CED Seminar News

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*CED Houston announces the following revised registration fee schedule for its new 2004-2005 technical seminars.*

*The registration fee for IEEE members is \$70. The fee for non-members is \$140. The registration fee for student IEEE members will be \$50*

***Seminar registration and payment must be received the Friday before the seminar. Seminar registration closes at 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the seminar. No exceptions.***

*Pre-registration with "payment at the door" is acceptable under certain circumstances. Anyone promising to pay at the door and failing to show up will be debited and invoiced for the full amount of the registration fee.*



## December 2 Section Meeting

### December 2, 2004 Section Meeting

#### Topic: Building Six Sigma- Based Process Improvement Systems

Consensus Strategies partner with organizations to build customized systems tailored to meet the unique company needs and culture. It integrates into your organization the concepts of:

- a measurement system
- a process orientation
- customer focus
- team-oriented management
- continuous performance improvement

**Speaker: Mona K. Draper**, the only GE certified six sigma consultant in the Houston area, worked 20 years in industry prior to becoming a consultant. While working in the energy arena as an internal consultant, she designed and implemented a process improvement system that demonstrated increased profitability and reduced operating costs. She is one of a group of seven consultants selected out of 500 applicants by GE Capital Services to train their leaders in GE's Six Sigma process improvement philosophy. She consults with both service and manufacturing companies in six sigma-based process improvement systems as well as all facets involved in organizational change management. Pete Pande acknowledges her contribution to the best selling management book *The Six Sigma Way*. Ms. Draper holds a MS in Statistics and has published papers in regression analysis, forecasting, facilitation and six-sigma based process improvement.



## **New Senior Members**

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**Congratulations to the recently elected Senior Members from the Houston Section (November). For a complete list of the new Senior Members see the attached link.**

**[www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smupdates.html](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smupdates.html)**

**Naomi Halas**

**Yong-Kyu Jung**

**Dmitri Litvinov**

### **Looking for Senior Member Nominations**

READ THIS SECTION TO BECOME A SENIOR MEMBER IN THE IEEE.

A goal of our Region is to sponsor as many Senior Members as possible and I am asking your help. The IEEE criteria for Senior Member status is ten years of professional practice including five years of significant performance, and references. (See the nominator letter and application form for clarification on the IEEE website.) If you know an IEEE member who qualifies for Senior Membership, I would like you to nominate him or her by forwarding their nomination to one of the Houston Section Excom members. If you qualify and are not a senior member please reply to one of the Section Excom members. If your are retired and have met the criteria at one time lets get you nominated. Section meetings are the best networking tool to achieve Senior membership.

As an alternative process, you can direct the prospective Senior Member to one of the Houston Section Excom Members. We have a list of several Fellows and Senior Members which we can use for references. The Section will nominate all those qualified who provide a resume and significant performance vita.

Senior Membership in IEEE promotes the value of membership and enhances the status of the member. The is an achievement award lets honor our deserving members.

## IEEE Houston Section Officer Nominations

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS NOMINATIONS FOR 2005

The following Houston Section members have been nominated by the Nominations Committee to serve as Executive Officers during the year 2005

Past Chairman - Gilroy Dolor  
Chairman - Scott Ballew  
Vice-Chairman - Charles Benard  
Secretary - Polo Gutierrez  
Director - Shannon Quadros  
Treasurer - Donald Dunn

Be sure to attend the December 2, 2003, IEEE Houston Section Meeting to participate in the election of the Officers. Nominations for these positions can also be made from the floor that evening.”

The members of the Nominations Committee were: Donald Dunn, Justo Benitez and Dwayne Lowry.

## IEEE Houston Section CED Seminar Update

### New CED Seminars for 2005 Kickoff Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

**IEEE CED Houston** announces that it's Spring schedule of seminars begins **Feb 1-2** with Protective Relay 2 – GE Multilin. Jakov Vico of GE Multilin-Canada will review solid state protective relay design fundamentals and application considerations for challenging industrial applications. Presentation focus will be on the UR and SR family of relays. **Feb 15-16** Bob Johnson of Source IEC will present a much anticipated lecture on IEC Hazardous Area Classifications and related international standards.

