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**Florida West Coast Section (FWCS)**  
Please Check the Website Often for **UPCOMING EVENTS** (Front Page Right Column)  
<https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/>

# The SunCoast Signal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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### PE Corner

**Art Nordlinger, PE, Senior Member**  
**The Steps to Professional Licensure, Part 3**

Last month I discussed the experience necessary to qualify to apply to become a Professional Engineer. Now I'll address the last piece of the PE puzzle, the Principles and Practices of Engineering exam, also called the PE exam, and the final steps to licensure.

Recent Florida statute changes "decoupled" the experience requirement from qualifications to take the PE exam, removing the potential four-or-more-year time lag between graduation and taking the exam. That leaves only receiving an accredited degree and passing the FE as a hurdle to sitting for the PE, and paying the \$375 exam fee, of course.

As I discussed previously, the FE exam is now exclusively computer based, given in a designated testing center, and no longer restricted to a twice-per-year schedule. Nearly all PE exams are computer based as well, with the last few moving that way shortly. The schedule for exams being converted to computer-based is on the NCEES website. The electrical exams are now computer-based. More information may be found on the Board's website at

<https://fbpe.org/licensure/application-process/principles-practice-examination/>

The PE exam is discipline specific, and most disciplines include sub-disciplines. For example, the Electrical and Computer exam includes three sub-disciplines: Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics, and Power.

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**Next ExCom Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2024**  
**Google Meet**  
**Register with vTools**  
<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/377027>

**IEEE FWCS ExCom**

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The NCEES website includes statistics for each sub-discipline exam, including the number of people who took it and the pass rate, both for first-time examinees and repeat examinees. This may be found at: <http://ncees.org/engineering/pe/>

The PE exam format is 8 hours long, given in two 4-hour sessions. Each session has 40 multiple choice questions and you must answer all of them. Like the FE exam, a reference book is provided for use during the exam. No other materials other than an approved calculator are allowed. Only certain calculators are allowed, a list of which is on the NCEES website. Exam grades are typically available about 7-10 days after the exam is taken.

Examinees are notified by the Board if they pass, or provided information on retaking the exam if they don't. The Florida Board allows an examinee three tries to pass the exam. If the examinee fails three times, the board will typically require the examinee to take some classes at the college level in the appropriate subject matter before another attempt.

With the PE exam decoupled from the experience requirement, the potential licensee, having obtained a qualified degree, passed both exams, and obtained the required experience will submit all of this information to the Board, along with the required personal and professional references. The Board will then evaluate the submittal and if everything passes muster, the Board will certify that the licensee has completed all the requirements and issue their license number.

*Continued on Page 3*

**THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL**, published monthly by the Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). **Please Note that the SUNCOAST SIGNAL is sent each month to ACTIVE members of the IEEE Florida West Coast Section. So to continue receiving the SIGNAL please keep your membership Active, meaning, renew your membership when it becomes due.** Annual subscription is included in the IEEE membership dues. The opinions expressed, as well as the technical accuracy of authors, advertisers or speakers published in this newsletter are those of the individual authors, advertisers, and speakers. Therefore, no endorsement by the IEEE, its officers, or its members is made or implied. All material for THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL is due in electronic form by the end of day of the 1st Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month, i.e. the ExCom meeting, preceding the issue month.

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## Entrepreneurship Series Webinar #3

### AI will not take our jobs away. Humans using AI will.

- Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023
- Time:** Webinar: 12:00PM – 1:00PM (EST/EDT)
- Speaker:** Talha Masood – Co-founder & CTO – Remotibase
- Location:** Online – meeting invitation will be emailed to attendees prior to seminar
- Cost:** Free
- CEH Credits:** No CEH's provided for this event.
- RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/376192>
- Questions:** Diane Aristizabal, [dianaaristizabal@ieee.org](mailto:dianaaristizabal@ieee.org)

**Abstract:** In this webinar, our invited speaker, Talha Masood, will talk about how to adopt AI instead of running away from it. The Industrial revolution did not replace human need. We had more jobs, but different from the conventional ones at the time. AI right now is at its inflection point. Let's get together to see how it can get our professional lives on steroids.

