

the Beacon

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Chair's Column

by *Ian Goepfert*, Section Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

I want to wish you a productive and prosperous New Year. I am enthusiastic about the year before us. We are in the process of developing a series of speakers for 2005 that will bring to light some of the most exciting technical achievements impacting our industry. As speakers and schedules are confirmed the information will be posted to the IEEE website (www.ieee.org/maine).

Note that the IEEE website is an excellent resource for technical information, career resources, industry standards, and conferences, for example. Also, it is important that our section maintains an active role on defining the technical roadmap for our industry in the State of Maine as well as establishing a presence in the regional, national, and international components of the IEEE. The IEEE is the largest technical

society in the world and as such is the instrument through which the activeness of our members will define our professions and careers in the years to come. With this in mind, I ask you if you want to contribute to defining your career objectives, become an active member of the Maine section. You may contact any of our officers published on the website to provide your input. Your input to our society is the grass roots movement that ultimately establishes the direction of the IEEE locally, nationally and internationally.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

New Senior Members

The following Maine Section members are our latest Senior Members:

Jun Cai
Mark A. Miller
Habtom W. Resson

Congratulations!

Attention Section Members!

Your IEEE Beacon has adapted a distribution scheme whereby the usual method of sending you the Beacon will be e-mail. (Some issues of the Beacon will be mailed to all members.) If you wish to continue receiving paper copies of all Beacons, please complete and mail the following form to the address shown. If you have previously filled out a similar form requesting paper copies of the Beacon, it is not necessary to complete the form again.

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IEEE Maine Section PACE Meeting

Is Consulting for Me?

Presented by:

Jeffrey M. Goldberg, Qualware Instructional Services

Wednesday, 16 March 2005

Have you ever thought about going into business for yourself? Who hasn't! This presentation by Jeffrey Goldberg should give you an excellent overview of what engineering consulting is all about. Hopefully, it will help you to decide whether or not you want to seriously consider a career in consulting. Jeffrey Goldberg has over fifteen years of experience working for himself as a hardware, software, network security consultant and educator. He is a long-time member of the Boston Chapter of the IEEE Consultants Networks and is presently the chairman of that organization. If you have ever thought about becoming an engineering consultant, don't miss this opportunity to learn a lot about what you can expect from a consulting career.

Presentation summary:

Starting with a brief historic review of the formation of IEEE Consultants Networks and with details on the Boston Chapter, this talk is a down-to-earth interactive discussion of the ups and the downs of running a consulting practice. This meeting will answer the questions:

- Is consulting the career for you?
- Can I make a go at being my own boss?
- How to start your practice
- Methods for finding and keeping clients
- Tips for the beginning and intermediate consultant

A sample of a few of the topics that could be covered based on audience interest:

- What is the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks (part of IEEE-USA)?
- Finding and keeping clients
- Managing a small business
- Setting rates
- Dealing with competition
- Staying current and securing jobs in new terrain

Lecturer's biography:

Jeff Goldberg, of Qualware Instructional Services, is a long time innovative user of UNIX and Internet services. Mr. Goldberg currently develops and delivers customized corporate training classes along with very flexible scheduling, to avoid project disruption, in the fields of IT operations, operating system and computer languages. Specialties include UNIX Fundamentals, Perl and Shell Scripting, Linux/UNIX System Administration and TCP/IP Networking, Web Technologies such as Visual Basic, Java Script, PHP Apache, C++, Java and SQL Database Access, Computer and Network Security.

Location: Down-East Village Restaurant Motel, 705 U.S. Route 1, Yarmouth, ME, Telephone: (207) 846-5161

Directions: Do a Google search under "Down-East Village Restaurant Motel near Yarmouth ,ME" to obtain detailed directions

Meeting Agenda:

- 5:30-6:00 PM Social (Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres, cash bar)
- 6:00-7:00 PM Served dinner (Choice of baked haddock or baked stuffed chicken breast)
- 7:00-8:00 PM Presentation

Cost and registration:

The cost of the meeting is \$25 per person, payable at the meeting.. Please register no later than Monday, March 14 by contacting George Elliott, with your menu selection, at (207) 990-2350 or gelliott@eece.maine.edu

**Maine Engineers Week Events are
Announced for Friday and Saturday,
February 25 and 26, 2005**

Friday, February 25th

The **Maine Engineer's Week 2005 Banquet** will be held at Verillo's Convention Center in Westbrook, ME from 6 PM to 9 PM. Verillo's is located near old turnpike Exit 8. The presentation following dinner will be on **The Hydrogen Economy and Maine**. The cost of the banquet is \$35.00 per person. Banquet reservations can be made by contacting:

Isabel Schonewald, P.E.

