



*IEEE Pittsburgh Section*  
**Bulletin**



July 2007 Volume 56, No. 7



*Included in this issue:*

- From the Chair
- New Fellows and Senior Members
- "Calling All Women!"
- History Dinner – Synopsis
- A Night With the Pittsburgh Pirates and Philadelphia Phils
- Mark Your Calendars: Section Picnic – Sept. 15

Editor of this issue: Philip Cox, [p.e.cox@ieee.org](mailto:p.e.cox@ieee.org) (724) 443-0566

Contributors: Andrew Novotny, Jennifer Ploskina, Ralph Sprang, and Dave Vaglia.

*All announcements for publication in a particular month's bulletin are due to the Editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. The accuracy of the published material is not guaranteed. If there is any error, please bring it to the Editor's attention.*

*The Section's web site [www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/pittsburgh](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/pittsburgh) has past issues of the bulletin and lots of other useful information.*

## *From the Chair*

Greetings, friends. I hope you are all doing well.

Several of our members have been experiencing health problems. I'm thrilled that some of them are doing so well, but there are still members who face significant health care issues. Please keep them in your thoughts, and continue to help support them as they face these challenges.

The Pittsburgh Section will be relaxing a bit over the summer, as we typically do. Knowing that our members take vacations and travel in the summer, we scale back our activities. We will resume the full schedule in September. The Section Picnic in September would be a great opportunity to get involved and meet the other Section members.

I'm pleased to announce that one of our section members, Jennifer Ploskina, has initiated the process to form a Women In Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group. An affinity group is something like a chapter, but on a subject or topic that is broader than a particular Society's focus.

The Women in Engineering Affinity Group will focus on the issues women encounter in the engineering field. Please read Ms. Ploskina's article in this bulletin to learn more. At our last executive committee meeting, we voted to authorize the formation of this group, and signed the form that authorizes the creation of the group. If you are excited now and want to get involved, I'm sure Ms. Ploskina will be grateful for your help.

Within the next month you will be registered for the CARE network. As I mentioned last month, this is a low volume email announcement list that will update you on key legislative and government issues affecting our profession. The initial mailing will include instructions on how to remove yourself from the list if you don't wish to receive this information. Have a wonderful summer!!

