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Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Queensland Section (ARBN 078576495)
www.ieee.org/queensland

IEEE

Queensland Section

NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter 2008

Volume 11 – Issue 2

Print Post Approval No. PP4458860011

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Editor's Remarks

Mr Robert Ellen

This issue is a brief update on what the Section has been up to since the last edition of the newsletter and what we have planned for the section in the months to come.

The major item this time around is the results of nominations for positions on the executive committee and chapters for 2009. There have also been several changes to the executive committee, some as a result of the nominations. See our chair, Vaughan Clarkson's message for the details.

Dates for AGM activities have been selected so check out the Vice-Chair's Message from Joe Dong.

I will be continuing as Newsletter Editor into 2009 along with the two other IEEE hats I wear. I hope you get value from reading the IEEE Queensland Section newsletters. It is my pleasure to be your scribe.

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Message from the Chair IEEE Queensland Section

Assoc. Prof. Vaughan Clarkson

Thanks for looking into our newsletter. There have been quite a few developments since the last newsletter, so I have a few things to tell you about.

New Leadership in 2009

Nominations for 2009 offices in Qld Section were called towards the beginning of July and closed at the end of July or beginning of August (depending on the organisational unit). All positions were uncontested so I'm pleased to announce the following leadership team for 2009.

Organisational Unit	Position	Name
Queensland Section	Chair	A/Prof. Zhao Yang (Joe) Dong
	Vice Chair	Dr. Abbas Bigdeli
	Secretary	Dr. Andrew Thomas
	Treasurer	Dr. Jasmine Banks
	Immediate Past Chair	A/Prof. Vaughan Clarkson
	Membership Development & Email	Mr. Peter McLarty
	Student Activities	Dr. Mark Griffin
	Engineers Australia Liaison	Prof. Tapan Saha
	Newsletter Editor	Mr. Robert Ellen
	Webmaster	Mr. Ashkan Boldaji
Aerospace & Electronic Systems Chapter	Chair	Mr. Robert Ellen
	Vice Chair	Prof. Peter Lindsay
Computer Chapter	Chair	Mr. Simon Ellis
	Vice Chair	Dr. Philip Machanick
Computational Intelligence Chapter	Chair	Dr. Marcus Gallagher
	Vice Chair	Dr. Michael Blumenstein
Control Systems/Robotics & Automation Chapter	Chair	A/Prof. Duncan Campbell
	Vice Chair	Prof. John Billingsley
Microwave Theory & Techniques/ Antennas & Propagation Chapter	Chair	Dr. Aleks Rakic
	Vice Chair	Dr. Karla Ziri-Castro
Power & Energy Chapter (formerly Power Engineering Chapter)	Chair	Dr. Jose Lopez-Roldan
	Vice Chair	Prof. Tapan Saha
	Secretary	Mr. Bart Sedgwick
Signal Processing/ Communications Chapter	Chair	Dr. Garry Einicke
	Vice Chair	Dr. Dhammika Jayalath
GOLD Affinity Group	Chair	Mr. Robert Ellen
	Vice Chair	Mr. Roelof Swanepoel

Within Queensland Section, the Chairs of the following Standing Committees remain unfilled for 2009:

- Professional/Career Activities
- Educational Activities
- Awards & Recognition
- Likewise, and with the exception of Power & Energy Chapter, most of the Secretary positions for the Chapters & Affinity Groups remain unfilled.

If you would like to become more actively involved in IEEE and one of the unfilled positions interests you, please don't hesitate to contact me: v.clarkson@ieee.org.

I should not neglect to mention the small army of volunteers who formed our nominating committees. They are:

