



March 2021

Volume 25, Issue 2

<https://r1.ieee.org/maine/>



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## Announcements

The Section is a sponsor of the Maine State Science Fair on April 3.

## Upcoming Events

### A Successful Career in Engineering Consulting and Design

Thursday, March 25, 12:45 PM to 1:45 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Mike Lantier of H2M Architects + Engineers will discuss the challenges and rewards associated with being an engineering consultant, and the expectations of an engineer in this field. Sponsored by NYIT, IEEE NYIT Student Branch, and IEEE R1 Student Activities Committee. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263296> for more info.

### Architecting AI Systems for Deep Learning Recommendation

Friday, March 26, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Carole-Jean Wu of Facebook AI Research will highlight recent advances on AI system development for deep learning recommendation and the implications on infrastructure optimization opportunities across the machine learning system stack. Hosted by Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Visit [https://events.seas.harvard.edu/event/architecting\\_ai\\_systems\\_for\\_deep\\_learning\\_recommendation](https://events.seas.harvard.edu/event/architecting_ai_systems_for_deep_learning_recommendation) for more info.

### Nonlinear, Switch-Like DNA Amplification for Molecular Diagnostics

Thursday, April 1, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Stephanie McCalla of Montana State University will discuss novel DNA amplification chemistries with highly non-linear output: an accumulation of reaction products produces a DNA output that functions as an endogenous switch. These high-gain outputs can be applied to molecular diagnostics and DNA-based logic gates. Hosted by IEEE EMBS Providence Chapter. Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/265764> for more info.

### Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture

Thursday, April 1, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Aadith Moorthy of ConserWater Technology, Dr. Naresh Devineni of The City College of New York, and Dr. Steven Thomson of the U.S. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will discuss developments in AI for Agriculture. Part of the University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Webinar Series. Visit <https://ai.umaine.edu/webinars/> for more info.



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## Section Officers

### Executive Committee:

Chair: [Betina Tagle](#)  
 Vice Chair: [Alisha Chaney](#) (she/her)  
 Treasurer: [Shengen Chen](#)  
 Secretary: [Ashanthi Maxworth](#)

### Standing Committee Chairs:

Membership Development Chair:  
[Rich Hilliard](#)  
 Newsletter Editor: [David Klein](#)  
 Webmaster: [Doug Sprague](#)  
 Public Relations Committee:  
[Ron Brown](#)  
 Professional Activities Committee:  
[Dick Wilkins](#)  
 Educational Activities Committee:  
[Matt Ring](#)  
 Student Activities Committee:  
[Lauren Mayhew](#)  
 Audit Committee: [Ron Brown](#) &  
[Ali Abedi](#)  
 Member at Large: [Daniel Spacek](#)  
 IEEE Student Chapter faculty  
 advisors: [Jude Pearse](#) (UM) &  
[Mustafa Guvench](#) (USM)  
 HKN Student Chapter faculty  
 advisor: [Ali Abedi](#)

### Technical Chapter & Affinity Groups (AG) Chairs:

Young Professionals AG Chair:  
[Matt Dube](#)  
 Women in Engineering AG Chair:  
[Sonia Naderi](#)  
 Electron Devices + Solid-State  
 Circuits Societies Joint Chapter  
 Chair: [Jifa Hao](#)  
 Communications + Computer  
 Societies Joint Chapter Chair:  
[Julia Upton](#)  
 Power & Energy + Industry  
 Applications Societies Joint  
 Chapter Chair: [Jesse Shank](#)  
 Engineering in Medicine & Biology  
 Society ME/NH/VT Joint Chapter  
 Co-Chair: [Rosemary Smith](#)

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## Upcoming Events [continued from page 1]

### Pseudo-Randomness, Complex Zeros of Polynomials, and Hardness of Sampling from Small Quantum Devices

Thursday, April 1, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

[Dr. Saeed Mehraban](#), a post-doc scholar at the [California Institute Technology](#), will discuss quantum pseudo-randomness and the geometry of analytic functions in the context of quantum computing. Hosted by [Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#). Visit [https://events.seas.harvard.edu/event/guest\\_speaker\\_saeed\\_mehraban\\_postdoctoral\\_scholar\\_california\\_institute\\_of\\_technology](https://events.seas.harvard.edu/event/guest_speaker_saeed_mehraban_postdoctoral_scholar_california_institute_of_technology) for more info.

### 2021 Maine State Virtual Science Fair

Saturday, April 3, 7:30 AM, Online judging; general public viewing session not available

Sign up to be a judge! An exciting opportunity for Maine high school students to pursue their interest in science and engineering, and to present the results of their projects to fellow students and expert STEM professionals. IEEE Maine Section is a sponsor. See Page 18 below or visit <https://www.jax.org/mssf> for more info.



### Maine Center for Research in STEM Education Colloquium

Monday, April 5, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

[Dr. Virginia J. Flood](#), of the [University at Buffalo, SUNY](#) will speak on a topic to be announced. Dr. Flood researches multimodal communication (especially gesture) and the role of the body in STEM teaching and learning. To join the presentation, sign up for the RISE e-mail list by contacting [risecenter@maine.edu](mailto:risecenter@maine.edu). Visit <https://umaine.edu/risecenter/event/rise-colloquium-virginia-flood/> for more info.



### Towards 3D+ Printing of Metals and Alloys

Tuesday, April 6, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, **Free** via Zoom; find the "join" link on info page

[Prof. Raymundo Arróyave](#) of [Texas A&M University](#) will discuss recent advances on the design of functionally graded materials (FGMs) for Metal Additive Manufacturing in which chemistry and properties are spatially tailored by controlling deposited composition on a layer by layer basis. Also discussed will be recent work on metal 4D-printing, in which tailoring the thermal histories during 3D printing improves spatial control over transformation characteristics. Hosted by [MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#). Visit [http://calendar.mit.edu/event/MSE\\_Seminar\\_Aroyave](http://calendar.mit.edu/event/MSE_Seminar_Aroyave) for more info.

### Organic Antenna-In-Package Designs for Millimeter Wave Applications

Thursday, April 8, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Realization of mmWave antennas within a multilayer organic (MLO) substrate is difficult due to assembly, material selection, and manufacturing tolerance challenges. [Dr. Duixian Liu](#) of [IBM T. J. Watson Research Center](#) will discuss the challenges and some solutions related to such Antenna-in-package (AiP) designs. These AiP design technologies for mmWave phased-array applications are expected to impact mmWave 5G mobile communication systems and open new opportunities and advance development for imaging and other adaptive multi-function systems. Hosted by the [IEEE Antennas & Propagation Society, Montréal Chapter](#). Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/261585> for more info.

