The Beacon

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In This Issue

From the Chair ...

First, I'd like to apologize for the tardiness of the previous Beacon issue. Most of you that receive your copy through the mail didn't receive the September issue until mid October.   Our circulation volunteers have corrected the issue (many thanks!) for the time being, and we are actively working on solutions to ensure this won't happen again. For those of you who are accessing *The Beacon* through the web, the September issue was available by Labor Day - another reason to transition to the web only version, if it is feasible for you.   For those of you using the web version of *The Beacon,* please feed back any comments to the Editor, or myself. In the last Beacon issue, we focused on how the Maine Section is organized and the process by which you receive *The Beacon.* I like to receive any feedback on what you thought of the article, questions on how we are organized, or any other topic.

In this issue, I'd like to focus on our future. The future of our Maine Section IEEE depends in part, on the active, dependable volunteers who staff our committees and also the general membership of Maine that support IEEE. However, I believe the lifeblood of any organization is only as good as its ability to recruit new members and promote awareness early in life. The IEEE as a world-wide organization is focusing a lot of its membership development efforts on the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Program. This is an effort to actively recruit

News from the USM and UM IEEE Student Branches

Editors note*: The Student Branch Counselors at USM and UM,* **Carlos Luck** *and* **Bruce Segee***, have kindly given us a look at some of their activities for this year.*

University of Southern Maine

USM has an enthusiastic group of students serving as IEEE Student Branch Officers this year. Several activities are planned, including two visits to local companies, both planned for the Spring of 2000. During our biweekly meetings in the Fall we are running a series of videos produced by IEEE called "Career for Electrical Engineering & Computer Scientists." A student members donated two fresh turkeys which are being raffled as part of our fundraising efforts. The Branch is also organizing a technical essay contest, with prizes sponsored by the University, a local company and the Maine Section of IEEE. For more information, visit www.ee.usm.maine.edu/ ~ieee.

Prof. Carlos Luck, Electrical Engineering

University of Maine

This year the **UM** IEEE Student Branch has outstanding membership numbers compared to the last few years. We have greater attendance at our biweekly meetings and see more interest in events. We have a few trips planned for the upcoming semester.   One of these trips is a tour of Sensor Research and Development Corporation in Orono. We also are continuing our service of a coffee shop in Barrows Hall for all students.   We have expanded a little in anticipation of the Memorial Union Expansion closing down some of the eateries.   One of our main

and help bridge the gap between college students (and student membership) to the job market (and membership). The Maine Section IEEE is becoming more involved in this program as we develop activities over the year to specifically target the more recent college graduates. One of the issues identified at a national and international level is that there is a perception that IEEE is not meeting the needs of these younger engineers. The GOLD Program is designed to help with this perception and also make real recommendations that benefit these younger engineers. If you have any questions or ideas on how to better accomplish this, please contact myself or the GOLD Program Chair, Nathan March: nate@quadic.com, (207)773-2662 x55.

One way to recruit young engineers is by having strong ties to the college years and help make this experience positive. We have two very active Student Branches in the state. They are on the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine (Orono) campuses. The Branch members elect officers every year and have many interesting activities and meetings. We in the Maine Section are always trying to forge a stronger and more interactive bond with the students of the state. I had many positive (and sometimes even fun) experiences while I was a student member at Orono. You can keep up with the Student Branch activities by periodically visiting their web sties:

USM: http://eeunix.ee.usm.maine.edu/~ieee/
UMaine: http://www.eece.maine.edu/IEEE/

For those of you without web access, please contact either the Student Branch Counselors or the Section Student Activities Chair listed below:

USM - Dr. Carlos Luck: luck@usm.maine.edu,
      (207) 780-5583
UM - Dr. Bruce Segee, segee@eece.maine.edu,
      (207) 581-2212
Maine Section - Bill Glendinning, wglen@ieee.org,
      (207) 644-8104.

The next step is to promote engineering at the secondary level. One of the primary opportunities is during National Engineer's Week. Maine Section IEEE is an active sponsor of this activity in Maine. Many members volunteer to speak at schools around the state on various engineering topics. This is an area that could be expanded during that week and also throughout the year. Please send me your ideas on how the IEEE can further promote engineering at the secondary level. And if you wish to become more involved promoting engineering at the secondary level, please let us know and we will take this information to the National Engineer's Week planning meetings.