Talha will share some AI tools and the way they can improve productivity, his personal AI adoption journey, and how it led to a few side hustles. He will also give advice on how you can start a part time career in AI as prompt engineers and make a lot of money giving AI instructions.

Our speaker will bring AI knowledge from Silicon Valley to us via this webinar. He is right in the middle of an AI revolution as it is happening!

#### **Biography**

**Biography:** Talha Masood, Co- Founder and CTO Remotibase. Talha has been working remotely since 2014. His startup Remotibase raised 1.3 million dollars last year. Remotibase places software engineers from underdeveloped countries into Silicon Valley based startups.

#### ***Continued from Page 2***

To learn more about the examination and application process for the FE and PE exams go to the *Application Process* page under the *Licensure* section of FBPE's website at [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org). Questions regarding licensure may be directed to the:

**Board office at (850) 521-0500.**

Ask to speak to someone in the *Licensure* Department.

Whether you are a PE looking to attain required CEHs, or an engineer looking to learn something new or keep current with the latest trend in the profession, IEEE has seminars that will meet your needs.

# IEEE Florida West Coast Year End Gala Banquet & Awards

## *Saturday, October 28, St. Petersburg Yacht Club*

We are very pleased to report that the 2023 FWCS Year End Gala was a success and we have been receiving several notes of approval and congratulations for the event by the participants.

The initial event consisted of the participation of four different Fellows, three from IEEE and one from Raytheon in a number titled "TASTE of BRILLIANCE" where each Speaker presented a 15-minute chat on a topic of his Specialty and provided everyone with a very interesting session.

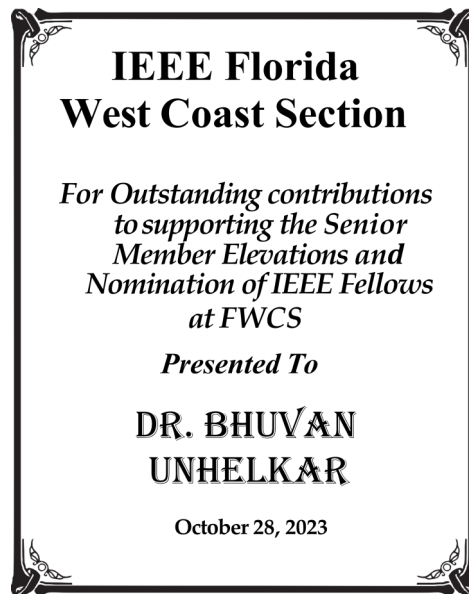
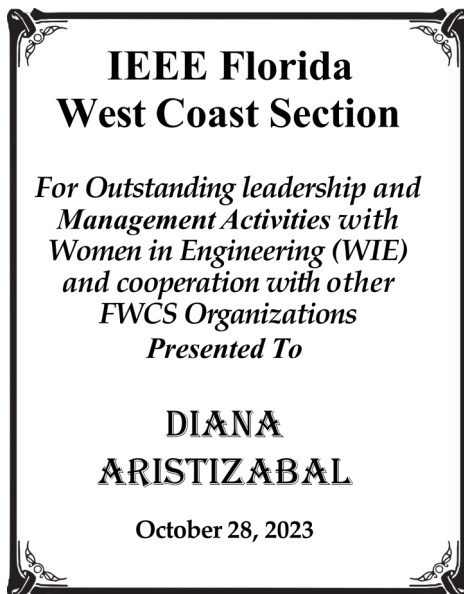
We had the participation of about 70 FWCS Members and their guests at this Gala, the Students from USF and Polytech which made it possible to cover all expenses and those who came were presented with a very special program, not to mention the delicious dinner served to everyone.

### AWARDS

There were also several awards presented to deserving individuals who excelled in various achievements.

