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**THE**

**SUNCOAST**

**SIGNAL**

*THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC.*



***Inside This Signal...***

*Page 2*

*\*Editors Column*

*\*E-Week Follow Up*

*Page 3*

*\*LinkedIn Seminar Follow Up*

*\* Junior Solar Sprint  
STEM Racing*

*Page 4*

*\*Alexandra Villalba,  
Student Engineer*

*\*Jim Anderson,  
Outstanding Engineer*

*Page 5*

*\*NFPA70-E 2012 Seminar*

*\*Consultants Network  
Meeting*

*Page 6*

*\*Discover Engineering  
Family Day*

*\*Future City Competition*

*Page 7*

*\*Signal Advertising  
Section*

*\*448 New Senior Members*

*Page 8*

*\*Calendar*

***This Month's Meetings***

***Tuesday, April 3rd: 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***

***Robotics and Automation Society Meeting***

***The Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 20, 2012***

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

***PES/IAS NFPA70-E 2012 Seminar***

***Speaker: Tom Blair, P.E.***

***Friday, March 30, 2012***

***Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00PM***

***[Details on page 5](#)***

***Consultants Network Affinity Group***

***Tuesday March 27, 2012***

***Time: 6PM***

***[Details on page 5](#)***

***This Could Be Your Last Signal Newsletter!***

***(if you have not renewed your IEEE Membership)***

***[Details on page 3](#)***

## 2012 IEEE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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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## Editors Column

In the March issue of Wired Magazine there is an interesting article on “cultivating genius” in a society. It is based on a paper by statistician David Banks which says that genius is not randomly scattered across time and place. He says that genius can be cultivated and there are three patterns he has seen that can influence it. The first pattern that has appeared is the benefit of human mixing. For example, a 1% increase in number of immigrants with college degrees results in a 9-18% increase in patents. The second pattern is to pioneer new forms of education. Finally, we need to develop institutions that encourage risk taking and allowing for failure. It seems that the U. S. is best at creating geniuses in the fields of sports of all types. We should use the sports model in other areas of society and apply it to the field of engineering!

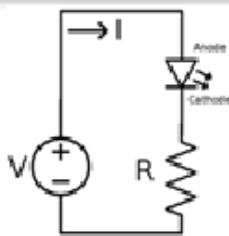


## Engineering Week Banquet Follow Up

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, I helped the Tampa Bay Engineering Week Banquet Committee set up for the Annual **Tampa Bay Engineering Week Banquet 2012** at the A La Carte Pavilion in Tampa. The Banquet Hall officially opened after 7pm. FWCS Chairman Serge Beauzile and IEEE USA President Jim Howard presented Tim Doolittle with a Power Engineering Society Engineer of the Year plaque. Dr. Jim Anderson assumed his post as co-Master of Ceremonies with Nicole Seifert. The main theme was “Engineering Today...for a Greener Tomorrow.” The Student Engineers were awarded before dinner. Alexandra Oliveros Villalba was the 2011 IEEE FWCS Student Engineer of the Year. The Lignell Outstanding High School Teachers were awarded next. The winners included: Ed Braddy, Advanced Placement (AP) Biology & Chemistry Honors at JW Mitchell High School; Karina Bletsch, AP Chemistry Honors at Alonso High School, and Terry Stanley, International Baccalaureate and AP Biology at Land O’Lakes High School. I had been responsible for collecting the nominations and informing the winners. It was a pleasure to finally meet them. After dinner, the IEEE showed a new “Solutionist” Video, Rachel Cantor discussed our Outreach Programs of volunteerism, and Greg Harrell introduced the Guest Speaker: Kathy Caldwell. The final order of business was the prestigious Engineer of the Year. I had the honor of having that award bestowed on me last year. This year, Dr. Jim Anderson was honored as the IEEE FWCS 2011 Engineer of the Year! We wrapped up the banquet with a raffle and group photographs.

*Sean Denny*





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## Junior Solar Sprint STEM Racing

The 40th Annual USF Engineering Exposition was the host venue for Expo's 1st Ever Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) Race. A Junior Solar Sprint Racer is a student designed and built shoebox size solar powered racer. Although the day was cloudy (11) teams from Madison Middle, McLane Middle and Lomax Magnet Elementary took part quickly converting their cars to run on (2) AA batteries in lieu of the Sun. And once again the Lomax Solar Panthers with their "Solar Prowler" took top honors.



