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# THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC.

## *This Month's Meetings*

*Tuesday, April 5th: EXCOM Meeting  
Meeting starts at 5:30PM At TECO Plaza*

*Register online at <http://time2meet.com/fwcs-excom/index.html>*

*Open to all FWCS Members*

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## *Robotics and Automation Society Meeting*

*Meeting is April 19, 2011*

*Go to the RAS Page of FWCS Website for Latest Info!*

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## *Tour of GE Instrument Transformer Plant*

*Meeting is April 18, 2011*

*9:00AM to 12:00PM*

*Limited to 30 Registrants!*

*[Details on page 5](#)*

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## *Become an E-mail Ninja!*

*Meeting is April 20, 2011*

*Location: TECO Hall*

*Meeting Starts at 6:00PM*

*[Details on Page 3](#)*

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## *Upcoming Event!*

### *Landfill Gas Recovery and Energy Technology*

*Friday May 20th, 2011*

*Registration 11:30AM-12:00PM*

*Speaker from 12:00PM-1:00PM*

*[Details on Page 6](#)*



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## *This Month...(Editor's Column)*

### **2011 IEEE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FLORIDA WEST COAST SECTION**

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All material for THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL is due in electronic form by 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month preceding the issue month.

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Recently, Bill Gates was on television speaking about the state of education in the US and calling for ways to improve it to keep students competitive with other countries. His forum was the TED Conference held in Long Beach, CA (<http://ted.com>). TED stands for **Technology, Entertainment and Design** and is a non-profit that has been around since 1984. TED conferences are held in other locations around the world from time to time. Topics range from technology, business, design, science, culture, art and global issues. There are a few requirements placed on presenters like an 18 minute time limit and the presentation can't get political. I watched one by Burt Rutan, one of the most inventive and successful aircraft designers of all time and another by Chef Jamie Oliver on nutrition in the US and UK. The presentations don't take long and are well worth the time and there are topics that will appeal to everyone.



## *Software Technology Lecture Series for April*

Florida Gulf Coast University

Software Technologies Distinguished Lecture Series 2011

<http://lectureseries.fgcu.edu/>

Academic Bldg 7 – Auditorium 114

Thursdays 6:00-7:00pm

- **April 7, 2011**  
Product Development at METI: Experiences of a Young Software Engineer  
Neven Skoro, Software Engineer II  
METI, Sarasota, Florida
- **April 14, 2011**  
Software Engineering with Web Technologies: Aligning Educational Goals & Business Needs  
Rick Szatkowski and Victor Elci, Programmer Analysts  
Pegasus Solutions, Bonita Springs, Florida
- **April 21, 2011**  
From FGCU to NASA: A Graduate's Journey to Becoming a Software Engineer  
Jaime Zabala, E1 Level Software Engineer / Flight Software Tester  
Vantage Systems, Inc., at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center,  
Lanham/Greenbelt, Maryland

*Attend Your Local IEEE Meetings*

*and Take Advantage of the*

**Networking Opportunities**

## *Teacher in Service Report*

Dear Friends,

The following are important announcements for education and engineering around the Tampa Bay Area.

Please continue to browse the Teacher In Service Lesson Plans at the following URL for topics:

<http://www.ieee.org/web/education/preuniversity/home.html> or [www.tryengineering.org](http://www.tryengineering.org). We want to assign an

engineer to a project that is appropriate for your science educators. We encourage every school to take a look at the lesson plans. I need you to pick a lesson plan most appropriate for the event. Please contact me at [venner20@ieee.org](mailto:venner20@ieee.org) to ask an engineer to do a presentation for your school going forward. We ask all IEEE members and Certified Engineers to volunteer with your local schools. Please let me know if you are volunteering so that I can provide you with IEEE surveys that need to be given and collected. The IEEE is dedicated to also helping your districts as well. I have attached the IEEE TISP surveys to the email. We can arrange to do these any time at the convenience of the schools and the engineers. We are offering effective and economical alternatives to promote engineering. This is to inspire the educator to perform these activities themselves while enriching their Students. If the teachers and the volunteers work together, students have a better chance at successful careers in engineering. In the long run, it helps "the technological literacy of tomorrow's leaders."

I know a pair of Engineers, who serve on our Executive Committee, are prepared to do a presentation on "**Making Sense of Sensors**" for a Professional Study Day of your choice. Please contact me to arrange their availability.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Engineering Education Conference will be held at the University of Central Florida campus. Central Florida STEM Education Council Director, Bruce Furino said, "Interested supporters of engineering education in Florida are invited to attend. This year's focus is on space science STEM Programs with an engineering focus. NASA-KSC is our conference partner and we just learned today a past astronaut will be our Keynote Speaker. More details will follow".



## *How to Become an Email Ninja!*

How many emails do you send every day: 10, 50, 100 or more? These days email seems to be the #1 way that we engineers both send and get information. Too bad you never took a class in high school on how to do email right.

