



IEEE Region 3



<https://r3.ieee.org/>

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Winter 2024

A New Year Brings Opportunities and Challenges

Dear IEEE Region 3 Colleagues,

First of all, Happy New Year! As I take on the role of IEEE Region 3 Director, it is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude that I acknowledge the exceptional leadership of Theresa Brunasso, the outgoing IEEE Region 3 Director. Her dedication, vision, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping our region and contributing to the success of IEEE on a broader scale. She has also informed the Region leadership that she will be moving to sunny Santa Barbara, CA with her husband, Brian, early in the first quarter of 2024. However, we are not going to let her off the hook that easily and she will still support Region 3 and IEEE!



*Eric Grigorian,
Director, Region 3*

As we transition into 2024, there are two other Region 3 representatives that deserve our appreciation and gratitude as their leadership term, for the moment, will come to an end. Jill Gostin, as the Vice President of Member and Geographic Activities, has left an indelible mark on the IEEE community. Her tenure has been characterized by a steadfast dedication to fostering global collaboration, supporting local IEEE sections, and championing initiatives that empower members across the globe. Jill's dedication to fostering collaboration and innovation has set a high standard, and we are grateful for her outstanding contributions.

Equally deserving of our gratitude is Mary Ellen Randall, who has served as the IEEE Treasurer with unparalleled dedication and financial acumen. Mary Ellen's role as Treasurer has been instrumental in ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of IEEE, allowing the

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organization to continue its mission of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Her strategic financial planning has enabled IEEE to navigate challenges and seize opportunities in an ever-evolving financial landscape. I am sure that both Jill and Mary Ellen will continue to support Region 3 and IEEE in various leadership capacities, and I look forward to working with all three of these mentors and past Region 3 Directors over the course of my tenure.

As part of 2024 strategic planning, your Region 3 leadership met in Atlanta to chart the course and plan the desired goals to further enhance and build on foundation that has been laid by my predecessors. As we finalize these goals over the course of the next couple of weeks, we will share our thoughts with you and would like to seek your assistance in meeting or exceeding these goals to make Region 3 even better than before.

This year we will also be looking forward to IEEE's 140th celebration. This is a momentous occasion that highlights the IEEE's enduring legacy of innovation, collaboration, and commitment to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. As we commemorate this milestone, let us not only reflect on the achievements of the past but also look forward to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. In a world shaped by technology, IEEE's influence continues to be felt, and its journey is far from over. Here's to another 140 years of driving technological progress and making a lasting impact on the world.

Based on current planned activities, 2024 will be a very busy year. We will start with IEEE's Workshop Towards Expanding Access to Quality Engineering Science Excellence Opportunities in Jamaica, hosted by the IEEE Jamaica Section. The event is scheduled for January 17th & 18th in Kingston with

participation by dignitaries from Jamaica and IEEE Leadership. Technical professionals, IEEE leaders, and industry experts will discuss Jamaica's vibrant technical landscape and future collaboration opportunities. Through keynotes, speakers, and panels, participants will learn how Jamaica is advancing innovation across the Region and beyond. More information and meeting agenda can be found at <https://event.me/KvE47B>.

As the calendar turns towards 2024, technology enthusiasts, researchers, professionals, students, and Region's leadership will soon be participating in the upcoming IEEE [SoutheastCon 2024](#). This Region 3 premier event, set to unfold in Atlanta, GA, from March 20th to 24th, 2024, promises technical workshops and tutorials, technical paper presentations, student competitions, section officer training opportunities, and overall fostering collaboration and learning opportunities. We are looking forward to connecting with you face-to-face in Atlanta for this event.

None of this would be possible without the active and engaged membership of IEEE Region 3. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your contributions, and dedication to our core purpose to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. Your commitment is the driving force behind the success of our region, and I look forward to collaborating with you to shape the future of IEEE Region 3. We have a great strong team of leaders to help guide me for a successful Region 3!

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Grigorian
IEEE Region 3 Director

This IEEE Region 3 Newsletter is sent to the members of Region 3. The information herein may be used in section and chapter newsletters. 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.

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Past Director Report

Theresa Brunasso

[theresa.brunasso@ieee.org]

IEEE R3 Past Director, Nominations & Appointments Chair

My role as Director ended on December 31, 2023, and I am enjoying my new role of Past Director under the leadership of Director Eric Grigorian. At his planning meeting last month, I was happy to turn over the Region 3 gavel to Eric. He has excellent plans for the Region and worked with my predecessor, Jill Gostin to put together a great team to support his plans.

As Past Director, I assume the role of the Region 3 Nominations and Appointments Committee Chair. The first job of the N&A committee is to begin identifying and recruiting potential candidates for the Director-Elect roll for 2026-2027. This newsletter includes a call for nominations, so please consider serving in the role, and let me know if you are interested. If you have questions about the role, I'm happy to send you information about the role. If there is someone you would recommend, please send me their name. In fact, if you are interested in serving in a higher role within IEEE, please contact me and let me know what your interests are. IEEE is always looking for volunteers.