As you can tell from this article, and my last, there are a lot of activities being worked on or planned in the Section. Unfortunately, there are only so many volunteers presently working to bring them to fruition. As I will probably continue to mention, we are always looking for volunteers to work on these activities and sometimes even lead them. If you are interested, no matter what amount of time you have to contribute, please contact me.

Thanks,
   Ron
      ron.osgood@fairchildsemi.com
      (207) 775-8068

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focuses this semester is recruiting first-year students. We would like to see them get involved right from the start. We are also planning activities that are completely unrelated to Engineering. These events are a chance to get away from the studying for a while and relax, such as pool or bowling. One of the major objectives we are pursuing is a student lounge in

Barrows Hall. We feel that the students need a place to relax between classes and maybe talk about homework or exams that are coming up. This year is going well for the IEEE and we hope to keep the momentum strong.

Prof. Bruce Segee,
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Two Reminders

1. Please visit the Section website at: www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/ to obtain the latest information on Section activities. Also if you are willing to give up your snail-mail Beacon in favor of an e-mail message that will let you know when the latest Beacon is available on-line, please e-mail me at gelliott@eece.maine.edu .

2. If you have five or more years of engineering experience why not get some deserved recognition and upgrade your IEEE membership grade to **Senior Member?** The whole process can be done on-line at www.ieee.org. Select IEEE membership on the first page and go from there. Contact the editor if you need to know the names of Maine SM's.

Computer and Electron Device Society Announces a New Scholarship Award

The Maine IEEE Computer and Electron Device Society recently announced the establishment of two $250 scholarship awards. The awards will be paid to winning students from the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine. The awards are open to any student currently enrolled in an Electrical Engineering or Computer Science undergraduate program at the University of Maine or the University of Southern Maine, who have completed a minimum of 30 credits with a GPA of at least 2.50. To apply for the awards, each student must submit a paper containing elements of each of the following topics:

- *Why you chose Electrical Engineering or Computer Science.*

- *The most enjoyable aspects of the program thus far.*

- *Your future plans for the first 5 years after graduation.*

The papers must be received by January 30, 2000. The papers will be judged for content and clarity by the Maine IEEE Computer and Electron Device Executive Committee. If you have any questions about the awards or would like a poster announcing the awards, please contact Dave Potts at potts@ieee.org.

The Annual Magic of Christmas Concert and Dinner Social Set for December 11

For 20 years the Portland Symphony's "Magic of Christmas" concerts have been the brightest event of the holiday season. And for quite a few years the Maine Section has built a wonderful social event around the concert. The schedule this year is as follows:

> *4:00 PM Social at F. Parker Reidy's*
> *5:00 PM Dinner at F. Parker Reidy's*
> *6:30 PM Kotzschmar Organ Concert*
> *7:30 PM Magic of Christmas featuring the*
> *   Portland Symphony Orchestra*

F. Parker Reidy's is located at 83 Exchange St., Portland (5 minute wald to City Hall, park on street or in city lot). Although it is too late to purchase concert tickets at groups rates through the Section, all may not be lost. Tickets may still be available to purchase through the PSO ticket office (see website at portlandsymphony.com/). And it may still be possible to make dinner reservations a Parker Reidy's. So do not despair. Make an effort to participate in the best Section social event of the year. You are sure to enjoy the company and the music!

USM and UM IEEE Student Branch Officers for 1999/2000

	UMaine	USM
Chairman	**James A. W. Cook**	**Nate Charland**
Vice Chairman	**Megan Hutchinson**	**Julie Stultz**
Secretary	**Robert Reynolds**	**Greg Maher**
Treasurer	**Jamie Guevera**	**Tom Harmon**
BSO Representative	**N/A**	**Andrew Belousov**
Coffee Shop Manager	**Jesse Cousins**	**N/A**
Counselors/ e-mail addresses	**Prof. Bruce Segee/** segee@eece.maine.edu	**Prof. Carlos Luck** / luck@robotics.ee.usm.maine.edu

Beacon Publishing

The Beacon is published on a monthly schedule based upon the need to advertise upcoming meetings. All material submitted for the Beacon must be received by the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which it should be included. Sorry, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

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