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## Upcoming Events [continued from page 2]

### Young Professionals Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 8, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, via WebEx; **Free Registration required**

A panel discussion on nontechnical career topics. The panel is comprised of young professionals with substantial post-graduate experience. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions. Hosted by IEEE Connecticut Section Young Professionals. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/265582> for more info.



### Spectrum Situational Awareness Through Distributed RF Sensing

Thursday, April 8, 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Andrew Portune of Perspecta Labs will discuss the importance of RF spectrum Situational Awareness (SA) and how advances in RF technology are enabling a revolution in this space. Specific attention will be paid to leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence for classification and in future development for autonomous sensor network configuration. Hosted by IEEE North New Jersey Section AESS, TEMS, and ComSoc Chapters. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263634> for more info.

### IEEE Sections Congress Virtual Training 2021

Friday, April 9 to Sunday April 11, **Free Online for IEEE members; Registration required**

IEEE Sections Congress brings together the volunteer leaders from every member country to share ideas and solutions. Volunteers can apply what they learn to bring new ideas and insights to their Sections, Chapters, and Affinity Groups. Networking sessions will allow for exchanging ideas and best practices. Visit <https://sections-congress.ieee.org> for more info.



### Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare Equity Conference (Virtual)

Monday, April 12, 9:00 AM, Online; **Free Registration required**—Limited number of tickets available

The Conference will assess the current state-of-the-art work in this space, identify key areas of impact, and present machine learning techniques that support fairness, personalization, and inclusiveness, and discuss regulatory and policy implications of such innovations. Hosted by the MIT Jameel Clinic. Visit <https://www.jclinic.mit.edu/equity-conference> for more info.

### 5G Is Almost 3 Years Old: Meeting Expectations or Waiting for More?

Monday, April 12, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

There was enthusiasm and skepticism as 5G was being developed. So how is it going? Dr. Robert A. DiFazio of RZio LLC will take a brief look at the evolution of cellular standards, the expectations, the many successes, and the failures, with a focus on the current state of 5G. Sponsored by NYIT, IEEE NYIT Student Branch, and IEEE R1 Student Activities Committee. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263297> for more info.

### IEEE Maine Section Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

Monday, April 12, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, via Zoom

### Space Radiation Effects – Modeling the Environment for Systems Analysis

Wednesday, April 14, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

The space environment presents many natural hazards, one of which is a harsh radiation environment. Dr. J. Brent Parham of MIT will discuss how analysis of this environmental risk can be included in the system engineering process. Hosted by the IEEE Boston/Providence/New Hampshire Reliability Chapter. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263541> for more info.

### RF Based Health Sensing and Human Activity Recognition

Thursday, April 15, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Jiang Zhu of Google will review of recent work related to health sensing and human activity recognition based on wearables, radar, and RFID technologies. Aspects related to miniaturized wearable antenna for cross-body communication and radar antenna array miniaturization will be discussed. Applications and future trends of this research will be also presented. Hosted by the IEEE Antennas & Propagation Society, Montréal Chapter. Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/261578> for more info.

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## Upcoming Events [continued from page 3]

### What Do The Best Consultants Do To Get Clients?

Thursday, April 15, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Online; **Free Registration required**

Consulting is a relationship business built on trust. Consultants build trust by focusing on displaying credibility and providing value to clients even before they become a client. But how does a consultant connect with a potential client? How does a consultant display credibility and build trust leading to a potential client wanting the consultant's help? This session provides an overview of five organic steps aimed at helping consultants and contractors get clients. Walk away not only with an overview of the steps but ideas to help you with lead generation and on-going client nurturing. Hosted by IEEE-USA. Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/265185> for more info.



### 2021 University of Maine Virtual Student Symposium

Judging: Monday, March 29 to Monday, April 12, Online

Symposium: Friday, April 16, 9:00 AM, Online; **Free Registration required**

Sign up to be a judge! The annual Student Symposium provides an opportunity for the public to interact one-on-one with UMaine students as they present their research and creative work. Projects are showcased through virtual presentations. Visit <https://umaine.edu/umss/> for more info.



### Lightning Interaction with Transmission and Distribution Power Systems

Wednesday, April 21, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, **Free** via Zoom; details to be posted at <https://www.emcsbostonchapter.com/events>

The major mechanisms by which lightning over-voltages are produced in power transmission and systems will be discussed. The over-voltages' general characteristics will be evaluated, along with their dependence upon the network configuration. The presenter will be Prof. Dr. Alexandre Piantini, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Hosted by the IEEE EMC Society Boston Chapter. Visit <http://ieeeboston.org/event/lightning-interaction-with-transmission-and-distribution-power-systems/> for more info.

### The Big Game: Hunting for Reliable Access to Secure Electronics

Friday, April 23, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Online; **Free Registration required**

Recent headlines exposing automotive electronic shortages that impact production have highlighted escalating U.S. electronic supply chain issues and the reliance on foreign design and manufacturing for key components. An IEEE-USA panel will discuss the FY2021 National Defense Appropriations Act's directive to protect access to advanced microelectronics. Gain insight from industry leaders into solutions to measurably secure electronics needed for critical capabilities. Hosted by IEEE-USA. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/264981> for more info.



### 5G Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC) and Related Applications

Monday, April 26, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Sanyogita Shamsunder, Vice President of Technology Development and 5G Labs at Verizon, will discuss 5G MEC and related applications. The idea behind MEC is that by performing processing tasks closer to the cellular customer, network congestion is reduced and applications perform better. MEC technology is designed to be implemented at cellular base stations or other edge nodes. Sponsored by NYIT, IEEE NYIT Student Branch, and IEEE R1 Student Activities Committee. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263298> for more info.

### IEEE Women in Engineering International Leadership Conference (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 27 to Friday, April 30, Online; see [registration webpage](#) for admission pricing info—Early Bird ends April 13

The IEEE WIE ILC aims to support and sustain women IEEE leaders and technologists. Enhance your leadership skills and knowledge of the tech industry, while networking with 1000+ STEM leaders from around the world. This year's keynote speakers include Dr. Mae C. Jemison, Stacey Abrams, Sandy Carter, Lynne Doherty, Sandra L. Rivera, Julie Coker, Ann Francke, Kavitha Prabhakar, and Susan M. Armstrong. Visit <https://ieee-wie-ilc.org> for more info.