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

(207) 879-9190 ext. 15

(207) 879-0099, or

schonewald@gza.com

A **Professional Development Program** sponsored by the Maine Society of Professional Engineers (MeSPE) and The University of Maine's Advanced Manufacturing Center will be held at the Verillo's Convention center in Westbrook, ME from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. A summary of the five presentations follows:

(1) Professional Registration—Practice Issues

Presenter: *Steven Cole*, P.E.

This session will explore the use of the PE seal, responsibility for competent practice, what code enforcement officers are expecting, and continuing education requirements. (1.0 PDH)

(2) Amethyst Off-shore Drill Platform Project

Presenters: *Ernest E. Kilbride*, Vice President of Engineering, Cianbro Corporation and *David Leavitt*, P.E. Amethyst Project Manager.

This presentation will describe the completion of the off-shore drilling platforms at the dry dock in Portland, ME. The presentation will cover a description of the project management challenges, how the challenges were addressed, and the successful outcome. Of particular concern were the challenges of demonstrating that the oil rigs could be completed in Maine. The presentation addresses the successes and lessons learned on this technology implementation project. (2.0 PDHs)

(3) Practicing Engineering Ethics

Presenter, Professor *Knud E. Hermansen*, PhD, P.E.

While engineers are often given high marks for ethical practice, ethical lapses do occur. This session will use a game to give engineers practice dealing with ethical situations. (1.0 PDH)

(4) Maine Turnpike E-ZPass Conversion

Presenter: *Gregory A. Le Frois*, PE, Associate VP & Man-

ager of Toll Facilities Group, HNTB Corporation

This presentation will describe the conversion from the *Transpass* to the *E-ZPass* form of electronic toll collection for the Maine Turnpike. The presentation will cover a description of the toll collection system for the Turnpike, the reasons for conversion from *Transpass* to *E-ZPass*, a description of the *E-ZPass* Inter-Agency Group (IAG), the challenges of the project, how the challenges were addressed, and the successful outcome. Of particular concern were the potential difficulties associated with replacing certain toll collection components while the existing system remained functioning and the specific installation challenges of "on the fly" replacement of electronic equipment. The presentation addresses the successes and lessons learned on this technology implementation project. (1.0 PDH)

(5) The Maine Turnpike Widening & Modernization,

Presenters: *Peter S. Merfeld*, P.E. Chief

Operations Officer, MTA, & *Roland A. Lavallee*, P.E. VP and Director of Operations, HNTB Corporation

This presentation will discuss the innovations used in preparing and successfully executing one of the largest transportation infrastructure projects in the State's history. The planning of the project, the public involvement and information programs as well as the design and construction will be explored. The innovations in construction process that minimized traveler disruption will also be discussed. (1.0 PDH)

Professional development Hours (PDHs):

Six PDHs will be awarded for attending the entire session. A certificate will be provided to each attendee at the end of each session.

Registration and cost:

The cost of the seminar is \$25 for students, \$50 for MeSPE members, and \$110 for non-MeSPE members. Registration forms can be obtained by contracting the UMaine Conference Services Division at (207) 581-4092 or csd@umit.maine.edu.

Saturday, February 26th

The **Maine Engineer's Week Expo** will be held at the University of Southern Maine (Gorham) Field house from 9 AM to 2 PM. Maine Engineers Week was created to educate school age children about engineering career opportunities right here in Maine. Last year's Expo featured 57 booths from Maine-based architectural, engineering, and manufacturing companies, as well as Maine's state universities and transportation agencies. There were over 600 children and their parents in attendance. Don't miss this great opportunity to give your children some exposure to what engineering is all about. The impact of the event was best summarized by one of the young guests, "Mommy, I don't want to be a superhero anymore, I want to be an engineer!"

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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