



# THE POCKET SCOPE



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

Volume 54, Number 11

July 2004

## SCOPE NOTES

### July Houston Section News

**Where:**  
HESS (Houston Engineering and Scientific Society)  
5430 Westheimer@Yorktown

**When:** Thursday, September 23, 2004  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner  
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Speaker

**Cost:**  
\$10.00 - IEEE Members with 48-hour advance reservations.  
\$20.00 - non-members  
\$5.00 - students  
Call (713) 207-IEEE to make your reservations.

CED Schedule will be posted in Aug.!

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

IEEE Houston Section  
P.O. Box  
460443  
Houston, Texas  
770568014

## The Chairman's Message

**Gilroy Dolor**



### The Chairman's Message

In September, we will be entering the second half of 2004. I would like to invite all members to take the opportunity for the remainder of this year to become active within the section. We have lined up some interesting speakers and have several activities in the works for the remainder of the year. These activities are designed to enhance members personally and professionally. Come and join us at the next section meeting on September 23, 2004!

On behalf of the section, I congratulate the newest Senior Members in the Houston Section, Carl Brunner and Edward Knightly. For the year, nine (9) members have been elevated to the Senior Member grade. While that number is respectable, that certainly is far from all of you. So where are the rest? Senior Membership is important to the individual and the section and I urge everyone who meets the qualifications to submit an application. Members qualified for Senior Membership are those with ten (10) years of professional practice including five (5) years of significant performance and references (see the nominator letter and application form for clarification on the IEEE website). If you qualify and are not a Senior Member, please reply to one of the section EXCOM members. We will make sure you get nominated.

To date, we have not received any scholarship applications. The deadline is not far away, July 3, 2004. It will be a shame if we were not able to award any scholarships this year. We have five (5) \$1000 scholarships to award. Both incoming freshman and returning students are eligible. Please fill out an application today; you just might be our next scholarship winner. Visit the website for more information (<http://www.ieee-houston.org/>).

If you are interested in getting involved in the local IEEE section, let us know, volunteer members are always needed. As I mentioned in my message last month, one of our members, Peri Ktonas, will be leaving us this month for retirement in Greece. While Region 5, and notably, the Houston Section, will be losing a very dedicated member, Region 8 will be gaining one. As Peri mentioned, the IEEE experience has been wonderful for him. He certainly has enjoyed it

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## Chair Message-CONT

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and, as you can see, he will continue to volunteer his time and efforts to IEEE. I encourage all of you to become more active and see firsthand the rewards and benefits your membership gives you. It is a great way to network with professionals within the electrical engineering community. With approximately 4300 members, we are one of the larger sections within IEEE. Join us at one of the upcoming meetings; we look forward to meeting you.

Gilroy Dolor  
Houston Section Chair

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## September 23 Section Meeting

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The next meeting of the IEEE Houston Section will be held Thursday, September 23rd, 2004.

Please RSVP via calling (713) 207-IEEE to make your reservations by Tuesday September 21st, 2004. Please include your name and company name in the voice message. You can also send an e-mail to P.J. Donner at [pjdonner@ieee.org](mailto:pjdonner@ieee.org) to confirm your reservation.

Time and date: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM Social, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Dinner and 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM Presentation.

### **Topic: Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis for the STS-107 Accident Investigation and Return-To-Flight Effort**

[DESCRIPTION TO FOLLOW]

**Speaker: Darby Vicker** graduated with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University in May of 2000. For the past 4 years Darby has been working in the Applied Aeroscience and CFD group, EG3, at NASA's Johnson Space Center. His experience includes applying the Chimera CFD technique to the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle and the Space Shuttle Launch Vehicle.

## October 28 Section Meeting

### October 28, 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.



## IEEE Houston Section Scholarships 2004

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### IEEE - Houston Section

#### 2004 Scholarship Selection Criteria

In order to promote the interests of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - Houston Section, and in support of its dedication to Engineering and Science, scholarship(s) will be awarded annually to selected applicant(s). For 2004, due to the success of the 2003 IEEE - Houston Section Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, up to three (3) \$1,000 scholarships each, will be awarded to both incoming freshman and full time college students who meet the following criteria:

**EUGIBILITY:** Limited to a full time student enrolled in an accredited college or university who:

- Is a IEEE - Houston Section member's child or grandchild
- \*\*\*\*OR\*\*\*\*
- Is a member of IEEE (Student Branch or other)

**DISCUSSION:** By restricting eligibility as above, scholarships are made available to those full time students who have an association with IEEE. This places applicants on a "level playing field" before selection criteria are applied to determine the scholarship recipients. All scholarships will be awarded on merit.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