Region 3 Awards and Recognitions

Update

Nelson Lourenco [nelson.lourenco@ieee.org]
Region 3 Awards & Recognition Chair

It is an honor again to serve as Region 3's Awards and Recognition Chair. I will strive to bring recognition to our members for their outstanding service, community outreach, and technical achievements. We have some exciting changes planned for this year, with the goal of streamlining the awards nomination process and facilitate nominations that recognize the great work taking place across Region 3. Stay tuned for more updates.

There are many opportunities for awards within IEEE, and I am happy to be a resource for our membership in this area. Nomination deadlines for several major IEEE awards are provided below. As Chair, my goals are to help all of you nominate your colleagues for any of these prestigious awards. I will communicate to our membership with regular reminders of upcoming award deadlines. If you ever need assistance with a nomination, would like tips on creating an award for your Section, or need anything else related to IEEE awards, please feel free to contact me at nelson.lourenco@ieee.org.

Upcoming IEEE Award Events and Deadlines:

- **IEEE Fellows:** nomination deadline are 7 February 2024 <https://www.ieee.org/membership/fellows/steps.html>
- **SoutheastCon 2024 (Atlanta, Georgia):** <https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/>
Virtual Technical Conference: 15-17 March 2024
In-Person Conference (Westin Peachtree Plaza): 20-24 March 2024
- **Student Activities Awards:** nomination deadline are 31 March 2024
<https://students.ieee.org/awards/>
- **Education Activities Board Awards:** nomination deadline are TBD May 2024
<https://www.ieee.org/education/awards/index.html>
- **IEEE Corporate Awards:** Recognitions and Medals deadline 15 June 2024
<http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/index.html>
- **Standards Association Board Awards:** nomination deadline 31 July 2024
<https://standards.ieee.org/about/awards/>
- **Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Awards:** various deadlines (depending on award)
<https://mga.ieee.org/awards>

*IEEE Melbourne Section
2023 Christmas, Section Awards &
Charity Drive Event*
Raúl Ortega rortega@ieee.org
IEEE Melbourne Section Chair

The Melbourne Section celebrated the Spirit of the Season, the Section Awards Presentations and their third Annual Charity Drive for the Brevard Family Partnership (BFP) on December 15th, 2023. Over 40 guests and members were present for the delicious Italian Dinner and an evening of exciting events.

The evening started with a social period for the event, welcome and guest arrival. Appetizers were enjoyed as members and guests joined their tables in anticipation of the event's program. Section Chair Raul Ortega welcomed all and introduced the special guests from the Brevard Family Partnership, a Foster Care and Adoption Agency. Attending from the agency were Ms. Vanessa Skyrmes, Chief Communications Officer and Mr. Rick Ely, Board Member. Both guests spoke on the purpose of the agency and the amount of support it provides for the county's youth. This is the third year that the Melbourne Section sponsors the drive through their Christmas Celebration. Section Secretary, Mary Flavin, led the donation drive and reported a record collection of \$1,050.00. Thank you Melbourne Section for your generosity!

The Section's Awards Presentations followed. Bruce Crain, Past Chair and current Treasurer, presented our 2023 winners with an IEEE plaque. The honorees for this year are:

- ♦ Mary Lynn Smith – For her leadership in organizing and supporting the section's efforts with our local students in high school and our local universities as well as Girl Scout Groups
- ♦ Robert Beck – For his outstanding efforts in scheduling and managing



Welcome Vanessa Skyrmes &
Rick Ely of BFP



Ladies attending the
Section Celebration



BFP Headquarters
Rockledge, Florida



BFP CEO Phil Scarpelli



Delivery of Gift Cards
At BFP Headquarters

interesting technical presentations for the section throughout the year

- ♦ Gavin Ortega Halverson – For his technical support in the organization of the section's meetings and events throughout the year as well as working with the section's youth

The evening culminated with a delicious Italian Dinner, scrumptious desserts and camaraderie like we had not seen before! The holiday decorations were very special in addition to the planning and execution of a super year end event! Special thanks and appreciation for all the hard work done by the organizing committee which was comprised of Mary Flavin, Earl MacDonald, Elke Than-Jones, Alan Jones, and Dee Ortega!

*Past Director Update ...
Call for Nominations 2026-2027
Region 3 Delegate-Elect / Director-
Elect*

Theresa Brunasso
[theresa.brunasso@ieee.org]
IEEE R3 Past Director, Nominations &
Appointments Chair

Volunteers are needed with the necessary leadership, experience, and skills to impact the future success of the IEEE.

The IEEE Region 3 Nominations and Appointments (N&A) Committee is seeking nominations for the position of **2026-2027 Region 3 Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect**.

This is a six-year commitment, including a two-year term as Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect, a two-year term as Delegate/Director, and a two-year term as past-Delegate/Director. The primary duties of the Region Delegate/Director are to run the Region and interface with the Sections in the Southeast US Region. The Region Delegate/Director also serves as a Delegate to the IEEE Assembly, a member of the IEEE Board of Directors, the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board, and the IEEE-USA Board. For more information about the position, including responsibilities and estimates of the time required, see the Region Director description at <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/election/position-region-delegate-director.pdf> and the IEEE Board of Directors position description at https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/position_bodmember_generic.pdf

Who Can Nominate?

