



# IEEE Crosstalk



The Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Section of the IEEE

Volume XLIII, No 6, December 2004

## Chairman's Corner

As the year draws to a close, it's appropriate to look back on the events hosted by IEEE and to begin making plans for the new year. This will be the last Crosstalk of 2004, and I've attached a brief recap of the year's seminars and programs. Overall, I think we can all share a sense of accomplishment; we've continued to serve the members in our section through both traditional programs (the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair) and some new ones (the nanotechnology workshop). Our best way to judge the success of these programs is by the response from our membership, including attendance at various events and volunteers willing to support our programs. We're always interested in your feedback, so please take a moment to review your favorite (and least favorite) programs of the year, and drop me a short email or letter with suggestions for what your section should be doing in the future.

It's been my privilege to serve as Chair of Mid-Hudson IEEE this past year. Space doesn't permit me to acknowledge the many people who contributed to our success in 2004, but rest assured that it takes much more than just my efforts to run the section. I've worked closely with all of the incoming leadership, and I'm confident that the section will be in good hands in the coming year. My sincere thanks to all the officers, volunteers, students, and other members who've supported our section, and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2005.

*Dr. Casimer DeCusatis, Chair*  
[decusat@us.ibm.com](mailto:decusat@us.ibm.com)

## Upcoming Events

**January 25, 2005:** Dinner meeting on future directions for the Mid-Hudson Section, at Cappucino's Restaurant on route 9, Poughkeepsie

**February 10, 2005:** Save this date for a joint MHTC speaker event; details coming soon on [www.midhudsontechnology.com](http://www.midhudsontechnology.com)

**February 22, 2005:** Annual National Engineers Week banquet, Anthony's Pier 9, New Windsor; featuring guest speakers Gen. Henry Hatch, Chair of the National Research Council, and Dr. Diana Bauer of the EPA.

**February 23, 2005:** Engineers Day at SUNY New Paltz (not open to the public, but sponsored by Mid-Hudson IEEE)

**February 25, 2005:** Deadline for students to register for the IEEE Region 1 Robo-Rumble, MicroMouse, & Paper Competition; see <http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/ieee> for more information

Check our website for other events, travel directions for scheduled events, or last minute cancellations due to poor weather conditions.

## Mid-Hudson Section Leadership

- Chair:** Casimer DeCusatis
- Immediate Past Chair:** Jean R.S. Blair
- Vice-Chair:** Robert Sadowski
- Treasurer:** David J. Dittmann, II
- Secretary:** Robert Atkins
- Members-at-Large:**
  - Lawrence J. Boland
  - George Krembs
  - William McCarthy
- Program Chair:** TBD
- Publicity Chair:** Dale F. Sorenson
- Newsletter Publicist:** Brett Arteta
- Associate Editor:** TBD
- PACE Chair:** Larry Winkler
- Section WebMaster:** Larry Winkler
- Student Activities Chair:** Michael Otis
- Engineer's Week Coordinator:** Vic Melville
- Women in Engineering:** Rebecca M. Gott
- GOLD Chair:** Dmitriy Shneyder
- Industry Liaison:** Asha Upadhyay

- Society Chapter Chairs:**
  - Power Society:** Fernando Guarin
  - Electron Devices Society:** Michael Hargrove
  - Computer Society:** Baback Izadi
  - Education Society:** Michael Otis
  - Life Member Society:** George Krembs (acting)

## Mid-Hudson Section Website

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/mid-hudson/index.htm>

## Mid-Hudson Section General Contact

[Decusat@us.ibm.com](mailto:Decusat@us.ibm.com) (845) 435-7232

# 2004 Event Summary

During this past year, we have made an effort to sponsor an event each month during the academic calendar, and to publish a newsletter at least every other month (no small feat, considering that we do not have a permanent program chair or newsletter author, and our vice-chair was unavailable on military duty for the first half of the year !) As noted during the Region 1 Board of Governor's meetings, volunteer societies such as IEEE are experiencing a decline in membership and in active member participation, particularly from traditional EE and Computer Science professions. Recruitment and participation remain significant challenges for our diverse membership; it was recommended that local sections try a variety of events to see which served the local membership. Accordingly, we have scheduled a wide range of events, along the following broad themes:

In an effort to build on the existing support from IBM, SUNY New Paltz, Central Hudson, and West Point, several events were held at each of these locations. For example, a meeting was held at IBM just after work hours, in an effort to encourage attendance from IBM members, featuring speakers from the local branch of Adva Optical Networking. Similarly, a tour of a power plant dam was hosted by Central Hudson, and various events noted below were hosted at West Point and SUNY.