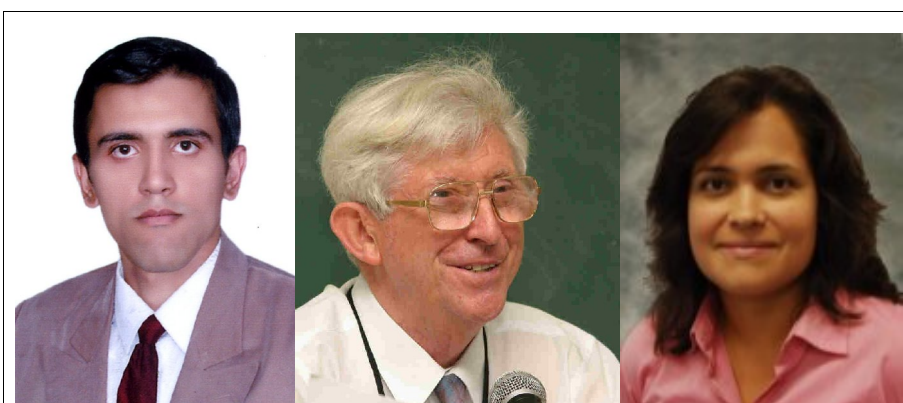
Queensland Section	Neil Bergmann (chair), David Thiel, Ed Palmer
AESS Chapter	Duncan Campbell (chair), Jasmine Banks, Dennis Longstaff
CI Chapter	Joaquin Sitte (chair), Duncan Campbell, Zhao Yang Dong
Computer Chapter	John Williams (chair), Peter McLarty, Xue Li
CSS/R&A Chapter	Michael Lees (chair), Ljubo Vlacic, Gordon Wyeth
MTT/AP Chapter	Marek Bialkowski (chair), David Thiel, Amin Abbosh
P&E Chapter	Zhao Yang Dong (chair), Mushfiqur Rahman, Ed Palmer
SP/Com Chapter	Andrew Bradley (chair), Philip Machanick, Abbas Bigdeli
GOLD Affinity Group	Andrew Thomas (chair), Sheng How Goh, Peter McLarty

I'd like to express my thanks to all those who served on our nominating committees. You have ensured a smooth transition of leadership into 2009.

Changes to the Executive Committee

There have been a couple of changes to the executive committee since the last newsletter:

- Dr. John Williams' term as Chair of Computer Chapter came to an end on 30th June. In line with transitional arrangements stemming from the revocation of the by-laws, as mentioned above and in my previous article, the former Vice Chair, Mr. Simon Ellis, has automatically progressed to the Chair. Simon's term will extend to 31st December, 2009.
- Mr. Mohammad Hesamzadeh was elected unopposed to the position of Vice Chair of the Power & Energy Chapter (note that the Power Engineering Society recently changed its name to Power & Energy Society). This should have been announced in the previous newsletter along with Prof. Ledwich's election to the Chair and I apologise to Mohammad for my omission.
- Prof. John Billingsley's appointment as Vice Chair of CS/R&A Chapter will take effect immediately, as the position was vacant.
- Likewise, Dr. Karla Ziri-Castro's appointment as Vice Chair of MTT/AP Chapter will take effect immediately.
- And for the same reason, Mr. Roelof Swanepoel's appointment as Vice Chair of the GOLD Affinity Group will take effect immediately.
- After nearly three years of excellent service as Webmaster, Dr. Sheng How Goh has stepped down in favour of an early start for Mr. Ashkan Boldaji.



Some of the new members of the committee (from left to right): Mr. Mohammad Hesamzadeh (Vice-Chair of Power and Energy), Prof. John Billingsley (Vice Chair of CSS/R&A) and Dr. Karla Ziri-Castro (Vice-Chair of MTT/A&P)

Computational Intelligence Chapter Wins Best Chapter Award

I was very pleased to learn that our own Computational Intelligence Chapter won the Best Chapter Award for 2007 from the Computational Intelligence Society. Last year, the Chapter held five meetings, involving numerous distinguished visitors, and held a postgraduate symposium. Moreover, in a Section as large as Queensland, they wisely made use of the Access Grid so that members from Central Queensland University, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University could all participate effectively. These universities are separated by up to 700km, yet interaction between them has been significantly boosted through the activities of the Chapter.

The award is a credit to the hard work and strong leadership of Chapter Chair, Dr. Brijesh Verma, and Vice Chair, Dr. Marcus Gallagher. Well done & keep up the good work!

Formation of New Chapter: Aerospace & Electronic Systems

Over the last year, a petition has been circulated by Mr. Robert Ellen for the formation of a Queensland Chapter of the Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society (AESS). The Section was recently informed that the petition has been successful and the Chapter has been officially formed as of 18th June. Robert has been named its interim & inaugural Chair. Robert's interim term will extend to 31st December, 2008.

Congratulations, Robert, on seeing this petition through to a successful conclusion and on taking up the reigns as the Chapter's first Chair. Queensland's aerospace industry is growing apace and, for this reason and because of the commitment of its volunteers, I am confident that the Chapter will be a success. I look forward to AESS activities in the near future for the benefit of members.

To Conclude

Thanks for making it to the end of another unexpectedly long article from me (there's just so much happening!). I'll close by entreating you to consider nominating for a volunteer position on next year's committee. We need your help, your talents and your enthusiasm!