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## Upcoming Events [continued from page 4]

### Connecting the Oceans to Space: Developing A Floating Renewably-Powered Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Servicing Platform with LEO Constellation Data Uplink

Wednesday, April 28, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) provide persistent ocean observations and measurements, but are limited by battery capacity and onboard processing power, and must be retrieved to download most data. Dr. Maha Haji of Cornell and MIT will discuss efforts to extend the range and endurance of AUVs while reducing data latency and operating costs, utilizing renewable energy and data uplink via low-Earth orbit satellite constellations. Hosted by the Boston Chapter of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS). Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/264832> for more info.

### RFID for Human Activity Sensing: Challenges, Solutions, and Applications

Sunday, May 2, 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Online; **Free Registration required**

Dr. Shiwen Mao, an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer, will talk about the various technical challenges on fully exploiting RFID for human activity recognition and tracking, such as frequency hopping and noisy/sparse RFID data, and examine potential solutions. He will review recent works on RFID-based human vital sign monitoring, drowsy driving detection, and 3D human pose monitoring and tracking, and provide his thoughts on future work in the area. Hosted by the IEEE New York Section Communications Society Chapter. Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/265684> for more info.

### IEEE Maine Section Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

Monday, May 3, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, via Zoom

### From Top-Level Design Specification to Detail Design

Tuesday, May 4, 12:45 PM to 1:45 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Ed Palacio of P&L Technical Management Solutions Corp. will discuss the process of breaking down top-level system specifications into detailed design requirements that an individual designer can address. Sponsored by NYIT, IEEE NYIT Student Branch, and IEEE R1 Student Activities Committee. Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263299> for more info.

### Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare

Thursday, May 6, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

The topic will be developments in AI for Healthcare. The speakers will be announced prior to the presentation. Part of the University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Webinar Series. Visit <https://ai.umaine.edu/webinars/> for more info.



### Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces: A Signal Processing Perspective

Monday, May 17, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, Online; **Free Registration required**

Underlying physics makes delivery of wireless broadband services inherently complicated: the signal power vanishes very quickly with the propagation distance and is absorbed or scattered when interacting with objects in the way. Dr. Emil Björnson of the KTH Royal Institute of Technology will discuss reconfigurable intelligent surfaces—an emerging concept for beyond-5G communications—that support the transmission from a source to a destination by deploying metasurfaces to reconfigure how incident signal waves are scattered. Co-hosted by IEEE Montréal Section and several Young Professionals chapters. Visit <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/266024> for more info.



### Progress Reports for the University of Maine's Artificial Intelligence Seed Grants

Thursday, June 3, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

In July, 2020, the University of Maine announced seed grant funding for four artificial intelligence projects (<https://ai.umaine.edu/2020/07/17/seed-grant-announcement/>). The project teams will provide an update on their progress. The speakers will be announced prior to the presentation. Part of the University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Webinar Series. Visit <https://ai.umaine.edu/webinars/> for more info.



## Upcoming Events *[continued from page 5]*

### IEEE Maine Section Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

Monday, June 7, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, via Zoom

### Melt Probes for A Future Europa Lander

Tuesday, June 8, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, via Zoom; **Free Registration required**

Jupiter's moon Europa is believed to harbor not only liquid water but also easily available energy and biologically essential elements. However, these are not readily available at the surface—an ice crust up to 30 km thick covers the liquid water. [Paula do Vale Pereira](#), an Aerospace Engineering PhD Candidate at MIT, will be discussing having built and experimentally tested the performance of a set of melt probes under thermodynamic conditions similar to those of Europa. The probes are designed to test the fundamental thermal properties of melt probes in cryogenic ice. Hosted by the Boston Chapter of the [IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society \(GRSS\)](#). Visit <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/265360> for more info.

### IEEE International Conference on Communications (Virtual)

Monday, June 14 to Wednesday, June 23, Online; see [registration webpage](#) for admission pricing info

One of the [IEEE Communications Society's](#) two flagship conferences dedicated to driving innovation in nearly every aspect of communications. This 5-day event includes distinguished keynote speakers from industry, academia and government sectors; panels and forums; technical sessions featuring peer-reviewed technical papers; workshops focusing on the latest trends in various technology; tutorials delivered by experts in respective disciplines. Hosted by [IEEE Montréal Section](#). Visit <https://icc2021.ieee-icc.org> for more info.



See the [IEEE Region 1 Calendar \(https://r1.ieee.org/calendar/\)](https://r1.ieee.org/calendar/) and [IEEE vTools \(https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/events/search\)](https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/events/search) for more events.

## Chair's Corner



By Dr. Betina Tagle

The IEEE R1 (Maine) Section leadership and committees have been working hard to get everything ready to bring great things to you. In January Maine Section saw new leadership. In February we worked on new Section Operating Procedures and budget. Currently we are enhancing our collaborative communication tools so we can bring you, our members, great information and activities.

The COVID pandemic has brought many challenges and even fatigue to us. We live in a virtual environment and our daily routine patterns have had to change. It has most likely impacted the projects and research we were working on. Now is the time to regroup, refocus, and reenergize. Be looking for us to bring some great activities and information to you. We appreciate our members and rely on each of you!

R/IEEE R1 (Maine) Section Chair



## The IEEE History Center

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## Executive Committee Session

*Editor's synopsis based in-part on draft minutes*

On March 1, the IEEE Maine Section Executive Committee (ExCom) held their monthly session on Zoom.

Meeting minutes from February 2021 were approved without objections.

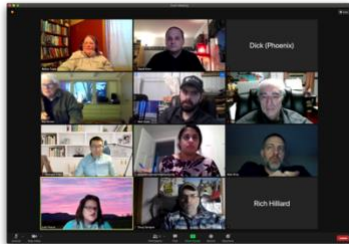
Section Chairperson **Betina Tagle** led a discussion on [IEEE's](#)

[vTools system](#) and its importance to IEEE reporting and event organizing. She put forward the idea of assigning a vTools coordinator who will oversee the vTools training and reporting processes for the Section.