## LinkedIn Seminar Follow-up

On Wednesday evening, February 29th, the Florida West Coast Section's PACE group held their first online seminar titled "Learn LinkedIn Life Lessons!" This well attended event provided the participants with a seminar in which they were walked through the specific ways that they could use the free online LinkedIn service to do the networking that they knew that they should have been doing to find that dream engineering job that they always knew was out there just waiting for them.

As promised, the following topics were covered during this seminar:

1. Optimize your profile to be found when people go looking for someone with your skills -- in both LinkedIn searches and on search engines.
  2. Add hundreds of contacts to your network with one simple technique.
  3. Become known as a world-wide expert in your field so that companies seek you out.
  4. Learn how to follow companies you are interested in.
  5. Join in conversations and establish yourself as an expert so that people will seek you out to connect with.
  6. Discover how to develop long-lasting business relationships by joining the right LinkedIn groups.
  7. A secret system for getting through to hiring managers and recruiters when you are looking for your next job.
  8. The 3 steps that you need to take for networking success on LinkedIn...and what things to avoid at all costs.
  9. The simple secret hardly any job hunter uses that can blow away your competition.
- The event was recorded and will soon be made available in the Section's online course store. Look for it soon!

*Dr. Jim Anderson*



## The Last Signal!

IEEE Headquarter has run their monthly update for our membership data base and those members who have not renewed are now shown as in arrears and removed from the active listing where we download our labels for the Signal from. This also impacts any information we send out via email.

Additionally, members in Arrears will be removed from benefits like our email aliases and any other IEEE Programs they participate in. Be sure your membership has been updated for 2012!!

## *Alexandra Oliveros Villalba*

### *Outstanding IEEE Student Engineer Award*

Alexandra is a PhD student in Electrical Engineering at the University of South Florida. She graduated from Universidad del Norte with a degree of Bachelor of Electronic Engineer, Electronic Engineering in 2007. In 2008 she was awarded the highly prestigious USF Presidential Doctoral Fellowship to pursue her PhD in electrical engineering with Prof. S.E. Saddow in the department of Electrical Engineering at USF.

Alexandra is pursuing a PhD in electrical engineering with her research being in biomedical engineering. She has pioneered the use of biochemistry to functionalize silicon carbide surfaces for both biosensing and in-vivo implant applications. Her current research involves the sensing of myoglobin for cancer detection using impedance based biosensors fabricated using silicon carbide, a biocompatible material that USF has been developing for biomedical applications. She has been a visiting scholar at both the Walter-Schottky Institute, Munich Germany (summer 2009) and Clemson University (summer 2011). She continues to collaborate with Prof. Anthony Guiseppi Elie of the C3B® at Clemson University on the development of IDE based SiC biosensors.



Her specialties include impedance sensor design and fabrication, self assembled monolayer formation, surface biochemical functionalization and biomarker detection. She has expertise in in-vitro cell culture and was the first to demonstrate that graphene films on silicon carbide substrates were biocompatible in-vitro. In addition she has pioneered novel carbon electrodes for in-vivo biomedical devices and applications

Alexandra has been very involved with the IEEE since coming to USF, both at the local Section level and the IEEE-USA level and has worked on many student issues and programs. She has made herself available whenever asked and has been a diligent promoter of IEEE membership for students and professionals alike. She is a member and mentor to the IEEE Student Branch. She contributed to establishing a GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Affinity Group at USF. She is co-founder and Chair of IEEE-WIE (Women in Engineering) affinity group of the Florida West Coast Section.

Alexandra is strongly focused on completing her research yet she has also devoted much time to support her professional organization on many levels. Alexandra is very deserving of this award for her efforts.

## *Dr. James Anderson*

### *Outstanding Engineer Award*

Dr. Jim Anderson is Senior Manager, Verizon Business, and President of Blue Elephant Consulting. He is also an Adjunct Professor at USF's Electrical Engineering Department, teaching Ethics.