- ◆ Outstanding Leadership and Contributions
  - Diana Aristizabal, Chair, Women in Engineering
  - Dr. Bhuvan Unhelkar
- ◆ Senior Member Activity Achievements
  - Hermann Amaya, Founder and Chairman
  - Andrew Seely, Vice Chair
- ◆ Outstanding Contribution
  - Robert DeMelo, Chair PES/IAS
  - Claude Pitts, Past Chair PES/IAS
- ◆ Outstanding Contribution
  - Sean Denny, Chair RAS and STEM Champion

**Student Recognition Awards, See Page 7**



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**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

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*In Recognition and Appreciation for your Valued  
Services and Contributions to IEEE Members*

Founding, Organizing and Conducting the Senior Member Elevation activities. The IEEE Senior Member rank is a recognition of impressive contributions in an Engineer's career. Many eligible members face difficulty in becoming Senior Members due to the challenge of endorsement requirements by three Senior Members or Fellows. The Florida West Coast Section Senior Member Elevation Process works to shorten the road for eligible IEEE Members.

 *Michael A. Mayor, MSE, PE  
Chair, Florida West Coast Section*


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*Florida West Coast Section  
Year End Gala, November 2023*

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Conducting the Senior Member Elevation activities. The IEEE Senior Member rank is a recognition of impressive contributions in an Engineer's career. Many eligible members face difficulty in becoming Senior Members due to the challenge of endorsement requirements by three Senior Members or Fellows. The Florida West Coast Section Senior Member Elevation Process works to shorten the road for eligible IEEE Members.

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Society Chapter and, most importantly, your  
contributions to the IEEE goals as a STEM Champion*

  *Michael A. Mayor, MSE, PE  
Chair, Florida West Coast Section*



*Michael Mayor and Hermann Amaya*



*Michael Mayor and Andrew Seely*



*Bhuvan Unhelkar Speaking*



*View of Attendees*



*Hermann Amaya, Guy and Laurie Perry*



*Polytechnic Students, Eric Gregorian and Michael Ramalho*

**The Journey and Insights of a Systems Engineer: Advice for Engineering Students**  
*An Interview with Patrick Harris by Nick Wasselle*

Patrick Harris didn't follow a traditional path to his current position. Originally an electrical engineering major at the University of Maryland, he switched to nuclear engineering due to demanding GPA requirements and his desire to stay in a stimulating field. In 1990, Patrick graduated, one of only seven students in his major.

After graduation, he started as a licensing engineer at Bechtel. At Bechtel, Patrick's work include summarizing Nuclear Regulatory Commission meetings, resolutions, and entry-level tasks related to nuclear engineering. Two years later, he took a new position at ManTech as an environmental test engineer, responsible for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) testing on spacecraft and spacecraft subsystems, including those on the Space Shuttle. He also conducted magnetic testing of spacecraft flight equipment, requiring a special room to neutralize Earth's magnetic field for high-performance spaceflight equipment testing.

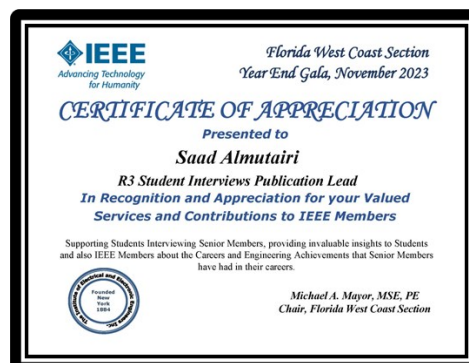
Patrick's career transitioned from an EMC test engineer to program management at the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), where he served for nine years as a systems engineer and earned value management (EVM) specialist. During his time at DCMA, he worked on various renowned weapons platforms, such as the U.S. Air Force F-15 and U.S. Navy F/A-18, and performed EVM for the Apache Block III. Patrick continued his career at the Department of Defense (DOD) as a systems engineer.