Betina also brought-up discussion points from an [IEEE Region 1](#) regional meeting she attended: co-hosting events with other IEEE member sections, an IEEE point system for hosting events, and the potential for collaborating with other member sections. Public Relations Chair **Ron Brown** suggested that Maine Section might look to co-host events with nearby sections of similar size and demographics to Maine Section, since that would facilitate networking and since they may also be looking to stage events after in-person events become possible again.

Betina raised the idea of creating a [Senior Member](#) chapter similar to the [Young Professionals'](#) chapter. Section [Professional Activities Committee for Engineers \(PACE\)](#) Chair **Dick Wilkins** discussed previous efforts to engage Senior Members. Ron commented that the Senior Members are scattered across the state, and the importance of increasing their participation. He also gave a few examples on successful past events.

Ideas that were floated about how to better engage Senior Members, including creating membership



cards associated with local discounts and organizing more events on topics-of-interest to Senior Members. The previous Maine Section Chair, **Walter Rawle**, did a survey by polling Senior Members. Young Professionals Chair **Matt Dube** shared his recent experience on polling Young Professional members.

Betina raised a question to the Executive Committee on the effectiveness of Zoom: is it helpful or not? Ron responded that it is effective to work with people whom we already know. Dick commented on the importance of having virtual events given the large size of the state. This led to a discussion of the AI Webinars, and the possibility of launching an AI Webinar series in the May–June time frame, based on the huge success of the previous webinars.

As the next item on the agenda, Section Treasurer **Shengen Chen** presented the Treasurer's Report. There he mentioned that IEEE Maine Section and all associated chapters were able to earn a [10% bonus](#) (based on 2020) for having filed their financial reports before an early deadline. The bonus will be available by the second quarter of 2021.

Over the last month IEEE Maine Section has sponsored two events: [Maine State Science Fair](#) (to be held on April 3) and the [Maine Engineering Week Expo](#) (held on February 27).

For the Maine State Science Fair, IEEE Maine Section has contributed a total of \$1,750. Dick elaborated on the breakdown of funds: \$1,000 was from the Maine Section budget and \$750 from the IEEE R1 for PACE. As a Fair sponsor, the Section will be able to declare an award, display our logo, and be recognized as a sponsor at the Fair's awards ceremony. For February's Maine Engineering Week Expo, IEEE Maine Section's total contribution was \$500.

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Presenting updates on membership development, Membership Development Chair **Rich Hilliard** mentioned statistics from the membership database and the potential for attracting new members, while retaining the current members. Possibilities for offering incentives to new members discussed. Rich invited the ExCom leadership team to send new ideas his way.

Commenting on this point, Section Member-at-Large **Dan Spacek** suggested the IEEE life insurance enrollment offer associated with IEEE membership as a method of attracting new members. (**Editor's Note:** see Dan's discussion of IEEE insurance below on this page).

Presenting the updates on IEEE Young Professionals chapter, Matt brought up the results from the recent poll on future event ideas, including guest speakers, lunch-and-learn events, and presentations from the Patent Office. University of Maine Student Chapter faculty advisor **Jude Pearse** also mentioned some potential guest speakers.

The discussion of the Maine Section's revised operating procedures was moved to April. The importance of deliberating without violating confidentiality was emphasized during the short discussion on the operating procedures.



A new IEEE Maine Section Logo was approved by unanimous vote. The new Logo had been approved by IEEE Branding, prior to the vote.

Further discussions on website, social media, and vTools were moved to the April Executive Committee meeting.

Dan asked whether it is possible to get funding for guest speakers. For that, Ron and Dick mentioned that usually speakers are given IEEE branded gifts (mugs, pens, bags, etc.) instead of monetary gifts. As a closing item, Betina mentioned that she is in the process of ordering IEEE-branded items for the Section ExCom team and inquired about preferences on what items to order.

## IEEE Group Insurance Plans



*By Daniel W. Spacek  
Maine Section  
Member-at-Large*

A great benefit of IEEE membership is the **insurance program**.

At age 67, I paid \$7.95 per year per thousand dollars of **Term Life** coverage (after a volume discount, a premium

discount due to plan's financial performance, and a non-tobacco user discount). I have never seen a lower rate in offers from other companies. I also purchased **IEEE professional liability insurance** for my consulting work.

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for US, Puerto Rico & Canada

**IEEE Member Group Insurance Program**

[IEEEInsurance.com](http://IEEEInsurance.com)

For more information, please visit <https://www.ieee insurance.com/us>.

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## Making New Friends; The Hardest Aspect of Moving



By Dr. Ashanthi Maxworth  
Maine Section Secretary

Let's get real—in today's world we have to move to where the work is. Within the last eight years I moved

multiple times. I was born and raised in Sri Lanka, a small tropical island in the Indian Ocean. As a family of four, my parents were very protective of me and my sister. In December 2012 I moved to Denver, Colorado, for my graduate studies at the [University of Colorado Denver](#). My advisor was [Prof. Mark Golkowski](#) and I was his first PhD Student. I had a great time in Colorado. In December 2017—exactly five years later—I moved to Saskatchewan, Canada, for a postdoctoral fellowship. There I realized: I don't enjoy a research position without teaching. So I thought of giving my luck a try and started applying for faculty positions. Thanks to my lucky stars I got a tenure track faculty position at the [University of Southern Maine](#).

In academia, the more institutions you have on your resume, the more experienced and qualified you are. I affirm this statement, since living away from home helped me to grow as a person. I was an immature girl, grown up in a sheltered environment. But after moving halfway across the globe, I had to take care of everything all by myself. So I *had to* grow up. Over the years I moved across countries for studies and work, while gaining work experiences and learning about people.

Moving is stressful, time consuming and burns money. But the hardest part of moving is making new friends. Denver and Saskatchewan were very different. Denver was a diverse, vibrant big city, whereas Saskatchewan was quiet and homogeneous. Both places had two different cultures. As a foreigner moving solo, it was important for me to make friends. In Denver it was easy. So I had many friends inside and outside of work. After moving to Saskatchewan, I made a

mistake of trying to make friends at work, while trying to fit into the wrong circle. It taught me a big lesson, which is 'get-in where you fit in, and not fit-in where you get in'. Most importantly, I learnt the importance of having friends outside of work. Either way, I had good friends both in Denver as well as in Saskatchewan.

In this article, I want to write about three things that might help anybody who is planning on moving—especially if you are moving alone—based on my experiences.

