



Phil's Quill

Computers are fun! That's the message we have been trying to convey to a group of high school students this school year. Not just fun surfing the web or making friends in chat rooms, but making a career in the computer world. To that end, the Computer Society has been arranging meetings at area companies and universities for a group of 12 eleventh graders from school districts all over Allegheny County. It's part of Allegheny Intermediate Unit (A.I.U.) of Allegheny County's Apprenticeship Program. The students are participants in the A.I.U.'s Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) Program. They are in the program because they expressed an interest in computer engineering. Many of them already have some experience.

The first session was held in October at the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie-Mellon University, where the group got a glimpse of the cutting edge in software engineering research. In November, CMU held a workshop in conjunction with the Junior Academy of Science at CMU. Participating students wired up a logic circuit to prevent trains from colliding at an intersection.

In January they visited my company, Tollgrade Communications, to learn how one of Pittsburgh's new high-tech companies develops the latest in telecommunications test equipment. In February, they visited another of Pittsburgh's new high-tech companies, Marconi Communications.

Plans are for them to visit the CMU Robotics Consortium, where they will work with diverse industrial companies to apply robots to things such as coal mining and crop harvesting. We wrap things up with a hands-on project for the students in April.

- Philip Cox

Computer Society

Free Markets e-Commerce Technology Tour

John Maholtz, Director, Market Making & Supplier Services
Bill Blair, Chief Technology Officer



The Internet is quickly redefining how business is conducted. Where to find the opportunities in a given industry that unlocks value is only now becoming understood. FreeMarkets, Inc. clearly understands how to leverage the Internet for its large industrial clients benefit. This tour will provide an overview of the technology issues involved in a high-availability server environment focused on B2B global marketplaces, including the corporate server area. A tour of the marketplace trading center during an online event will be given. The general business model FreeMarkets uses to build customer value will be discussed. Also, corporate values, culture of the company, and how it positively impacts daily life at FreeMarkets will be discussed. This is a great opportunity to see e-Commerce up close inside the FreeMarkets World Headquarters by the people who design and manage it.

Place: FreeMarkets, Inc.
210 Sixth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Date: March 20, 2001
Program: 7:00 PM Technical Program
6:00 PM Refreshments and Fellowship

Note: All attendees to this meeting must register with the Security Officer located at the entrance to the Center.

Pittsburgh Section Annual History & Awards Dinner

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Annual History and Awards Dinner for the IEEE Pittsburgh Section. Plans are being formed now for the program that will be presented. The program will be an update on the Maglev technology that Pittsburgh is a finalist for. Joe Cioletti of Maglev, Inc. will present the program.

Place: APICS Castle
Wilmerding, PA
Date: April 24th, 2001
Program: Maglev Update

The evening will consist of dinner, the Maglev program, and presentation of section awards. Cost for the evening is \$15 for dinner or \$25 for a couple. There is no charge to attend the program and awards presentation. More details in the April Bulletin.

March Executive Committee Meeting

The March ExComm meeting will be held on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. The meeting will be in conjunction with the Student Branch meeting.

Place: Carnegie Mellon University
1112 Hammerschlag Hall (Conference Room on 1st Floor)
Date: March 12, 2001
Meeting: 6:00 PM

The student branch meeting will be at 4:30 PM. Dinner will be at 5:00 PM. During dinner, there will be discussion and a question/answer session with students.

2000-2001 Pittsburgh Section IEEE Program Calendar

Group/Society	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
ExecCom Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	21 Point Park	19 WVU	16 Point Park	21 Point Park	18 Point Park	15 Point Park	12 CMU	19 Point Park	17 Point Park
Section Mtngs Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	16 Fall Picnic	25 SPICE Tutorial	1, 8, & 15 SPICE Tutorial			National Engineers Week		24 History Dinner	
Upper Mon Stephanie Caswell (304) 293-0405									
Industry Applications Harry Hagerty (412) 487-8235	19 Fuse Protect. Medium Volt. Power Sys.				16 K-Factor Distribution Transformer				
Magnetics Miklos Gyimesi (412) 268-2308									
Computer Gerry Kumnik (412) 487-1430		26 Distributed Architecture					20 FreeMarkets		
Communication Prashant Krishnamurty (412) 624-5144					19 Wireless Access Networks				
Power Eng. Gregory Reed (724) 772-2158									
Membership Jim Karn (412) 732-9000									
Signal Processing Pat Loughlin (412) 624-9685		16 Excising Interference							
PACE Dennis Steward									

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