Clearing Up Confusion in Fellows Categories

Even though it's been nearly three years since nominations were first accepted for the newest Fellows category, Application Engineer/Practitioner, few have been nominated. Out of the 295 Fellows named in 2008, only 20 were from the practitioner group compared to the 15 in the 268 member Class of 2007.

One reason might be because people are still unsure about the type of work that qualifies someone for this category, says 2003 IEEE President Michael Adler and chair of the IEEE Board-appointed 2008 Fellow Ad Hoc Committee, which reviews the Fellows process.

"Many nominators are checking off the Research Engineer/Scientist box on the nomination forms when perhaps they should be marking the Application Engineer/Practitioner category," he says. "The position of some nominees is identified to be that of a research scientist or engineer, but the work for which they are being cited could be considered that of a practitioner," Adler explains.

There were 225 Fellows from the research engineer/scientist group in the 2008 class.

To help clear up any confusion and help boost the number of Fellows from industry, here is a primer of the type of work that qualifies for the application engineer/practitioner category. The person has to be an IEEE senior member in good standing with five years of service in any grade of membership excluding affiliates, and who has made significant contributions in any of these areas: product development, systems, applications or operations, project management or construction, process development, manufacturing innovations, or codes or standards development.

Adler notes that it could be someone who develops a process to produce a product that may have been designed by others, and that has had a major impact.

For example, among Fellows in the Application Engineer/Practitioner category, were those who invented and standardized elements of optical transmission systems, developed applications for satellite data and airborne LIDAR (light detection and ranging) imagery, researched signal processing for acoustics and sound reproduction, and provided technical leadership of a project that turned novel concepts for computer architecture into commercial processors.

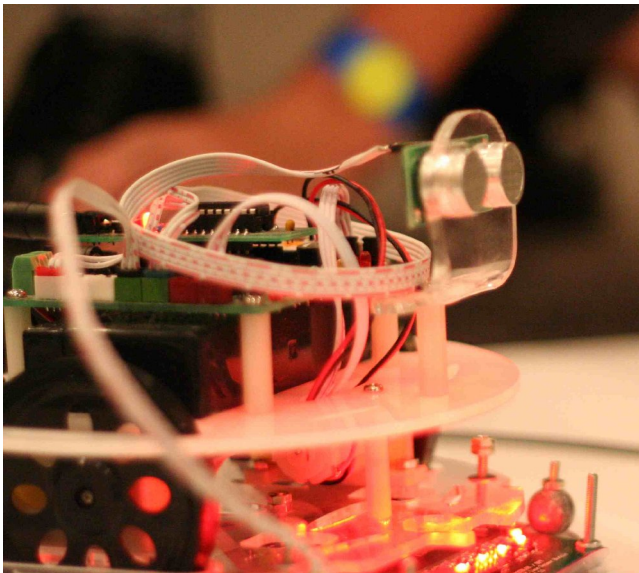
Nominations for the class of 2010 are now being accepted. The deadline is 1 March 2009. Nomination instructions, forms and additional information are available on the Fellows web site at <http://www.ieee.org/fellows>

NOTE: Originally published in The Institute and updated by Fellow Activities Staff

IEEE Queensland Section Sponsors Trophies for RoboCup Junior

Mr Robert Ellen

On the 16th and 17th of August I was the IEEE Queensland Section's delegate to the RoboCup Junior Queensland Finals, held at the University of Queensland. The section sponsored the trophies awarded over both days. The comp included participants from both upper-primary and secondary schools. The challenges includes a line-following rescue simulation, a robot soccer pool and a robot dance recital. I must say that I was very impressed with the quality of the entries in all categories, especially several of the primary school rescue teams. Their robots seemed very well tuned and would have arguably beaten the best of the secondary school entries. RoboCup Junior is a great example of the initiatives that help children and adolescents decide to follow a career in engineering and ICT. Hopefully some of the young competitors will get a taste for robotics and become IEEE members in the future. The President of the RoboCup Junior Queensland Committee, Dr Stephen Wilson from UQ, and his team are to be commended for putting together a great competition that was enjoyed thoroughly by the competitors, teachers, parents and spectators. <http://www.robocupqld.net.au/>



Photographs courtesy of Dr Stephen Wilson.

Message from the Vice-Chair IEEE Queensland Section

Assoc. Prof. Zhao Yang (Joe) Dong

The Queensland Section is now planning for the Section Annual General Meeting (AGM) and finalising the arrangement for thesis prizes.

