



# THE POCKET SCOPE



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

Volume 55, Number 10

June 2005

## SCOPE NOTES

### June Houston Section News

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

**hen:** Thursday, October 27, 2005  
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 res-  
ervations.



## The Chairman's Message

**Scott Ballew**

The Chairman's Message

Scott Ballew  
Houston Section Chair

See Page 3  
for the Continu-  
ing Education  
Schedule!

IEEE WEB  
ADDRESS

[http://  
\(www.ieee-  
houston.org\)](http://www.ieee-houston.org)

IEEE Houston Section  
P.O. Box  
460443  
Houston, Texas  
77056-8014

# 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.



## IEEE - Houston Section

2005 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 2005, due to the success of the 2004 IEE - Houston Section Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, up to four (4) \$1,000 scholarships each, will be awarded to both incoming freshman and full time college students who meet the following criteria:

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

- Is a IEEE - Houston Section member's child or relative
- \*\*\*\* 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 you are 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 22, 2005.



**IEEE - HOUSTON SECTION**  
**2005 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Applications due July 22, 2005)

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

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ College (or Mobile) Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

College Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of IEEE: ? Yes ? No If so, are you a IEEE Student Chapter Member: ? Yes ? No

IEEE - Houston Section Member (Sponsor's Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's IEEE Member No: \_\_\_\_\_ Your IEEE Member No. (If any): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Status: \_\_\_ High School Sr. \_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_ Soph. \_\_\_ Fresh. \_\_\_

\_\_\_ College or University Sr. \_\_\_ Jr. \_\_\_ Soph. \_\_\_ Fresh. \_\_\_

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 Scores: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Attach one (1) page essay by student covering:

1. Employment Experience
2. Activities/Elected Positions
3. Personal Information
4. Honors/Awards
5. Career Goals
6. Reasons for seeking this scholarship

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Attach up to three (3) letters of endorsement from former teachers, employers, family and friends.  
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The information provided herewith is correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## IEEE Career Alert

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 18 May 2005

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Land a Job at a Start-Up
2. Aerospace Industry Hiring
3. Revamping Computer Science Education
4. Elite Schools Brought Down a Peg?

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1. Land a Job at a Start-up

The U.S. economy is picking up, and large businesses aren't the only ones hiring again, according to a recent story in the Wall Street Journal. Recruiting firms told WSJ that start-up companies that have been around for a few years are looking for senior talent. Get some tips on how to land a job at a start-up at:

<[http://www.careerjournal.com/salaryhiring/industries/seniorexecs/20050511-needleman.html?cjpos=home\\_whatnew\\_major](http://www.careerjournal.com/salaryhiring/industries/seniorexecs/20050511-needleman.html?cjpos=home_whatnew_major)>

2. Aerospace Industry Hiring

U.S. aerospace engineers and IT professionals will have more job options this year. According to David Napier, research director of the Aerospace Industries Association in Arlington, Va., aerospace firms will see more military and commercial contracts, leading to more hiring. Read on at

<[http://www.diversitycareers.com/articles/pro/05-aprmay/chgTech\\_aerospace.htm](http://www.diversitycareers.com/articles/pro/05-aprmay/chgTech_aerospace.htm)>

3. Revamping Computer Science Education

Computer science (CS) departments in Western nations have to act quickly if waning enrollment is to be reversed, says Qusay H Mahmoud, a computer science professor at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. When reshaping their CS programs, says Mahmoud, universities should look to turn out graduates with more than just technical skills. He offers several suggestions, including offering cross-disciplinary programs that let students combine computing with, say, marketing or finance. A student so equipped is less likely to see his or her job eliminated in an economic downturn. Read on at:

<<http://www.computer.org/computer/homepage/0505/profession/index.htm>>

4. Elite Schools Brought Down a Peg?

The United Kingdom is home to dozens of universities with excellent research and academic programs. But according to an article in New Scientist, British universities such as Cambridge and Oxford are suffering from years of insufficient funding, and their researchers and professors are underpaid and overworked. Is the stature of these top contenders in decline? Find out at

<<http://www.newscientistjobs.com/insider/article.action?article.id=insider132&focusId=uk>>

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 is part of the What's New @IEEE email news service. For more information on subscribing to other What's New newsletters, visit <<http://whatsnew.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

#### Electrotechnology Consultants Fees Rise, Incomes Drop, IEEE-USA Survey Shows

WASHINGTON (13 May 2005) — Consultants have bucked the trend in hourly rates, seeing increases at a time when salaried electrotechnologists are losing ground. However, the 2004 IEEE-USA Consultants Fee Survey shows that a slight increase in rates did not prevent a drop in annual median income for these same contract engineers.

