

The Downlink



Albuquerque Section

IEEE Albuquerque Section Newsletter

Newsletter Editor

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Life Members Chapter

The Albuquerque chapter of the IEEE life members affinity group has been formed this year. Professor and Section member Harjit Ahluwalia, UNM Physics and Astronomy, is serving as pro-tempore chair until the group holds elections.

IEEE "Life" status is an automatic process which is based on an individual's membership record to determine if an IEEE member qualifies for Life Member status. The member must be at least 65 years of age and has been a member of IEEE or one of its predecessor societies for such a period that the sum of his/her age and his/her years of membership equals or exceeds 100 years.

IEEE Life Members Fund: This fund supports the activities of interest to Life Members, potential engineers and engineering students. To the maximum

extent possible, Life Members should financially support the Life Members Fund.

IEEE Life Members Pins: Life Members who donate U.S. \$50-99 to the IEEE Life Members Fund will receive an IEEE Life Members lapel pin as a thank you. Life Members donating U.S. \$100 or more will receive a Life Members pewter coaster which commemorates an IEEE Historical Milestone. Life Members who donate U.S. \$150 or more will receive the lapel pin and coaster.

Life Members represent an invaluable repository of personal experiences involving the history of areas of interest to IEEE. The IEEE Life Members Committee believes that keeping Life Members active and engaged is a key component of the success of IEEE in local IEEE activities. In 2008, IEEE Life Members Affinity Groups conducted over 150 events, which included more than 4,000 participants.

New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering (NMNWSE)

NMNWSE is a state-wide organization that encourages women to enter into, and develop their careers in, science, engineering and allied professions through annual technical symposia, outreach and local chapter activities.

Registration is now open for the 2009 NMNWSE Annual Meeting and Technical Symposium, which will be held Oct. 16-18 at the Hacienda Vargas Bed and Breakfast in Algodones, NM. The NMNWSE Awards will be given in cooperation with the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women.

For more information on the event, contact Prof. Jamesina Simpson at simpson@ece.unm.edu.

Welcome to the IEEE Albuquerque Section

If you have an article for publishing in the newsletter, send it to the e-mail address above. Also, come meet us at the monthly Section Board lunch. (See calendar on the back page.)

IEEE GOLD Member Elections

The Albuquerque chapter of the IEEE Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) affinity group will be held at the end of October.

Positions that will be elected are Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. If you are an IEEE member who has graduated from your first professional degree in the last 10 years, you are automatically a member of the GOLD affinity group, and eligible for one of the board positions.

If you would like to participate on the elections, e-mail the current chair, Simon Barriga, at sbarriga@ieee-org.



IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Online Competition

IEEEExtreme is a global challenge for teams of student members, supported by an IEEE Student Branch or university. Participating in IEEEExtreme gives students a unique and fun learning experience, while competing with teams of students from around the world in a global event.

The next IEEEExtreme event will take place on Oct. 24 and begins at 00:00:00 UTC. Mark your calendars! Teams compete in a 24-hour time span against each other to solve a set of programming problems.

To give Student Branches a challenge to embrace students studying in engineering, computers, information science and technology—teamwork is an important skill to develop for career success.

IEEE Job Site

The IEEE Job Site, available exclusively to IEEE members, can help you locate career opportunities easily and confidentially.

Just complete a profile of your qualifications and requirements, and you'll be notified via e-mail when a suitable job becomes available.

The IEEE Job Site was recently named one of the top online recruitment sites by Weddle's Guide to Employment Web Sites. And top employers know that IEEE members are the most qualified electrotechnology and information-technology professionals in the world.

Brueck, McNally Named to Who's Who in Technology

Steve Brueck, UNM Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics and Astronomy, is among NM Business Weekly's 2009 Who's Who in Technology. Dr. Brueck was named in the Technologists

director of CHTM, which this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary. He is a Fellow of IEEE, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Optical Society of America, and is a recipient of the IEEE Third Millennium Award.

This is the first time the NM Business Weekly has published a Who's Who in



ECE Professor Vince Calhoun offered his unique perspective on computational biomedicine as a keynote speaker of the IEEE Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems (CBMS).

category.

Also named in the Technologists category was ECE alumnus Dr. Jim McNally of Applied Technology Associates in Albuquerque. McNally received his PhD in optical sciences from ECE in 1986.

