



### Phil's Quill

Well here we are approaching the end of 2001 already. Since we don't publish a bulletin in December, this is my last column as Chair of the Pittsburgh Section. It has been a fun year for me, and I will continue to be involved in the section. Some of the activities I enjoy most are with the students. We have a number of opportunities to engage with students, both college and high school, in projects and informal discussions. This past year, Ex. Comm. meetings were held in conjunction with Student Branches on the following campuses: Carnegie-Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh and West Virginia University. A fun project that you can find in this month's bulletin is the Rube Goldberg contest. We also support the Future City contest and the Science and Engineering Fair where we sponsor and judge two awards.

Some other highlights of the section activities are the upcoming tutorial on "Wireless Systems and Technologies" and the IAS Annual Meeting to be held in Pittsburgh in Oct. 2002. The latter will require a great deal of support from all of us to be a success. This is the opportunity for the whole Pittsburgh engineering community to shine, as we host engineers from all over the world.

As I talked about in last month's column, all these things take volunteers, and we are looking for new people to come on board. I hope I have conveyed the sense of fun and camaraderie that goes with joining in.

-Phil Cox

### Election of Officers for 2002

Election of officers will occur at the December Executive Committee meeting held on December 20, 2001 at Point Park College. You can vote by attending this meeting, or by mailing your ballot to the address shown below. You may vote for the candidate listed on the ballot or you may write in a Pittsburgh Section IEEE member. All ballots sent by mail must be received by 5:00 PM December 19<sup>th</sup> to be counted in the election.

Please fill out the ballot and return to

Pittsburgh Section IEEE  
337 Fourth Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

	Candidate	Write-In Candidate
Chair _____	Miklos Gyimesi	_____
Vice-Chair _____	Harry Hagerty	_____
Treasurer _____	Larry Hornak	_____
Secretary _____	Elena Schreiber	_____
Director _____	Hany Ammar	_____
Director _____	Phil Cox	_____
Director _____	Larry Hornak	_____
Director _____	Nigel P. McQuin	_____
Director _____	Steve Swencki	_____

### Rube Goldberg Contest Volunteers Needed

2001 is the inaugural year of the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest in Pittsburgh. The program begins in October and culminates with a competition on January 12, 2002 at the Carnegie Science Center. Each Rube Goldberg team consists of three to five high school students and a teacher. In addition, an engineer or engineering student is enlisted to mentor the team in the design, construction and testing of the machine. Time-wise, a mentor would dedicate an average of 1 hour per week from October through mid-January, meeting directly with the team and providing consultation by phone and email. Teams are currently registering for the contest, and many will request that an engineer be identified for them.

This Olympics of Complexity is designed to pull students away from conventional problem-solving and push them into the endless chaos of imagination and intuitive thought. Groups are given an elementary challenge: "Select, peel and wash an apple". But instead of just "solving" the problem, students have to make the solution as complicated and as convoluted as possible. In fact, the more steps -- with a minimum of twenty -- the better the machine. And what a machine! An assemblage of ordinary objects, mechanical gadgets and the oddest odds and ends are linked together mechanically and somehow get to the desired goal.

For more information about the local contest please see [www.carnegiesciencecenter.org](http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org). Additional background information, and results from previous years can be found at [www.rubegoldberg.com](http://www.rubegoldberg.com) and [www.rubemachine.com](http://www.rubemachine.com).

To volunteer, please contact Amy Robeson at (412) 237-1640 [robersona@clpgh.csc.org](mailto:robersona@clpgh.csc.org) or Mike Canton at (412) 374-6165 [cantonmh@westinghouse.com](mailto:cantonmh@westinghouse.com).

## 2001-2002 Pittsburgh Section IEEE Program Calendar

Group/Society	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
ExecCom Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	20 Pitt	18 WVU	15 Point Park	20 Point Park	17 Point Park	21 Point Park	21 Point Park	18 Point Park	16 Point Park
Section Mtngs Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	22 Fall Picnic	22, 29 Wireless Tutorial	5, 12, 19 Wireless Tutorial			National Engineers Week		History Dinner	
Upper Mon Stephanie Caswell (304) 293-0405		29 Electrical Property of Flames							
Industry Applications Harry Hagerty (412) 487-8235									
Magnetics Miklos Gyimesi (412) 268-2308									
Computer Gerry Kumnik (412) 487-1430									
Communication Prashant Krishnamurthy (412) 624-5144		26 Photonic Switching	16 Wireless Internet						
Power Eng. Gregory Reed (724) 772-2158									
Membership Jim Karn (412) 732-9000									
Signal Processing Luis Chaparro									
PACE Tom Dionise									

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