

# Global Network Provides Support

IEEE has longstanding and close links with our Faculty

BY DR. ROBERT T.H. ALDEN

**P**eople-to-people contact is one of the forces behind the remarkable growth of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. It's also the key to the vital and close links the IEEE has developed with this Faculty.

The IEEE was founded in 1884, when 25 prominent electrical experts, including Thomas Alva

Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, met to form the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. They never would have dreamed that by 2005, their fledgling organization would have attracted more than 365,000 members in more than 150 countries.

Today, the IEEE sets standards for products and services that are the backbone of modern society, including electric power generation and transmission, computers, and cell phones. Worldwide, it hosts more than 300 conferences each year. The IEEE also authenticates and facilitates the widespread dissemination of technological advances. It sets the academic standards against which candidates for tenure at universities are judged.

The Toronto section of IEEE, founded

in 1903, has enjoyed a mutually beneficial and longstanding association with the University of Toronto. IEEE administrative and technical meetings are held on the UofT campus. Faculty members who have held leadership positions in the Toronto section include: Professors Gordon Tracey, (section Chair, 1955, 1958), and also Chair from 1947 to 1964 of what is now called The Edward S. Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Paul Biringier (Chair, 1965-6); Stuart Robertson (Chair, 1974); Wasyl Janischewskyj (Chair, 1975-6); Dean Anastasios Venetsanopoulos (Chair, 1977-9); André Salama (Chair, 1985-7); Ted Sargent (Chair, 2000-01), and current Chair, Kostas Plataniotis.

During the 2003 centennial of IEEE Toronto, Dean Venetsanopoulos received the prestigious McNaughton Medal, for his outstanding contributions to the design and implementation of communication systems, digital filters and multimedia systems; to the IEEE; and to the engineering

profession and society at large.

Last year, the IEEE Toronto section arranged more than 50 local meetings and awarded eight scholarships to post-secondary students in Toronto. At the national level, a wide variety of awards and recognitions are presented.

The IEEE also acts as a global network of engineering professionals that provides one-on-one contact and support. Its sections offer scholarships and mentoring to postsecondary students and provide support to recent graduates, women in engineering and life members. The IEEE's distinguished experts travel from section to section, presenting the latest technical information, free of charge. The IEEE Canadian Foundation also supports 30 learning resource centres across Canada, including one at UofT. These entrepreneurial environments enable students to gain project management and leadership experience by undertaking hands-on projects.

Visit [www.toronto.ieee.ca](http://www.toronto.ieee.ca), [www.ieee.ca](http://www.ieee.ca) and [www.ieee-canadianfoundation.org](http://www.ieee-canadianfoundation.org).

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**(l.- r.) Dean Tas Venetsanopoulos received the IEEE Canada McNaughton Medal from 2003 IEEE Canada President Mo El-Hawary in October 2003 at the organization's Toronto section Centennial Banquet.**