Seating is limited. Make your reservations early. Questions related to the seminars? Contact Paul Barrett  
(713) 598-0790

## IEEE Career Alert

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 1 Dec 2004

Your weekly report on jobs, education, management, and the engineering workplace, from the editors of IEEE Spectrum

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Congress to Increase H-1B Visas
2. H-1B Cap Aids US Tech Employment
3. Vetting Credentials of Foreign Engineers
4. An Outsourcing Blog

### 1. Congress to Increase H-1B Visas

Congress recently approved an increase in the annual number of H-1B visas available to highly skilled foreign employees. Under the new proposal, U.S. employers can now hire an additional 20,000 temporary workers — for a total of 85,000 — provided they received graduate degrees in the United States. Read on at <[http://www.shrm.org/hrnews\\_published/CMS\\_010381.asp#P-11\\_0](http://www.shrm.org/hrnews_published/CMS_010381.asp#P-11_0)>

### 2. H-1B Cap Aids US Tech Employment

According to the IEEE-USA, U.S. high-tech employment in fiscal year 2004 rose sharply due to a limit on the number of H-1B visas given to skilled foreign workers. The number of unemployed electrical and electronics engineers went down from 16,000 in the first quarter to 9000 in the third; IT professionals have done even better. To see how the H-1B cap has affected US employment go to <<http://www.ieeeusa.org/communications/releases/2004/111904pr.asp>>

### 3. Vetting Credentials of Foreign Engineers

Adding another wrinkle to the US high-tech employment picture, the United States Council for International Engineering Practice has raised a concern that credential verification procedures may not be rigorous enough to catch unqualified foreign engineers who apply for visas to work in the United States. As a result, the public may be exposed to substandard engineering practices. Read on at <<http://www.nspe.org/etweb/11104usciep.asp>>

### 4. An Outsourcing Blog

Four experts on offshore outsourcing, including IEEE-USA Career & Workforce Policy Committee Chair Ron Hira, are currently engaged in a blog discussion on offshore outsourcing, and you're invited! Anyone interested in the globalization of high-tech jobs is free to respond to the panel's comments and observations. IEEE-USA is sponsoring the blog with Corante, a news and business intelligence service on technology and science. To join, go to <<http://www.corante.com/outsourcing/>>

The IEEE Job Site, available exclusively to IEEE members, can help you locate career opportunities easily and confidentially. Just complete a profile of your qualifications and requirements, and you'll be notified via email when a suitable job becomes available. IEEE Job Site was named one of the top online recruitment sites by Weddle's Guide to Employment Web Sites. And top employers know that IEEE members are the most qualified electrotechnology and information-technology professionals in the world. Take a few minutes to register with the IEEE Job Site and check out your career options today! <<http://www.ieee.org/jobs>>

IEEE Career Alert is prepared weekly by the editors of IEEE Spectrum, the flagship magazine of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, read by more than 360,000 people worldwide. You'll find IEEE Spectrum's homepage at <<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/>>

# IEEE Career Alert

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 15 Dec 2004

Your weekly report on jobs, education, management, and the engineering workplace, from the editors of IEEE Spectrum

EDITOR'S NOTE: IEEE Career Alert will take a two-week break. Look for your next alert on Wednesday, 5 January 2005.

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. No Holiday for Job-Hunters
2. Educating Tomorrow's Engineers
3. New England Job Market Cools, But Computer and Software Developers Are Hot
4. Unskilled Graduates?
5. Russia's IT Sector Blooms

## 1. No Holiday for Job-Hunters

It's high holiday season in many parts of the world. But finding a job isn't likely to happen. Or is it? According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, recruiters say that many companies are very aggressive about hiring this time of year. "While the holiday season was once fairly relaxed, few companies can afford to be idle in today's fast-paced business environment." Read on at

<<http://www.careerjournal.com/jobhunting/strategies/20041207-capell.html>>

## 2. Educating Tomorrow's Engineers

The American Society for Engineering Education has released a new report detailing the current state of U.S. engineering education in grades K through 12. The report looks at how teachers view engineering and how effective K-12 engineering outreach programs are, and includes suggestions on how to improve and strengthen current K-12 engineering programs. To read the report, "Engineering in the K-12 Classroom: An Analysis of Current Practices and Guidelines for the Future," go to

<<http://www.engineeringk12.org/>>

## 3. New England Job Market Cools, But Computer and Software Developers Are Hot

New England is expected to see slow job growth over the next two years, lagging the rest of the nation, and it is not expected to recover until late 2006, according to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. Citing a forecast from the New England Economic Partnership, the story also noted that the region is likely to experience "a shortage of skilled workers in industries with some of the most favorable long-term growth prospects, such as computer system design, software development and Internet and related systems development and services." Read on at <<http://www.careerjournal.com/salaryhiring/regional/20041209-byrt.html?cjcontent=mail>>