##### Merit

- Candidate is enrolled / planning to enroll in an Engineering or Science Curriculum
- His/her cumulative GPA (High School GPA for entering college freshman), SAT or ACT scores
- Discussion paper

#### **DISCUSSION PAPER:**

This document will be a key element in the scholarship selection criteria. Topics should include, but not be limited to the following:

- Employment experience
- Activities/elected positions
- Career goals
- Honors/Awards
- Personal information
- Why are you seeking this scholarship

To apply, please complete the attached form and mail to:

IEEE - Houston Section  
Attention: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 460443  
Houston, Texas 77056-8014

Deadline for submitting application form and all supporting data is July 3, 2004. Scholarships will be announced by August 31, 2004 and winner(s) will be honored at one of the IEEE - Houston Section Annual Meetings.

## IEEE Houston Section Scholarships 2004



### IEEE - HOUSTON SECTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip:  
\_\_\_\_\_

IEEE - Houston Section Member (Sponsor's Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Member No:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Student Status for \_\_\_\_\_ High School Sr. \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ Soph. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fr. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ College or University

Cumulative Collegiate GPA (Based on 4.0 max.) substantiated by copy of transcript(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

High School GPA - for applicant entering college as freshman:  
\_\_\_\_\_

- If High School Student - please provide SAT / ACT Score:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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College or University: \_\_\_\_\_ Location:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Major or anticipated major:  
\_\_\_\_\_

IEEE Student Chapter Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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Attach one (1) page essay by student covering:

1. Employment Experience
2. Activities/Elected Positions
3. Personal Information

## New Senior Members

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### 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.

## New Features on IEEE Job Site

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During the month of May, the IEEE Job Site will add an important new job search feature called "National Network". CareerCast's National Network is a national job database with over 100 participating media & newspaper job sites, including the Wall Street Journal and the San Diego Union Tribune among many others.

You will be able to search the National Network directly from the IEEE Job Site through our "Search Job Listings" feature. Once you have run a job search and retrieve your results for the IEEE Job Site, just click on "Search National Network" and your current job search criteria will be matched against the postings from the National Network. You can also use any IEEE Job Site automated search agent which you have already set up to retrieve results from the National Network. Just click on the box in your search agent profile marked "include National Network results".

Look for the new National Network search feature to be added to the IEEE Job Site before the end of May. Thanks for using the IEEE Job Site to help with your career development needs!

TO UNSUBSCRIBE - We value your privacy, if you wish to discontinue receiving emails from IEEE, <http://careers.ieee.org/teaxis/moopy?>

# IEEE CAREER ALERT

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 14 July 2004

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. U.S. Engineer's Salaries Rise, Along with Outsourcing Fears
2. Hot Skills Still Fetch Top Pay
3. India's New Government Pledges Economic Reforms
4. The End of Stock Options?

1. U.S. Engineer's Salaries Rise, Along with Outsourcing Fears U.S. engineers are seeing modest 3-4 percent raises this year, but are generally making less now than they did at the end of the high-tech boom, according to a story in the July issue of IEEE Spectrum. Many rank-and-file engineers fear losing their jobs to cheaper labor elsewhere; a senior software engineer earned an average of US\$11,400 last year, compared to the \$100,000 medial salary earned by U.S. software engineers. Read on at

<<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/careers/careerstemplate.jsp?ArticleId=n070204>>

2. Hot Skills Still Fetch Top Pay Offshore outsourcing has had little impact on the salaries of those with critical skill sets such as senior network architects or senior database management staff, according to a recent report by the META Group, Stamford, Conn. The report includes salary data for 180 information technology positions in 14 industries. Of the 650 large and medium-sized companies polled, 19 percent outsource IT work to foreign countries, the majority sending jobs to India. Read on at

<[http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2004/06/08/tech\\_specialists\\_still\\_fetching\\_top\\_pay\\_despite\\_outsourcing/](http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2004/06/08/tech_specialists_still_fetching_top_pay_despite_outsourcing/)>

3. India's New Government Pledges Economic Reforms Speaking of India, its new prime minister, Manmohan Singh, who came to power in May, has pledged to continue nurturing private sector growth. The resource in highest demand? Trained workers. According to a recent news story in Spectrum, "The lack of qualified people is now one of the leading concerns across the IT-enabled services industry. As developed countries outsource more jobs to India, local firms fear they may not be able to grow fast enough." Or as one company executive puts it: "This whole thing about the large talent pool in India is myth." Read on at