### 1. Join a group class outside of your work

In Denver, I joined a Zumba class. I was a nerdy grad student in EE. I was in a bad mood one day and my friend Bonnie said, 'let's go to Zumba'. So we went to Cathy's Zumba class on [Auraria campus](#). It was my first time trying Zumba. Not only did that class put me in a good mood, Cathy and I became very good friends. I did Zumba for two and half years until I left for Canada. I met a lot of other good friends through that class. We did fun things every weekend.

In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, there was a spin class very close to my apartment building. One day I thought: I need to go and see that they do. It was July 2018. From then until March 2020 (until they temporarily closed due to the pandemic) I was a hard-core, early morning, daily spinner. I was such regular, that one day I slept through my alarm and the instructor Chandrée was so worried about me. I met many fun-loving ladies through the spin classes. One of them—Joy—brought me cupcakes during the early days of quarantine. During those times I was getting ready to come to Maine. Hence started the long process of obtaining a visa and I was desperate to get a visa appointment. Given the pandemic closures, my initial request was rejected. That day I hit the rock-bottom. I was about to go

[Continues Next Page]

for a dinner at Chandrée's place that day and I wanted to stay in my apartment and cry. When I told her this bad news her response was 'that reminds me we need more wine'. I went to her place, cooked dinner, met two of her cool friends, and had a fabulous time. I am so glad I did not cancel my plans that day to sulk in sadness.

Apart from spinning, I also joined a Spanish conversation class when I was in Saskatchewan. Living in Colorado, I always wanted to learn Spanish but there was never a good time. In Saskatoon I had more free time on my hands, so why not. When the campus advertised about conversation classes, I registered. One valuable friend I met there was Dona, who let me and my cat stay at her home, while I got my visa approved to come to Maine. Also, Holly and Chuck invited to their home for Thanksgiving.

I think I have made my point clear: we all need friends outside of work. Work environments can be judgmental. A work-place is not always a safe space. The purpose of joining a group class outside of work is to meet people who are non-judgmental about you as a colleague. Also, it is important to be in a 'class' or something of that sort with some structure. The structure is important so you are committed to attending without making excuses. Human connections take a little time to build, so it's important to give that time.

Now, given that we are in the recovery end of a pandemic, it is difficult to meet people in person. So after moving to Maine, I reactivated my Meetup.com account. Via Meetup, I joined a meditation group and a yoga class. So far, I have been attending consistently and making new friends, including one lady from my home country Sri Lanka. The takeaway message: we can still meet new friends regardless of time.

## 2. Go to places alone

Going to places in person might be tricky due to the pandemic. But without violating the safety

protocols if you can do so, I highly recommend going to restaurants and coffee shops 'ALONE'. When I was in Denver, I had no issue going to a restaurant alone for a meal. I was not shy or worried. I was good at starting up a conversation with a waitress or a barista. After moving to Saskatoon, I did not go out for a year or so. I was very shy for some reason. I was worried about what other people think of me.

One day I went for a workout, and was very hungry. So I went to a famous brunch place there. Since I was alone, I was seated at the bar. Guess what? From that day onwards, I went there every weekend after my workout and asked the hostess to seat me at the bar. I got to chat with those young waitresses and dishwashers. They were all undergraduates on campus working part-time at the brunch place. They needed help on their academic planning, career development etc., which were right up my alley.

On the first day, I met the young bartender Andrea. I told her I was about to go Christmas shopping right after brunch. She gave me a free donut. That was the beginning of our friendship. Next weekend, I gave her the Christmas gift I got for her. After completing my meal, I was waiting for my check, when I Andrea told me 'you can hang out, but you are not getting a check, it's all paid off'. I tried to negotiate, but Andrea won.

Same case with Stephanie, the friendly barista at Starbucks. After spin class I used to have coffee at the Starbucks next to it. Stephanie was such a friendly person. We became such good friends that she invited me to her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Moving alone is hard. One can argue moving as a family is harder because then everyone in the family needs to be satisfied with the move. On the other hand, I can say moving alone is harder since there is no family support and friendships play a bigger role. Whether you are moving alone or as a family, I recommend going out to places alone if you want to

make friends. When you are alone, other people talk to you. Like us, everyone around us is also looking for friends.

### 3. Find part-time job

This is hard for me to do now as a faculty member. But when I was a grad student I used to do many part-time jobs. My first part-time job was as a summer conference assistant at the Campus village in the summer of 2013. After that summer, I continued to work there for two more years. I worked as a receptionist there and later as a summer leasing manager. Those jobs had nothing to do with my research work or with engineering. But I enjoyed being at the front-desk greeting people. It was very nice to see hundreds of faces every day.

As I became more senior as a graduate student, I became a tutor, a graduate instructor, and then a lecturer. Since I wanted to be a professor one day, I gave priority to my teaching jobs. As I was becoming an experienced teacher, I gradually gave up on my desk job at the campus village. But, I still go there whenever I visit Denver. I am thankful for all those opportunities.

I highly recommend this for introverts. I consider myself as an extrovert. Therefore, other than the occasional shyness, I never had an issue talking to people. That's not the same for introverts. Having a part-time job forces you to talk to others, which

comes in handy for introverts, since when you are at a job, talking to people is a must and not an option.

In summary, I think no matter what, as social beings we all crave for friendships. Every new friend is a new experience. Some of you might have friends that you grew up since childhood. But if you have moved at least once, you know how hard it is to make new friends. On the good side, when we build friendships from scratch, we can choose our friends and our friends choose us. I can guarantee that I am a mature person now thanks to all the people I met along the way.

On a personal note, writing this piece was like therapy. Denver, Colorado, was my happy place. I was a star grad student and a busy teacher. I met many people every day and had many friends. But, as I mentioned before, when I moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, I tried to fit into the wrong circle at work. That fitting-in process had a bitter outcome and I ended up being emotionally wounded. I never envisioned writing about people I've met in Saskatchewan with the same heartfelt feelings as about the people I've met in Denver, Colorado. While writing this piece I realized I was wrong. I've met valuable human beings at both places and I cherish their companionships forever!

Hope they feel the same about me!

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## Half-Off IEEE Student Membership Discount

New and renewing IEEE students and graduate students can now save 50% on their membership dues. Students wishing to take advantage of the 50% discount can do so by using the promotion code FUTURE50 during the online check-out process

for [joining or renewing](#) their IEEE membership. Students who recently renewed or joined at full price can reach out to the IEEE Contact Center at: [contactcenter@ieee.org](mailto:contactcenter@ieee.org) and request a credit on future membership dues.