## 4. Unskilled Graduates?

A recent article in Scotland's Sunday Herald says college grads there lack business skills. It quotes Paul Murphy, head of the Glasgow-based JP Morgan Chase European technology Centre, complaining that recent graduates in computer science, software engineering and related areas often know little about financial services and commerce. He suggests that science and engineering courses include "general business modules, which would teach graduates how to apply their scientific knowledge and skills to the world of business." Read on at <<http://www.sundayherald.com/46298>>

## 5. Russia's IT Sector Blooms

Though it still lags far behind India, Russia is quickly building up its IT outsourcing business. Official estimates say the industry could grow fourfold, to \$2 billion, in the next two years. Meanwhile, the number of Russians getting master's degrees in computer science or majoring in software engineering grew 7% between 2003 and 2004, to 68,000. Still, the country has a ways to go in developing its IT infrastructure and in English-language training. Read on at <<http://www.iht.com/articles/2004/12/15/business/outsources.html>>

# IEEE NEWS

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Here's your report on news around the IEEE, from the editors of The Institute. The most current version of The Institute can always be found at <http://www.ieee.org/theinstitute>>

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1. Dan Senese Leaves Electronic Legacy**
- 2. Dealing with Plagiarism: New Guidelines**
- 3. Worldwide Workshops Boost University Accreditation**
- 4. First Aid Kit for Mobilizing Volunteers**
- 5. Marketplace of Ideas: The Final Frontier**
- 6. IEEE Fellow Applies Technology to Help Ordinary Folks**
- 7. Seeking Student-Run Web Radio Stations**
- 8. Deadline for Web-Account Log In to Online Communities Extended**

### 1. Dan Senese Leaves Electronic Legacy

From electronic libraries and online membership renewal to improving the IEEE's finances, executive director Dan Senese reflects on his accomplishments as he prepares to retire after nine years with the IEEE. Read more at

<http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/pages/tionline/legacy/inst2004/dec04/12w.senese.html>>

### 2. Dealing with Plagiarism: New Guidelines

Plagiarism — using someone else's work without giving proper credit — is a crime of intellectual property, but one might argue that it is just as serious as a crime of real property. Yet the IEEE's rules of what constitutes plagiarism and how it should be dealt with were not always clear. Read how the IEEE remedied the situation at

<http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/pages/tionline/legacy/inst2004/dec04/12w.pub.html>>

### 3. Worldwide Workshops Boost University Accreditation

For the past 15 years, IEEE volunteers have been spreading the word about an important but sometimes neglected issue in university-level technical education: the process of accrediting a school's engineering and science programs. Find out more at

<http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/pages/tionline/legacy/inst2004/dec04/12w.edu.html>>

Northeastern University's Graduate School of Engineering is proud to take online learning to the next level with streaming video and audio. 5 different streaming online Master of Science degrees are available: Computer Systems Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Management, Information Systems and Telecommunications Systems Management. For more information please visit us at

<http://www.coe.neu.edu/gse/>> or call us at 617.373.2711.

### 4. First Aid Kit for Mobilizing Volunteers

The IEEE Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit offers suggestions for helping

## IEEE NEWS - CONT

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section and group leaders recruit members to volunteer and serve as officers, editors, conference organizers, and other positions. Read more at <http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/pages/tionline/legacy/inst2004/dec04/12w.prod.html>

### 5. Marketplace: The Final Frontier

The builders of SpaceShipOne — the first workable “space tourist vehicle” — say that in a few years travelers could rocket at least to the edge of Earth’s atmosphere, some 100 kilometers up. Would you be willing to go if cost were no object? Why? Weigh in at

<mailto:institute@ieee.org>

### 6. IEEE Fellow Applies Technology to Help Ordinary Folks

Raj Reddy is working to exploit the prevalence of computers to improve the lives of poor and illiterate people. Find out how at

<http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/pages/tionline/legacy/inst2004/dec04/12w.mempro.html>

### SPONSOR’S NOTICE:

Polytechnic University: Online Master of Science in Electrical Engineering  
Polytechnic University introduces ePoly — where you can earn an MSEE online. Designed for professionals that face limitations on their time, the program provides a convenient, flexible setting. For more information, please visit <http://www.poly.edu/admissions/graduate/63> or contact us at [epoly@poly.edu](mailto:epoly@poly.edu). Interested students are encouraged to apply online or simply register for an online course. Classes begin January 24. Early registration is recommended.