<<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/careers/careerstemplate.jsp?ArticleId=n070304>>

4. The End of Stock Options? Because of tax law changes that will probably require companies to expense the cost of stock options they give employees, many companies are dispensing with them or offering alternatives, according to the Wall Street Journal. Microsoft, for instance, recently gave 600 of its top employees stock awards that are tied to growth in the number and satisfaction of its customers. Those that still offer options, like Intel and IBM, are tweaking their features. For more, go to

<<http://www.careerjournal.com/salaryhiring/options/20040524-simon.html>>

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 home page at:

<<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/>>

# IEEE USA NEWS

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NEWS from IEEE-USA

1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1202, Washington, D.C. 20036-5104

Contact: Chris McManes

Senior Public Relations Coordinator

Phone: + 1 202 785 0017, ext. 8356

E-Mail: c.mcmanes@ieee.org

IEEE-USA Wins International Public Relations Award

WASHINGTON (9 July 2004) ? IEEE-USA won first prize in the special event and observance category of the Golden World Awards for excellence in public relations, the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) announced in London on 30 June. Top prizes went to 27 public-relations programs from 11 countries, out of 237 entries.

IEEE-USA was recognized for its planning, coordinating and fundraising activities in connection with the IEEE's lead society participation in National Engineers Week (EWeek) 2004, which included:

- \* Organizing a United Nations briefing on "Girls and Technology: New Educational Opportunities"
- \* Supporting three additional teams to compete in the national Future City Competition, which the IEEE launched in 1993 when it last led EWeek, as well as implementing a study of the Future City program's impact on participants to be used in fundraising
- \* Continuing the EWeek Family Day event that attracted more than 8,400 youngsters and adults to the National Building Museum in Washington to enjoy hands-on engineering activities
- \* Running ads in USA Today and the International Herald Tribune promoting diverse, new role models for engineers
- \* Producing an award-winning "12 New Faces of Engineering" calendar for underrepresented engineering students

The IEEE, with its corporate partner, the Fluor Corp., led a coalition of more than 70 engineering, education and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and U.S. government agencies in what the National Academy of Engineering considers the engineering profession's preeminent outreach effort. Founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, EWeek reaches thousands of schools, businesses and community groups in the United States.

An international jury of 44 senior public relations practitioners from 25 countries examined the entries for competence and quality. In addition to IEEE-USA, winners included such global PR firms as Burson-Marsteller, Weber Shandwick, Fleishman-Hillard Saunders, Ketchum and Edelman ? submitting entries on behalf of such multinational companies as American Express, Pfizer, Xerox, 3M and GlaxoSmithKline.

The IPRA Golden World Awards, now in its 14th year and sponsored by Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., will be presented in London on 21 October. IEEE-USA Public Relations Director Pender M. McCarter, an IPRA member, will accept the award on behalf of IEEE-USA and 2004 EWeek Chair Joseph V. Lillie. IEEE-USA received its first Golden World Award in 1991 for an advertising and public-relations campaign, "Winning With Technology," reinforcing IEEE-USA's legislative agenda of enhancing competitiveness at home and abroad.

IPRA is the premier association for senior international public relations professionals. For more information on the 2004 IPRA Golden World Awards, go to <http://www.ipra.org/services/gwa.htm>.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE. It was created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 225,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. For more information, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org/>.

## IEEE USA NEWS

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NEWS from IEEE-USA

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Contact: Pender McCarter, APR, Fellow PRSA

Director of Communications and Public Relations

Phone: + 1 202 785 0017, ext. 8353

E-Mail: [p.mccarter@ieee.org](mailto:p.mccarter@ieee.org)

### IEEE-USA Cites Concern About Rules on Access BPL Systems in FCC Filing

WASHINGTON (10 May 2004) - In a filing with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last week, IEEE-USA raised concerns about proposed FCC rules on Access Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems.

IEEE-USA expressed concerns about interference to the licensed users of HF spectrum, and concerns about interference to Access BPL systems from those users. The organization noted the potential negative impact of such interference on the ultimate reliability of Access BPL as a means of delivering broadband service to users. It cited possible adverse effects on many uses that are critical to national security, homeland defense, and emergency and disaster communications.

IEEE-USA called for additional studies to evaluate the efficacy of any proposed interference-mitigation techniques. According to the organization, the FCC should not prematurely promulgate rules in the absence of such proof.