Although median fees increased an average of \$10 to \$110 per hour since the last survey in 2002, median income dropped \$20,000 to \$100,000 in 2004. That's much larger than the \$1,500 median income decrease reported in the 2004 IEEE-USA Salary & Fringe Benefits Survey (<http://www.ieeeusa.org/communications/releases/2004/122204pr.asp>).

"The drop in consulting income fits the trend of engineering salaries in general," said Bob Gauger, consultants survey director. "Engineering income is down, and our survey fits in with that, even though the fee is up \$10 an hour."

Consulting incomes fluctuate because hours vary widely, with nearly half working 20 hours or less. Most consultants, 57 per cent, make more than \$75,000, with 22 per cent making between \$75,000 and \$125,000.

A majority of consultants, 58 per cent, charge between \$75 and \$150 per hour. That rate is substantially higher than engineering wage rates because consultants cover many expenses such as health care. About 15 per cent charge more than \$175 per hour, about the same as the percentage who charge \$75 or less. Hourly rates are a key factor of the study, conducted in even-numbered years.

"There are many ways to set fees, but all of them involve knowing what your competition is charging," Gauger said. About three fourths of consultant charge by the hour, with a few using daily rates or fixed project pricing. High wages are justified in part by experience. Seventy two per cent have more than 20 years experience, and 40 per cent have an M.S. or Ph.D. The majority, 61 per cent, have been consultants for less than 10 years, suggesting that many retired salaried engineers become consultants.

"Consulting is a tremendous way to cap off a career. You've learned a lot and it's great to get paid for it on your schedule," Gauger said. Companies appear willing to pay dearly for some experience. More than 10 per cent charge more than \$200 per hour, with half of them charging in excess of \$275 per hour. Expert witnesses/forensic experts charge the highest hourly rate, \$217.

The survey of 756 independent consultants was conducted by the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks. You can view the survey report at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/business/files/Consultant's%20Network%20Webinar.pdf>

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 220,000 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/>.

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E-Mail: [c.mcmanes@ieee.org](mailto:c.mcmanes@ieee.org)

# IEEE Career Alert

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 11 May 2005

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. How To Quit a Job
2. Switching Engineering Careers
3. A Healthy Career
4. More Euros, More Jobs

### 1. How to Quit A Job

You've been at your current job for years, and now you're ready to move on. How do you do it? Is this your golden opportunity to go on a tirade, complaining to your boss and colleagues about the wrongs that have been done to you? Probably not. Read about why and how to quit your job—gracefully—here: <[http://www.careerjournal.com/jobhunting/jungle/20050505-jungle.html?cjpos=home\\_whatsnew\\_minor](http://www.careerjournal.com/jobhunting/jungle/20050505-jungle.html?cjpos=home_whatsnew_minor)>

### 2. Switching Engineering Careers

Switching from one engineering discipline to another is a growing trend in today's work environment, where thinly staffed companies are looking for people with a broad range of skills. Your engineering education may not have prepared you for such career changes, but read these tips for making this transition easier at: <<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/careers/careerstemplate.jsp?ArticleId=c050305>>

### 3. A Healthy Career

Peggy Hutcheson, a speaker at the IEEE-USA's 2005 Leadership Conference, said that achieving both success and fulfillment in a career is the biggest challenge engineers face in the 21st century. Read Hutcheson's advice to the attendees on maximizing their job satisfaction at:

<[http://www.todaysengineer.org/2005/May/career\\_success.asp](http://www.todaysengineer.org/2005/May/career_success.asp)>

### 4. More Euros, More Jobs

A new report issued by the European Commission says that the bloc is preparing to create nearly one million new jobs across Europe, with more than 200,000 of them being research positions. The hiring will come out of the Seventh Framework Program, the next period in the ongoing collaboration between European Union's member nations on a broad menu of research agendas. The EU will spend just under €10 billion (about US \$12 billion) a year from 2007 to 2013 on disciplines ranging from life sciences to societal implications of technology. For more on Europe's plans for FP7, read on at:

<<http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>>

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>>

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## IEEE-USA News

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NEWS from IEEE-USA

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

Sen. Bingaman and Rep. Ehlers Honored for Contributions to Science, Engineering and Technology;  
Presentation during Congressional Visits Day

WASHINGTON (9 May 2005) ? Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M) and Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) will share the 2005 George E. Brown Jr. Award for their contributions to science, engineering and technology. The award is presented annually by the Science, Engineering and Technology Work Group to members of Congress who are effective advocates for federal investment in science, engineering and technology. The award is named for the late Rep.

