IEEE Region 3

As we are coming to the end of 2024 and the upcoming holiday season, I hope you had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends and are gearing up for the holidays. This year has been packed with various activities. As an incoming region director, it has been packed with many activities. The year started with participating in Rising Stars in conjunction with IEEE-USA Board of Directors retreat, then on to Montego Bay for IEEE Board of Directors retreat that was immediately followed by Jamaica Section workshop titled "Towards Expanding Access to Quality Engineering Science Excellence Opportunities in Jamaica". In February and in conjunction with a work-related business trip, I got the chance to participate in IEEE Region 8's Operation Committees meeting, so as to learn about how different IEEE regions operate. What I learned from that meeting was actually implemented in the Region 3 meetings in our very successful SoutheastCon that was held in Atlanta.

Eric Grigorian,
Director, Region 3

Talking about SoutheastCon, the Atlanta Section and the Region Conference Committee did a great job in organizing, coordinating, and executing a very successful event. At the event, we had several VIPs which included IEEE CEO & President Tom Coughlin, IEEE President Elect Kathleen Kramer, IEEE Region 1 (Director Bala Prasanna), 2 (Director Drew Lowery), 4 (Director Elect Connie Kelly), 6 (Director Kathy Hayashi), 7 (Director Tom Murad), 8 (Director Vincenzo Piuri), & 10 (Director Lance Fung) representatives along with IEEE-USA Presidential candidates Barry Tilton and Bob Becnel. Based on their participation and feedback, they were very impressed how we conduct our SoutheastCon events and were interested in participating or replicating it. And that was the first quarter of the year, with the second quarter actively engaged in IEEE activities, particularly with the Vision, Innovation, and Challenges (VIC) Summit and Honors Ceremony in May and IEEE Board of Directors Meeting Series in June.

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Unfortunately, Fall did not fare well for some of our members as hurricanes Helene and Milton impacted southeastern US, effecting folks primarily in Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia. We were fortunate to have all 3 MOVE vehicles deployed in North Carolina and Florida in support of our members and community at large, working closely with American Red Cross and local emergency management personnel. More details on MOVE team volunteering efforts are provided in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, we continued our efforts to work with IEEE-USA on hosting the 2024 Innovation, Workforce, and Research Conferences (IWRC) in Aerospace and Defense in Region 3. The event was scheduled for December 3rd & 4th, 2024 in Huntsville, AL. On December 3rd, a DoD Roundtable was hosted at GTRI's Huntsville Research Center, focusing on opportunities and challenges to technology transition and on-boarding new technologies into the DoD. This event gave a chance to discuss perspective on the federal contracting process, share success stories, discuss obstacles, and identify ways to work together more efficiently. The roundtable was followed by a reception at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration.

On December 4th, IWRC event brought together stakeholders from industry, government, and academia in Huntsville, Alabama, to meet, learn, talk, and discuss the CHIPS Act and other government programs that would promote innovation and small business in the southeast. The event included over 27 speakers from various organizations and the agenda of topics covered can be found at the event's website (https://iwrc.ieeeusa.org/alabama/#alabama-agenda).

We are still in midst of Section elections with some sections already completed their election cycle with new officers identified, and some are still in midst of nominations and elections. I have received several requests for single slate

officer approvals and based on the slate and years in leadership roles, have approved some of the requests. However, we need to identify new members that we can identify, mentor, and bring into the fold of section leadership. If any member is interested in engaging with their local section, I urge you to reach out and let the section officers know of your interest. For newly selected officers, I would recommend for you to review the many training options and resources available to volunteers prior to start of your term.

I wish you all the best of the upcoming holiday season with family and friends. As always, thanks for all you do for IEEE!

Eric Grigorian, P.E., PMP
2024-2025 IEEE Region 3 Director

Past Director Report
Theresa Brunasso [theresa.brunasso@ieee.org]
IEEE R3 Past Director

During this holiday season, I hope you and your families have much to celebrate. I know many of our members were affected by the devastating effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and I hope the recovery efforts move quickly.

I want to thank all the Region 3 volunteers who supported the IEEE-USA MOVE Trucks in response to the disasters of 2024. It was a very busy year for IEEE-USA MOVE. We added a third truck to the program, which is located in San Diego. Our volunteers and trucks responded to the Ruidoso Fires in New Mexico, Hurricane Beryl in Texas, Hurricane Helene in North Carolina and Hurricane Milton in Florida. I know that you all join me in your gratitude for their generous gift of time.

Many of you joined me in donating to IEEE-USA MOVE on Giving Tuesday, and it's never too late to donate. I hope you'll consider a donation to this very successful program.

I wish you and your families a happy holiday and all the best in 2025.

As always, thanks for all you do for IEEE!

Theresa Brunasso
IEEE R3 Past Director

Elevating to IEEE Senior Member: A Streamlined Approach
Kristin Bing [kristin.bing@ieee.org]

IEEE Senior Member status represents a prestigious recognition of a professional's accomplishments. To qualify, members must demonstrate 10 years of professional experience, including 5 years of significant performance in IEEE-designated fields such as engineering, computer sciences, physical sciences, and more.

The elevation process begins with an application requiring either three references for self-nominations or two references if a current Senior Member is the nominator. These references must also be IEEE Senior Members or Fellows. To support applicants, Region 3's Senior Member Elevation Committee (R3 SMEC) has developed a comprehensive program designed to simplify the process and foster personal connections within IEEE.

New Asynchronous Support Process

To better accommodate busy schedules, the R3 SMEC has introduced an asynchronous interview process. Candidates are now assigned to reference providers with the flexibility to discuss their applications virtually via telephone, Google Meet, Zoom, Webex, or MS Teams. This innovative approach not only saves time for volunteers but also enhances convenience for candidates, making the elevation process more accessible and efficient.

Additionally, the R3 SMEC team hosts orientation sessions to provide an overview of the process. These sessions allow members to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding before submitting their resumes for review and processing. This added step ensures candidates are fully informed and prepared to navigate the elevation process successfully as well as aware of timelines and how to check the status of their applications.

Benefits of Senior Membership

Achieving Senior Member status provides the following:
♦ Professional recognition among peers for technical and professional excellence.
♦ Eligibility for leadership positions and panel review opportunities.
♦ The ability to serve as a reference for other candidates.

A complimentary one-year IEEE Society membership and an engraved Senior Member plaque.

2024 Achievements and What's Ahead

In 2024, the final Admissions and Advancement (A&A) Senior Member Review Panel met on November 23. The A&A 2025 schedule will launch in January, with six review sessions planned throughout the year. This year's asynchronous model significantly improved efficiency, allowing R3 SMEC to support candidates better while fostering community engagement.

Learn More and Get Started

For more information about IEEE Senior Member requirements, visit https://www.ieee.org/membership/senior/senior-requirements.html. To begin your journey or get support, email R3 SMEC at r3-smec@ieee.org.

Take the next step in your IEEE journey—Senior Member status awaits!

Life Members Committee: 2024 Accomplishments and Goals 2024—2025

Jacob Kulangara [jmkulang@gmail.com]
Region 3 LM Coordinator

(A) 2024 Accomplishments for R3 LM Affinity Groups (LMAGs) and LMs

LMAGs:

1a) By year-end, there are 28 Life Member Affinity Groups (LMAGs) out of 41 Sections of R3 - 5 new LMAGs and 1 reinstated.

1b) In 2024, total R3 LMAGs had 200 v-Tools activities. an average of 7.14 activities per LMAG.

1c) Activities of 6 LMAGs were funded by Life Members Committee (LMC) $3500. (Broward, Melbourne, Mississippi, Tallahassee, Canaveral, Atlanta)

LMAGs / LMs:

1d) Several LMAGs / LMs participated LMC Awards program with two R3 awardees received recognition certificate out of which 1 awardee received award prize money for LMAG activities.

LMAG / LM:

1e) LM Active Participation: 2024 SoutheastCon and 2024 LM Conference.

1f) Increased funding allocated by IEEE Foundation / LMF for the regions LM activities and programs for 2025

2) 2024 LMC program / project grants and funding in 2024 for R3

2a) Region 3 Student Hardware Competition Prize Money ($1500)

2b) IEEE USA MOVE ($10.000) for recovery from Hurricanes Helene and Milton that impacted R3

2c) IEEE HKN ($5000) Charlotte SLC

2d) Started Global Mentoring Initiatives (GMI) for Students, and LM, YP, WIE.

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(B) 2025 LMC Goals of R3 LM Group:

(1) **Broaden / Expand** on the 2024 accomplishments of R3 LMAGs / LMs.

(2) Initiate actions to **form new LMAGs** in 13 Sections of R3 that do not have LM engagement and support for elevation to Senior Member.

(3) Pursue **LM engagement** for K-12 and pre-university level students, as well as promoting the use of programs offered by IEEE History Center.

(4) **Provide LM support** to Region 3, its sections, society chapters, affinity groups YP, WIE, HKN and student branches on membership

(5) Provide encouragement to LMs and retired / partially retired to be active in IEEE and to socialize as part of programs of interest to life members.

IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference
Registration
lifemembersconference.ieee.org

Education Activities 2024 Best Practices
Damith Wickramanayake [damithwick@ieee.org]
Region 3 Educational Activities Coordinator

Education Activities (EA) within Region 3 had a successful 2024 with its Education activities. Our annual best practice EA webinar was held in August 2024 and this year we collaborated with the Sri Lanka Section (R10) Education Activities Committee where we learnt about how the Sri Lanka Section has developed a new initiative in Sri Lanka called Challenge Sphere, a student competition for school students, undergraduate and recent graduates for a series of tech oriented competitions. The objective of this competition is to create a platform for Sri Lankan students to showcase their talents in technology and engineering that will guide students at the local level and prepare and qualify the students to compete for significant international level competitions.

We also had our own Region 3, Atlanta Section shared on how collaboration and Partnering with large organizations for EA events provides access to expanded resources, increased visibility, and broaden the reach to achieve greater impact on Education Activities. The Palm Beach Section shared best practices on their semiconductor webinar and the use of vTools which increased their participant's registration to attend the webinar. The Richmond Section Shared about their current projects and tips on how to run successful projects and information with detailed explanation on Region projects. Funding opportunities available within R3 and IEEE to support EA events and the process to access these funding were shared by the Region's Professional Activates Committee (PAC) Chair.

For the upcoming 2025, we wish to get more Sections involved in sharing their EA events, their best practices and look forward to forming new Section EA committees within Sections that currently do not have EA committees.

Please contact me at damithwick@ieee.org as I welcome any suggestion or ideas from Sections' EA Committee Chair/Leads that you would like to see implemented within the Region in 2025.

Damith Wickramanayake
2024 -2025, Region 3 Education Activities Coordinator

2024 Professional Activities Year in Review
Sharlene Brown [sharlenenicolabrown@gmail.com]
Region 3 Professional Activities Committee Chair

2024 was a very successful year for the Professional Activities committee (PAC). We started with the aim to financially support Region's professional non-technical activates for Sections, Students and Affinity Groups and also to contribute to the professional development of the Regions' members through providing educational courses to asset members with Professional Development hours (PDH) and Continuing Education Hours (CEH) with the budget allocated to the committee. We collaborated with IEEE Education Activities Board (EAB) through IEEE Learning Network (ILN) with the Director's special funding and provided the courses to members who earned PDH & CEH in their career. We hosted awareness sessions and shared information on the process to access the funding for events among Region social media platforms, webinars, eNotices and emails. Today the PAC committee is pleased to advise that we have achieved our aim by providing educational courses and supported students, Affinity Groups and Sections with PAC funding in 2024.

(Continued from page 6)

For the upcoming year we plan to continue the awareness sessions to inform Sections, students, Affinity Groups about the process of accessing PAC funding to assist with events. We also hope to see more funding requests from student Branches for Southeastcon 2025 for the Community Outreach, Networking and Ethics competition. I hope Sections Leaders will advise their Student Branches that they are eligible to access funds from PAC to support Southeastcon Community Outreach, Networking and Ethics competition. The PAC funding process remains the same for the students, matching funds and approval by Section Chair. I encourage Section Chairs to support the Students with matching funds for these Southeastcon competition. Please apply early as the PAC funding operates as a first come first serve basis.

It was truly a pleasure working with all the Sections, Students, and Affinity groups in 2024 and we look forward to even a better year in 2025.

Regards

Sharlene Brown
2024 – 2025 ChairR3 Professional Activities Committee

A Night to Remember:
IEEE Region 3 Young Professionals at the
HKN Student Leadership Conference 2024

Binesh Kumar [binesh.kumar@ieee.org]
Region 3 Young Professionals Coordinator

The IEEE Region 3 Young Professionals (YP) program proudly sponsored an unforgettable after-party at the HKN Student Leadership Conference (SLC) 2024 in Charlotte, NC. This engaging event brought together students and professionals in a vibrant atmosphere filled with networking, games, and insightful discussions about the IEEE Young Professionals program.

The highlight of the evening was an exciting IEEE Trivia Night, which not only tested attendees' knowledge but also introduced many students to the YP program and the opportunities it offers. After the trivia, students and YPs bonded over games like Karaoke, Jenga, Cornhole, and Foosball, creating a lively and inclusive environment. The event was a great success in fostering connections between students and young professionals, making it a memorable experience for all.

We extend our gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, whose hard work and enthusiasm made the evening seamless. A special thanks to Mary Ellen Randall and Eric Grigorian, P.E., PMP, for sharing their valuable insights on the IEEE YP program. Additionally, we are grateful to HKN Charlotte and the incredible support of James Conrad and Nancy Ostin for making this collaboration possible.

(Continued from page 7)
The evening was not just about fun—it was about building a bridge between IEEE Region 3 students and YPs, paving the way for a smooth transition from student to young professional. Leveraging the momentum from this event, the IEEE Region 3 YP program aims to create more opportunities to connect students and YPs, empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators in engineering and technology.

Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives from IEEE Region 3 Young Professionals as we continue to inspire, engage, and connect our community.

Region 3 Conference Committee activities for 2024
Joe N. Juisai [joe.juisai@ieee.org]

The Region 3 Conference Committee has had an active and productive 2024.

The Committee assisted Atlanta 2024 local organizing committee preparation and execution of IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 on March 21 through March 24, 2024, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta this March. This conference has been one of our most well-attended and successful regional conference in recent years we ran out of hotel rooms at the Westin and was able to secure 50 additional rooms at the nearby Marriott Marquis for additional attendees.

At SoutheastCon 2024, we formally approved the budgets for IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 which will be held from March 27 to March 30, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort and Spa in Concord, NC and sponsored by the North Carolina Council as well as awarded the Huntsville Section as the host organizational unit for IEEE SoutheastCon 2026 which will be held March 13 to March 15, 2026, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville as the host conference center and with the Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville as the host hotel.

Since April, we assisted the Atlanta 2024 local organizing committee with closing out their conference and helped the Concord 2025 local organizing committee plan their conference next year. The committee also started preparing documents to assist OUs with preparing proposals to host IEEE SoutheastCon in 2027 and beyond.

To drum up interest in hosting future conferences, the committee met with area chairs as well as section chairs who were interested in hosting SoutheastCon. This led to some interest in hosting further out.

The committee published a timeline on the host OU selection for IEEE SoutheastCon 2027 and received proposals from 2 OUs: 1 from the Jamaica Section with the 2027 conference to be held in Montego Bay from March 11 to March 14, 2027, and 1 joint proposal from the Canaveral, Daytona, and Orlando Sections with proposed conference dates of April 14 to April 19, 2027, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Both candidate organizing committees presented to the conference committee in November on the merits of their OUs and proposals as well as answered questions from the committee. The next step in the selection process is to formally evaluate the proposals, address any gaps, and prepare an endorsement to the Financial Committee for the December 10 meeting as well as to the Executive Committee in December. Formal selection of the host OU for IEEE SoutheastCon 2027 will occur by a vote of the Region 3 Committee in 2025.

If your section would like to host IEEE SoutheastCon 2028 or IEEE SoutheastCon 2029 or would like to prepare joint bid with neighboring sections to host future SoutheastCons, please reach out to me (joe.juisai@ieee.org) or Stephen Hopkins (stephen.hopkins@ieee.org), who is the committee vice chair, for more information. The committee plans on publishing a 2028/2029 timeline in early 2025.

Region 3 Sections News

IEEE Canaveral Section
Paul Nyffenegger [paulnyffenegger@ieee.org]

IEEE Canaveral Section has had a busy fall, even if you exclude dodging hurricanes. After sponsoring and helping to organize the SmallSat Education Conference held the last weekend in October, we manned a booth for this two day event that cleaned out most of our promotional materials. The picture below shows Ron Jakubouski who pulled multiple shifts manning our table.

The next weekend Vince Socci (below in orange) organized a breakfast event to kick off our new AES/CommSoc joint chapter that has just been approved.

Coming up, we have been planning our year end Canaveral Section / LMAG / AES/ CommSoc annual banquet, to be held Dec 14 at Red Lobster on Merritt Island. We have also been working with other sections and societies to bring technical content to the Section. Some of these activities include STEM events in conjunction with the county school district, Space Coast Science Educators Association, and similar events. Come help us plan next year's events!

regards,
Paul Nyffenegger

Region 3 Sections News

IEEE Canaveral Section
Paul Nyffenegger [paulnyffenegger@ieee.org]
Vincent Socci [socci@ieee.org]

Canaveral Section held a Fly-in breakfast on 11/2 at Arthur Dunn Experimental Airpark. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast as we watched experimental and acrobatic aircraft fly into the airpark. A tour and technical session on Gyroplanes was delivered by IEEE member Ott Thiele. Dozens of planes made for an exciting and entertaining morning. We even enjoyed skydivers dropping in on us from the skies.