When you send an email to someone, what do you want them to do? You'd like them to open your email, read it, and then do what you want them to do -- right? Now how often does that actually happen? I'm willing to bet that all too often you send an email off and it just vanishes never to be heard from again.

We're going to change all of that. During this one hour meeting we're going to share with you the secrets that you need to know to create powerful emails that cause things to happen.

You're going to learn the ORCA technique: get readers of your email to Open, Read, Comprehend, and take Action. You'll learn what not to do and why people may be ignoring or deleting your emails before they even open them -- and how to stop this!

This meeting is one that you just can't miss. Considering how many emails you send every day, this may well be the most valuable hour that you spend all month long. I guarantee that you're going to come out of this meeting with the ability to write emails that cause things to happen. You'll be an email ninja!

This meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at TECO Hall. The meeting starts at 6:00PM. For more information and to reserve your spot at this meeting, visit us on the web at:

<http://time2meet.com/fwcs-section/index.html>

If you have any questions, please send an email with your question to Dr. Jim Anderson ([jim.anderson@ieee.org](mailto:jim.anderson@ieee.org)).



### *Dr. Ralph Fehr Receives the IEEE Region 3 Joseph M. Biedenbach Outstanding Engineering Educator Award*

During the Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, March 19th, 2011 at the IEEE Region 3 SoutheastCon conference in Nashville, TN, the FWCS own Dr. Ralph Fehr was honored for his continuing work in teaching and sharing his knowledge. The Joseph M. Biedenbach award is presented "To recognize a member of Region 3 who has shared technical and professional abilities through teaching in industry, government, or in an institution of higher learning and in so doing has made an outstanding contribution to the electro technology profession."

We want to take this opportunity to add our congratulations to Ralph and to thank him for all his support of our local FWCS.

## **Career Opportunities at Beckwith Electric!**

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**Beckwith Electric Co., Inc., located in Largo, Florida, is a leading manufacturer of innovative high quality products, technical services and solutions for the electric utility industry**

### **Quality Assurance Engineer**

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### **Products Engineer**

Technical liaison between Engineering and the Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Sales, Marketing and Customer Technical Support departments. The Product Engineer will answer questions concerning assembly, test and functionality. Also, this position will provide technical support concerning manufacturing techniques, materials, properties, and limitations that affect the product. BSEE or equivalent with 2-4 years related experience and/or training. 2-3 years experience in an

electronic manufacturing environment. Knowledge of electronic circuit analysis (both analog and digital).

### **Senior Software Engineer**

Researches, designs, develops, and debugs embedded and Windows programs, in conjunction with hardware product development, by performing various duties. BSEE or university program certificate with 12 or more years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. At least 12 years in software coding using "C", "C++", and/or Assembly language. 12 years experience on C++ Windows Graphical User Interface (GUI) programming with object oriented methodologies.

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## Tour Of GE Instrument Transformer Plant

**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2011  
**Time:** Tour: 9:00AM – 12:00PM  
**Speaker:** GE Design Engineer Team  
**Location:** 1907 Calumet St. Clearwater, FL 33765  
**Cost:** Free for IEEE Members, \$20 Non-Members, (Includes Lunch)  
**RSVP:** Online at: <http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes2/index.html>  
**Make checks payable to:** IEEE FWCS  
**Send checks to:** John Stankowich, IEEE PES/IAS Treasurer  
 2593 Forest Run Court  
 Clearwater, FL 33761-3716  
**Space limited to the first 30 registrants!!!**  
**Cancellation must be submitted online 24 Hrs prior to the event at:**  
<http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes2/index.html>  
**No shows will be invoice for the total cost of the event.**

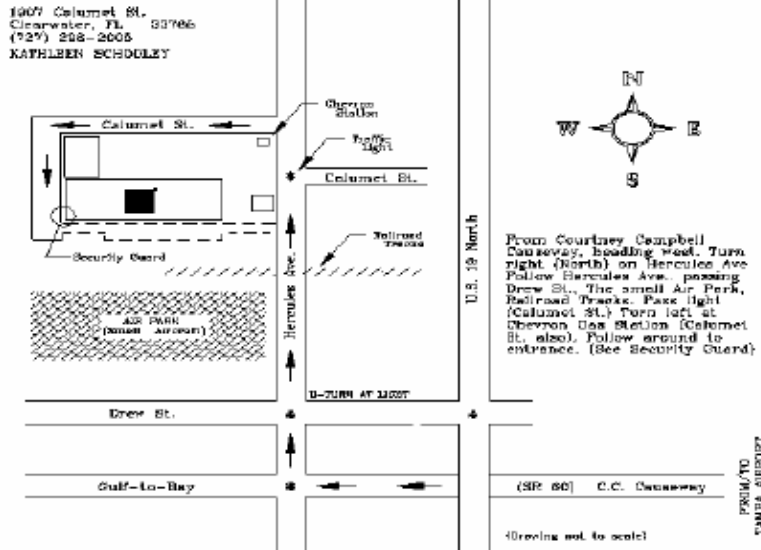
**Questions:** Serge Beuzile at 863-834-6511 or Serge.Beuzile@ieee.org