## Meet the 2021 Maine Section Officers

Continuing last month's introduction of the IEEE Maine Section's leadership team, here are a few more:



### Student Activities Committee Chair

**Dr. Lauren Mayhew**

Dr. Mayhew earned her Doctorate in Computer Science from [Colorado](#)

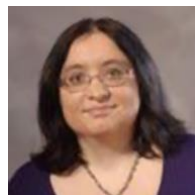
[Technical University](#) in 2017. She currently serves as Department Chair and Assistant Professor of [Computer Science](#) at [York County Community College \(YCCC\)](#) and Adjunct Faculty of [Computer Information Systems](#) at the [University of Maine Augusta \(UMA\)](#). She currently serves as the YCCC College Cabinet, Faculty Chair; Vice Chair, YCCC Faculty Union; Chair of Student Activities, IEEE, Maine Chapter; and serves on several school and joint program advisory groups in York County.

Her prior work included the [Kennebec Learning Center](#) and the [Augusta](#) and [Gardiner Adult Education Centers](#) to train Aspire and workforce development students in Web development and computer repair. She also taught PC repair and troubleshooting and web design classes with [Capitol Computers](#), a for-profit training and certification facility, for several years.

She is actively involved with [Women in Cyber \(WiCys\)](#), [Girls in Tech](#), [Million Women Mentors](#), [Women in Technology International \(WITI\)](#), and the [Association for Computer Machinery \(ACM\)](#).

Previously, she served as President of the [Colorado Technical University \(CTU\)](#) Alumni Board, and Vice Chair of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Maine Chapter for two years. In 2019, she was named to the Editorial Review Board for the [International Journal of Strategic Information Technology and Applications \(IJSITA\)](#).

In her spare time, Dr. Mayhew enjoys cycling, kayaking, fly-fishing, writing novels, and walking/hiking.



### Communications Society/Computer Society (COM/CS) Joint Chapter Chair

**Dr. Julia Upton**

Julia was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, on the banks of the Caspian Sea. The daughter of a Russian army officer, Julia toured the former Soviet Bloc extensively, spending half a decade each in Kazakhstan and Hungary, before settling in St Petersburg, Russia. At age 16, Julia entered [Moscow State University](#), Russia's premier institution of higher learning. She distinguished herself studying symbolic logic in the Philosophy department, and at the age of 18 won an International Scholars competition which allowed her to come to the US to study at the [University of Alabama](#), where she earned a BA in Philosophy and a BS in Chemical Engineering.

Julia spent the next five years working as a process engineer and a research scientist before realizing that the corporate world was not her cup of tea. She returned to the University of Alabama, where she earned her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Mathematics, with a [dissertation on Quantum Computation](#). Julia's current research interests lie in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, with a focus on Neural Networks and Deep Learning.

Julia's love of learning has always gone hand in hand with her desire to teach, and she has taught not only mathematics, but philosophy, German, and Russian as well, to a variety of students, from graduate students to high school and middle school students (as a [Graduate Fellow on a National Science Foundation GK-12 grant](#)). She is an [Associate Professor of Mathematics and Data Analytics](#) at [Husson University](#), and a 2020 [IEEE VoLT program](#) graduate.

[Continues Next Page]



**Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society ME/NH/VT Joint Chapter Co-Chair**

**Dr. Rosemary Smith**

Rosemary Smith graduated from the [University of Rhode Island](#) with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering, and from the [University of Utah](#) with a PhD in Bioengineering. She worked for two years as a Research Scientist at the [Swiss Center for Microtechnology](#) in Neuchâtel, where she developed new chemical microsensor fabrication technology. She subsequently spent two years at [MIT](#) as the Sinclair Visiting Assistant Professor prior to joining the faculty of the [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#) at [UCDavis](#) in 1988. At UCDavis, her research focused on applications of silicon micromachining to sensors and actuators for a wide range of applications, including automotive, aeronautic, and biomedical, with funding from [DARPA](#), [NSF](#), [NASA](#), [NIH](#), industry and private foundations.

In 2003, she joined the faculty at [UMaine](#) where she has a split appointment in the [Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering](#) and the [Frontier Institute for Research in Sensor Technology](#). She is also a cooperating faculty member in the [Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering](#) and a steering committee member of the [Graduate School for Biomedical Science and Engineering \(GSBSE\)](#).

Professor Smith is a senior member of the IEEE and is currently serving as co-Chair of the Northern New England Chapter of the [IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society \(EMBS\)](#). She also serves as Associate Editor for the Springer journal [Biomedical Microdevices](#). She has authored over 160 technical articles and has been awarded 10 U.S. patents. Her current research focus is the development and application of microfabricated devices for biomedical research, including silicon microneedle arrays and microfluidic devices to control cell culture environments.

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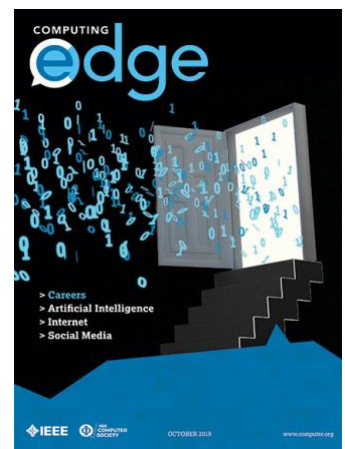
Blockchain



Security



Software Development

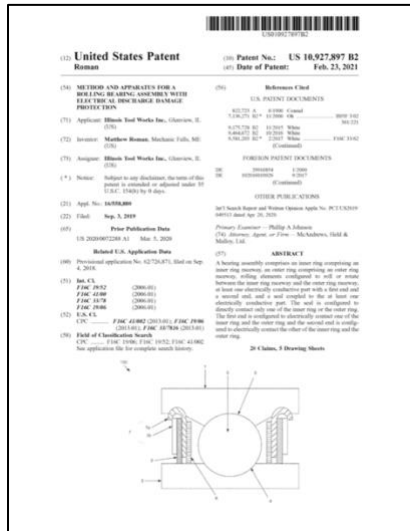


Artificial Intelligence

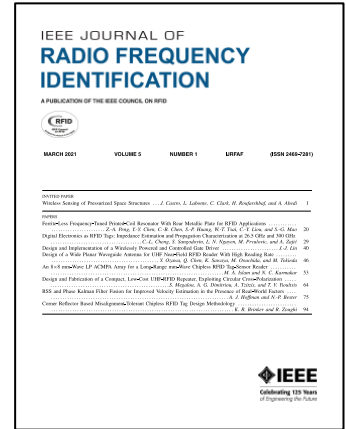
### Member Accolades

Congratulations to the IEEE Maine Section members who recently received patents or were published:

On February 23, 2021, the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued **U.S. Patent 10,927,897 B2**, entitled “Method and Apparatus For A Rolling Bearing Assembly With Electrical Discharge Damage Protection.” Maine Section member **Matthew Roman** of Mechanic Falls is listed as inventor.