Finally, IEEE-USA called on the FCC to extend the deadline for reply comments by at least 30 days - preferably 45 days - beyond the current deadline of 1 June to allow interested parties sufficient time to review and consider the content of a National Telecommunications and Information Administration report and other studies that are expected to be submitted in the initial comment phase. The IEEE-USA filing is accessible at [http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6516183235](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516183235).

In addition, the IEEE Standards Association and IEEE Power Engineering Society are holding a "Call for Interest in Standards Development for Broadband over Power Lines" meeting in Denver on 7 June.

For more information, visit

[http://standards.ieee.org/announcements/pr\\_bplinvite.html](http://standards.ieee.org/announcements/pr_bplinvite.html).

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE. It was created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 225,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. For more information, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org/>.

## IEEE-USA President John Steadman's Column

John W. Steadman

2004 IEEE-USA President

President's Column, July/August 2004

IEEE-USA recently joined with leading scientific, engineering and higher-education organizations in a statement to federal policymakers urging them to address problems with the nation's visa-processing system that are adversely affecting international scientific and technical collaborations.

The statement, in part, said: "We strongly support the federal government's efforts to establish new visa policies and procedures to bolster security; however, we believe that some of the new procedures and policies, along with a lack of sufficient resources, have made the visa-issuance process inefficient, lengthy and opaque. We are deeply concerned that this has led to a number of unintended consequences detrimental to science, higher education and the nation."

With heightened security following 9/11, the IEEE (and IEEE-USA) began receiving increased requests from non-U.S. IEEE members for assistance with problems traveling to and from the United States, including:

- ◆ Delays in visa processing that make it difficult for IEEE members abroad to participate in U.S.-based conferences.
- ◆ Denial of entry visas on various discretionary grounds, often without explanation or opportunity to appeal.
- ◆ Decisions by student members in the U.S. not to travel abroad to visit family or participate in international technical conferences because of concerns they might not be allowed to return to school.

These situations are affecting the IEEE's ability to function as a volunteer organization. They have created an incentive to move IEEE technical conferences and standards development activities out of the United States to facilitate international participation, with lost benefits to the U.S. economy. And most importantly, they are contributing to the increasing perception that our nation is a less-attractive destination for scientific and engineering training and research collaborations. This has negative implications for our country and its ability to remain technologically competitive in a global economy.

The General Accounting Office (GAO), at the request of Congress, investigated these problems and released a report earlier this year:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04371.pdf>. The GAO confirmed significant processing delays because of various problems, including a lack of computer-system interoperability used by different federal agencies in the screening process. The GAO report, highlighted in a February hearing of

## IEEE Institute NEWS-cont.

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the House Science Committee, recommended that “the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of the FBI and the Secretary of Homeland Security, develop and implement a plan to improve the security check process.”

We hope these improvements will help increase our homeland security by eliminating incompatible systems and streamlining processes that consume limited resources without adding a discernible security benefit, and by providing visa screeners with the information they need on a timely basis to make informed judgments about scientific and technical visitors. In short, a more efficient system is a more secure system.

One concept not addressed in the statement, but now being discussed in Washington, is creation of a new special visa for foreign scientists and engineers of stature in the research community, who are employed in well-established international research activities, and who need to make multiple visits to the United States for that purpose.

A number of our members have asked me how this statement squares with IEEE-USA’s position on the H-1B non-immigrant visa, which calls for limits and safeguards to ensure that temporary workers are paid prevailing wages and not used to displace U.S. high-tech workers. We view these as two distinct issues. The visa-processing statement relates to improvements needed in the systems for screening of non-immigrant scientific and technical visitors to the United States, such as non-U.S. members seeking to attend U.S.-based IEEE technical conferences. It would not affect the issuance of H-1B visas, or expand the number of H-1B workers permitted to enter the country for employment.

You can read the multi-society statement on-line at:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/POLICY/2004/051204.pdf>.

We welcome your feedback on the statement and on other proposals such as special visas for “trusted” scholars. We’d also like to hear about your own visa experiences as you travel in the U.S. and abroad. Send your comments to [president@ieeeusa.org](mailto:president@ieeeusa.org).

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The **Pocket Scope** is the newsletter of the Houston Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer (IEEE). The Houston Section address is: IEEE Houston Section, P.O. Box 460014, Houston, Texas 77056-8014. The **Pocket Scope** is published eight times a year (monthly, September to May, except December). It is distributed to over 3000 professionals in the electrical engineering field in the greater Houston area.

**Advertising rates** are listed on the IEEE Houston Section website and include publishing in The Pocket Scope, ad on the website, and within the monthly e-mail update.

IEEE members make change of address notices via the IEEE website: [www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org).

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