### 7. Seeking Student-Run Web Radio Stations

If your university has a Web radio station run by students, The Institute wants to hear from you for an upcoming article. Contact Editor Kathy Kowalenko at

<mailto:k.kowalenko@ieee.org>

### 8. Deadline for Web-Account Log In to Online Communities Extended

Because of additional technical requirements, IEEE Online Communities users now have until 14 December to change their community login to their IEEE Web account. Users are also urged to update their community profile with their IEEE member number, and Web account login and password. For more information, visit <https://ieeecommunities.org/>

# IEEE ONLINE NEWS

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## Online Communities

IEEE is moving the IEEE Online Community login account maintenance from our provider's database to the IEEE system. This move is necessary to enable the Web Account login to take place in the online communities. The enhancement is in response to requests for an IEEE single sign-on feature in our online applications. In 2005, when the single sign-on feature is completed across the IEEE Web site, users will be able to login via an IEEE Web Account to the Online Communities and then have access to all IEEE online areas where their rights allow.

Previously, we announced that the IEEE Web Account login would be enabled in the Online Communities on 15 November. Due to additional technical requirements, we will be enabling the Web Account login on 14 December. This means you still have time to register for an IEEE Web Account and make the required changes (below) to your Online Community account, if you haven't done so already. The required changes and the Web Account registration take a maximum of 10 minutes to complete.

Please remember that ALL Online Community members, whether they are IEEE members or otherwise, must register for an IEEE Web Account. Guest accounts are enabled for non-IEEE members. IEEE staff must use their Staff Web Account.

After the enhancement is in place, if users need to update their password and primary email address, they will do that using their IEEE Web Account. User names may not be changed in the Web Account. All other changes to Online Community account information may be made as usual.

In the event that you are unable to make the changes in advance of 9 December, an IEEE Web Account will be issued to you via your primary email address. We will preserve your user name to its fullest extent, however, some exceptions may occur. For example, if two users have identical user names, a simple suffix will be added to the newer user name. Your email address will be preserved and included in the new IEEE Web Account. Then, you will be required to change the password and security identifiers for the Web Account before logging back in to the Online Community.

\*\*\*Important note: The new service change requires a short service interruption from noon est. 13 Dec. to noon est. 14 Dec. Please plan accordingly. Additionally, there will be a freeze on new accounts as well as changes to the user name and primary email address in the main community profile between 9 and 14 Dec.

Required changes:

If you do not have an IEEE Web Account, first please register for one at <http://shop.ieee.org/IEEEStore/signin.aspx>. Once you have an IEEE Web Account, please proceed as follows:

1. Go to the main page of the IEEE Online Communities. <https://www.ieeecommunities.org/>

## IEEE ONLINE NEWS-Cont

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2. Login as you normally would, then click the “Edit Profile” link on that main page.
3. Add your IEEE Member Number to the “Profile” field. This is not a required field, so non-IEEE members can skip this step. Make sure that the number itself is the first data that appears in the field. There is no need to identify it with the words “IEEE Member Number.” Just separate it from any other text with a space.
4. Change your Online Community User Name to match your new IEEE Web Account user name.
5. Check to see if the primary email address you’d provided for the community is the same as the one you use for your IEEE Web Account. If it is not, please update the email address in your community profile. [Please note that secondary email addresses are now supported by the community. If you have additional email addresses from which you conduct business, you might wish to add them at this time. Secondary addresses are NOT visible to other community members.]
6. Click on the “Update Account” button at the bottom of the page.
7. Now, back at the main page, click on the “Change Password” link.
8. Enter your current community password, then your new IEEE Web Account password in the designated fields. Click the “Change Password” button.

IEEE member numbers entered into the “Profile” area of the Main profile may be kept private by entering the Preferences area and updating “Privacy Setting” to “show name and email only.” At that point, you can add a custom profile for that community and keep your Main profile private. Remember, you must do this in each community of which you are a member.

From then on, use your IEEE Web Account user name and password to login to your IEEE Online Communities. Making the profile changes now will ensure a smooth transition when the community enhancement is enabled.

For further questions, please contact Debra Schiff at [d.schiff@ieee.org](mailto:d.schiff@ieee.org).  
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IEEE members make change of address notices via the IEEE website: [www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org).

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