Anyone can submit a nomination. Nominators need not be IEEE members, but nominees must the qualifications listed below. Self-nominations are encouraged. An IEEE organizational unit, such as a Section, may submit nominations.

How to Nominate:

To nominate someone for a position, send an email to Theresa Brunasso, Chair of the N&A Committee, at theresa.brunasso@ieee.org.

Deadline for Nominations:

31 March 2024

Eligibility:

Must be a member in good standing, of Senior member grade or higher.

Process:

- ◆ Call for Nominations; Open now, ends 31 Mar 2024
- ◆ Confirm eligibility of nominations; Apr 2024
- ◆ Deliberation by Region 3 N&A; May/June 2024
- ◆ Proposal of a slate to the Region 3 ExCom; Jul 2024
- ◆ Approval of slate by the Region 3 ExCom; Aug 2024
- ◆ IEEE Election Process including an opportunity for petition candidates begins; Feb/Mar 2025
- ◆ IEEE Election begins; Aug 2025

Central Tennessee Section Plans
Mike Puckett, P.E. [m.pucket@ieee.org]
Chair, IEEE Central TN Section

IEEE Central Tennessee Section's current plans include the following:

- ◆ Sponsor a project for the Smart Village Initiative. This will begin with a kickoff meeting on February 9th with the speakers and topics noted below. Following the kickoff meeting, a fundraising will begin to raise money for funding a project. The Section will match contributions from members and others up to \$5,000 and using part of a donation that was made to the Section, the Section will match another \$5,000.
- ◆ Dr Rajan Kapur, President of IEEE Smart Village, will provide a brief introduction to IEEE Smart Village, present some of the current initiatives, and share opportunities for volunteer involvement in administration and planning.
- ◆ Dr. Monica LaBiche Brown, Founder and Executive Director of Africa

(Continued on page 12)

MOVE Disaster and Outreach Support Grayson Randall [grandall@ieee.org]

2023 was a busy year for MOVE – We supported two Hurricanes (Idalia and Lee) and one Flood (Mississippi). And we supported over 20 STEM and Outreach events. All of these events can be read about in the past MOVE newsletters found at <https://move.ieeeusa.org/>

The MOVE team continues to upgrade the truck and tools to enable us to be more effective. We added Starlink capability this year which gives us much more communication options at disasters. The vehicles are maintained to be available at a moments notice.

Training continues to be critical to both the existing MOVE volunteers and the new volunteers. We continue our monthly Tech Talks, and we have exciting speakers lined up. The Operations and drivers training courses are being upgraded and will be rolled out in 2024. Stay in touch by making sure you are on our distribution for meeting announcements.

We continue to grow and have a lot of volunteer opportunities. Please consider joining our team and sign up at <https://bit.ly/MOVE-SIGNUP>. MOVE is supported by donations so please consider donations at <http://bit.ly/DONATION-MOVE>.



Starlink in operation in foreground at hurricane Idalia

Region 3 Senior Members Travel to Peru to Support Region 9 Conference Andrew Seely [andrew.seely@ieee.org]

The Region 9 Peru Section and the Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco (UNSAAC) Student Branch hosted a technical conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UNSAAC engineering college. The International Congress of Electronic Engineering and Applications - ELECON 2023 was held 13-15 November 2023 in Cusco, Peru.

Region 3 Senior Members were invited to submit topics for the ELECON agenda, focused on autonomy and robotics, data science and artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, behavioral informatics, space discovery, and emerging technology. Several hundred select Region 3 Senior Members were contacted through the Senior Member Coordinator and invited to an information session, and 17 Region 3 Senior Members submitted topics and registered interest. The Peru team down-selected to 8, and ultimately four Senior Members representing Region 3 were able to travel to Cusco and participate in ELECON 2023, with travel funded by Region 9: Dr. Margarita Gonzalez, Dr. Edward Sazonov, Dr. Max Garzon, and Dr. Ahmedullah Aziz.

Dr. Margarita Gonzalez is an IEEE Senior Member and a Principal Researcher and Senior Technologist for Digital Innovation at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. In her applied research and innovation lead roles, she leverages a socio-technical problem-solving approach in the unification of diverse research aims. Her research interest is in human-centered AI, a focus on augmenting human capabilities, and enhancing their readiness for human-AI collaboration.