In the March 2021 issue of the **IEEE Journal of Radio Frequency Identification**, IEEE published “Wireless Sensing of Pressurized Space Structures.” Maine Section member **Ali Abedi** is listed as a co-author.



On March 17, 2021, in the **Proceedings of the 2021 IEEE 11th Annual Computing and Communication Workshop and Conference (CCWC)** held January 27-30, 2021, IEEE published “Data Structures for Ordered Short Character-Sequences.” Maine Section member **Sudarshan S. Chawathe** is listed as author.

### Help with Publishing through IEEE Conferences and Journals

Have you considered publishing your research though an IEEE conference or in an IEEE journal? IEEE sponsors over 1,900 conferences and events that give technology professionals the opportunity to share innovations and interact one-on-one with the community.

IEEE recently launched a new **conferences section** on the **IEEE Author Center** website. This new section provides an easy way to find the best conference to showcase your work, in addition to sharing best practices and guidance on how to become a conference author. Topics related to ethics, how to write a paper, what an author should know about peer review, and what is necessary to get a paper



published are addressed. These new resources also provide step-by-step instructions and a suite of tools to enhance your overall publishing experience as an author with IEEE. Visit <https://conferences.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org> for more info.

If presenting at a conference doesn't appeal to you, consider publishing in an IEEE journal, which are **consistently ranked at the top of their fields**. The Author Center can help save you time and effort, with authoring tools and resources that will help you write, prepare, and share your research better. Visit <https://newauthors.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/author-tools/> for more info.

## Become a Senior Member

Senior Member is the highest grade for which IEEE members can apply, and is regarded as a recognition of your peers for technical and professional excellence.

IEEE members can self-nominate, or **be nominated**, for Senior Member grade. To be **eligible** for application or nomination, candidates must:

- Be engineers, scientists, educators, technical executives, or originators in **IEEE-designated fields**
- Have experience reflecting professional maturity
- Have been in **professional practice for at least ten years** (with some credit given for time in school earning certain degrees)
- Show **significant performance over a period of at least five of the years** in professional practice

*IEEE-designated fields* are:

- Engineering
- Computer sciences and information technology
- Physical sciences
- Biological and medical sciences
- Mathematics
- Technical communications, education, management, law and policy

Examples of *significant performance* include:

- Substantial engineering responsibility or achievement
- Publication of engineering or scientific papers, books, or inventions
- Technical direction, or management of important scientific or engineering work, with evidence of accomplishment
- Recognized contributions to the welfare of the scientific or engineering profession
- Development or furtherance of important scientific or engineering courses that fall within the IEEE designated fields of interest
- Contributions equivalent to those of the above in such areas as technical editing, patent prosecution, or patent law, provided these contributions serve to advance progress substantially in IEEE designated fields

The time periods demonstrating significant performance **do not** need to have occurred in the years immediately prior to the application.

Candidates must supply **three references** from current IEEE members holding the grade of Fellow or Senior Member. While it may be beneficial to know your references, it isn't required. To see a list of potential references in the Section, log into **IEEE Collabratec**, select the "People" tab, select "Maine Section" in the left-hand column, and under "Member Status," select "Senior Member," "Life Senior," "Fellow," and "Life Fellow." Many of them would be happy to help you, but if you would like assistance arranging references, please **contact Section Chair Dr. Betina Tagle**.

Applications are submitted online. When you apply, upload your resume/CV, which should clearly specify the date ranges establishing your relevant work experience and highlight the areas of your experience that show *significant performance*. It is **essential** to thoroughly document relevant dates and the specific activities that demonstrate *significant performance*. There is no need to highlight routine job responsibilities.

Contact your references early and provide them your resume/CV. You will need their IEEE member number for your application. After you submit your references' member numbers, they will be sent what they need to submit their comments.

If you are being nominated by the Section rather than self-nominating, **do not** create your own application, as it will be created for you.

Visit <https://www.ieee.org/membership/senior/> for general info, click [here](#) for frequently asked questions, and [here](#) for checklists and deadlines.

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### 2021 IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Virtual Conference

HPEC is the largest computing conference in New England and is the premier conference in the world on the convergence of High Performance and Embedded Computing. We are passionate about performance. Our community is interested in computing hardware, software, systems and applications where performance matters. We welcome experts and people who are new to the field. Hosted by [IEEE Boston Section](#).

*Submission Deadline: Friday, July 9, 2021*

*Notification of Acceptance: Friday, August 13, 2021*

*Camera Ready Deadline: Tuesday, August 31, 2021*

*Conference: Tuesday, 21 September to Thursday, 23 September 2021, Online*

Visit <http://iee-hpec.org/cfp.htm> for more info.



### 2021 Virtual IEEE International Symposium on Technologies for Homeland Security

The HST symposium brings together innovators from leading academic, industry, businesses, Homeland Security Centers of Excellence, and government agencies to provide a forum to discuss ideas, concepts, and experimental results. This year's event will showcase emerging technologies in Cyber-Security, Frontier Technologies, Climate Resilience, and Borders Enforcement. Produced by IEEE with support from [IEEE Boston Section](#) and [IEEE-USA](#), and organizational support from [MIT Lincoln Laboratory](#) and [Raytheon](#).

*Submission Deadline: TBA*

*Conference: Monday, November 8 and Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Online*

Visit <http://iee-hst.org> for more info.

### 2023 IEEE International Ultrasonics Symposium (IUS)

Present the latest developments in the field of ultrasonics, ferroelectrics, and frequency control. Hosted by [IEEE Montréal Section](#).

*Paper Submission Deadline: Saturday, April 1, 2023*

*Conference: Tuesday, September 5 to Friday, September 8, 2023*

Visit [https://conferences.ieee.org/conferences\\_events/conferences/conferencedetails/51837](https://conferences.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/51837) for more info.