IEEE Coastal South Carolina Section
Nancey Tsai [nttsai@ieee.org]

The Coastal South Carolina Section has been collaborating with neighboring sections on events to share our resources. Our early October Distinguished Lecturer event was open to the entire South Carolina Council as a hybrid event. The CSC LMAG hosted a Saturday Social and invited their neighboring LMAG from the Columbia Section to join them in October. The event went over so well, we are hosting our Holiday Social together in December!

IEEE Northwest Florida Section
Stephen Hopkins [stephen@computerhelp.biz]
https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/nwflorida/

The Northwest Florida Section is excited to announce a new student chapter. Pensacola Christian College (PCC) has been working hard over the past year to develop a new student chapter. Joseph Coffey, our current Vice-Chair, successfully navigate the chapter creation process, the growth of students into the chapter, and their first election. This chapter brings a strong electrical engineering student program including a robotics team who develops robots to compete on ice and underwater. We are very excited for this new chapter. We hope to have a chapter celebration event soon.

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Winston-Salem Section
Hussein Abdeltawab [abdelth@wfu.edu]
https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/winston-salem/

Winston-Salem Section has recently gathered at Cugino Forno Pizzeria for their social event. Everyone had engaging discussions, and a fantastic time connecting with fellow IEEE members and enthusiasts. It was wonderful to see such a diverse group come together—students, professionals, and tech enthusiasts alike. We look forward to having more networking events for our growing section.

IEEE Central Virginia Section
Stefano Colafranceschi [stefano.colafranceschi@gmail.com]
https://r3.ieee.org/cva/

The IEEE Central Virginia Section organized the IEEE Day event at James Madison University, it was a vibrant celebration of innovation, collaboration, and technology. Students showcased their ingenuity through engaging presentations, highlighting projects that addressed real-world challenges with creative solutions. An invited talk by a distinguished guest speaker added depth to the event, offering insights into cutting-edge developments in engineering and technology. The day fostered a spirit of networking, with participants exchanging ideas and building connections that extended beyond the event. Attendees left inspired, enriched by a day of learning and camaraderie, underscoring the importance of teamwork and knowledge-sharing within the engineering community.

Together with the IEEE Central Virginia Section Power & Energy Society Chapter and the Charlottesville Renewable Energy Alliance (C'Ville REA) we co-hosted a Happy Hour Networking Event on October 2nd at South Street Brewery (106 South Street West) in Charlottesville. This event presented a fantastic opportunity to connect with professionals from the renewable energy and power sectors in the Charlottesville area, share ideas, and build meaningful connections. The event was well attended with lively conversations and casual networking. Experienced industry professionals and some new to the field, used this opportunity to meet peers and explore the latest developments in renewable energy.

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Melbourne Section
September 2024 ExCom Meeting, INTEPRO Sales Demo
& October 2024 IEEE Day Celebration
Raul Ortega [rortega@nuvosource.com]

   The Melbourne Section holds six EXCOM Meetings per year. Along with those meetings, local and national supplier firms reserve space in the meeting agenda to introduce and demo their products. The meetings are attended by not only the working members of the section but also by employees of local high tech and other companies who are interested in the supplier's line of products. On this occasion, INTEPRO SYSTEMS gave an hour-long presentation on their several lines of power supplies. The units are assembled in Southern California with the technology system manufactured in China. INTEPRO SYSTEMS covers the Americas for this product line.

   Prior to the INTEPRO product demo, the Melbourne Section held a half hour EXCOM meeting to discuss the latest section issues and any open items that required to be discussed and acted upon. Plans for the balance of 2024 were discussed including the upcoming IEEE 2024 OCTOBER DAY on October 1st, the IEEE 2024 FSC CYBER SECURITY CONFERENCE and the plans for the section's year end Awards Banquet.

   The non-IEEE members attending were invited to become IEEE members and a brief presentation on the exciting benefits associated with membership! Membership applications and IEEE swag items were available. We had the additional pleasure of mentioning and describing IEEE DAY / October 1st and the meaning it carries to all humankind!

Special thanks to INTEPRO SYSTEMS for hosting this Melbourne Section Meeting!

IEEE Melbourne Florida Section
Florida Institute of Technology Resume Workshop
Raul Ortega [rortega@nuvosource.com]

FIT Student Branch, the Melbourne Section, Life Member Affinity Group, and Young Professional Affinity Groups held a resume workshop for FIT students on October 30 6:30-8:30. We had 6 students and 8 professionals so each student was able to get detailed feedback on their resumes from several professionals. A interview workshop is being planned for the beginning of the new year.

The workshop was organized by Mary Lynn Smith, Student & YP Section Chair and attending section members were Jessica Beahn, Bruce Crane, Eric Cramer, Robert Featheringham, Mary Flavin, Woody Hawthorne, Amir Kazemi and Earl MacDonald plus the 6 students. Pizza was enjoyed by all!

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Melbourne Florida Section
Habitat for Humanity 3D Buildiong Printing Demo
Raul Ortega [rortega@nuvosource.com]

CCTS, Canaveral Council of Technical Societies announced at their November meeting that a live demo was going to be available in Melbourne of the Space Coast Habitat For Humanity (HFH) Affordable Housing 3D printing in action. Section Chair Raul Ortega & YP/Student Volunteer Gavin Ortega Halverson attended to view the demo and get a taste of the potential building system for potential application in the moon and other planets.

Members of the construction and programing teams described the process by which the concrete is mixed and delivered to the 3D Printer which lays out rows of wall sections to build walls of a 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. The programing team, seen below in the center picture, monitors the printing process and makes sure all is according to strict building specifications. The demo was held on December 6th and as can be seen above, the foundation and the first row of the walls was being laid. In speaking with the technicians, they informed us that the house shell would be completed by December 11th and shortly thereafter, once the cement cures, ready for installation of utilities!

After identifying ourselves as IEEE members, we were invited to meet Ms Ana Terry, Executive Director of HFH Brevard, who after our explaining our IEEE Mission, noted that they often host groups of disadvantaged youth at their facilities and are always looking for more avenues of introducing STEM activities and experiences to them. We agreed to meet in Q1 of 2025 to plan joint sessions!

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Region 3, Area 3 Sections
2024 Florida Space Coast Cyber Security Conference
& October 2024 IEEE Day Celebration
Raul Ortega [rortega@nuvosource.com]

The long planned Cyber Security 2024 Conference was held on Saturday, October 5th in conjunction with the 2024 IEEE Day Celebration. The eight Area 3 Sections, Broward, Canaveral, Daytona, Florida West Coast, Melbourne, Miami, Palm Beach plus Northwest Florida all participated. This was a full day event, from 8 am to 5 pm. It was attended by about 60 persons: IEEE Members, professionals, students, and young people who paid rapt attention to each presenter.

There were seven speakers who highlighted the various aspects of cyber threats and their experiences. Our first speaker was Colonel Shannon DaSilva Commander Space Delta 10, Patrick Space Force Base who informed us about emerging factors and threats. She was followed by Dr. Darrell Parsons from Zel Technologies. Dr. Parsons spoke on confidentiality, integrity, and availability. He pointed out that there are free cybersecurity training programs. Next, Gracie Perira of Accenture spoke about opportunities, future challenges, AI, quantum computing, and threats to financial services. Dr Sneha Sudhakaran of Florida Institute of Technology advised everyone not to turn off our device if there is a problem because it erases the memory destroying any chance of tracing it back to the source. Mia Naeini from FSU Cyber Florida talked about cyber security in power grids. David Essi from Labra Technology presented his ideas for a remotely operated voltmeter on a chip using Internet of Things technology. Lastly, Abigail Merchant, an Orlando High School Student presented her project in Seizure Prevention.

The conference was partially funded by Region 3 and the Region 3 Life Members Affinity Group. The event venue, the Rockledge Elks Lodge #2817 hosted and catered the conference in the lodge hall.

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Atlanta Section
IEEE-Atlanta Celebrates 140th Anniversary at Fernbank: A Night of Excellence and Inspiration
Melody Richardson [abdelth@wfu.edu]
https://ieee-atlanta.org/

On October 10, 2024, IEEE-Atlanta hosted a celebration at Fernbank Museum of Natural History to mark the 140th anniversary of IEEE. The event brought together professionals, students, and community members to honor IEEE's legacy of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

The evening celebrated the rich history of IEEE while highlighting the local impact of the Atlanta section. Attendees had the opportunity to network with industry leaders and hear from influential speakers, including Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, who congratulated IEEE and the Atlanta section for their significant contributions to engineering as well as their outreach efforts aimed at inspiring the next generation of innovators.

Speakers included Jordan Rose, co-chair of ScienceATL, who spoke about IEEE-Atlanta's impact at the Atlanta Science Festival's Exploration Expo; Renita McMillan, principal of John Robert Lewis Elementary School, who emphasized the importance of IEEE-Atlanta's Family STEM Nights in engaging students and families; and event sponsors Bala Kotharu from Burns & McDonnell and Carlos Arkins from Akins Engineering, who supported the event, highlighting the collaborative efforts that make such initiatives possible.