The topic of my presentation – "Innovation at the Intersection: Design, Data, and Artificial Intelligence." My objectives were three-fold: (1) Introduce the audience to the synergy between the social sciences, design thinking, software engineering, data science, and artificial intelligence, (2) highlight the unique contribution of each discipline/approach to drive innovation, (3) provide a



Ahmedullah Aziz, Senior Member Region 3; Max Garzon, Senior Member Region 3; Roy Peña, student leader, Region 9, Peru Section, UNSAAC; Edward Sazonov, Senior Member Region 3; Margarita Gonzalez, Senior Member Region 3; Darwin Huillca, student branch chair, Region 9 Peru Section, UNSAAC.

foundational understanding of how the intersection of these disciplines/ approaches can help create the path for transformative, human-centered solutions. My presentation topic emphasized the concept that operationalizing interdisciplinarity in research and development enables teams to navigate greater degrees of complexity and reduces the risk of overlooking critical factors that may hinder success and long-term impact.

I traveled from Atlanta, Georgia. Traveling from Atlanta to Cusco via Lima was uneventful. Cusco was quaintier than I imagined. I was not prepared for the altitude (~11K feet above sea level). It took me several days to feel acclimated. This was my first time in Peru – I was impressed by the preservation of the

Incan culture to-date. Its rich influence is felt in Cusco. While out shopping, I had a few encounters with shopkeepers. It was so easy to engage in conversation about life in Cusco, their traditions, their way of life, and deep connection to the land and its people. It was by far one of my most memorable experiences. As for our Peruvian IEEE colleagues – I really enjoyed their hospitality, their generosity, and their "pasión por la profesión" (Translated as: love for the [engineering] profession).

Dr. Edward Sazonov is an IEEE Senior Member and is the James R. Cudworth endowed Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, and the head of the Computer Laboratory



Facundo Palomino, Region 9 Director of Electronic Engineering – UNSAAC; Giovanna Ramirez, Distinguished Lecturer IEEE AESS; Luis Jimenez Region 9, UNSAAC Professor; Max Garzon, Senior Member Region 3; Victor Ayma, Region 9, President of the Electronic Engineering Chapter of the College of Engineers of Peru; Margarita Gonzalez Senior Member Region 3.

of Ambient and Wearable Systems (<http://claws.eng.ua.edu>). His research interests span wearable devices, sensor-based behavioral informatics and methods of biomedical signal processing, machine learning and artificial intelligence. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Academies of Science, as well as by state agencies, private industry, and foundations. Dr. Sazonov serves as a Specialty Chief Editor for Wearable Electronics, Frontiers In Electronics and Associate Editor for several IEEE journals.

My talk focused on the current state of the art and future directions of wearable sensor technology in the field of nutritional monitoring and behavioral interventions targeting eating behavior. The presentation covered various sensors used

in the detection of eating and the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence in the analysis of sensor and image data. Given the key role nutrition plays in our lives, the talk attracted considerable interest, prompting various questions about the technologies, capabilities, challenges, and practical applications. ELECON proved to be an ideal platform for such a discussion, as digital health was among the key themes explored during the conference.

Travel from Alabama was easy. The flights connected in Atlanta and Lima, and the whole trip is only about 12 hours. The local organizing team, consisting mostly of students, did a stellar job keeping the conference running smoothly. The language barrier posed a challenge, but the cultural experience was well worth it.

Dr. Max Garzon is an IEEE Senior Member and a professor of computer science and bioinformatics at the University of Memphis, USA. He is the author of over 200 books, book chapters, journal and refereed publications. The main theme of his research is biomolecule-based computing and applications to areas such as nanotechnology, electric circuit self-assembly, bioinformatics and data science. He has served as technical program chair and organizer of many scientific conferences and professional meetings in these areas.

DNA-based computing aims to design and implement computers on real life DNA molecules, inspired by Len Adleman's landmark experiments in the 1990s attempting to solve difficult NP-complete computational problems. The fundamental idea is to leverage the exquisite discriminating ability of DNA hybridization that are fundamental to living processes via formation of Watson-Crick double helices. An application of these ideas to produce bottom-up methods for manufacturing novel materials with interesting properties has led to an equally interesting area of bionanotechnology. In my talk, I highlighted recent advances in biomolecular computing as a framework, and surveyed a number of recent applications in the design of electric circuits with life-like properties, such as self-assembling, self-controlled growth and even self-reproduction. The talk concluded with a few intriguing questions for further research on the fundamental science behind them and further applications to the self-assembly of complex electric networks.

Dr. Ahmedullah Aziz is an IEEE Senior Member and Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His research interests include mixed-signal VLSI circuits, non-volatile memory, and beyond CMOS device design. He explores device-circuit-system co-design techniques with an emphasis on emerging technologies like complex-oxide electronics, ferroelectrics, and spintronics. He is a technical program committee (TPC) member for multiple flagship

conferences (including DAC, ISCAS, GLSVLSI, Nano), and a reviewer for several journals from reputed publishers (IEEE, AIP, Elsevier, Frontiers, IOP Science, Springer Nature). He serves as an editorial board member for multiple journals including Scientific Reports and Frontiers in Nanotechnology. Dr. Aziz is an expert in device-circuit co-design and electronic design automation (EDA). His research portfolio comprises multiple avenues of exploratory nanoelectronics, spanning from device modeling to circuit/array design.

