

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

D.L.S. Electronic Systems

EMC Practical Applications Seminar and Workshop
 (with take-home computer programs)

April 3-4, & 7-8
 Northbrook, Illinois

For more info visit www.dlsemc.com/1001

Calendar Of Events

This Month

February 12, 7:00pm
 Executive Committee
 DeVry - Addison
 Chicago Section

February 12, 7:00pm
[The Revolution at the Edge of the Network](#)
 Communications Society

February 13, 11:30am
[Lightning Arresters](#)
 Power Engineering

February 17-23
[Engineers Week](#)

February 20, 6:30pm
[3-D Electromagnetic Solvers](#) Electromagnetic Compatibility

February 20, 7PM
[Fundamentals of Wealth Management](#) Career Networking

February 22, 5:30pm
[Chicagoland Engineering Awards Banquet](#)

February 23
[NEC 2008 Seminar](#)
 Industrial Applications

Upcoming

March 28
[NetSecure08](#)
 Communications Society

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

This Month's Articles

Chair's Column

Engineers Week is working to shatter the traditional image of the lone engineer designing exotic devices. [\[more\]](#)

Could You Be An Entrepreneur?

Come to seminar on April 5th to see if you've got what it takes. [\[more\]](#)

Segway Inventor to Receive 2008 Washington Award

Engineers Week, which is February 17-23 this year, is chock-full of educational activities. [\[more\]](#)

Calls for Volunteers and Presenters

Volunteer opportunities are available with the **IEEE Chicago Section Executive Committee** as **Program Chair** and **Awards Chair**. [\[more\]](#)

Volunteer at the [2008 IEEE Power Engineering Society Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition](#) at **McCormick Place April 21-24, 2008**. [\[more\]](#)

[NetSecure08: The 6th Annual Systems and Network Security and Digital Forensics Conference and Expo](#) is accepting proposals for technical presentations until February 6th. Online registration is also now open. The conference, which will be held **March 28, 2008**, is co-sponsored by the **Chicago Chapter of the IEEE Communications Society**.

Papers for the [2008 Electro/Information Technology Conference](#) are due February 11. The conference, which will be held **May 18-21, 2008** at **Iowa State University**, is sponsored by **IEEE Region 4 (R4)** to which the Chicago Section belongs.

UIC IEEE Student Branch Spotlited in IEEE Potentials Magazine

The thirteen tips provided to keep a Student Branch running are applicable beyond the university world. [\[more\]](#)

How To Capitalize on a Future Technology Trend

At the January Communications Society meeting, Joanne Gucwa gave tips useful to budding technology entrepreneurs. [\[more\]](#)

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IEEE Chicago Section baseball caps and license plate holders. [Email](#) for info.

Chair's Column: Celebrating Engineering As a Profession



[Engineers Week](#), which falls in the third week of February, is traditionally a time for recognizing and celebrating the engineering profession and its impact on our daily lives.

The traditional image of an engineer is a technical expert who works mostly alone designing and building exotic devices. That picture, however, is incomplete. An engineer in today's world needs a wide range of skills. In addition to technical expertise, a successful engineer is a team player, a leader and an organizer. He or she must be able to communicate with other engineers and with business planners and customers. And a successful engineer must continuously update technical knowledge in a world where technology is always changing.

This newsletter contains descriptions of events to support today's engineer. Events such as [NetSecure08](#), cosponsored by the **Communications Society**, and the **Power Engineering Society's Transmission and Distribution Show** at McCormick Place provide opportunities for sharing information and for learning.

Engineers Week is an opportunity to celebrate our profession, to contribute to its continued success, and to make plans to continue to grow our skills. May all your efforts be positive learning experiences. Enjoy the month.

Bernie 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, you'll have an opportunity to explore this possibility when the **Chicago Section PACE Committee** (Professional Activities Committees for Engineers) offers "**The Entrepreneurial Mind.**" 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

Watch for details in the March issue of e-Scanfax or [email John Zulaski](#).