Nelson Lourenco, Vice Chair, IEEE-Atlanta and Charles Harris, Secretary, IEEE-Atlanta

Held at the beautiful Fernbank Museum, the event featured engaging exhibits that served as powerful reminders of the importance of discovery, innovation, and collaboration in shaping the future. This milestone celebration also

Jordan Rose, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Science ATL and Melody Richardson, Chair, Education Activities, IEEE-Atlanta & Founder, STEM on the MOVE, MOVE Community Outreach

Director Eric Grigorian, Past Director Theresa Brunasso, David Green, and Jill Gostin

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

underscored IEEE-Atlanta's ongoing commitment to community involvement through initiatives like Family STEM Nights and our partnerships with ScienceATL and the Atlanta Science Festival.

As we reflect on 140 years of IEEE's impact, the celebration at Fernbank was a fitting tribute to our collective achievements and the continued journey toward a brighter, more connected future. IEEE-Atlanta remains dedicated to fostering innovation and inspiring the next generation of engineers and innovators.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making this event a success! Here's to another 140 years of advancing technology, driving change, and creating a better world for all.

IEEE Atlanta Section
Atlanta Section continues to provide excellent value for its members

Tamseel Mahmood Syed [syed.tamseek@gmail.com]
https://ieee-atlanta.org/

It has been a great 2024 for the IEEE Atlanta Section. Despite challenges from natural weather-related events, the Section strived to keep creating learning and growth opportunities for its members. This was only possible due to tireless efforts and collaboration of Section volunteers, leadership, IEEE staff, academia and the industry to create programs that made most sense to the participants. The Section also continues to keep the Hurricane affected areas from Region 3 in their thoughts and always extends the offer to partner with other Sections for improving overall IEEE experience not only in the Section, but also in the region, nationally and internationally.

With a consistent goal of improving the IEEE experience for its local members, the IEEE Atlanta Section is always keen upon building innovative ideas, meaningful technical programs, networking opportunities, professional development avenues, student to YP to industry/academia connection, etc. Building upon the success of Atlanta ComSoc Chapter organized School Series at Georgia Tech Research Institute in September 2023, the Section continued its high momentum into 2024. The success of ComSoc School Series gained international recognition which is a testament to more than 18 months of hard work, planning and execution of the organizing committee. Approximately 60 students from multiple countries participated in the workshop and listened to more than 12 industry experts from the Communications field. This brought them a closer understanding of the current industry skills requirement.

Group picture of participants and presenters on the final day of
ComSoc School Series on September 23rd, 2023

Moving into the current year, the Section volunteers and members displayed their talent once again, organizing one of the best Region 3 conference in recent years, the SoutheastCon 2024 at Westin in downtown Atlanta. It was great to see the tremendous efforts come to fruition after more than 2 years of planning and brainstorming. The conference saw more than 1000 registrations and received close to 460 technical paper submissions out of which about 266 papers were presented and included in the Proceedings of the conference. Likewise, the student program was another popular area where undergraduate and graduate students were competing in various tasks. The

conference was well received by students, industry, academia and an important opportunity for sponsors to interact with the attendees.

Picture: Top row (from L-R) SoutheastCon 2024 Awards Banquet, Core Organizing Committee, Student Competition room. Bottom row (from L-R) Technical paper presentation room, another Technical presentation room, couple of poster presentations from about 20 posters

Picture (L-R) The two Awards won by IEEE Atlanta Section, Chair Dr. Tamseel Syed receiving the EAB Award from past EAB VP Dr. SK Ramesh, Tamseel delivering acceptance speech, EAB leadership along with Tamseel and R3 Director Eric Grigorian

In addition to SoutheastCon 2024, the Section held several events that increased the value of IEEE membership and motivated the members to participate more in such events. In a rare circumstance, the Section won two esteemed awards during the same year after being nominated by the Chair, Dr. Tamseel Syed in a competitive process. The Section was recognized with the 2024 Outstanding Large Section Award by IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board and also the 2024 IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Section Educational Activities Award. This is an extremely proud moment filled with honor for each and every volunteer and IEEE member in the Atlanta Section. In addition to these awards, the ComSoc Atlanta Chapter won two more awards, the Best Chapter in North America and also the best Chapter in the world.

The Section volunteers are always seeking to engage the members of not only IEEE

(Continued from page 20)

but also other non-profit organizations and individuals from industry organizations through their outreach efforts. IEEE Atlanta Section was well represented at one of the panel discussion events held at Cox Communications which was co-sponsored by IEEE Awards. The panel had insightful comments about the "Trends in Technology" and answered questions from the audiences.

Pictured in Top row (L-R) "Trends in Technology" moderator Charles and panelists from left to right Tom Leighton (Co-founder and CEO, Akamai Technologies), Wendy Frazier (CTO, The Weather Company), Johannes Eckert (SVP and CIO, Cox Communications); Atlanta Section Chair Tamseel Syed asking a question; Bottom row (L-R) Johannes answering a question. Volunteers of IEEE Atlanta with Keyana Tenant of IEEE Awards

In addition to the outreach, technical events and professional events, the Section also celebrated the 140 years of IEEE during an event at Fernbank museum in Decatur, GA. It was attended by close to 100 attendees and the discussion on value of IEEE was the main theme throughout the event. The event was co-sponsored by various industry partners and IEEE Atlanta Chapters and provided a nice networking opportunity for IEEE members. Some of the IEEE Fellows in the Section were also in attendance and Dr. John Cressler found the event very exciting. "It is always wonderful to gather with other IEEE colleagues and celebrate the amazing profession we all share.", says Dr. Cressler and added that, "Our technical and non-technical impact matters on the global stage. A fun and festive evening at Fernbank!".

(Continued from page 21)

Pictures from the celebration for 140th Anniversary of IEEE. Speeches from the Chair Tamseel Syed, MGA Past VP Jill Gostin, event coordinator Melody Richardson. Networking post event completion.

The Section also hosted its annual banquet on November 8th, 2024. Members with outstanding skills and experience were awarded excellence awards. The nominations were open for almost two months prior to the event and selection of winners was done after thorough vetting of the submissions by an Awards Committee led by committee chair Dr. Anna Miettinen and past chair Dr. Nelson Lourenco.

Pictured (L-R) Outstanding Educator Award winner Dr. Gabriel Rincon-Mora receiving his award and IEEE Atlanta Leaders presenting about the Section activities
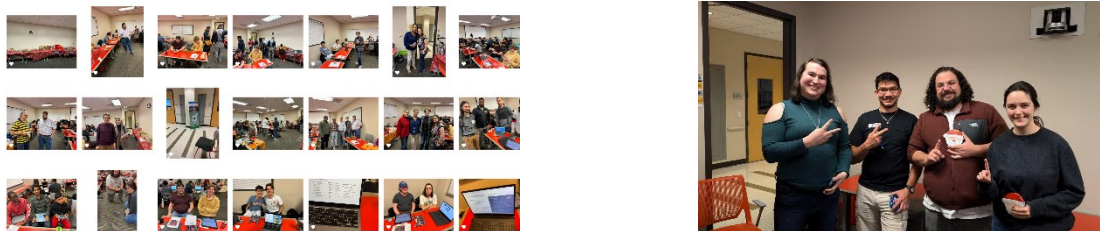
Pictured top row (L-R) Outstanding Engineer Award recipient Hemanth Volikatla, Outstanding Chapter Award recipient Communications Society Chapter representative Brian Page, Outstanding Service Award recipients Bharath Kumar Mittapally and Hines Richardson; Bottom row (L-R) Outstanding Service Award recipients Dr. Razvan Chris Voicu, Dr. Anu Bourgeois and Joe Versaggi

Pictured L-R Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Ali Adibi and one side of the Banquet room with attendees

The Section also recently held a robotics competition sponsored by MGA surplus funds that the Section applied for earlier during the year. The competition was held at Kennesaw State University (KSU) and top two teams were selected as the winners of the competition which included designs using XRP robot kits.
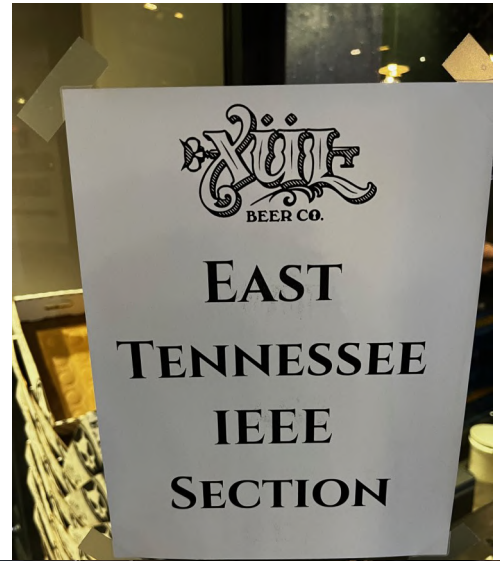

Pictured L-R collage of pictures taken during the competition and winners of the competition.