At EleCON (Cusco, Peru), I delivered two invited lectures:

- *Redefining Possibilities: The Era of Hyper-Scaling in Nanoelectronics*
- *Computing at the Ultra-Cold: Exploring the Frontiers of Cryogenic Electronics*

The presentations were in English, with Spanish interpretation provided by the organizers. The text in my slides was in Spanish to make it easy for the audience to follow along. The audience could understand the overall message quite well. I received many questions after both lectures. I interacted with the students before and after the event.

I flew from Knoxville, TN, and reached Cusco, Peru. It was a long flight, but I enjoyed it. The Peru IEEE people were there to receive me. They were very kind and helpful. They took us to lunch and also helped organize a trip to Machu Picchu. We paid for the trip, but the Peru IEEE people help us connect with the tour guides. They helped me during my presentation by providing a Spanish overview/interpretation of my talk. My overall experience was very positive. I met 3 other US faculty members during the trip and found ways to collaborate with one of them.

STEM Explorer Fest Event

January 20, 2024

LARGO CENTRAL PARK

Sean Denny [venner20@ieee.org] (STEM Champion/RAS Chair), Carol Dekkers (IEEE Member), and Emma Alaba (Robofest Chair and RAS Photography)

After bestowing the title of STEM Ambassador, the IEEE elevated my appointment as STEM Champion. The Florida West Coast Section Executive Committee (EXCOM) members supported my efforts and posted in the Signal Newsletter. I did the first Energy Event on September 1, 2022 with Dr. Sidney Martin and FWCS PES IAS Society. Through the power of communication, it caught the attention of Dr. Catherine Mullins, Pinellas County Schools STEM Director for the Second event: STEM Explorer Fest at Largo Central Park on January 2023. We returned a year later for STEM Explorer Fest on January 20, 2024.

We announced it through V-Tools and the Signal Newsletter to invite those who wished to participate. The FWCS Treasurer loaned me the IEEE FWCS Table cloth and luggage tags.

I arrived at 8 am to the Largo Cultural Center. I checked in and greeted Dr. Catherine Mullins at the Performing Arts Portico. Wendy helped me set the table and chairs for my booth. I laid out the IEEE table cloth and displayed extra back issues of IEEE Spectrum Magazine. I also greeted teachers whom I had worked before with Robotics and Teacher In Service including Dan Kinzer, Chad Mairn and Dr. Sidney Martin.



IEEE Florida West Coast

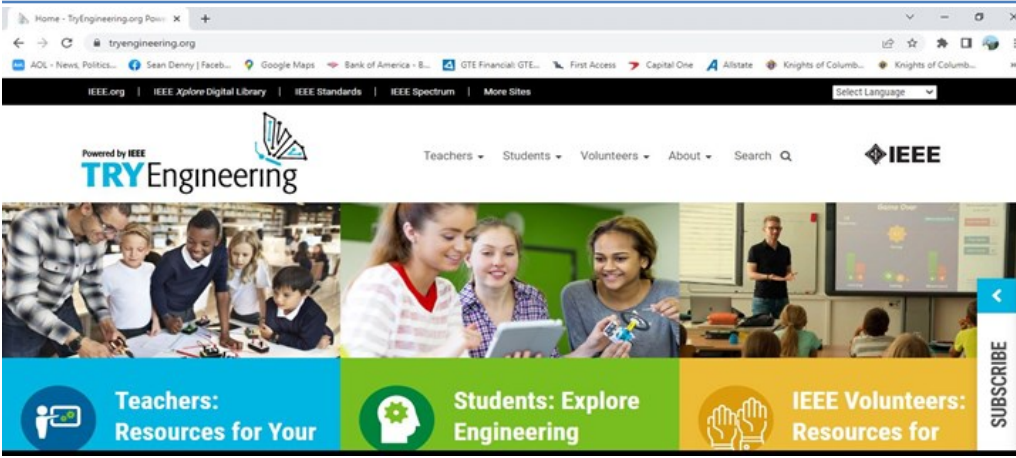


The STEM Explorer Fest ran from 10am to 2pm. I shared the IEEE Booth with Robofest Chair Emma Alaba and Carol Dekkers who volunteered during the STEM Festival. Emma Alaba invited our guests to draw a robot and we hung the drawings on the Robofest sign. She distributed left-over 2017 World Championship Robofest shirts.



I talked about why the IEEE is the biggest Professional International Organization, why we support computer networking standards and STEM education through the TryEngineering.org Website.





Regardless of whether or not a Student, Teacher, or Parent stopped by our booth, I was able to explain the advantages of searching the newly improved

subscribe to get email updates and post their surveys or events. The Florida West Coast Section and Region 3 have accomplished a lot for STEM.



Students would go by each booth participating in the demonstrations. We would sign the event flyer for their "passport." A highlight was that we got to see a Police Helicopter land and take off on the field.



TryEngineering.com Website. I remember there were about 20 lesson plans in 2005 including Ohm's Law, Motor Controllers, and Building Robot Arms, now there are a couple thousand. Volunteers can

We collectively recruited for the FWCS & Robofest while doing TryEngineering demonstrations promoting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics for Tampa Bay Education. We had a delightful time and were invited back for 2025.