Since joining the Florida West Coast Section of the IEEE, Jim has shown himself to be a dedicated volunteer and supporter of the IEEE. He has on numerous occasions made himself available to support the various endeavors of the Section, including the USF Student Branch. He is active at the state level with the Florida Council and with Region 3 covering the Southeast states.

Jim has held most of the office in our Section and was Chair for two terms. Jim is currently serving the Section as Past Chair and Business Manager, where he has significantly increased our advertising revenues to support publication of our acclaimed SunCoast Signal newsletter and PACE Chair, coordinating Section professional development activities.

At the same time as all of this, Jim is serving the Florida Council as ice Chair and Treasurer and Region 3 as Membership Development Chair and Pace Co-chair!

Dr. Anderson has shown himself to be a dedicated member and strong supporter of the students and all the other members of our Section IEEE activities. Jim is an excellent and deserving candidate for this award.







## ***NFPA70-E 2012***

**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012

**Cost:** \$100 IEEE Members, \$200 Non-Members

**Time:** 9:00AM - 2:00PM.

**Speaker:** Thomas Blair, P.E., Senior Consulting Engineer, Tampa Electric

**RSVP:** Online at: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/floridawc/> (Select Reservations)

**Location:** Seminole Electric Cooperative, 16313 North Dale Mabry, Tampa, Florida 33618.

**Cash or checks should be payable to:** IEEE FWCS Treasurer, John Stankowich

**PDH Credits:** 4 professional development hours will be awarded. Be sure to enter you name and PE number on the signup website as it appears on your license. IEEE Florida Provider Number 3849.

**Questions:** Tom Blair at 813-228-1111, ext 48179 or [tom\\_blair@ieee.org](mailto:tom_blair@ieee.org)

**Seminar Description:** PES West Coast Chapter invites you to the opportunity to attend a seminar on an update to NFPA70E 2012 - Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace on (Friday, March 30, 2012). This standard became effective in August, 2011.

This seminar will review the changes between the 2009 NFPA-70E and the 2012 NFPA70E. The standard is NOT included in the seminar but can be ordered online from the National Electrical Fire Protection Association at <http://www.nfpa.org/>

Some of the changes to the code that will be covered are;

Changes to the arc flash boundary (AFB) . Addition of HRC values & calculations for DC systems and equipment  
Changes to equipment labeling requirements . Changes to table 130.7(C)(9) Hazard/Risk Category (HRC) Classifications . Changes to PPE requirements for various Hazard/Risk Category (HRC) Classifications . Change to number of methods of Hazardous Energy Control (HEC) from 3 methods to 2.

Attendance of a seminar on the latest code changes is a great way to ensure you comply with the latest technical advances in recommended electrical safe work practices. Reserve a space for yourself today.

**Speaker Bio:** Thomas Blair is a Senior Consulting Engineer with Tampa Electric Company for over 10 years. Prior to his term at Tampa Electric, he was an engineer at Phasetronics/Motortronics for 10years and prior to this served in the US Navy in the nuclear power area. Over his past 20 years' experience, Tom has designed and performed startup services for motor and drive applications. Tom currently teaches the "Energy Production Systems Engineering" and "Electric Machines and Drives" courses as an adjunct professor at the University of South Florida, Polytechnic. Tom received his B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. (Power Engineering) degrees from University of South Florida in 1991 and 2001 respectively and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Florida (PE# 53239).



## ***Consultants Network Affinity Group Meeting***

The Consultants Network Affinity Group of Florida West Coast Section of IEEE will hold its meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 6:00 pm at CDB's Restaurant located at 3671 South West Shore Blvd. S, Tampa FL 33729.

We would like to extend an invitation to all the member groups (PACE, Computer Society, RAS and others) to participate and volunteer their expertise to boost the performance of the Consultants Group so that we may be able to support our members with greater efficiency. In particular, I would like to invite those IEEE members who are consultants or contractors because we could benefit from their invaluable experience in this organizational meeting for our group. Please go to <http://www.time2meet.com/fwcs-meetings/> and sign up to attend.