The Atlanta Section is the largest in Region 3 and understands the responsibility that comes along with it. Thereby ensuring that it continues to provide unique opportunities for its members and also partnering with other Sections inside the region, nation and internationally.

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE East Tennessee Section
Thomas Karnowski [karnowskitp@ieee.org]
https://r3.ieee.org/et/

The East Tennessee Section of Area 4, Region 3 held their first in-person meeting since before Covid on Nov 12, 2024 at XUL Beer Company in Knoxville, TN. Thirty IEEE members signed up for the event. Food was catered by next-door Don Gallo Mexican Restaurant. Two presentations were given: Tom Karnowski, Section Chair, introduced himself, discussed section revitalization and the latest successes within the section, and also shared the upcoming election process. Bruce Webb, a Senior Engineer at Knoxville Utility Board (KUB), presented a talk titled "Life as a KUB Engineer… with an IEEE Perspective", where he shared an overview of KUB, his personal work there, and how IEEE has contributed to his success. The meeting was well received and attended, and all members are looking forward to future meetings.

The gathering

Chatter in the Room

The Presentation

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Orlando Section
Chapters' Conference and Awards Banquet
Masood Ejaz [mejaz@valenciacollege.edu]
https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/orlando/

The IEEE Orlando Section recently hosted two successful events at Valencia College West Campus, drawing an enthusiastic audience of IEEE members and guests. One of the highlights was the annual Chapters' Conference, held on Saturday, October 19. This event invites each technical chapter and affinity group to nominate a speaker to deliver a technical presentation.

This year's conference featured eight engaging presentations on a diverse range of topics. The speakers included Adriano Urgena (PES), Dr. Teresa Pace (AES), Dr. Kalpathy Sundaram (ED & LMAG), Dr. Nihad Basis (CS), Donna Kocak (WIE), Jiachen Guo (AP/MTT), Michael Orlovsky (TEMS), and Joe Juisai (CN).

On Wednesday, November 13, the IEEE Orlando Section hosted its annual Awards Banquet to celebrate outstanding contributions from engineering students, educators, and professionals. Mr. Michael Orlovsky, Chair of the IEEE Orlando Section Technology and Engineering Management Society (TEMS), delivered an engaging and informative talk on TEMS and the differences between Ph.D. and D.Eng. programs.

The section extends its congratulations to all the award winners: Dr. Sonali Das (UCF) (Outstanding Engineering Educator), Mark Figueroa (Valencia College) (Outstanding Undergraduate Student), Zhenyi Luo (UCF) (Outstanding Graduate Student), and Yuqiang Ding (UCF) (Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship).

IEEE Orlando Section
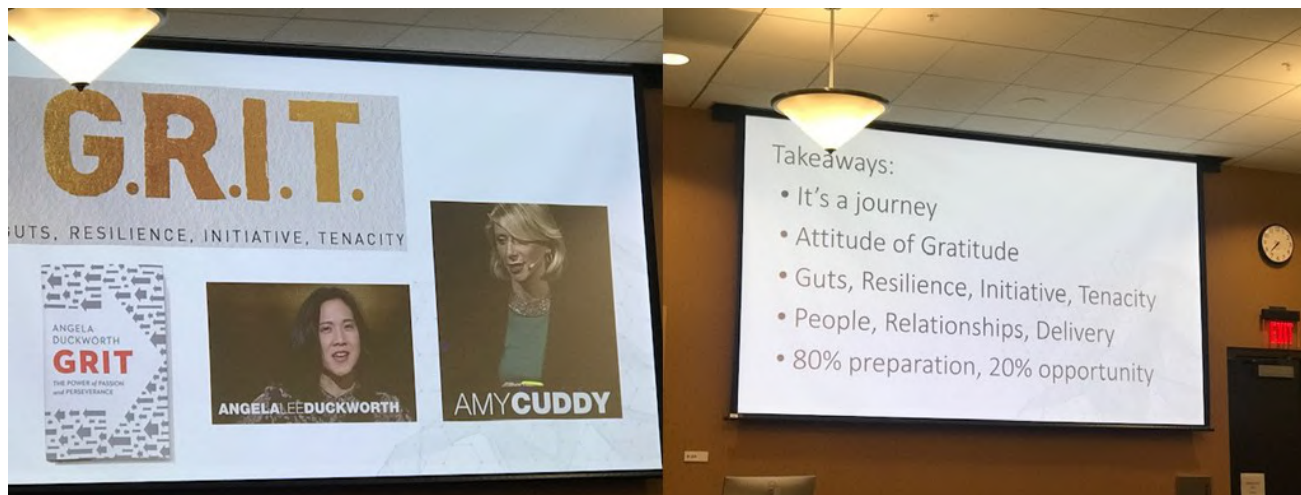*End-of-Year Celebration & EXCom Meeting*
Masood Ejaz [mejaz@valenciacollege.edu] and Raul Ortega [rortega@nuvosource.com]
https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/orlando/

The IEEE Orlando Section & Section Chair Masood Ejaz hosted their annual celebration and final EXCOM meeting event for 2024. The event was held at Valencia College (West) Special Events Center Building. The attendees were treated to a delightful Mediterranean Dinner with several main dishes and delightful desserts.

Following the delicious and plentiful dinner, was a technical presentation on navigating a career in cyber technology by Senior Member Elyson DeLaCruz who gave an in-depth view on how to evaluate career options when in this space and how to avoid possible missteps when choosing alternatives. The evening was concluded with a brief Excom Meeting to announce the results of the 2025 Officer Elections.

Among other distinguished guests were Raul Ortega, Region3/Area3 Chair, and his lovely wife Dee, UCF faculty Varadraj Gurupur and Suboh Suboh, Former Dean of the Division of Engineering and Technology at Valencia College, Paul Wilder, and his son, John Wilder, and several members of the Orlando Section. We are looking forward to a great 2025 for the Orlando Section.

Region 3 Sections News (cont.)

IEEE Savannah Section
Nancy Mead [nrmcmu@gmail.com]
IEEE Savannah Section Treasurer

Reflection on 2024

The Savannah Section started the year with a kickoff dinner, during which we discussed planned events and additional outreach activities.

Over the course of the year, the Section was involved in a number of events, many of which involved community outreach. Our volunteers supported Girls Engineer It Day (GEID) in Savannah early in the year. We had a productive meeting that included Georgia Southern University and South Carolina educational teachers, guidance counselors, and volunteers. That meeting resulted in Section volunteer participation in both the Bluffton and Hilton Head South Carolina career days. Another highlight in the community was participating in the Savannah Engineering Academy (SEA) in Savannah this summer.

We supported a drive to elevate R3 IEEE members to Senior IEEE Members, and also co-sponsored an online webinar with another Section. We additionally had representation from Section officers and students at the 2024 Southeast Con. An IEEE Day event was planned for Georgia Southern University, but we unfortunately had to cancel it due to a hurricane and subsequent power outage in the area.

Looking ahead to 2025

Many of the same events are on tap for next year, starting with Girls Engineer It Day, and we especially continue to look for opportunities to support events that encourage young people to consider STEM careers. Our section continues to have an active student chapter at Georgia Southern University.

Areas that have been challenging

We had hoped to have some industry site visits, and had some initial favorable responses, but these did not happen. We have some industry volunteers who have been active in the Section for years, but increasing those numbers to draw in other industry and academic volunteers has been challenging.

In the same vein, we have been unable to expand the Section Officers to include many roles that would stimulate more member involvement and spread the workload.

Region 3 Student Chapter News

IEEE at Virginia Tech

J.D. Putt [jdputt04@vt.edu] and Sriyah Botlaguduru [sriyab@vt.edu]

2024 proved to be a very successful year for the Virginia Tech chapter of IEEE. We established a different focus for each semester, varying both our goals and events accordingly. The spring semester is a low recruitment time, thus our focus was shifted to establishing stronger student-faculty relationships and fostering a sense of community. This was accomplished through social events structured around creating environments that supported communication. Opportunities of note included our Fun Fridays, HappIEEE hour, and our peer-mentor programs. Fun Fridays fall on the first Friday of every month where faculty members are invited to come enjoy donuts and fraternize with students, with an example being shown on the right. These have been a great success, and even now our attendance continues to increase. HappIEEE hour occurs once a semester and always sees a very large turnout in both students and professors. Here, group games such as trivia push students to build relationships with professors and other students that go beyond the classroom. Lastly, our peer-mentor program placed new engineering students with experienced mentors who assisted in a broad range of tasks that may be difficult for new students to adjust to. This included class registration, studying techniques, and any other unique scenarios that may crop up for inexperienced undergraduates. This helped prepare students for the approaching recruitment season.