This made the day worth our efforts.

Women In Engineering
Eboney Walker [eboney.a.walker@ieee.org]

The IEEE Region 3 Women in Engineering Affinity Group is poised to make significant strides in the region this year, underlining its commitment to “connect, support, and inspire women and girls” to advance female talent in the STEM fields. Spearheaded by dedicated local volunteers, the group aims to bridge the gender gap in engineering and foster a supportive community that encourages women to thrive in traditionally male-dominated fields.

A key strength lies in the potential to recruit IEEE R3 Senior Members as mentors. Experienced engineers, passionate about empowering the next generation, can mentor based on shared interests and career goals. This approach ensures that WiE members receive guidance and advice that is not only relevant to their professional journey but also aligns with their unique aspirations.

Beyond individual mentorship, the IEEE R3 WiE facilitates networking events, workshops, and panel discussions, creating a platform for women to connect, share experiences, and learn from each other. The collaborative spirit that arises from these interactions not only enhances technical skills but also promotes a sense of camaraderie and mutual support.

As the IEEE R3 WiE gains momentum, it is set to create a ripple effect in the region's engineering landscape. By empowering women to overcome challenges, break barriers, and reach their full potential, which contributes to a more diverse and innovative future for the engineering sector in the region.



**2024
IEEE WIE
AWARDS**

Call for nominations opens on
1 January 2024 and ends on 31 March 2024



Know more about
IEEE WIE Awards

wie.ieee.org/awards

(Continued from page 5)

- Development Promise, will share the success story of the Solar Cold Storage project in Rwanda, and discuss plans for Phase II of this endeavor.
- ◇ Ben Bohannon, Electrical Engineer with Middle Tennessee Electric, will speak about IEEE’s local efforts to get behind the Smart Village initiative and help impact communities throughout the world.
- ◆ Currently we have meetings planned to cover the following topics:
 - ◇ Tennessee’s long-term nuclear energy strategy.
 - ◇ A career development workshop.
 - ◇ Utility Smart Grid.
- ◆ Tentative plans for hosting a seminar on the National Electrical Code.
- ◆ Hoping to finish moving to a new website.

Other Region 3 Address

R3 Web Site: <https://r3.ieee.org/>

IEEE Collabratec: <https://ieee-collabratec.ieee.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>, Search for “IEEE Region 3”

X (Twitter): <https://twitter.com/r3ieee>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/r3ieee/>

Atlanta Science Festival's Exploration Expo
Melody Richardson
[\[richardson.melody@gmail.com\]](mailto:richardson.melody@gmail.com)

Exciting times await as IEEE-Atlanta takes center stage at the Atlanta Science Festival, presenting two events something. Join us for an extraordinary blend of science, cinema, and hands-on experiences that promise to captivate and inspire.

🌟 Event 1: "That's Not Right! Debunking Science in Cinema"

Date: March 13, 2024

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Halfway Crooks, 60 Georgia Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30312

Get ready for a night of fun and revelations as our scientists and engineers peel back the layers of your favorite movies. "That's Not Right!" will uncover the science (or lack thereof) behind cinematic wonders. It's a unique and entertaining experience you won't want to miss.

🌐 Event 2: Exploration Expo at Piedmont Park

Date: March 23, 2024

Venue: Piedmont Park, 400 Park Drive View, Atlanta, GA 30306

Join us at the grand finale of the Atlanta Science Festival, the Exploration Expo. As IEEE-Atlanta members, you'll have exclusive access to:

🚀 Curious Kids Zone, sponsored by Region 3 and IEEE-Atlanta: Inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers with STEM and STEAM activities designed for

ages 3 and older.

🤖 Interactive STEM Challenges: Step into our exhibit booth and take on engaging STEM challenges, including the "Three Little Pigs STEM Challenge" and creating a light-up Robot Pin.

🚗 Wheel of Engineering and MOVE 2 Mobile Exhibit: Spin the Wheel of Engineering for a chance to win prizes and explore the MOVE 2 mobile exhibit, showcasing a working STEM vehicle and the accomplishments of MOVE Community Outreach.

For more information, reach out to Richardson Melody at Richardson.Melody@ieee.org.

Let's make these events a celebration of our shared passion for science and technology. We can't wait to see you there!



Engineering the Future: A Preview of SoutheastCon 2024

Melody Richardson

[richardson.melody@gmail.com]

Get ready for the return of SoutheastCon to Atlanta, where the brightest minds across the southeastern region will converge to showcase their groundbreaking research, exchange cutting-edge ideas, and foster collaboration in the ever-evolving fields of engineering and technology. This year's conference, themed "Engineering the Future," promises an immersive and enriching experience for both students and professionals alike.