**Ralph Sprang**  
Pittsburgh Section Chair, [rsprang@ieee.org](mailto:rsprang@ieee.org)

<b>Section</b> Chair & Awards Co-Chair – Ralph Sprang <a href="mailto:rsprang@ieee.org">rsprang@ieee.org</a> Vice Chair – John Twigg <a href="mailto:jtigg@ascent-systems.com">jtigg@ascent-systems.com</a> (412) 795-4444 Secretary – Joe Cioletti <a href="mailto:joseph@cioletti.com">joseph@cioletti.com</a> (724) 516-3897 Treasurer – Harold Hagerty, P.E. <a href="mailto:hhagerty@ieee.org">hhagerty@ieee.org</a> (412) 492-0943x226 Webmaster – Andrew Novotny <a href="mailto:andrewnovotny@ieee.org">andrewnovotny@ieee.org</a> (412) 351-4954 Immediate Past Chair – David J. Vaglia, P.E. <a href="mailto:davevaglia@ieee.org">davevaglia@ieee.org</a> (412) 491-6944 UpperMon Subsection Chair: Dr. Dimitris Korakakis <a href="mailto:Dimitris.Korakakis@mail.wvu.edu">Dimitris.Korakakis@mail.wvu.edu</a> (304) 293-0405 x2512
<b>Chapters</b> Communications Society Chair: Phil Cox <a href="mailto:p.e.cox@ieee.org">p.e.cox@ieee.org</a> (724) 443-0566 Computer Society – Chair: John Twigg (see above) Engineering In Medicine & Biology Society Co-Chair: Bob Brooks <a href="mailto:rbrooks@medrad.com">rbrooks@medrad.com</a> (412) 767-2400 x3506 Co-Chair: Dr. Zhi-Hong Mao <a href="mailto:maozh@enr.pitt.edu">maozh@enr.pitt.edu</a> (412) 624-9674 Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Chair: Michael J. Oliver <a href="mailto:emi@majr.com">emi@majr.com</a> (814) 763-3211 Power Engineering & Industry Applications Societies Chair: Andrew Novotny (see above) Magnetics Society – Chair: Dr. Ganping Ju <a href="mailto:Ganping.Ju@Seagate.com">Ganping.Ju@Seagate.com</a> (412) 918-7046 Robotics Society – Chair: Dr. Guy Nicoletti <a href="mailto:Nicoletti+@pitt.edu">Nicoletti+@pitt.edu</a> (724) 836-9922 Signal Processing Society – Chair: Dr. Heung-No Lee <a href="mailto:hlee@enr.pitt.edu">hlee@enr.pitt.edu</a> (412) 624-9677 Society on Social Implications of Technology Chair: Joe Kalasky, P.E. <a href="mailto:j.kalasky@ieee.org">j.kalasky@ieee.org</a> (724) 838-6492
<b>Affinity Groups</b> GOLD – Chair: Andrew Rydholm <a href="mailto:andrew_rydholm@yahoo.com">andrew_rydholm@yahoo.com</a> (412) 261-3200 x281 Life Member – Chair: Bob Grimes, P.E. <a href="mailto:r.d.grimes@ieee.org">r.d.grimes@ieee.org</a> (412) 963-9711
<b>Women In Engineering – Chair: Jennifer Ploskina</b> <a href="mailto:JenniferLPloskina@eaton.com">JenniferLPloskina@eaton.com</a>
<b>Committees</b> Consultants Network Professional/Career Activities (PACE) Chair: Joe Kalasky, P.E. (see above) Student Activities Membership Development Publicity – Chair: Thomas Dionise, P.E. <a href="mailto:ThomasJDionise@eaton.com">ThomasJDionise@eaton.com</a> (724) 779-5864 2008 PES General Meeting Technical Program Chair – Dr. Kalyan Sen (Kal) <a href="mailto:senkk@ieee.org">senkk@ieee.org</a> (724) 696-1611; General Chair - Dave Vaglia (see above)

• ***New Fellows and Senior Members***

The following people have been elevated to fellow in the past year:

Tsuhuan Chen  
Michael L Mallary  
Charles E Thorpe  
Dr John D Lafferty  
Michael Erdmann  
Katia P Sycara  
Paul D Nielsen  
Dr Nancy R Mead  
Philip C Bolin

The following people have been elevated to senior member in the past year:

John Mazurowski  
Robert J Slebodnik  
Dennis B Smith  
William Courtright  
Bruce R Quayle  
Marius Rosu  
Prof Robert F Murphy  
Sharat Batra  
Hyong Sok Kim  
William B Anderson  
Seth C Goldstein  
Peter H Feiler  
Robert D Sobek  
Ralph A Sprang  
P K Chrysanthis  
Jill Rae Schaumloeffel  
Caroline P Grattinger  
James A Sanford  
Prof Jay Apt  
Marcel Bergerman  
Michael K Reiter  
Edmund F Lopresti  
Joseph T Cioletti  
David J Vaglia  
Roy A Maxion  
Prof Manuela M Veloso

These members were recognized at the History/Awards Dinner. Please congratulate these members on their accomplishments.

- ***"Calling All Women!"***



**Jennifer Ploskina**

A new affinity group is being formed in the IEEE Pittsburgh Section, Women in Engineering (WIE). The national WIE program's mission is to inspire, engage, encourage, and empower IEEE women worldwide. The Pittsburgh Section WIE program will maintain the same vision, but add the local connection and camaraderie between women electrical engineers.

"It will be refreshing to have a group to discuss both the challenges of a high-tech career and those of being a woman in a male-dominated field," states Jennifer Ploskina, the organizer of the group. The Pittsburgh WIE group hopes to collaborate with similar groups such as Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Women in Nuclear (WIN), a Westinghouse-sponsored organization. "Promoting the field of engineering to young girls is very important to the future of our industry," Ploskina continues. "We also hope to increase female IEEE members in the Pittsburgh area based on this additional opportunity for electrical engineers."

For more information on WIE, visit their website at <http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/committee/women/index.html>. Contact Jennifer Ploskina at [JenniferLPloskina@eaton.com](mailto:JenniferLPloskina@eaton.com) to be added to the WIE mailing list for upcoming news and events.

