

Powering Toward the Future
2008 IEEE PES TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

April 21-24, 2008
McCormick Place North
Chicago, Illinois

For more info: www.ieeet-d.org

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Calendar Of Events

This Month

April 5, 8:30am
[The Entrepreneurial Mind](#) Chicago Section PACE

April 8, 7:00pm
 Executive Committee DeVry - Addison Chicago Section

April 8, 6:00pm
[IIT Student VoIP Project Review](#)
 Communications Society

April 9, 11:30am
[National Electric Safety Code](#) Power Engineering

April 10, 6:30pm
[Design of System-on-Chip Integrated Circuits](#)
 ElectronDevices/Circuits & Systems/Solid State Circuits

April 16, 5:30pm
[ComEd Demand-Side Reduction Incentives](#)
 Industry Applications

April 16, 6:30pm
[RF Shielding Enclosure Technologies](#) Electro-Magnetic Compatibility

April 21-24
[Powering Toward the Future](#) Power Engineering

May 2, 6:30pm
[Awards Dinner Dance](#)
 Chicago Section

May 13, 8:30am
[10th Annual Mini-Symposium](#) Electro-Magnetic Compatibility

This Month's Articles

Chair's Column

A springtime reflection on changes and new opportunities for both engineering and IEEE. [\[more\]](#)

Upcoming Events of Special Note

Could You Be An Entrepreneur? Come to a PACE [seminar](#) on **April 5th** to see if you've got what it takes. [\[more\]](#)

The **IEEE Power Engineering Society Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition** was last in Chicago in 1994. Don't wait another 14 years. Go to [Powering Toward the Future](#) at **McCormick Place April 21-24!** [\[more\]](#)

Celebrate our new Fellows **Daniel Gamota of Motorola** and **Thomas Tobin of S&C Electric** on **Friday, May 2nd** at the **IEEE-Chicago Dinner Dance**. [\[more\]](#)

Here's Your Chance To Run For Office!

The IEEE Chicago Section is looking for candidates to run for office. [\[more\]](#)

Dollars and Records Crucial When Defending Patents

Attorney **Steven Trybus of Jenner & Block** gave inventors tips on protecting their patents. [\[more\]](#)

Classified

Marketing Communications for Technology Firms: Websites, Newsletters, PowerPoints, Brochures. [Work In Motion](#)

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Chair's Column: Engineering and IEEE – Changes and New Opportunities



As I sit down to write this month's column, Chicago is having yet another snowstorm. But there are signs that spring is just around the corner – just a few days ago, I was outside with my grandchildren looking at tulips and crocuses emerging from the ground. It led me to think about how the engineering profession and IEEE are changing – with new technologies, new societies and new publications emerging.

A brief review of recent issues of IEEE publications paints a picture of a vibrant field that will continue to change the way we live. Green technologies are important today – particularly in energy, manufacturing, and transportation. A number of alternatives for clean and affordable power, including coal, wind power, and nuclear have been featured in recent articles in **Spectrum**. The push for higher device densities in processors and memory has resulted in affordable functionality and innovations for consumers. The desire for portable electronic devices has led to continuing innovation and improvements in the power density of batteries and other energy storage devices. Communication technologies continue to change with emphasis on convergence of services, access and increased bandwidth. Software seems to provide the controlling element for



almost everything manufactured today. In fact, **Computer Society** membership in the Chicago Section is greater than for any other society.

Since its inception, the IEEE has provided the structure for engineers to share information and to learn through publications and conferences. In the Chicago Section, the active chapters reflect the industries in the Chicago area, i.e., energy, communications etc. But there have also been changes in what IEEE provides for members, particularly at the Section level. The technical talks and mini-conferences sponsored by the Section and its Chapters continue to be very successful. But events that are partially social and include spouses – like our Cougar Baseball event of last year and awards banquets – are not as well attended as they had been in the past. Volunteers are fewer as the busyness of our lives eats away at the time we have to get involved. Our communication with members has moved to electronic mechanisms and web sites.

Some of these changes might be viewed as a disruptive storm, but new challenges also lead to opportunities, new ideas and new approaches. I close this column by inviting you to be a vital part of the IEEE's and the Chicago Section's continued support of engineers in their chosen profession.

Bernard Sander
Chair
IEEE Chicago Section

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Could You Be An Entrepreneur?

Have you ever thought about going into business for yourself, but weren't sure if owning your own business is right for you? On the morning of April 5th from 8:30am until Noon, you'll have an opportunity to explore this possibility when the **Chicago Section PACE Committee** (Professional Activities Committees for Engineers) offers "**The Entrepreneurial Mind**" at Harper College in Palatine. In this three-hour session, you can learn about:

- Behavioral characteristics successful entrepreneurs typically share
- How to generate business ideas
- How to assess feasibility of your chosen ideas
- How to mitigate risks

Passionate about helping others increase their success and wealth through business ownership, our presenter **Bonnie L. Richter**, MBA, currently serves as Director of the **Illinois Small Business Development Center of Harper College**, Palatine, Illinois. Previously, she was self-employed in multi-million dollar engineering and manufacturing firm that specialized in supplying precision-machined components to the aerospace, chemical, medical, and electronics industries.



Bonnie L. Richter For more information or to register, [click here](#).