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Segway Inventor to Receive 2008 Washington Award

Dean Kamen has dedicated his life to developing technologies that help people lead better lives. On Friday evening, **February 22nd, 2008**, he will receive the **2008 Washington Award** at the **Chicagoland Engineering Awards Banquet** at the **University Club of Chicago**. Some of Dean's notable breakthrough medical

devices include the **HomeChoice® portable dialysis machine** marketed by **Baxter Healthcare** and the

Independence® IBOT® 4000 Mobility System, a sophisticated mobility aid, developed for **Johnson & Johnson**. Dean is also credited as the inventor of the **Segway® Human Transporter**,

Dean Kamen on the Segway, which uses the balancing concepts that were used in developing the iBOT® but this time for people with full mobility. Both an IBOT and a Segway will be available for close up inspection at the Washington Awards.



which was designed to provide a clean alternative for short distance travel and to enhance peoples productivity. One of Deans newest projects is a water purification system designed to provide drinking water to the estimated 1.1 billion of people in the world who lack access to clean water. An inventor and entrepreneur, Dean is the president of **DEKA Research & Development Corporation**.

Dean is also a tireless advocate for science and technology. He founded **FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)**, an organization dedicated to motivating the next generation to understand, use, and enjoy science and technology. During the reception prior to the Awards Banquet, the **Illinois FIRST Lego League and Robotics Competition** teams as well as winners of the many other Engineering Week competitions will be on hand to demonstrate and explain their winning entries. The impressive young competitors – our next generation's engineers – stay for the dinner, giving all a chance to mingle and learn from each other.

A consortium of engineering associations, including the IEEE, sponsors the Washington Award and Chicagoland Engineering Awards Banquet. IEEE members **Dennis Lamont, Pat Hennelly,** and **Jim Fancher** serve on the organizing committee. Dennis reports that this year, Dean was by far the front-runner: "He is quite an individual. What he has done with his medical devices is quite something." And those who have heard him say he is a dynamic speaker.

For tickets to what is guaranteed to be an inspiring evening, [email](#) or call the Western Society of Engineers at 630/724-9770. For more information, visit the Chicagoland E-Week [website](#).

Engineering Week Inspires Future Engineers

Green roofs, Illinois engineers, architectural innovations, VoIP and frozen bananas will all be part of the **24th Annual DuPage Area Engineers Week Expo** on **Saturday, February 23, from 11 am to 3:30 pm** at **Illinois Institute of Technology's Rice Campus** in Wheaton. The Expo, which is free and open to the public, has a series of interactive displays that are designed to enhance interest in math, science and engineering. This years theme is "Engineered in Illinois," with a particular focus on "sustainability," including "green buildings." New exhibitors this year include SCARCE, DuPage County's environmental education arm; robotics from IITs Mechanical Engineering Department; and architectural exhibits. There will also be model planes and a wind tunnel, lasers, and bicycle power. For more information, visit the [DuPage E-Week website](#). For other E-Week activities throughout the Chicago area, visit the [Chicagoland E-Week website](#) where you can learn about events at **Northwestern University** and **Argonne National Laboratory** designed to encourage girls to consider careers in math, science, and engineering; the **International Bridge Building Contest**, **Future City** competition, **FIRST Robotics Program** and **Lego League**, and much more.

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Two Positions Available on Chicago Executive Committee

Safoora Fatima and **Marcellin Diha** recently resigned their IEEE Chicago Section Executive Committee positions as Awards Chair and Program Chair for personal reasons. A big thank you to Safoora and Marcellin for all your hard work and dedication. The Chicago Section has greatly benefited from your participation and you will be missed.

As a result of these resignations, we now have service opportunities available on our executive committee. Have you thought about becoming more active in IEEE-Chicago Section activities? Now is a good time!