The fall semester saw our objectives shift in tune with the rapid increase in company involvement with Virginia Tech. We focused on creating employment opportunities for electrical and computer engineering students, whether it be in the form of a summer internship or a full time position. We were fortunate to see notable companies in the industry seeking involvement with our chapter, including the likes of Texas Instruments, MITRE, Deloitte, CDM Smith, and many more. These events saw a very encouraging turnout and provided a large number of students with industry experience and connections. With an increase in attention from companies seeking student outreach, we saw the importance of continuing to grow our membership. A number of general body meetings were held to inform current members of upcoming events and encourage new visitors to consider participation. The combination of these events created a very successful semester, with companies reaching out excited at the prospect of a return visit and continued communication.

Going forward into 2025 we look back on the great accomplishments from the previous year and seek to carry much of what proved successful into the next. We see the importance of creating focused goals and plan to recreate the semesters' individual objectives. With a year of experience under our belt, we have seen the obstacles that arise and are excited at the prospect of providing more opportunities with a new streamlined efficiency. In the spring semester, we anticipate the return of all aforementioned social opportunities and are looking to develop new ways to create stronger bonds within the electrical and computer engineering departments. Looking to the fall of next year, it was encouraging to see the positive response from both

(Continued from page 28)

companies and students. Virginia Tech has a populace of students that are highly sought after due to the high quality of our education, and we are proud to help facilitate this process. With that said, we would like to host even more company events connecting inexperienced undergraduate students with industry in a professional environment. Overall, 2024 held many triumphs and with the garnered experience we believe in an even stronger 2025

The role of AI in Revolutionizing Cybersecurity for a Safer Digital Future

Enema Edmund [enuma.edmund@ieee.org]
Cybersecurity Expert and Advocate for Digital Resilience

As the digital world becomes increasingly interconnected, the cybersecurity landscape faces growing complexities. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) offers an unprecedented opportunity to address these challenges, bringing innovation to the forefront of security strategies. With its ability to analyze, predict, and respond to threats, AI is transforming cybersecurity and shaping the future of digital resilience.

AI: The Game-Changer in Cybersecurity

AI has emerged as a powerful tool for identifying and neutralizing cyber threats at a scale and speed unmatched by traditional methods. Machine learning models are capable of processing vast datasets in real-time, detecting subtle patterns and anomalies that signal potential vulnerabilities or ongoing attacks. From automated threat detection to predictive analytics,

AI is enhancing the capabilities of security systems to stay ahead of adversaries. One remarkable application is in combating insider threats—one of the most challenging aspects of cybersecurity. AI can analyze user behavior, establish baselines, and flag deviations that may indicate malicious activities or compromised accounts. This proactive approach enables organizations to detect and mitigate threats before they escalate, strengthening trust and operational security.

Addressing Challenges: The Dual Edge of AI

While AI holds immense promise, its adoption in cybersecurity is not without hurdles. Cybercriminals are leveraging AI to create adaptive malware and conduct sophisticated attacks, fueling an AI arms race. This underscores the need for continuous innovation and collaborative efforts to stay ahead of emerging threats.

Additionally, the effectiveness of AI depends heavily on the quality of the data it is trained on. Biased or incomplete datasets can lead to flawed algorithms, producing false positives or overlooking critical vulnerabilities. Ensuring ethical AI deployment, transparency, and robust data management are essential to maximizing its potential.

Human Expertise: The Irreplaceable Partner of AI

Despite its transformative capabilities, AI is not a standalone solution. Human expertise remains indispensable in interpreting AI-generated insights, contextualizing risks, and making strategic decisions. Cybersecurity professionals must work alongside AI systems, combining technological advancements with human judgment to achieve optimal outcomes.

The integration of AI into cybersecurity practices does not just facilitate automation; it enhances the ability of security teams to act decisively and effectively in the face of evolving threats.

AI is redefining the boundaries of cybersecurity, enabling organizations to protect their assets, adapt to new challenges, and foster digital trust. As businesses and institutions navigate this era of rapid technological evolution, embracing AI-driven solutions will be critical to ensuring a secure and resilient digital ecosystem.

However, as we innovate, we must remain mindful of the ethical implications and strive for inclusivity in the benefits AI brings to cybersecurity. Collaboration among industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers will be key to harnessing AI's potential while addressing its challenges responsibly.

2024 WiE Forum East USA: A Recap
Ebonee Walker [erbonee.a.walker@ieee org]

2024 WiE Forum East USA: A Recap

I had the opportunity to attend the annual IEEE Women in Engineering (WiE) Forum East USA held in Stamford, CT, 7-9 November. This year's conference theme was "Own Your Skills" and the inspiring speakers, valuable workshops, and ample networking opportunities brought it to fruition.

Key Takeaways:

- ◆ **Professional Development:** The conference emphasized the importance of continuous learning and skill development. Presentations topics ranged from the importance of developing (and using) public speaking skills to leveraging AI tools for professional tasks to finding a future-proof career trajectory.

- ◆ **Networking:** Building strong professional relationships was a major focus. The receptions, coffee breaks, and lunches provided me the opportunity to meet IEEE Volunteers, Members, and Staff, as well as potential employers.

- ◆ **Outreach:** Inspiring the next generation of engineers was a recurring theme. The STEAM Train program, founded by Donna Hylton, serves as an excellent example of how WiE members can take action to address the underrepresentation of women in engineering.

Future Opportunities:

The success IEEE Region 1+2 have had hosting the WiE Forum East USA for nearly 10 years suggests a strong demand for similar professional development conferences for WiE members within our region. Potential opportunities include proposals for WiE International Leadership Seminars (ILS), which could offer unique opportunities for leadership development and Regional networking.

Challenges and Opportunities:

While challenges persist for women in engineering, there are also opportunities for growth. As Region 3's own Jill Gostin highlighted during her keynote, it's essential to be prepared for obstacles. However, these challenges can also be viewed as opportunities to develop crucial skills. By embracing these opportunities, we can contribute to a more diverse and inclusive engineering community.

I encourage all Region 3 members to reflect on the takeaways and explore ways to apply them, especially in ways to increase women's STEM participation. Let's continue to inspire and empower each other as we strive for a brighter future in engineering.

The world's largest technical professional organization dedicated
to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity

◆IEEE

Deadline Extended!!!
Call for Nominations: 2025 Region 3 Awards
(New Deadline: 22 December 2024)

Help us recognize the outstanding efforts of our volunteers by nominating them for one of the IEEE Region 3 Awards. Each award has a unique mission and criteria and offers the opportunity to honor distinguished colleagues, inspiring teachers, corporate leaders and aspiring students in Cybersecurity.

If you know someone who has made substantial regional IEEE volunteer contributions through innovative projects, exemplary leadership, service, or by fulfilling the goals as related to transnational activities, consider nominating them for one of the following awards:

- Joseph M. Biedenbach Outstanding Engineering Educator Award
- Outstanding Engineer Award
- Outstanding Service Award
- Outstanding Young Professional Award
- Outstanding Education Activity Chair Award
- Professional Leadership Award
- Employer Professional Development Award
- James H. Graham Cybersecurity Scholarship *New Award for 2025!*
- Daniel W. Jackson Award
- Exemplary Section Award
- Exemplary Student Branch Award
- Student Professional Activities Service Award

Please visit the Region 3 Award and Recognition Committee page for [more information on past awardees, award information, and guidelines](). While self-nominations are permitted, peer-recognized submissions are preferred as they provide an additional metric for evaluation.

The deadline to submit nominations is 22 December 2024.

- A complete nomination form with two letters of endorsement by two IEEE members are required to be eligible.

[Nominate a colleague now]()

If the link above goes to the IEEE Awards home page, go to 'My Nominations' under the 'Login' tab. You may need your IEEE account login to access.
Email questions to R3-awards@ieee.org

MOVE
IEEE MOVE-1, MOVE-2, MOVE-3 Respond to Disaster Hurricanes Helene and Milton

By Grayson Randall [g.randall@ieee.org]
Loretta Arellano [l.arellano@ieee.org]

Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend area of the Florida Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm late in the evening of Thursday 26 September 2024. Helene started impacting North Carolina on Friday 27 September. MOVE was requested by North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) to respond to Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Asheville NC to support a shelter that had no power or communications.

After studying the NC DOT maps, there were no open roads into Asheville. All roads were blocked by landslides or were flooded. On Saturday 28 September, with the assistance of NCEM we were given a police escort through areas of closed roads that got us to the shelter in Asheville. When we arrived, the shelter had about 700 people with no power, communications, or running water.

We immediately set up MOVE-1 to supply communications to those running the operation. With internet available, the Red Cross was able to communicate with the Red Cross Operations headquarters to request additional supplies and to update Red Cross headquarters on numbers of people sheltered and the operational needs. We also supplied the deployed NC Incident Management Team (IMT) with communications that allowed them similar communications capabilities with state and local authorities to convey status and needs. We then provided the IMT with a VOIP phone, radios, and technology support. MOVE-1 provided power and communications at the shelter for a 2-week period until commercial power and temporary internet were available at our site. Helene is responsible for at least 241 deaths (119 in NC) and $88 Billion in damage. MOVE-2 was requested and was routed through Charlotte NC where they stopped and picked up Red Cross equipment to be delivered to Asheville.