In an effort to partner with related groups, our section joined the newly formed Mid Hudson Technology Council (MHTC); this entitled our members to attend 2 Distinguished Speaker series, including a talk from the office of Homeland Security, and participated in MHTC mentoring programs such as Scintilla and Spark.

In an effort to reach out to other organizations in the area, IEEE publicized events to the ACM, Sigma Xi, MHTC, and others during the year. Membership events included an IEEE day at IBM, featuring R1 director-elect Barry Shoop, during which attendees were polled on what they would like to see from the IEEE (ACM also co-sponsored this event). Although responses were limited, this survey suggested that although members feel the topics of IEEE events are interesting, ongoing time pressure from work and other commitments makes it difficult for members to remain active. There was no consensus on changing meeting times/locations or offering lunch/dinner meetings to improve attendance. Other membership events included a student boat tour on the Hudson River for West Point students, distribution of IEEE pens at West Point Engineering Day, and an IEEE booth at SUNY New Paltz Engineering Day for pre-college students (many of these were PACE sponsored activities).

Supporting local engineering education programs, IEEE once again judged & sponsored awards from the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair, and invited winners to attend the annual banquet (held at Torches in Newburgh, which was considered a central location for the section membership). The annual banquet featured a speaker from NYC DEP on the Hudson Valley Watersheds.

This year, IEEE sponsored National Engineers Week, and took an active role in the annual banquet, which features speakers on the August 2003 blackouts and on anthrax decontamination procedures. We also attempted a new event, an engineering week poster contest, with the winners having their work published in local newspapers & being invited to the section's June banquet. This was a reasonably successful event, although more students could have participated if publicity had begun in the fall semester rather than just before the event in February.

In an effort to pursue timely topics, the section sponsored a talk at West Point on engineering challenges in occupied Iraq, just before the presidential elections. Earlier in the year, a talk on CMOS Biochips from Columbia University was also featured at IBM Fishkill.

The section attempted to reach out to the more than 80 life members in the area by starting a new Life Member chapter, although RSVPs for the kickoff meeting was so low that the event was cancelled; efforts are under way to re-launch this chapter in 2005. The Women in Engineering chapter started a book club for about a dozen members, which was well received. The section took the first step towards re-vitalizing the computer chapter by accepting a new volunteer from SUNY to chair this group.

In an effort to recognize and celebrate member successes, new IEEE Fellows were recognized at the section annual banquet. The awards committee was re-launched, and 2 section members subsequently received Region 1 awards this year.

The section tried to reach out to members with children or grandchildren by sponsoring a new event, a family night at Spaceship Discovery children's science museum. This was well attended (20 children and 25 adults) and drew many positive comments.

Finally, the section tried another new event, a 1 day workshop on nanotechnology held at SUNY New Paltz. This was a success, with nearly 50 people attending and many positive comments. A number of people also registered for CEU credits, the first time our section has offered this benefit at our meetings.

# January Meeting: Dinner Buffet & Members RoundTable

**CONTACT/RSVP :** George Krembs (679-7273, [krembsg1@hotmail.com](mailto:krembsg1@hotmail.com)) or Larry Boland (462-0819, [l.j.boland@ieee.org](mailto:l.j.boland@ieee.org) )

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 25, 2005

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Cappucino's Restaurant, route 9 (South Road) and IBM Road, Poughkeepsie

**COST:** FREE to the first 45 IEEE members who RSVP

**ABSTRACT:** This event will be a complimentary Buffet Dinner for members, followed by a Roundtable Discussion of the Mid-Hudson Section direction. The outgoing Chair, Casimer DeCusatis, will present his annual report highlighting past Section activities, including recommendations for the future. Bob Sadowski, incoming chair, will lead the Roundtable discussion after dinner. If you have suggestions about section meetings (frequency, topics, newsletter notices, etc) this is your opportunity to influence planning for 2005. Your Executive Committee is asking for your input. Are there things we could do better or differently next year ?

So come out for a free buffet dinner at Cappucino's and participate in an open forum discussion of the section's future activities. Admission is by reservation only to the first 45 members only. **We MUST have your reservation by January 18**, so that the chef can prepare enough food; first come, first served. Contact George Krembs or Larry Boland and leave your name, telephone number, and email address. In case of severe weather you'll be notified on Jan. 25 of a snow date change.