**Hermann Amaya**

**Chairman/Founder**

**Consultants Network Affinity Group**

[hamaya@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hamaya@tampabay.rr.com)

## *Discover Engineering Family Day*

Family Day got EWeek (19-25 February) started a day early when 9,596 visitors came to the National Building Museum to learn about basic engineering concepts. At IEEE-USA's exhibit, nine local IEEE members volunteered to demonstrate:

- \* The greater energy efficiency of LED and CFL light bulbs vs. incandescent bulbs
- \* How a model dance pad from PBS' "Design Squad Nation" TV show converts mechanical energy into light and sound energy
- \* What type of materials conduct electricity, using the Design Squad activity "Electric Highway"
- \* Internal components of an MP3 player, printer and computer

Former astronaut Dr. Roger Crouch, a payload specialist on two Space Shuttle Columbia missions in 1997, signed autographs and posed for photos throughout the day.

IEEE-USA, which helped launch the first Family Day in 1993, is one of the event's major sponsors. See Washington FOX 5 coverage at [http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/mornings/holly\\_live/discover-engineering-family-day-at-the-national-building-museum-021712](http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/mornings/holly_live/discover-engineering-family-day-at-the-national-building-museum-021712) You can find out more about this seminar and sign up online at: <http://goo.gl/nNt3n>



## *National Engineers Week Future City Competition*

Murty Polavarapu, IEEE-USA's representative on the EWeek Steering Committee, presented awards at the Future City Competition National Finals in Crystal City, Va., on 21 February. Our Lady Help of Christians School of Abington, Pa. -- the Philadelphia regional champion -- won third place for its Future City, Tecumseh. Students Joel Hediger, Meredith Moore and Rebecca Reilly, teacher Jane Ring and engineer/mentor Mike DiCamillo won a \$2,000 scholarship -- provided by IEEE-USA -- for the school's science and technology program.

Polavarapu also presented the IEEE-USA Best Communications System Award to Valley Middle School of Oakland, N.J. The New Jersey regional champion was recognized for having the most "efficient and accurate communications system." Its future city, Acqavite di Capri, is set in 2,067. Citizens communicate through "Divergent Optical Technology" and "Computerized Contact Lenses."




Team members included eighth graders Ashwin Anbu, Jade Pace and Dean Michael Trivisani, engineer/mentor Robert Akovity and the school's gifted and talented teacher, Judith Vihonski. It is the 11th consecutive year Valley has qualified for the Future City National Finals. In addition to the plaques each team member received, the children will each be sent a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Polavarapu judged the IEEE-USA Best Communications System Award with fellow Virginia IEEE member Maria Rodriguez. Thirty-seven regional-winning teams vied for the prize.

St. Mary Parish School of Hales Corners, Wis., was the overall national champion. See [http://futurecity.org/sites/default/files/press\\_release\\_future\\_city\\_finals\\_winner\\_2.21.12\\_w\\_judges.pdf](http://futurecity.org/sites/default/files/press_release_future_city_finals_winner_2.21.12_w_judges.pdf)



## Advertising Section

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### IEEE Congratulates Our 448 New Senior Members!

The last A&A Review Panel meeting was held on 18 February in Phoenix, AZ, USA. Francisco Martinez, 2012 Chair and Don Wright, 2012 Vice Chair of the A&A Committee would like to thank the panel of Senior Members and Fellows from the Phoenix Section who took part in the review process. The next IEEE Senior Member Review Panel Meeting will be held on 24 March 2012, in Panama City, Panama. **Complete list of newly**

**elevated Senior Members :**

[http://www.ieee.org/membership\\_services/membership/senior/new\\_senior\\_members.html](http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/senior/new_senior_members.html) **Helpful Senior Member web links:**

[http://www.ieee.org/membership\\_services/membership/senior/application/index.html](http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/senior/application/index.html) **(NEW)**

[http://www.ieee.org/membership\\_services/membership/senior/faq\\_application\\_nomination\\_reference\\_form.html](http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/senior/faq_application_nomination_reference_form.html)

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Hover over the "greeting" at top of page (Hello, Name)

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March 2012 Calendar of Events (For more information see P. 1) *inside this Signal...*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>EXCOM Meeting at TECO Hall, see page 1</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20 <i>RAS Meeting, see page 1 for more info</i>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>Consultants Network and NFPA See page 5</i>	28	29	30	31