

## Celebrating 50 years of IEEE ENCS: 1965 – 2015

### Part 4: IEEE Student Branches in Eastern North Carolina

Last month we learned about the activities of the Eastern North Carolina Subsection, which became the Eastern North Carolina Section in 1965. This month we will discuss the formation of the IEEE student branch chapters in Eastern North Carolina.

#### *AIEE Student Branches in Eastern North Carolina*

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) began organizing student chapters at universities and colleges in 1902. In that year, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill established its first AIEE student chapter, even though the university did not yet have an engineering department. Courses in electricity were taught as part of the curriculum of the Applied Sciences Department until 1922, when UNC-Chapel Hill established its School of Engineering. The School of Engineering continued in operation at Chapel Hill until 1937, when all engineering courses were transferred to North Carolina State College.<sup>1</sup>

NC State established its own AIEE student branch chapter in 1910. At that time, electrical engineering was taught in the Department of Physics and Electrical Engineering. In 1917, a separate Electrical Engineering Department was set up. By 1948, the AIEE student chapter had 70 members; membership dues were \$1.50/year. Claude Burkhead Jr. was the chapter chair, and Professor William D. Stevenson, a member of the Electrical Engineering faculty from 1946 to 1977, was the faculty advisor.

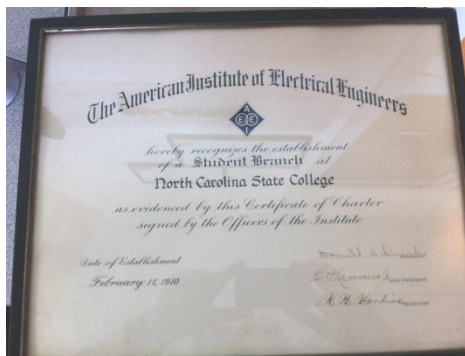


Figure 1. Charter for AIEE Student Chapter at NC State College, 1910.

#### *IRE Student Branches in Eastern North Carolina*

In 1947, the Institute of Radio Engineers chartered a student branch chapter at North Carolina State College. Within a few years, the AIEE and IRE student chapters began to meet jointly, and in 1955, a joint AIEE/IRE chapter was formed. William F. Quinlivan Jr. was the chair. Professor E.W. Winkler was the faculty advisor for the AIEE, and Associate Professor Edward G. Manning, who served on the Engineering faculty from 1947 to 1982, was the faculty advisor for IRE.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1937 "Yackety Yack," University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Yearbook, p. 215.

<sup>2</sup> IEEE Student Branch Records, 1948-1989, D.H. Hill Library Archives, North Carolina State University.

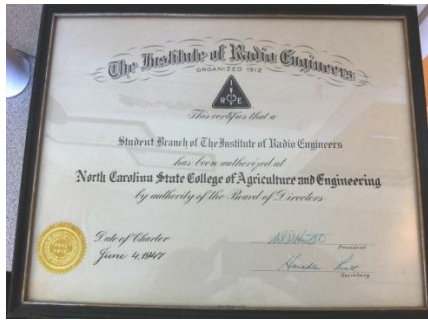


Figure 2. Charter for IRE Student Chapter at NC State College, 1947

### IEEE Student Branch

On January 1, 1963, the AIEE and the IRE officially merged to form the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The AIEE and IRE student branch chapters were also formally joined, and on January 2, 1963, the new IEEE student chapter was chartered at NC State College. In the following year, Leon Gentry was the chair, and Associate Professor Wayland P. Seagroves, who served on the Electrical Engineering faculty from 1962 to 1976, was the faculty advisor.

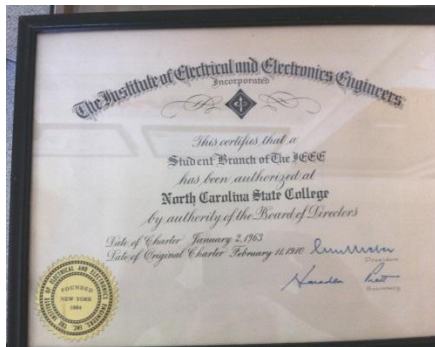


Figure 3. Charter for IEEE Student Branch Chapter at NC State College, 1963

### Do you have an IEEE Story to Share?

We would like to hear from ENCS members who have stories to share about their experiences as IEEE members. We'd like to know when, where, and why you joined, how IEEE membership has benefitted you, and any other stories you would like to share. If you have a story to share, please contact Tom Jepsen at [tjepsen@ieee.org](mailto:tjepsen@ieee.org).

### Want to learn more?

To learn more about the AIEE, IRE, and the North Carolina Section, go to <http://sites.ieee.org/charlotte/files/2013/02/cltSecHistory29to79c.pdf>

### Answers to Last Month's History Question

When was Research Triangle Park created? Who were its founders?

In the mid-1950s, a group of North Carolina businessmen approached Governor Luther Hodges with a suggestion to create a research center in the middle of the state to attract industry and promote economic development. One of the executives, Greensboro construction company president Romeo Guest, noticed that the proposed research center was in the middle of a triangle formed by Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, and coined the term “Research Triangle.”

A nonprofit corporation was formed to purchase farmland in the Triangle area, and in 1959 the Research Triangle Park was officially created. Its success was guaranteed in 1965 when IBM and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences opened large facilities there. Today, RTP is the site of 170 companies with over 40,000 employees in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals. For more of what’s happening in RTP today, see “7 Reasons It’s Finally Time to Live in Research Triangle Park” at <http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidkroll/2014/02/04/7-reasons-its-finally-time-to-live-in-research-triangle-park/>

*This Month’s History Question*

Which famous computer scientist was born in Durham, North Carolina, and was responsible for defining the “byte” as consisting of eight bits?

(Answers will appear in next month’s ENCS Newsletter)

Tom Jepsen 5/27/2015