Buffet Menu: Tossed Salad, Chicken Marsala, Sausage & Peppers, Baked Ziti ala Parmigiana, sauteed seasonal vegetable medley, Eggplant Rollatini, Stuffed Filet of Sole, Ice Cream, Coffee/Tea

## *What's Happening in the Section*

Mid-Hudson IEEE is pleased to announce the new officers who will assume their positions in January 2005:

Chair: **Robert Sadowski**, West Point

Vice-Chair: **Robert Atkins**, IBM

Secretary: **Lisa Shay**, West Point

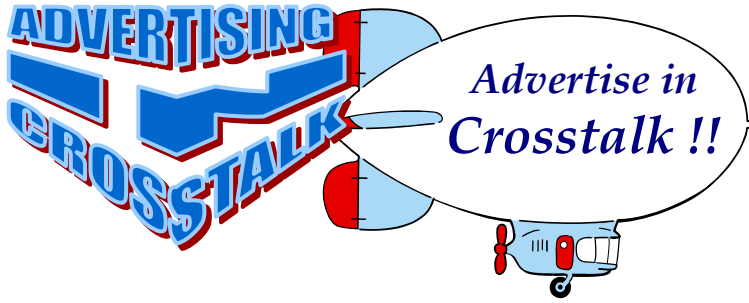
Treasurer: **Dave Dittman**, Central Hudson

In addition, we'd like to welcome **Prof. Baback Izadi** from SUNY New Paltz, who has volunteered to chair the Computer Chapter following the departure of Paul Basile. Look for more computer chapter activities in the coming year, and send your ideas for events to [bai@engr.newpaltz.edu](mailto:bai@engr.newpaltz.edu) Also, please welcome **Fernando Guarin** from IBM, who has volunteered to chair the EDS society and replaces **Mike Hargrove**; many thanks to Mike for his long and dedicated service in this chapter.

We'll be making an effort to publicize events in our neighboring Tappan Zee section of the IEEE; however, since we typically receive short notice, it's difficult to place these in our newsletter or website. Those who receive Crosstalk via email will periodically receive notice of Tappan Zee section events.

The nanotech conference at SUNY New Paltz was a great success; 28 people pre-registered, and the overall attendance was around 50 people (some students didn't stay for the entire event, so the actual headcount varied a bit during the day). We are awaiting a final tally, but at least 6 people have taken advantage of the CEUs offered at this event. The speakers were well received, and the panel discussions generated good feedback, including a few email comments the week after the workshop. The proceedings were published as planned on CD ROM; a few speakers were late submitting their materials, which we plan to post on the SUNY website in the coming weeks. The region 1 award winners from the Mid-Hudson section were also announced at this event. SUNY Dean of Engineering **John Harrington** sends his appreciation for the IEEE's support; based on the response, he plans to organize another workshop next year on a different topic, and hopes the IEEE will continue to serve as a sponsor.

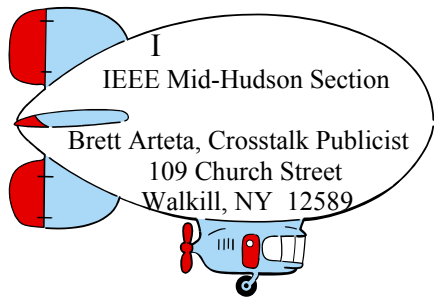
Two members of our section were recently recognized with IEEE Region 1 Awards, as announced at the nanotechnology conference on November 5. Congratulations to **Prof. Mike Otis**, SUNY New Paltz, who received an award for Electrical Engineering Support for Student Activities, and **Major Lisa Shay**, West Point, who received an award for Professionalism in Electrical Engineering. Thanks to **Rob Atkins** for chairing the awards committee this past year and arranging for the nominations of Mike and Lisa.



*Reach over 900 engineers and professionals in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Place an ad with the Editor:*

<i>Business Card:</i>	<i>\$ 30.00</i>
<i>1/4 Page:</i>	<i>\$ 50.00</i>
<i>1/2 Page:</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Full-Page:</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>

*Discounts available for long-term advertising.*



**State University of New York  
at New Paltz  
Department of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering  
(BS and MS degrees)**

Offers Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering with thesis and non-thesis options, and ABET accredited Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Department offers a wide variety of courses in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Prospective full and part time students, please call the Engineering Department at (845) 257-3720 or visit our web site: [www.engr.newpaltz.edu](http://www.engr.newpaltz.edu).

**Do you need help preparing for the Professional Engineering Exam ?**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is offering the course, "Fundamentals of Engineering" in the Spring 2005 semester. This is a three-credit course intended for engineers who are preparing themselves for the first part of the Professional Engineering Exam. It will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 – 7:45. For more information and registration, please contact Judy at (845) 257-3720 or [depuyj@engr.newpaltz.edu](mailto:depuyj@engr.newpaltz.edu)