Come join your PE/IA Chapter for an educational Tour of the GE Instrument Transformer Plant in Clearwater, Florida. In this fascinating facility, GE manufactures everything from 200 amp metering CT's for your meter shop to 25,000 amp bushing transformers for your generators and switchyard equipment. You will see 600V through 38kV CT's and PT's for your enclosed gear, test switches, and even rotary selector switches. Transformer design engineer eager to address your technical question will host the tour



### Directions to GE Instrument Transformer Plant Clearwater, Florida

Directions: From Courtney Campbell Causeway, heading west. Turn right (North) on Hercules Ave. Follow Hercules Ave., passing Drew St., the small Air Park, and railroad tracks. Pass light (Calumet St.); turn left at Chevron Gas Station (Calumet St. also). Follow around to entrance. See Security Guard.



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## *Landfill Gas Recovery and Energy Technology*

**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2011  
**Time:** Seminar: Registration 11:30am-12:00pm, Speaker 12:00pm-1:00pm  
**Speaker:** Dan Cooper SCS Project Manager and Leader  
**Location:** FRCC 1408 N. West Shore Blvd., Suite 1002, Tampa, Florida 33607  
**Cost:** \$10 Members, \$20 Non-Members, \$5 Students. (Includes Lunch)  
**RSVP:** Online at: <http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes3/index.html>  
**Make checks payable to:** IEEE FWCS  
**Send checks to:** John Stankowich, IEEE PES/IAS Treasurer  
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**Space limited to the first 30 registrants!!!**

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**Questions:** Serge Beauzile at 863-834-6511 or [Serge.Beauzile@ieee.org](mailto:Serge.Beauzile@ieee.org)

The presentation will familiarize the participants with the basics of landfill gas generation and recovery and the control of landfill gas to reduce local and regional air pollution, to generate electricity, and for other beneficial end uses. The class will cover methods of construction, design elements, and permitting issues.

**Dan Cooper, P.E.** Mr. Cooper is currently a Project Manager and leader of the Florida landfill gas group with SCS Engineers in Tampa. Mr. Cooper has a Chemical Engineering Degree from University of Colorado at Boulder and Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of South Florida. Mr. Cooper has worked in environmental consulting for the past 6 years. Prior to entering consulting Mr. Cooper worked for an environmental instruments manufacture in their new product development division. Since joining SCS Engineers Mr. Cooper has performed a variety of engineering designs including landfill gas collection systems, solid waste transfer stations, municipal and industrial landfill closures and many general solid waste and environmental engineering projects.



## *PACE Network*

Being technically proficient is only part of what it takes to become successful in the ever-changing global economy. More and more companies are beginning to recognize the added benefits of improving their workers' professional development skills and are opting to provide increased training for it. IEEE-USA is also aware of this increased need and is working to provide seed funding for professional activities in addition to increasing awareness of existing programs such as [Professional Development Seminars](#).

PACE (Professional Activities Committees for Engineers) is a grassroots network of IEEE volunteers and committees organized at the section and chapter level in the United States with support from their respective regions and IEEE-USA. The goal of the PACE Network is to promote the professional interests of IEEE's U.S. members as well as provide a mechanism for communication of members' views on their professional needs. IEEE-USA's success is attributed largely in part to all the hard work out forth by volunteers from the PACE Network. In return, the [IEEE-USA National PACE Committee](#) is working to better serve your interests with more programs, better communication, and more opportunities for professional development.



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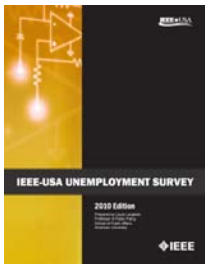
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**IEEE-USA Unemployment Survey**

The IEEE-USA Employment Assistance Committee has continued its interest in developing a better understanding of the problem of unemployment among older engineers by conducting a survey of unemployed engineers. This report of results is organized into four sections. The first section reports the percentage distribution or means response for each of the questions in the survey. The second section reports the results of selected cross tabulations that focus on age and various aspects of employment status. The third section reports the results of a multivariate analysis that focuses on the impact of age on the duration of unemployment, when other factors are held constant. The final section compares some of the current results to those in 1995, 1996, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008. Price is 19.95. <http://www.ieeeusa.org/>





Florida West Coast Section, Tampa

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 Or fax your address changes to (732) 562-5445

April 2011 Calendar of Events (For more information see P. 1) *inside this Signal...*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	<b>5EXCOM Meeting at TECO Plaza, See page 1</b>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<b>18 GE Transformer Tour See page 5</b>	<b>19 RAS Meeting, See page 1</b>	<b>20 E-Mail Ninja Meeting, see page 3</b>	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30