**Search IEEE's Call for Papers Database** of over 1,800 conferences for opportunities to submit abstracts and papers in your field of interest by visiting <https://publication-recommender.ieee.org/home>. The search results provide key data at a glance, including conference titles, locations, submission deadlines, and conference dates. This search tool can also be used to search over 190 periodicals for non-conference publishing opportunities.

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This collection includes handbooks, textbooks, reference works, and other professional books, with



new books being added every year. Some books must be downloaded a chapter at a time, while others (particularly newer books) can be downloaded in their entirety as a single pdf. (Ignore the red "lock" symbols on chapters shown on a book's description page—Xplore will allow you access.)

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## Call for Articles and Events

The Beacon and Maine Section website are always looking for content. In particular, please share:

**Events:** Upcoming live engineering, science, and professional development events in Maine. Please let us know about the event at least four weeks beforehand, although we will try to accommodate shorter notice when practical. With your submission, please provide: (1) what organization is presenting the event, (2) the date and time of the event, (3) how/where the event will be presented (e.g., interactive online video, physical in-person location, etc.), (4) whether advanced registration is required (and the deadline to register, if applicable), (5) whether there is any cost to attend, and (6) a URL and/or contact e-mail address where interested parties can obtain more information.

**Articles:** We are interested in original technical, professional development, college-life, and Maine-interest articles, as well as opinion pieces about issues relevant to the engineering community. Original graphics and photographs are encouraged. Length is flexible.

**Patents and Publications:** Please let The Beacon know if you are presenting a paper at a conference, have recently been published in a peer-reviewed journal, or have recently received a U.S. Patent.

**Newsworthy Stories:** Do you know about something that might be of interest to IEEE Maine Section members that might have otherwise escaped their attention? If it is something that you've seen in media or in a press release, please provide a link to the source so that we may provide proper attribution.

**All submissions are subject to editorial review. Please refrain from submitting content that is intended to promote a commercial product or service.**

Send submissions by e-mail to: [IEEEMaineBeacon@gmail.com](mailto:IEEEMaineBeacon@gmail.com).

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## Maine State Science Fair -- Call for Judges



*Celebrating 75 years*

### Call for Judges

**April 3, 2021**

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Virtual

We're seeking judges in the following areas:

- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Computer Sciences
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Physical Sciences



**REGISTER NOW!**  
[jax.org/judge](https://jax.org/judge)

*This year's fair will be held online.*

Category judges will work on panels to select the top three projects in each category. Students will present their projects live via video in our new RocketJudge platform.

Special Awards judges will assess projects asynchronously during a period of time before the event to review students' project materials.

**New this year:** All judges will have access to the students' abstracts, posters, and short project videos prior to the fair!

Questions? Contact Stefany Burrell, [sburrell@mmsa.org](mailto:sburrell@mmsa.org).

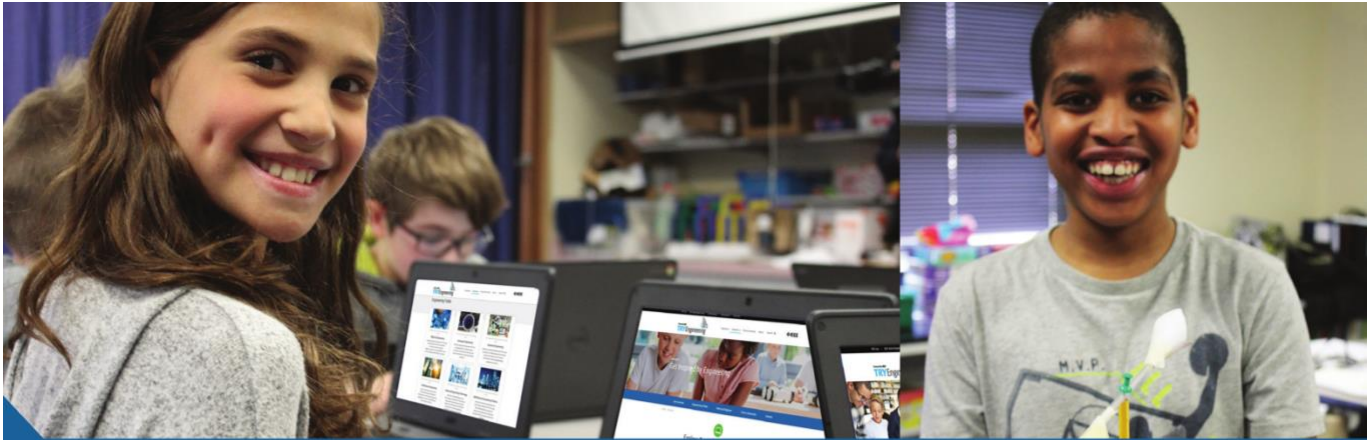
A collaboration of



The 2021 Maine State Science Fair will use a new platform called [RocketJudge](https://www.rocketjudge.com), allowing judges to see students' posters, abstracts, and lab notebooks in one place. This platform will also host all interviews between judges and students, and handle scoring. Students will provide short videos describing their projects which can be viewed prior to the Fair.

Special Award judges will be given a week or so before the event to review their projects. Category and Scholarship judges will still be doing live interviews on the morning of April 3. Register at <https://www.jax.org/judge>. When registering, you can select which type of judge you would prefer to be, if you have a preference.

## TryEngineering



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**TryEngineering.org** aims to empower educators to foster the next generation of engineers and technology innovators. The site provides educators and students with pre-university resources that engage and inspire.



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The **TryEngineering Summer Institute** is an exciting two-week, on-campus engineering summer camp for high school students held at three premier universities across the United States.

The Institute sparks enthusiasm in engineering and technology in the next generation of problem-solvers and difference-makers, and positions these innovators for long-term success in academics and in life. **Give us two weeks, and we'll give you a new definition of what it means to be an engineer.**



**TryEngineering Together** is a STEM e-learning experience that partners grades 3-5 students with e-mentors (volunteer STEM professionals and enthusiasts) excited to share their love of STEM. Mentors correspond with a student for an academic year sharing ideas, experiences and thought-provoking questions about STEM articles they read together and engineering challenges completed by students in the classroom.



For more information on these programs visit [tryengineering.org](http://tryengineering.org) or email [tryengineering@ieee.org](mailto:tryengineering@ieee.org)



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