IEEE Thesis Prize

The Section offers two awards each year to final year thesis students from Queensland universities. One is a general category and another one is for power engineering related theses.

The important dates of this year's thesis prize selection / award are

- Student Counsellor of each university collects thesis from 1 Nov 08 – 11 Nov 08;
- Student Counsellor of each university sends recommendation (one for general prize and one for power engineering prize from each university) to the thesis prize selection committee by Tuesday 14 Nov;
- Thesis prize committee members evaluate the selected thesis and finalise the winners. Prize winners to be notified by Friday 28 Nov
- Prizes to be awarded during the section AGM on Thursday 4 Dec 2008

Queensland Section AGM

The 2008 Section AGM will start from 6pm on Thursday 4th December 2008, followed by the Section's Annual Dinner. Currently the venue is to be selected from Sofitel Brisbane (where the 2007 AGM was held) or Customs House in the City. Recommendations for other suitable venues welcome.

QUT Student Branch Update

Dr Jasmine Banks
QUT Student Branch Counsellor

The QUT Student Branch now has a website: <http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/queensland/qut/>. The site can link can also be accessed through the IEEE Queensland website, under Student Branches. The site includes contact details of current office bearers, and will be updated with details of upcoming activities.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the QUT Student Branch, or have an idea for an activity, please contact me or one of the office bearers listed on the website.

Don't forget, the IEEE thesis prize is running again this year. If you are submitting a thesis this year (semester 1 or 2), and this is your final year of study, consider submitting your thesis for this prize. Details can be found at the IEEE Queensland website.

UQ Student Branch Update

Dr Andrew Thomas
UQ Student Branch Counsellor

The IEEE University of Queensland student branch has had one student membership drive this year, which was hosted on the 28th May during a UQ ITEE on-campus alumni function. At this function, 17 new student members were added to the IEEE Queensland section. Another membership drive function is being planned at the University of Queensland campus to be held within the next couple of weeks. The IEEE UQ student branch has recently called for nominations for positions on the branch executive committee. While the nominations have officially closed, any interested UQ IEEE student members are most welcome to contact me regarding positions within the branch. As the UQ student branch counsellor I am looking to re-invigorate the UQ student branch and am hopeful of a good response from the student members at the University of Queensland.



Students sign up for IEEE membership (centre right) at the University of Queensland's inaugural School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering On-Campus Alumni meeting & BBQ on 28th May.

USQ Student Branch Update

Dr Tony Afock
USQ Student Branch Counsellor
Lanzhi Teng
USQ Student Branch Secretary

As planned a presentation was held recently titled **The First Space Station: Triumph and Tragedy** presented by Grujica S. Ivanovich. Grujica has written two books on space travel. About 45 people attended. Many of them were guests visiting the University. Around ten students asked to join IEEE and they were given membership application forms.

The presentation was a on fascinating topic and the presenter did a great job. It has been an opportunity for students and others to see that engineering is never just about technological achievement or failure. Grujica not only explained technical details very clearly, but he also highlighted the relevance of the political, social and economic climate within which the soviet engineers and cosmonauts were operating.

Our next event will be in October.

GOLD Affinity Group Update

Mr Robert Ellen
Chair, Queensland GOLD Affinity Group

I would like to welcome Mr Roelof Swanepoel to the Queensland Section. He recently moved to Australia from South Africa, where he held several roles with the South African Section, including GOLD Chair. Roelof has been elected GOLD Vice-char for 2009. Since the position was vacant for 2008 he kindly agreed to take up the position starting immediately. Thanks Roelof!

We have an evening seminar coming up on November 27 at Engineering House. David Noon, currently Chief Operating Officer of Groundprobe, will present a talk on the journey of commercialising the Groundprobe technology. Reminders for this event will be sent via E-Notice closer to the date.

In the mean time we are organising some more events to be held during October and November. These will include a guest speaker talk by Trent Davis, CTO of Netbox Blue, and a workshop on effective communication by Alex Robey of Assert Development. Stay tuned to E-Notice for these as well.

Aerospace and Electronic Systems Chapter is Formed

Mr Robert Ellen,
Chair, AESS Queensland Chapter

Up and Running

After over a year of collecting signatures the Queensland chapter of the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society is officially up and running. Thank you to those AESS members who responded to the calls for support. Thanks also to the executive committee for naming me Interim Chair of the chapter for this calendar year.