MOVE-2 was able to enter from the south through I-26 which had been partially opened. They responded to the Red Cross Headquarters (DROHQ) where they were trying to evaluate the needs in the area. But that turned out to be very difficult. With 700 closed roads, 100 missing bridges, and 1700 landslides it was nearly impossible to move about western North Carolina (WNC).

We had military and private helicopters overhead helping to move first responders from all over the US. At one point we had 2700 first responders operating in WNC. Over 1 million people were without power and virtually all cellular communications were damaged and unusable. MOVE-2 was utilized to go to badly damaged communities to allow the residents to charge their phones and use the internet. The truck was located in several communities over a 4-week period.

While MOVE-1 and MOVE-2 were operating in WNC, there was yet another hurricane approaching Florida… hurricane Milton. After discussions with the Red Cross, MOVE-3 was driven from its base in San Diego California to Tallahassee Florida which took about 4 days. MOVE-3 was requested to go to the Red Cross warehouse in Georgia and pick up a load of Red Cross DST equipment. That was delivered to Orlando Florida where they set up and provided equipment for pre-landfall shelters. MOVE-3 was in place in Orlando for the 10 October landfall near Siesta Key, Florida. MOVE-3 spent the next 2 weeks assisting the Red Cross with shelters across western Florida. Storm damage from category 3 Milton is estimated at $85 Billion with 32 deaths.

In the 5-week period starting in late September, IEEE MOVE deployed 3 trucks, 12 volunteer members on the ground, and had 18 volunteer members supporting the deployments virtually. This includes our network team, weather team, maintenance team, and radio club. The MOVE trucks provided the Red Cross and NCEM the tools they needed to operate in catastrophic conditions to support those in great need. For me, I continue to see pictures of the catastrophic destruction in WNC and know it will take years to recover but will never be the same. It is very sad but I am grateful that IEEE MOVE has the equipment and skills to assist in such operations. If you have an interest in supporting the MOVE mission, please sign up at https://bit.ly/MOVE-SIGNUP or donate at http://bit.ly/DONATION-MOVE

IEEE Member Receives Prestigious Doctoral Fellowship at Virginia Tech

William LaBelle [w.labelle@ieee.org]
Region 3 Newsletter Editor

Frank Efe Erukainure *(Member, IEEE)* was among the only ten PhD students and the first two Africans in 2023 to receive the prestigious Virginia Tech Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) Doctoral Scholars Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to the highest-caliber doctoral students from a competitive pool of top applicants to the Virginia Tech Graduate School. Frank is a Ph.D. student in Virginia Tech's Department of Biological Systems Engineering. He received the B.Eng. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, and the M.S. in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering from the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology.

Frank began his career in 2019 as a graduate assistant at the Department of Mechatronics Engineering, Federal University Otuoke, Nigeria, and rose to become a lecturer. As a lecturer, he was an instructor for several undergraduate courses in automation, control, and robotics. He has published several research papers in leading journals and conferences in the areas of soft robotic tactile sensing, artificial intelligence, and biosensing.

As a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, Frank's research focuses on developing soft robotic and sensing systems for biomedical applications and precision agriculture – such as soft robotic actuators, manipulators, and biosensors for health monitoring and soft tissue manipulation. He has contributed his expertise as a peer reviewer for leading journals and conferences in his research area, including the IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, IEEE ICRA, IEEE Access, Artificial Intelligence Review, Sensors and Actuators A-Physical, and many other leading journals. He has also been **recognized for his active** and exemplary service in judging for the QS Reimagine Education Awards and Conference, organized by the QS Quacquarelli Symonds and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Frank is open to collaborating with industry and academia in his research on the electromagnetic actuation of soft robotic manipulators and he can be reached at frankerukainure@vt.edu. He aims to contribute to the goals of the IEEE through cutting-edge research and servant leadership.

IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 – Call for Company/University Involvement
James Conrad, PhD [jmconrad@charlotte.edu]

The annual IEEE Region 3 Student and Technical conference, ***SoutheastCon 2025: Industry and Academia in Partnership***, will be held at the Charlotte-Concord, NC Embassy Suites and Convention Center from March 28 through 30. This conference attracts 500 - 600 students and 200 - 300 IEEE professionals each year. There is over 40,000 sq. feet of convention space and there will be ample room for all of the planned activities.
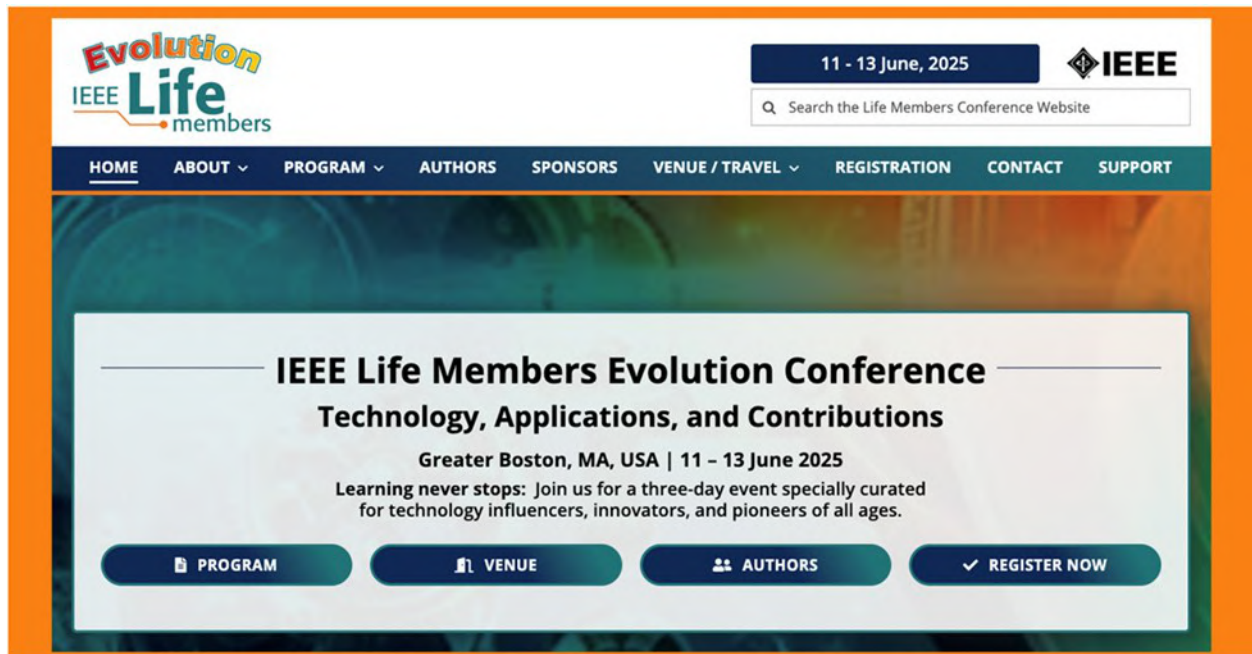
The conference activities include:
- A technical conference portion comprised of workshops, tutorial sessions, technical paper sessions, poster sessions, and technical exhibits (tables). The topics include the broad discipline of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- A student conference portion, which **attracts the brightest ECE students and university faculty from across the Southeast USA**. Specific activities include:
  ◊ Robotic hardware and software competitions.
  ◊ Professional development workshops on Friday and Saturday. Several companies and practicing engineers will talk about various technologies, business practices, and experiences as a young engineer.
  ◊ A student career and graduate program fair (company and graduate school tables).
- The Region 3 volunteer leader's meetings.

There are many opportunities for companies, organizations, and universities to participate, including:
- Conducting one-hour or two-hour workshops on products and product lines.
- Conducting a one-hour or two-hour workshop on a professional development skill.
- Participating in the student job and graduate program fair/expo (Friday and Saturday).
- Hosting a lunch or dinner, underwriting a student competition, or providing funding for conference "giveaways" (T-shirts, lanyards).

For more detail, visit the conference Patron/exhibitor website at: https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/elementor-5585/ or contact: Jim Conrad, Technical Program Chair, at 704-687-8597 or jmconrad@charlotte.edu.

Registration is Open for

2025 IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference

The 2025 IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference will be held from June 11 to 13 at the Joyce Cummings Center at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts (Boston). Join us and experience the future of technology with an event featuring world-class speakers, a new Technical Papers track, and valuable networking opportunities. Open to all interested technology enthusiasts; this conference will bring together technology professionals from across the globe to explore emerging technologies and how these new technologies impact seniors in the population.

To learn more and register, visit lifemembersconference.ieee.org

Call For Papers

IEEE Life Member Evolution Conference 2025 invites submissions of original research papers, reviews, and case studies from IEEE Members and other professionals for its Technical Program. The conference technical program will promote collaboration and share advancements in technology products, services, and processes developed for or directed at an aging population. Apply at:
https://lifemembersconference.ieee.org/authors/

Topics of Interest for Submissions:
- Technological Innovations
- Computing and Informatics
- Industry Applications
- Professional Development

Open to all interested technology enthusiasts, the second IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference will focus on the evolution of technology, applications, services, systems, and contributions. Network with industry-based luminaries and technical professionals, learn about emerging technologies, and appreciate the influence IEEE members have on the profession.