When asked about IEEE's role in his career, Patrick credits the Baltimore chapter for offering valuable networking opportunities and informative lectures on EMC topics. He believes that the experience gained in requirements engineering through the chapter was crucial for his work and the careers of new engineers entering the workforce. Sharing an anecdote from his work with NASA on servicing missions for the Hubble Space Telescope, he highlights that inadequate specifications from the Goddard Spaceflight Center were a major reason for the required servicing.

Patrick advises aspiring engineers to become proficient in working with technical specifications. U.S. military technical specifications (mil-specs) are available on the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) ASSIST database. In the civilian world, technical standards can be found on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) website.

Furthermore, Patrick encourages young engineers to pursue a Professional Engineering (P.E.) license, as it only requires four years of relevant engineering experience and two exams. He stresses the importance of broadening horizons in addition to excelling in one's chosen field, as having a backup plan is essential for any engineer, given that employment is not always guaranteed.

**Senior Member Elevation Recognition Certificates**  
**Year End Gala Banquet and Awards**





Florida West Coast Section



## Entrepreneurship Series Webinar #4 The Entrepreneurial Journey: Taking the Leap to Success

**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024  
**Time:** Webinar: 12:00PM – 1:00PM (EST/EDT)  
**Speaker:** Olu Fagbemirol – Founder, President – Aneden Consulting Inc.  
**Location:** Online – meeting invitation will be emailed to attendees prior to seminar  
**Cost:** Free  
**CEH Credits:** No CEH's provided for this event.  
**RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/384171>  
**Questions:** Kayla Allemang, [kallemang@ieee.org](mailto:kallemang@ieee.org)

**Abstract:** Embarking on an entrepreneurial journey is an exciting yet challenging endeavor. In this presentation, Olu Fagbemirol will explore the critical phases of starting and running a new business. Before taking the leap into entrepreneurship, thorough preparation is essential. Olu will delve into the key steps to consider before quitting your current job, including:

- ◆ Developing a compelling business idea
- ◆ Financial planning and budgeting
- ◆ Navigating practical steps to setting up a business and running a startup
- ◆ Navigating legal requirements
- ◆ Building valuable networks

Join Olu Fagbemirol as she embarks on this journey, gaining insights into how to navigate challenges and harness the power of relationships to pave the way for your entrepreneurial success. Whether you're considering taking the plunge or are already on your entrepreneurial path, this presentation will provide valuable guidance and inspiration.

**Biography:** In 2017, Olu Fagbemirol founded Aneden Consulting, Inc., a certified woman-owned and minority-owned Small Business (WBE/WBOSB/WBE), an engineering consulting firm providing services to the electric utility and energy industries. Aneden Consulting's primary focus is on accelerating its clients' success

The firm specializes in conducting electric transmission system planning and generation interconnection studies for leading RTOs, public utilities, independent power producers, and renewable energy developers.

**Olu Fagbemirol** has over 19 years of planning experience, completing numerous transmission planning, NERC Compliance, load interconnection, generation interconnection, and power system studies. Olu has expertise in managing multiple transmission expansion and generation interconnection studies, computer programming, automation tool development, and multiple planning software. Before Aneden Consulting, Olu was a Department Manager for Burns & McDonnell's system planning team in Houston, Texas.



In November 2018, after experiencing fertility struggles while starting her own family, Olu founded Aneden Gives, a non-profit organization that believes that fertility treatments should be accessible to all. Aneden Gives provides financial support to families going through their fertility journey. Aneden Gives offers families hope, building families and fulfilling dreams.

In 2012, Olu earned her MBA in Corporate Finance and Strategy from Emory University Goizueta Business School and her BSc. in Electrical Engineering and PDS. in Computer Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 2004.

Olu lives in Seattle, WA, with her husband and two young children. She is an avid marathon runner and loves to travel with her family.