An Inaugural activity is being planned. All are welcome, but I encourage you to consider joining the AESS if you are interested in attending AESS events in the future.

The Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society is a sponsor of the UAV Outback Challenge 2008, an event designed to promote civilian applications of Unmanned Airborne Vehicles. The challenge will be held in Kingaroy over the 23rd to the 25th of September. I will be representing the IEEE and the AESS at the event.

More information can be found at <http://www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au/>

Looking ahead to 2009

I was recently elected Chair of the AES chapter for 2009. Professor Peter Lindsay was elected Vice-Chair and will effectively take up his role next year.

My vision for the AESS chapter is to provide a forum for those interested in advanced and complex electronic systems (especially those related to aerospace) to learn and network. If this sounds like something of value to you I urge you to consider AESS membership.

Control Systems / Robotics & Automation Joint Chapter Update

Assoc. Prof. Duncan Campbell
Chair, CSS/R&A Queensland Joint Chapter

Upcoming Event

Title: *A Holistic Approach to Energy Management Using Automation and Technology at Foster's Yatala Brewery*

Presented by: Paul Brodie, Site Services Manager Foster's Yatala Brewery

Time: Thursday, 25th September, 2008

Refreshments at 5.30pm, Talk at 6.15pm

Venue: Engineering House, 447 Upper Edward St, Brisbane



Synopsis: Foster's Yatala brewery is currently at or near world's best practice with respect to energy consumption: Electricity at 8.45kWhrs/100 litres, Gas (for steam) at 60Mj/100litres and Water at 2.1litres/litre of beer. The brewery has a long history of energy management having been involved in the Greenhouse Challenge since 1997. Large capital investment in energy management, optimisation, continuous improvement, have meant that the two large Foster's Group Breweries are very efficient manufacturing facilities. This could not have been achieved without the development and deployment of Foster's Group standards in Automation and process control which have been developed in the past ten years.

Foster's Group is currently implementing its Energy Efficiency Opportunities (EEO) strategy and is leveraging the technology and automation that has been implemented. The Yatala plant's intelligent supervisory system is a key tool in the energy management strategy. The plant automation and technology systems are not only being used for energy management. Recently, modules have been developed to assist the operators to make the correct decisions when operating the plant by presenting them with the best options operationally to get the best energy outcome.

This seminar will cover how energy management has benefited from implementing enhanced automation systems.

Bio: Paul is the Site Services Manager (Chief Engineer) at Foster's Yatala brewery. Paul has had a strong interest in automation, maintenance, asset management & plant optimisation for many years and has been working in the brewing industry for 35 years. Paul was the inaugural chair of Foster's National Technology and Systems group and has maintained a leading role in a number of national committees since that time including Systems & Technology, Reliability and Energy Management.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CATERING PURPOSES

Phone 07-38323749 or email Imoon@engineersaustralia.org.au

CSS/R&A Chapter Chair Transition

This newsletter sees the transition from Michael Lees to myself as Chapter Chair for Control Systems/Robotics and Automation. I had hoped to have communicated with you prior to this point, however there were some delays in migrating the Chapter leadership within the IEEE systems. I bring with me some experience with the IEEE having been QLD Section Secretary earlier in the millennium (not really as long ago as it sounds). I am very pleased to be once again involved as a volunteer with the IEEE QLD Section. Having taken up the reins, I look forward to maintaining the high standard of sponsored Chapter events.

On behalf of the Chapter membership, I would like to congratulate Michael for his dedication and effort which he brought to the Chapter. Well done Michael, and thanks. Needless to say, Michael is still contributing to IEEE as a volunteer and so we will still see him around from time to time.

I would also like to welcome Prof. John Billingsley to the role of Vice-Chair of the chapter. John has kindly agreed to start immediately.

Chapter Plans

Looking forward, I am planning two more Chapter activities for this year – one on September 25, detailed previously, and the other early in December for which details will be provided as they become available.

An initiative on the horizon I am pursuing is the prospect of petitioning for a third society to our joint chapter, IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC). I am sure you will appreciate that there is much synergy between SMC and our joint Chapter and I believe we can get an even greater richness of activities with a third string to our bow. We have an anniversary coming up! In March of 2009 our Chapter will turn 10 years old. We will have to think of something to celebrate this auspicious occasion. So until the next newsletter, I will be in email contact.



Contact List of your Volunteer Office Bearers for 2008

NOTE: full contact details may be found at

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/queensland/OfficeBearers.html>

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