Dr. Brueck has been an integral part of ECE and of UNM's Center for High Technology Materials since 1985. He is

Technology. The categories are Technologists, who create the innovations; Entrepreneurs, who create technology companies; Facilitators, who help create connections that lead tech companies to success; Investors, who provide the money to fund innovation; and Corporate, leaders of entities that have created tech jobs on a large scale in New Mexico.



"Simulation in Healthcare" Earns Top British Book Award

ECE Professor Tom Caudell has learned that a book to which he contributed, "Manual of Simulation in Healthcare," won first prize in the Basis of Medicine category at the British Medical Association book awards on Sept. 8.

The book, edited by Richard Riley of Australia's Royal Perth Hospital, was published in September 2008 and is available on the Oxford University Press website.

The chapter that Dr. Caudell co-authored is "Creating Virtual Reality Medical Simulations: A Knowledge-Based Design and Assessment Approach." His co-authors are D.C. Alverson and T.E. Goldsmith, and their Chapter 31 is on pages 449-64.

Why Haven't I Been Hired Yet?

By Elizabeth Lions

Published on IEEE USA Today's

Engineer

When you're unemployed, you can feel trapped in an endless cycle of hopping online, looking for jobs, applying electronically ... and repeating the process day in and day out (all while hoping for a speedy end to the entire ordeal). The process of finding a new job can be very frustrating ... and confusing.

Why haven't I heard back?

You may not like this response, but it's the truth: the fact that you haven't been hired isn't necessarily about you.

Think about it from the employer's perspective. As an example, a friend of mine recently posted an ad for an engineering position. She is the HR director at a large privately held manufacturing business. Her ad's response drew 600 resumes.

Yes, I said 600.

I asked her what she did with so many resumes. She decided to hire an intern to help her organize all 600 into *yes*, *no* and *maybe* piles. Most managers wouldn't have taken the time to do this, but she

insisted that she didn't want to miss out on a good candidate for the job. Two weeks later, with the help of an intern, she was down to 60 resumes.

She won't even conduct interviews for another two weeks. Perhaps you applied to that ad yesterday.

Do you see my point?

My mother used to say the devil is in the details, so I should paint the rest of the picture. Keep in mind that this ad is for one opening located in Portland, Oregon, where unemployment rivals that of Detroit, sitting at 12.2 percent with no relief in sight. Granted, due to the geographical area, the job market is nearly impossible, as other states aren't hit nearly as hard.

Stating that it's a tight job market would be a gross understatement. It doesn't seem to matter what part of the country you are in, it's tough, and some days it's downright discouraging.

How can a person get hired, despite the reality of the competition?

Here are a few tips to help you get noticed in today's competitive job market:

(Cont'd.) Gather Data

Keep an electronic spreadsheet of every job you've applied to, including the company name, the date you submitted your application and the outcome. This allows you to measure your campaign's success in a different way, so at the end of the day, you won't be left wondering if you were productive. Getting a job offer isn't the only measure of success. Some days it's just finding jobs to apply for online that is the positive result. Keep it in perspective. If you are applying and networking, you are doing all that you can.

Follow up

My theory has always been that two business days is more than enough time for a hiring manager to

read a resume on their desk. If you are able, connect with the hiring manager and confirm that your resume has been received. If you aren't sure who the hiring manager is, do a quick search on LinkedIn. If all else fails, get connected to someone in Human Resources. Certainly, they can tell you if they received your resume. That's all you need to know—if you're in the pile. Be brave and call—don't just e-mail. Be proactive.



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(Cont'd.) Get feedback

Expect rejection, but if you aren't selected for an interview, find out *why*. Perhaps there is a small misconception about something on your resume that could be cleared up, such as a skill set that you forgot to list.

Perhaps they don't feel you are the right candidate, but instead of guessing, ask someone in the organization why your application didn't match the position's requirements. Any feedback is good feedback because with that knowledge you can start to control the market's perception. Think of feedback as data, and try not to take it personally. Probe a little further to see if there will be future openings in the next two quarters where you would be a fit.

Although the market is competitive, there is only one *you* with *your skill set*. Remember who you are and what you have to offer an organization.



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October 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 1 IEEE President Elections
- 29 **ABQ Section Board Meeting**
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Yanni's Mediterranean Bar & Grill
3109 Central Avenue NE
- 30 IEEE GOLD Albuquerque Chapter Elections

November 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

- 26 Thanksgiving Day

December 2009						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

- 25 Christmas

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