The **Program Chair's** job is to plan and manage the Section calendar of events, assist with meeting scheduling in order to avoid conflicts, and provide methods for improving the quality of meetings and increasing meeting attendance. The ideal candidate should have experience with meeting planning and implementation.

The **Awards Chair** works to recognize the efforts of our volunteers and the accomplishments of our local membership. A key to sustaining volunteer commitment and enthusiasm is recognizing jobs well done.

The time commitment of the above chair activities is about two to four hours per month. If you would like more information or have an interest, please contact **John Zulaski** by [email](#) or phone at 847-259-8135.

PES T&D Show: Get a Shirt and Get in Free.

The **2008 IEEE Power Engineering Society Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition**, [Powering Toward the Future](#), is looking for volunteers to make the over 10,000 conference participants expected from around the world feel welcome in Chicago. Volunteers will help assure the smooth operation of the event so that attendees of the **April 20-24** "T&D Show," which will be held at **McCormick Place**, can focus on learning about today's electrical utility industry innovations and technologies. Volunteers are needed to provide event information, monitor buses, staff special events, greet participants, monitor rooms, and staff the companions and international visitors lounges. Morning, afternoon, and all day shifts are available. In exchange,

volunteers will receive a shirt to wear when they volunteer and entrance into the Exposition Hall. For more information or a registration form, contact 2008 IEEE PES T&D Conference and Exposition Volunteer Coordinator **Rich Gordus** at 630-576-6079 or by [email](#).

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UIC IEEE Student Branch Spotlited in *IEEE Potentials Magazine*

In an article entitled "**UIC Student Branch Fans the Flames**," **Amir Zohar**, president of the **University of Illinois at Chicago IEEE Student Branch**, offered thirteen tips to get a student branch buzzing. Amir advises keeping everything -- from an easily editable branch website to events -- simple in order not to overtax volunteers and to assure that the organization is sustainable. Small events, such as touring an interesting lab or asking a professor to give a talk, just require reserving a room and announcing the event. Amir also suggests making a wish list and sharing it with companies that are in the area. The thirteen tips are smart advice for all organizations seeking to grow. Read them all and learn from the next generation of engineers. IEEE members can download a copy of the article, which appeared in the January/February 2008 issue of IEEE Potentials, the magazine for IEEE student branches, at [IEEE Xplore](#).

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How To Capitalize on a Future Technology Trend

At the January **Communications Society** meeting at the **Illinois Institute of Technology** Rice Campus in Wheaton, **Joanne Gucwa** facilitated a lively discussion with the two dozen attendees on "**Tech Trends of the Future**."



As President of Technology Management Associates, Joanne Gucwa consults with clients ranging from pre-startups to Global 1000 companies.

Joanne drew an "S curve" to illustrate how a "disruptive technology" is likely to take off when the rate of increase in productivity improvements from existing technologies tapers off. She had advice for would-be entrepreneurs who believe they have identified such an opportunity: "Murphy was an optimist. Things always take longer than you think . . . and usually are more expensive."

For those wanting to plow forward nevertheless, she gave some useful tips. According to Joanne, the belief that venture capital money is only on the coasts is a myth; there are a lot of investors in the Chicago area such as DePaul's "Blue Angels." The key to getting funding is showing that you understand your market. A study by Chicago-based innovation consultants Kuczmariski and Associates showed that the leading cause for new business success is the same as the leading cause for failure: demonstrated market need or lack there of. Joanne recommended showing your business plan to a friend who knows nothing about your business. If his eyes get wide and he says, "I want in, now," you know you've made a good case.

Joanne drew another graph to demonstrate "the long tail" discussed

in Chris Anderson's book, **The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More**. "You don't need to dominate the market in order to prosper," Joanne explained. By using new technologies and leveraging a publicly available ISBN list, Amazon has built its business selling books that wouldn't ordinarily be on the shelf. In the same way, Joanne said, "You don't have to follow the crowd." You can find a niche and profit there. Good luck!

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