- ***A Night With the Pittsburgh Pirates and Philadelphia Phils***

Date: Friday, August 17, 2007  
Time: Game starts at 7:05 PM  
Place: PNC Park, North Shore, Pittsburgh  
Cost: \$16.00 per ticket  
Sponsors: PES/IAS Chapter  
RSVP: By sending your check payable to "IEEE Pittsburgh Section" to:  
Andrew Novotny  
514 Price Ave  
North Braddock, PA 15104

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled evening at PNC Park with the members and friends of the Power Engineering Society, Industry Applications Society and the IEEE Pittsburgh Section. It will be Skyblast Strike Two Fireworks and Smash Mouth in Concert after the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Philadelphia Phils.

Be sure to reserve your seats early. Contact Andrew Novotny at (412) 351-4954 or <mailto:Andrewnovotny@ieee.org> if you have any questions.

- ***History Dinner - Synopsis***

The history dinner featured the topic 'History of Nuclear Power' presented by Joe Cioletti and Dave Vaglia, both of Westinghouse Nuclear. Although Dave Vaglia couldn't attend the dinner, he assisted Joe Cioletti in developing the presentation from his many years of working at Westinghouse Nuclear in Monroeville.

The historical site of the first large-scale commercial nuclear power generation plant was located near Pittsburgh at Shippingport, PA and went critical on December 2, 1957 - exactly 15 years after Enrico Fermi demonstrated the first sustained nuclear reaction. The Westinghouse built facility included a reactor core whose design was adapted from United States Navy submarines. The Duquesne Light Company built and operated the plant on a site it owned on the Ohio River. The company contributed towards the cost of the government-owned reactor. Three years later, it began supplying power to the Pittsburgh area. Later in its life, the plant was retrofitted with a Light Water Breeder Reactor (LWBR) core that went online during a cold winter in 1977 where President Jimmy Carter 'threw the switch' in a ceremony to activate the plant. The LWBR was later proven to be successful in its ability to create more fuel than it used and was finally retired in 1982.

Three Mile Island (TMI) and Chernobyl were both discussed with industry-wide 'lessons learned' and compared with today's aggressive safety practices, training and modern instrumentation systems. The new generation III Westinghouse AP1000 reactor was also discussed as well as its safer, simpler, passive cooling and protection systems. It was also stated that December 2, 2007 marks 50 years of large-scale commercial nuclear power generation looking toward a resurgence in global demand of a 'nuclear renaissance', starting with four AP1000 reactors that were sold to China, addressing its growing demand for electric power.

- ***Mark Your Calendars: Section Picnic - Sept. 15 - Schenley Park, Details to Follow.***

## 2007 Calendar – Meetings of IEEE Pittsburgh Section

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Executive Committee	18 - 7pm Panera Bread Oakland	15 Panera Bread Oakland	15 Panera Bread Oakland	19 Panera Bread Oakland	17 Joe Mama's Oakland	21 Joe Mama's Oakland		16 Joe Mama's Oakland				
Section		17 Engineers Week table	30 SciTech			28 History Dinner			15 Picnic Schenley Park			
Communi- cations					8 Terahertz Imaging						10 Tour of Electro Optics Center Freeport PA	
Computer		17 Robot car race										
EMBS		28 Data Compression										
EMCS				17 Ferrites to Reduce Noise								
PES/IAS	3, 10, 17, 24, 31 PE Prep class	7, 21, 28 PE Prep class	7, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30 PE Prep class	4, 11, 18 PE Prep class	9 AP1000 Control Rm Tour			17 Pirates game			10 Tour of Electro Optics Center Freeport PA	
Magnetics	30 AdCom	22 Early Power Frequencies	29 Pitt MBA programs		31 High Res Grounding							
Robotics	17 Imaging Mag Surface			12 Ferrite Materials		12 Ultrafast Microscopy						
Signal Processing	31 Magneto- encephalogra- phy					8 Quantization						
Social Impl of Technlgy				26 Ethics & Prof Engr	24 Home- based Power							
Upper Mon			19 Commun. Train Contrl		8 Nano- materials							
Consultants Network												
Life Member		8 Wearable Computing										
GOLD												
PACE				26 Ethics & Prof Engr	24 Home- based Power							
Student Activities												