IEEE SoutheastCon 2025
Call for Papers

Charlotte/Concord, NC
March 28-30, 2025

Industry and Academia in Partnership

IEEE SoutheastCon is the annual IEEE Region 3 conference that promotes all aspects related to theory and application of engineering disciplines. Sponsored by IEEE Region 3, this event will attract researchers, professionals, and students from across the globe and especially from the southeastern U.S. SoutheastCon 2025 Technical Program will feature tutorial sessions, workshops, and paper presentations

Topic areas appropriate for technical program submission include, but are not limited to:

- Power and Energy Systems
- Computing and Communications Systems
- Signal and Image processing
- Microelectronics, Devices and Electromagnetics
- AI and Predictive Modeling

- Robotics, Automation, and Controls
- Industry Applications: Artificial Intelligence
- Industry Applications: Power and Energy Systems
- Industry Applications: Computing Systems
- General

Technical Paper Submission Information

IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 will distinguish regular from short papers; a regular paper appears as a complete work in the proceedings and is presented in a technical session at the conference; whereas a short paper is published only as a 2-page "extended abstract" and less formally presented as a poster at the conference. SoutheastCon 2025 adopts the IEEE standard conference proceedings format. All submissions should be written in English with a maximum paper length of eight (8) printed pages (10-point font) including figures. Papers have to be submitted in PDF format, and will be reviewed using a double-blind process. Manuscript Templates for Conference Proceedings for Microsoft Word or LaTeX formats are found on https://www.ieee.org/conferences/publishing/templates.html .

Paper due date (2025): January 15 (FIRM)   Notification to authors: February 15   Camera Ready Papers: March 1

Plagiarism and Double Submission

Papers are reviewed on the assumption that they do not contain plagiarized material and have not been submitted to any other conference at the same time (multiple submissions). These matters are taken very seriously, and IEEE will act against any author who has engaged in either practice. See the IEEE web pages on Intellectual Property Rights, Plagiarism and Multiple Submissions for further guidance:

http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/rights/index.html
http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/rights/plagiarism.html
http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/rights/Multi_Sub_Guidelines_Intro.html

Call for Tutorials, Workshops, & Demonstrations

SoutheastCon 2025 is accepting proposals for one to four-hour tutorials, workshops, and technical demonstrations. These sponsored activities will be made available to all conference attendees (appx. 800 professionals and students). Contact the Technical Program Chair, Jim Conrad (jmconrad@uncc.edu) for more information.

Conference information and the full CFP can be found on the SoutheastCon 2025 website
https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/

IEEE SoutheastCon 2025

"Industry and Academia in Partnership"

March 22-23, 2025 - Virtual Technical Conference

March 26-30, 2025 - In-Person Conference

Embassy Suites

Concord (Charlotte), NC

IEEE SoutheastCon

Important date:
    Last Date to Submit a paper: January 15, 2025
    Notification to Authors: (rolling reviews - last notification February 15, 2025
    Camera Ready Papers: March 1, 2025

https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/

IEEE Conferences in Region 3

2025 IEEE Electrical Energy Storage Applications and Technologies Conference (EESAT)

20—21 January 2025 | Charlotte, North Carolina | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Power & Energy Society
Field of Interest:	Power, Energy and Industry Applications

2025 Annual Reliability and Maintainability Symposium (RAMS)

27—30 January 2025 | Destin, Florida | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	ASQ Electronics and Communications Division; ASQ Reliability and Risk Division; IEEE Reliability Society; Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology - IEST; Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers - IISE; International System Safety Society (ISSS); SAE International; Society of Reliability Engineers
Field of Interest:	Aerospace; Engineering Profession; General Topics for Engineers; Power, Energy and Industry Applications

2025 IEEE International Workshop on Antenna Technology (iWAT)

19—21 February 2025 | Cocoa Beach, Florida | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society; Orlando Section
Field of Interest:	Communication, Networking and Broadcast Technologies; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Engineered Materials, Dielectrics and Plasmas; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics

2025 IEEE IAS Electrical Safety Workshop (ESW)

3—7 March 2025 | Jacksonville, Florida | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	Florida Council, IEEE Industry Applications Society
Field of Interest:	Engineering Profession; General Topics for Engineers; Power, Energy and Industry Applications; Transportation

2025 IEEE Applied Power Electronics Conference and Exposition (APEC)

16—20 March 2025 | Atlanta, Georgia | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Industry Applications Society; IEEE Power Electronics Society; Power Sources Manufacturers Association
Field of Interest:	Components; Circuits, Devices and Systems; Power, Energy and Industry Applications

SoutheastCon 2025

22—30 March 2025 | Concord, North Carolina | Event Format: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

Sponsors:	North Carolina Council; Region 3—Southeastern USA
Field of Interest:	Aerospace; Bioengineering; Communication, Networking and Broadcast Technologies; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Computing and Processing; Engineered Materials, Dielectrics and Plasmas; Engineering Profession; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics; General Topics for Engineers; Geoscience; Nuclear Engineering; Photonics and Electrooptics; Power, Energy and Industry Applications; Robotics and Control Systems; Signal Processing and Analysis; Transportation

IEEE Conferences in Region 3

2025 IEEE Wireless and Micrwave Technology Conference (WAMICON)

14 - 15 April 2025 | Cocoa Beach, Florida | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society
Field of Interest:	Aerospace; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Engineered Materials, Dielectrics and Plasmas; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics; Photonics and Electrooptics

2025 IEEE 5th International Conference on Digital Twins and Parallel Intelligence (DTPI)

22 - 24 April 2025 | Atlanta, Georgia | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Council on RFID
Field of Interest:	Aerospace; Communication, Networking and Broadcast Technologies; Computing and Processing; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics; General Topics for Engineers; Geoscience; Power, Energy and Industry Applications; Signal Processing and Analysis; Transportation

Call for Papers Deadline: 13 January 2025

2025 IEEE International Conference on RFID (RFID)

22 - 24 April 2025 | Atlanta, Georgia | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Council on RFID
Field of Interest:	Communication, Networking and Broadcast Technologies; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Computing and Processing; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics; General Topics for Engineers; Signal Processing and Analysis

Call for Papers Deadline: 13 January 2025

2025 Systems and Information Design Simulation (SIEDS)

2 May 2025 | Charlottesville, Virginia | Event Format: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

Sponsors:	IEEE Systems Council; University of Virginia
Field of Interest:	Computing and Processing; Engineering Profession; General Topics for Engineers; Robotics and Control Systems; Transportation

Call for Papers Deadline: 10 February 2025

2025 IEEE International Radar Conference (RADAR)

16—20 March 2025 | Atlanta, Georgia | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Industry Applications Society; IEEE Power Electronics Society; Power Sources Manufacturers Association
Field of Interest:	Aerospace; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Fields, Waves and Electromagnetics; Geoscience; Signal Processing and Analysis

2025 IEEE-IAS / PCA Cement Industry Conference (IAS/PCA)

4 - 8 May 2025 | Birmingham, Alabama | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Industry Applications Society; Portland Cement Association
Field of Interest:	Engineering Profession; Power, Energy and Industry Applications

IEEE Conferences in Region 3

2025 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

19 - 23 May 2025 | Atlanta, Georgia | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Robotics and Automation Society
Field of Interest:	Robotics and Control Systems

2025 10th International Conference on Fog and Mobile Edge Computing (FMEC)

19 - 22 May 2025 | Tampa, Florida | Event Format: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

Sponsors:	Florida West Coast Section; University of Tampa
Field of Interest:	Communication, Networking and Broadcast Technologies; Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Computing and Processing; Robotics and Control Systems

Call for Papers Deadline: 15 January 2025

2025 19th International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG)

26 - 30 May 2025 | Tampa/Clearwater, Florida | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Biometrics Council; IEEE Computer Society
Field of Interest:	Computing and Processing; Signal Processing and Analysis

2025 IEEE / CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)

10 - 17 June 2025 | Nashville, Tennessee | Event Format: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

Sponsors:	Computer Vision Foundation - CVF; IEEE Computer Society
Field of Interest:	Computing and Processing

2025 IEEE IAS Pulp and Paper Industry Conference (PPIC)

15 - 19 June 2025 | Murfreesboro, Tennessee | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Industry Applications Society
Field of Interest:	Power, Energy and Industry Applications

2025 IEEE 26th Workshop on Control and Modeling for Power Electronics (COMPEL)

22 - 26 June 2025 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Event Format: In-person

Sponsors:	IEEE Power Electronics Society
Field of Interest:	Components, Circuits, Devices and Systems; Computing and Processing; Power, Energy and Industry Applications

Call for Papers Deadline: 21 March 2025

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