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Learn about System-on-Chip Design at the CAS/ED/SSC Meeting

Dale Chalkey and **Kevin Spielberger** of **Avnet Electronics Marketing** will discuss "**Design Considerations for Creating a System-on-Chip Integrated Circuits**" at the **April 10th** meeting of the joint **Chicago Chapter of the Electron Devices, Circuits & Systems, and Solid State Circuits Societies**. The target audience for this discussion is individuals who haven't developed a high-gate-count chip and would like to understand the design phases – from start to finish – of an operational System-on-Chip device. A light dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with the lecture beginning at 7:00 p.m at **Bowe Bell+Howell** in Wheeling. For more information, please email [Ramesh Tirumala](#) or call him at 847-423-3012.

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Attend the PES T&D Show at McCormick Place April 21-24

The **2008 IEEE Power Engineering Society Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition**, [Powering Toward the Future](#), brings together power-delivery professionals specializing in transmission and distribution planning, protection and control, substation engineering, distribution automation, communications, renewable energy, operations, and maintenance.



The Exposition Hall will feature hundreds of exhibiting companies and millions of dollars of the latest electric utility technology and services. The products on display will include monitoring and testing equipment, system protection equipment including breakers and relays, switchgear, substation equipment, meters and metering devices, overhead and underground distribution equipment, transformers, wire and cable, and much much more. In addition to a full array of technical presentations, there will be five super sessions on:

- The Aging Workforce-Overcoming the Technical Talent Challenge;
- The Smart Grid;
- Blackouts and System Stability;
- Disaster Response and Recovery and Energy and the Environment.

A [collegiate job fair, reception and luncheon](#) are also part of the event.

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IEEE-Chicago Honors New Fellows at Dinner Dance

Please join the IEEE-Chicago Section in celebrating the elevation of two of our local members to the rank of IEEE Fellow at an **Awards Dinner Dance Friday, May 2nd** at the **White Eagle Restaurant** in Niles, Illinois. **Daniel Roman Gamota, Motorola** (Schaumburg), was elevated for leadership in nanotechnology based printed electronic products and **Thomas Tobin, S&C Electric Company** (Chicago), for leadership in electric power switching and protection for transmission and distribution systems. The grade of Fellow recognizes unusual distinction in the profession and is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an extraordinary record of accomplishments.



Tom Tobin



Daniel Gamota

The festivities start at 6:30 pm with dinner served at 7:30 pm. A short program to acknowledge the new Fellows and to recognize some of our volunteers will be followed by an evening of dancing. Cost is \$45 per person and \$85 per couple. Students are \$20 and life members \$35 per person. To register, [email](#) or call Connie Kelly at 847-297-6610. Please note that space is limited so please register to guarantee your place.

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Here's Your Chance To Run For Office!

Would you like to learn new skills, increase your visibility in the engineering community, and meet other talented IEEE members? Serving on the IEEE Chicago Section executive committee is your chance to do just that. Each year, the Chicago Section holds elections for the following positions:

Section Officers

- **Chair** (Runs the show)
- **Vice Chair** (Chair in waiting)
- **Treasurer** (Handles the money)
- **Secretary** (Records what's going on)

Standing Committee Chairs

- **Awards** (Gives out the "Way to Go"s)
- **Conferences** (Works with IEEE societies that are meeting locally)
- **Member Services** (Tracks and promotes membership)
- **Professional Activities** (Develops non-technical programs and makes them happen)
- **Programs** (Monitors and coordinates all Section programs)
- **Publications** (Responsible for e-Scanfax and Year in Review)
- **Special Events** (Organizes fun outings)
- **Student Activities** (Mentors local Student Branches)

Candidates must be IEEE members willing to attend Section meetings held the second Tuesday of each month at DeVry University Addison Campus and to devote a few hours a month between meetings to their primary duties. If this sounds interesting to you, please email [John A Zulaski](#), Chair of the **IEEE-Chicago Section Nominating Committee**, for a list of the duties of each elective office and details of the application process. Applications must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by April 15th, 2008.

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Dollars and Records Crucial When Defending Patents

When it comes to defending a patent, "Good record-keeping always is a huge benefit." That was the advice attorney **Steven Trybus** gave at the joint February meeting of the **Fox Valley Subsection** and the **Engineering Management Society** during his very informative presentation on "**Issues in Intellectual Property.**" Steven, a partner in [Jenner & Block's](#) Chicago office, explained that the U.S. is the only country that awards patents to the first person to invent rather than the first to file, so the records that have been kept from conception of the idea until it is put into practice can be crucial for successful patent litigation. He encouraged inventors to keep notebooks for different projects and get outside corroboration of their work, that is, a witness who reads and (ideally) understands the work and then initials that the notes were indeed entered into the notebook on a particular day. With a litigator's relish, he recalled challenging people who did not follow the instructions set out in the front of their notebooks, for example, one situation where the witness initialed in one sitting 120 pages representing four years of work.



The evening's presenter, Steven Trybus, a member of Jenner & Block's

Intellectual Property Practice, left, talks with Robert Burke, Chair of the Chicago Chapter of the Engineering Management Society.

Unlike copyrights and trademarks, which only protect the expression of an idea, a patent protects the underlying ideas. The idea needs to be "new, useful, and nonobvious." And, it's that "obviousness standard" that has allowed Steve to "put his daughters through college." Obviousness isn't always so obvious, apparently.

"Patents as negative rights." Steve said, "They assure that you can stop your competitor from doing something. They do not let you do what you want." But, enforcing your patent rights can be very costly. According to Steve, on average, patent litigation costs each side \$3 million.

Steve also gave an excellent overview of trade secrets, which he deemed a "poor cousin, but a valuable protection" as well as copyrights and trademarks. Steve's presentation was the second by a Jenner & Block attorney. The Engineering Management Chapter thanks the firm for generously offering its time to inform engineers about legal issues affecting the profession.

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