George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.), who made outstanding contributions to federal support in these areas over a long and distinguished career in Congress.

Sen. Bingaman and Rep. Ehlers will be honored at a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building cafeteria on Tuesday, 10 May at 6 p.m. in conjunction with the 10th annual Congressional Visits Day, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-11 May.

Sen. Bingaman is being honored for his leadership efforts to increase federal investment in research and development (R&D), particularly through the Department of Energy (DOE), as well as investment in training the scientists and engineers who will make technological advances possible. He and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) recently wrote a letter in support of the DOE's Office of Science that has garnered the support of more than two-thirds of their Senate colleagues.

Rep. Ehlers, who holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics, is being recognized for being a stalwart supporter and leading advocate for federal investment in science, engineering and technology for the nation's benefit; and for his recognition and promotion of a vital federal R&D enterprise, with special emphasis on the role of science and engineering education at all levels.

Congressional Visits Day (CVD) is the preeminent event bringing scientists, engineers, researchers, educators and technology executives to Washington to visit their congressional representatives and raise visibility and support for science, engineering and technology. The two-day event is coordinated by a multidisciplinary coalition of companies, professional societies and educational institutions that support science, engineering and technology in academia, government and private industry.

For more information on the award and CVD, see [www.setcvd.org](http://www.setcvd.org). 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 220,000 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/>.

Contact: Debbie Rudolph  
Manager, Technology Policy  
Phone: + 1 202 785 0017, ext. 8332  
E-Mail: [d.rudolph@ieee.org](mailto:d.rudolph@ieee.org)

Editor's Note: Media are invited to attend the 10 May reception and other CVD activities. Contact Chris McManes, IEEE-USA's senior public relations coordinator, at [c.mcmanes@ieee.org](mailto:c.mcmanes@ieee.org) or 202-785-0017, ext. 8356.

# IEEE Career Alert

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IEEE CAREER ALERT for 4 May 2005

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

IEEE Spectrum

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Training Games
2. Are You A Demotivator?
3. Pilgrims' Progress
4. Online Firms on Executive Hiring Binge

## 1. Training Games

Companies in the U.S. are learning that the billions of dollars they spend on employee training each year may be wasted. Some, having admitted that trainees are getting little benefit from boring training sessions, are looking for more interactive training methods such as computer games. Trainees who are challenged to make high scores despite increasing difficulty levels learn more. To see how these training games are helping some employers, read:

<[http://www.careerjournal.com/hrcenter/articles/20050428-totty.html?cjpos=home\\_whatsnew\\_minor](http://www.careerjournal.com/hrcenter/articles/20050428-totty.html?cjpos=home_whatsnew_minor)>

## 2. Are You A Demotivator?

There are many ways to motivate a team of technical professionals. But an IT management consultant says the best way for a manager to ensure good morale is to, well, not demotivate them. In a Computerworld.com article, he mentions a few pitfalls to avoid, such as excluding technical personnel from decision making, micromanaging them, and being inconsistent. Read on at:

<<http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/management/story/0,10801,101399,00.html?SKC=careers-101399>>

## 3. Pilgrims' Progress

When Nanette Brown went to college in the mid-70s, there was no women's restroom in the engineering building — a common experience for women who studied engineering back then. But as more women have entered the field and made major contributions, they have gained the acceptance of their male counterparts. . . and bathroom stalls to call their own. Read the stories of nine women who have been a part of this progress here:

<[http://www.diversitycareers.com/articles/pro/05-apr/may/fod\\_wfa.htm](http://www.diversitycareers.com/articles/pro/05-apr/may/fod_wfa.htm)>

## 4. Dell Expands Indian Operations

Dell Inc., the U.S.-based computer giant, recently announced that more of its global product development, sales and service, and call center operations would be moving to places like Bangalore, India's answer to Silicon Valley. A company spokesman said that by year's end, Dell will employ 10 000 people across India. This is but one example of the rapid shift of high-tech jobs from western countries to India that the New Delhi-based National Association of Software and Service Companies says will total nearly 1.2 million by 2008. For more on growing tech employment in India, read on at: <<http://www.spacedaily.com/2005/050429102151.zkg1ilqp.html>>

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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.

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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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