Event Overview:

Dates: March 21-24, 2024

Location: Westin Peachtree, Atlanta, GA

Theme: Engineering the Future

◆◆ Featured Events:

Industry Night: Thursday, March 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ the Westin Peachtree Plaza "Engineering Your Tomorrow: Navigating Your Path to Career Success" is a captivating and insightful event designed to provide attendees with invaluable networking opportunities and expert guidance on charting a successful career. Led by esteemed best-selling author Wendy Cocke, this event guarantees to be a transformative experience for individuals aspiring to excel in the field of engineering.

Future Lab: Friday, March 22

The Future Lab at IEEE SoutheastCon is set to

showcase membership development, emerging technologies and more. This collaborative space integrates contributions from IEEE societies, affinity groups, and industry leaders from Atlanta and the southeast. Attendees can engage with interactive exhibits, join discussions offering insights into upcoming technologies, participate in career development workshops, and connect with professionals in the regional area.

Mark your calendars for SoutheastCon 2024! For more information, visit <https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/>.



IEEE Region 3 James H. Graham Cybersecurity Scholarship Fund

Theresa Brunasso

[theresa.brunasso@ieee.org]

IEEE R3 Past Director, Nominations & Appointments Chair

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I announce the IEEE Region 3 James H. Graham Cybersecurity Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of James Graham, Founder and CEO of James Graham Associates, and former University of Louisville Professor. This is the very first Region specific scholarship administered by the IEEE Foundation, and they hope it will serve as a model for other Regions.

The scholarship of \$1,500, which will be awarded beginning in 2025, is open to

graduate students who are members of the IEEE studying cyber-security at universities and colleges in Region 3. In addition to the scholarship, the recipient will receive travel reimbursement to attend SoutheastCon, where he or she will be recognized with a plaque.

Professor Graham wants to encourage graduate study in the area of cyber-security, and the high number of data breaches, ransomware attacks, and other cyber threats occurring daily show the critical need for experts in this field. This scholarship will help deserving students. James' generosity is exemplified by both this endowment and his long-term volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and Boy Scouts. Region 3 is lucky to have members like Dr. Graham.

IEEE Region 3 Strategic Plan 2024

David Green [d.green@ieee.org] Strategic Operations and Support Committee

Our Mission

Focus on the growth and development of the member throughout the life cycle of the individual. Every member is an active participant, an informed and a satisfied member.



1. Support all Sections in holding and reporting at least 5 Section meetings, and 2 meetings for each Chapter and Affinity Group.



2. Provide all Sections the training and support they need.



3. Ensure Section operations are timely (reports, officers, website, elections) and that all sections use the new vTools-based election process.



4. Assist Sections to develop and maintain a sustainment plan.



5. Ensure Sections engage with their Student Branches and Branch Counselors at least quarterly.



6. Develop and build out the industry engagement activities.



7. Provide engaging and surplus-generating SoutheastCon and other Region 3 sponsored conferences in 2024-2025 and plan for similar success in 2026-2028.



7. Engage members through new events and (micro-)volunteering opportunities

Our Vision

The Region shall fulfill the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) strategic objectives at the local level by ensuring the enabling of the Sections, Chapters, Affinity groups, Student Branches, and Student Branch Chapters to engage the member .

Theme

Your Professional Home in Region 3

IEEE Region 3 Executive Committee – 2024

Director <i>Eric Grigorian</i>	Director Elect <i>Sonya Dillard</i>	Secretary <i>Pat Donohoe</i>
Treasurer <i>Joe Pennisi</i>	Past Director <i>Theresa Brunasso</i>	
Area 1 North Carolina & Virginia <i>James Imanian</i>	Area 2 Georgia & South Carolina <i>Wyman Williams</i> <i>Alessio Medda</i>	Area 3 Florida <i>Raul Ortega</i>
Area 4 Kentucky & Tennessee <i>Paul Kuban</i>	Area 5 Mississippi, Alabama, & Jamaica <i>Daniel Diaz</i>	
<u>Awards and Recognition Committee</u>		
Awards and Recognition Chair <i>Nelson Lourenco</i>	Vice Chair <i>Devon Gale</i>	Prof Activities Representative <i>TBA</i>
Area 1 Chair <i>James Imanian</i>	Area 2 Chair <i>Wyman Williams</i>	Area 3 Chair <i>Raul Ortega</i>
Area 4 Chair <i>Paul Kuban</i>	Area 5 Chair <i>Daniel Diaz</i>	
<u>Members Communications</u>		
Members Communications Chair <i>Andrew Seely</i>	Member Recruitment & Retention Coord. <i>Patrick Kung</i>	Information Coordinator <i>Vishwas Powar</i>
Newsletter Editor <i>Bill LaBelle</i>	Webmaster <i>Lucas Sweet</i>	Fellows Coordinator <i>Hulya Kirkici</i>
Assistant Newsletter Editor (ad-hoc) <i>Evelyn Licon</i>	Co-Webmaster (ad-hoc) <i>Brian Page</i>	
<u>Conference Committee</u>		
Conference Committee Chair <i>Joe Juisai</i>	Conference Committee Vice Chair <i>Stephen Hopkins</i>	Director Elect <i>Sonya Dillard</i>
Past Conference Committee Chair <i>Erik Ackerman</i>	Regional Student Activities Chair <i>Bailey Ulferts Heyman</i>	Conference Operations Specialist <i>Tamseel Syed</i> <i>Wyman Williams</i>
Treasurer <i>Joe Pennisi</i>	Former Region Director <i>Jim Conrad</i>	Industry Engagement Coordinator <i>Chan Wong</i> <i>John McDonald</i>
SoutheastCon2023, Orlando <i>Joe Juisai</i>	SoutheastCon2024, Atlanta <i>Alessio Medda</i>	SoutheastCon2025, Charlotte <i>Charles Lord</i>
SoutheastCon2026, Huntsville <i>Will Goins</i>		
<u>Finance (FINCOM)</u>		
Finance (FINCOM) Committee Chair <i>Joe Pennisi</i>	Director <i>Eric Grigorian</i>	Director Elect <i>Sonya Dillard</i>
Conference Committee Chair <i>Joe Juisai</i>	Past Director <i>Theresa Brunasso</i>	