**DISCOVER**  
**ENGINEERS WEEK**

# SAVE THE DATE

## Tampa Bay E-Week Banquet



This premier event brings together local leaders and engineering professionals to recognize the outstanding achievements of Engineers, Science Teachers, Math Teachers, and Students in our community. Additionally, awards will be presented to outstanding engineers, as well as local engineering students excelling in their engineering related studies and Young Professionals. The banquet also features the Lignell Awards. These awards, named after a former Chairman for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), are given to local High School educators who are performing outstanding work in the instruction of the STEM topics (science, technology, engineering and math). The organizers of the event recognize the important role these individuals play in encouraging students to pursue technological degrees in college.

The banquet is a combination of efforts by all the Engineering Societies of West Central Florida. This event brings together professionals in all fields from all around Tampa and Florida's west coast.

**DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 PM Networking & Exhibition**  
**6:30 - 9:00 PM Dinner Program & Awards**

**LOCATION:**



**522 N. Howard Ave**  
**Tampa, Florida 33606**

Registration Information coming soon  
[www.tbewb.org](http://www.tbewb.org)





### Speaker Level Sponsorship (1 only) \$1500 Donation

- ◆ Front Row Center Table with Speaker at Your Table
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- ◆ Display Table in Reception Area

### Platinum Level Sponsorship \$1250 Donation

- ◆ Company logo displayed on signage at the event.
- ◆ Receives up to 10 tickets to the awards banquet
- ◆ Receives recognition at Platinum Sponsor level on event slideshow & program.
- ◆ Receives recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website. Information about company and special acknowledgement will be made on the website.
- ◆ Display Table in Reception Area

### Gold Level Sponsorship \$1000

- ◆ Company logo displayed on signage at the event.
- ◆ Receives up to 5 tickets to the awards banquet.
- ◆ Has company logo displayed at Gold Sponsor level on event slideshow & program.
- ◆ Receives recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website.
- ◆ Display Table in Reception Area, (if space available)

### Silver Level Sponsorship \$750

- ◆ Company logo displayed on signage at the event.
- ◆ Receives up to 2 tickets to the awards banquet.
- ◆ Has company logo displayed at Silver Sponsor level on event slideshow & program.
- ◆ Receives recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website.

### Bronze Level Sponsorship \$500

- ◆ Receives display table to present company products during the Pre-Dinner Social.
- ◆ Receives recognition at Bronze level in program and on the TBEWB website
- ◆ Receives up to 1 ticket to the awards banquet

### Vendor Level Sponsorship \$500

- ◆ Receives display table to present company products during the Pre-Dinner Social.
- ◆ Receives recognition at Vendor level in program and on the TBEWB website

Note that all donations may be tax deductible. FIN # 13-1656633

For more information please contact  
Bob Andrew PE, [bobandrew@bobandrew.com](mailto:bobandrew@bobandrew.com)

Please send checks Payable to: IEEE FWCS

IEEE FWCS PES/IAS ExCom  
 Friday, December 15, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
 Virtual

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/333489>

Contact/Questions: Robert DeMelo, [robert.demelo@ieee.org](mailto:robert.demelo@ieee.org)

**SunCoast Signal Advertising Rates**

Size	1 Month		6 Months		12 Months	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
<b>Business Cards</b>	\$25	\$35	\$120	\$150	\$210	\$252
<b>1/4 Page</b>	\$40	\$52	\$190	\$380	\$335	\$402
<b>1/2 Page</b>	\$75	\$98	\$360	\$450	\$630	\$756
<b>3/4 Page</b>	\$110	\$143	\$530	\$663	\$925	\$1,110
<b>Full Page</b>	\$140	\$182	\$670	\$838	\$1,175	\$1,410
<b>Insert / Sheet</b>	\$200	\$260	\$800	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,400

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*Florida West Coast Section Tampa*

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**December 2023 - Calendar of Events** *(For more information see "Inside the SunCoast Signal" → Page 1)*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		*FWCS ExCom →Page 1				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	*Signal Inputs Due				*PES/IAS ExCom →Page 11	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 / 31
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day					