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To contact any of the Executive Committee members, please go to
<https://r3.ieee.org/about/#1587483863309-20f649fe-ca1d>

IEEE Region 3 Executive Committee – 2024 (cont.)

Section Support

Section Support Chair
Kristin Bing

Member Recruitment & Retention
Coordinator
Patrick Kung

Life Member Coordinator
Jacob Kulangara

Young Professional Coordinator
Binesh Kumar

Women in Engineering Coordinator
Ebonee Walker

Senior Member Elevation
Coordinator
Hermann Amaya

Section Operations Specialist
Charles Lord

Section Operations Specialist
Mark Torres

Project Coordinator
Allen Jones

Technical Activities Coordinator
Arup Ghosh

Educational Activities Coordinator
Damith Wickramamayake

Nominations and Appointments

Nominations & Appointments Chair
Theresa Brunasso

Past-Director
Jim Conrad

Past-Director
Jill Gostin

Young Professional Coordinator
Binesh Kumar

Operational Audit

Operational Audit Chair
Greg Vaughn

Committee Member 1
TBA

Committee Member 2
Damith Wickramamayake

Committee Member 3
Steve Kemp

Committee Member 4
Arup Ghosh

Professional Activities

Professional Activities Chair
Sharlene Brown

Past PAC Chair
David Fillion

IEEE-USA Career & Professional
Development Rep
David Fillion

Government Activities Coordinator
(USA-GAC)
Lee Stogner

Student Professional Awareness
Coordinator
Bailey Ulferts Heyman

Strategic Operations & Support

Strategic Operations & Support Chair
Dave Green

SOSC Vice-Chair
Jill Gostin

OAC Chair
Greg Vaughn

Director (non-voting)
Eric Grigorian

Director-Elect (non-voting)
Sonya Dillard

Secretary (non-voting)
Pat Donohoe

Treasurer (non-voting)
Joe Pennisi

Student Activities

Student Activities Chair
Bailey Ulferts Heyman

Student Activities Vice-Chair
Praveen Kumar

Student Activities Past-Chair
Victor Basantes

Student Representative
Kennedy Mays

SAC Liaison to PAC
Bailey Ulferts Heyman

SAC Advisor
Chase Battaglio

Other

Humanitarian Technologies Board—
Region 3 Rep
Raj Gurupur

Regional Vitality Coordinator
Sonya Dillard

Admission and Advancement
Committee
Hermann Amaya

Education Activities Rep to EAB
Damith Wickramamayake

Indust5ry Engagement Coordinators
Chan Wong
John McDonald



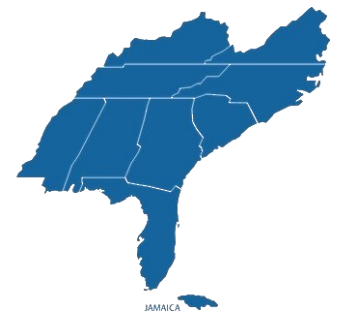
SoutheastCon is the annual IEEE Region 3 Technical, Professional, and Student Conference.

It brings together Computer Scientists, Electrical, and Computer Engineering professionals, faculty and students to share the latest information through technical sessions, tutorials, and exhibits. It is the most influential conference in Region 3 for promoting awareness of the technical contributions made by our profession to the advancement of engineering science and to the community.

Attendance and technical program participation from areas outside IEEE Region 3 are encouraged and welcomed. IEEE

Region 3 encompasses the southeastern United States and includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, areas of Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the country of Jamaica.

**IEEE
Region 3**



General Chair
Alessio Medda, PhD
alessiomedda@ieee.org

Vice-Chair & Technical Program Chair
Tamseel Syed, PhD
syed.tamseel@ieee.org

Registration Chair
Charles Lord
c.j.lord@ieee.org

Student Program Chair
Stephen Hopkins
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Webmaster
Matthew Ackerman
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For more information visit <https://ieeesoutheastcon.org>

Registration: <https://ieeesoutheastcon.regfox.com/ieee-southeastcon-2024>