CONGRATS -

For those that are graduating next month, please allow me to give my congratulations. You have worked hard to achieve this goal. Be proud Hokie!

WORD TO THE WISE -

As you seek full time/summer employment, don’t allow your hard-earned skills and knowledge to be acquired for less than they are worth. Despite what Mr. Greenspan says, the recession is still with us and HR personnel know this full well. With fewer companies hiring, this provides an opportunity for them to tighten their purse strings. You have worked hard at acquiring the levels of expertise you possess – Remain equally smart in your job search efforts.

REMEMBER -

You are a ‘desired’ commodity, i.e. you possess an education in engineering from a very prestigious institution. Don’t hesitate to “bid-up” the starting offers - you likely will be surprised. And when you accept that great job, don’t forget to Support the VT IEEE. Ha!

NEXT YEAR -

For those of us sticking around – Look Out. You think we’ve done a lot this year? That’s nothing in comparison to what’s coming! Interested? We’re here over the summer and you know where we will be in the fall. It will be all IEEE, all the time baby!

Have a Good Summer!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEW IEEE WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!

After hours of work the new IEEE website for the Virginia Tech Student Chapter is up and running. Come and visit us on the web at www.ieee.vt.edu.

The website includes such features as:

- Announcements
- Upcoming Events
- Scrapbook
- Contact Information
- Research Openings

The website is updated all the time so stop by often to see what is going on and what we have added!

Special thanks goes to Landon Canida for donating a computer for our web server.

Are you an IEEE Member?

If not, you’re missing out on...

- Prize drawings
- Free technical info on the web
- Free Life Insurance
- Great People and Lot’s of fun

Visit www.ieee.org and join today!
ECE PICNIC TO KICK OFF ON SATURDAY

It’s the end of the year and you know that that means. Its time to come out to the annual Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Picnic. This year, the picnic is being held on April 27, 2002 at the Blacksburg Municipal Park. The festivities start at 11 am and will run until about 5pm or when ever the food runs out.

This year the picnic will have a wide range of activities, the newest of which is the faculty/staff/student softball game. So come out with your mitts and your bats and let’s play ball!

If softball is not your thing then come out to the picnic and have a little something to eat. We will be providing food free of charge and there will be hamburgers, sides, chips, drinks and there will even be meatless selections from the grill for those of you guys out there who are vegetarian.

The park is a wide open space with tennis courts, a volleyball net and a big field for playing catch or football. In addition, the is a pavilion on site so that if it rains, people can still come out and enjoy the food and watch our president attempt to grill in the rain.

One final teaser for you, as if you needed more reason to come. If you have bought a ticket (there will be some at the door) then you will be entered into a raffle for gift certificates from Sharkey’s. Oh, and special thanks to the guys over at Sharkey’s for donating the certs! So come out, take a break from studying and have some fun. See you there!

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION

The IEEE South East Convention was held last month in Columbia, South Carolina. The VT chapter (that’s us) sent 10 representatives to check thing out. Here are some of the things we found out.

Did you know that the IEEE has a hardware competition every year and schools from around the area compete against one another. We want to get involved in the next hardware competition, which involves building an autonomous robot that can navigate a course and detect a “fire”. If you are interested in participating in the hardware team for VT, drop a line to ieee@vt.edu.

Did you know that VT entered an undergraduate paper for an award? Did you know that Dennis Giess, the author of that paper, won an award? If you have an undergrad research paper and you want to get published, let us know. There could be a trip in it to the next South East Convention.

Did you know that the next SE Con will be in Jamaica? Did you know, if you are part of the hardware or software team, you could go for free? For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.ieee.org or write to cazimmer@vt.edu.

HARDWARE COMPETITION??!

I know you read in the last article that there was going to be a hardware competition at the next South East Con? But, you want more information. I know you do. So, here it is.

The concept is to build a robot that can be sent into a building, locate a fire and put it out. The IEEE requirements are slightly less stringent. The robot must be autonomous, so no remotes. The robot has to navigate a floor plan, marked off by either tape on the floor or walls and fide a fire, represented by a red LED. Once the robot has found the light, it has to place a cup over the LED to “extinguish the fire”. It then has to return to its starting point using only the hallways and not re-enter any of the rooms. And this all has to be done in the span of 5 minutes. Fastest team wins the competition. Easy, right?

But really, for those of you out there, profs too, if you want to get involved in this project an maybe go to Jamaica to compeete, contact cazimmer@vt.edu.
AUDIO SOUND-OFF ON ITS WAY!

1. If you have car with a kickin’ stereo that can be heard in the next state, then primp her up and enter the audio competition.

2. If you work for a vendor/auto shop/car dealer, contact Brian Knauss at bknauss@vt.edu and get hooked up with a slot where your business can show their wares.

3. If you have a band and you would like to play at the Sound Off, we would love to hear you play. Contact Brian, at the info above.

4. Would your restaurant like to cater the event? Drop us a line at ieee@vt.edu or talk with Brian at bknauss@VT.EDU.

5. Have any ideas in general? Want to volunteer to help? Let us know. We can’t do this with out you.

POLO SALES

The IEEE got together this semester and put together an IEEE polo shirt that you can wear around with pride and say, “I am a member of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering”. Or you bought one so that you can go one more day without having to do laundry. In either case, we would like to thank those who bought a shirt and remind them that they should be in next week. Watch your email for notification on pickup times.

If you missed this opportunity to buy a shirt, well shame on you. I mean really, what better things could you do with $20? Nothing really. So, if you want to buy a shirt, if you feel guilty for not getting one, if you’re the only kid in your class that doesn’t have one, don’t despair. If there is enough interest, the sale will be repeated in the Fall semester. If you were just waiting to see how they were going to look, well then take a good look in the coming weeks. Let us know what you think of the shirts and if you want the sale repeated next semester, drop a line to IEEE@vt.edu with the subject line “I WANT AN ECE POLO SHIRT!”

CALL FOR ARTICLES

This newsletter is not a one person show. At least, it shouldn’t be. So, there are those of you out there that want to contribute. Maybe you have an event you want to plug. May you have a gripe you want voiced. Maybe you just have a questions about something. Anything. From how GPS receiver works to how you can get a better parking spot. Anything. If you have a story idea or an editorial, send the text to alazarev@vt.edu and you may see your article in the next “Dish”.

Send your letters to us. We want to put them in this little rag of ours.
GRADUATES, YOU’RE MOVING ON

So, its that time of year. Its that time in your life when you get to finally move out on your own. New apartment, new friends. A change of diet from Raman and Burger King to Steak and those little green things called vegetables.

You have been our friends, our classmates. Our competition and our greatest asset. We at the IEEE would just like to thank all of you out there who will be leaving us this May. We would like to thank you for participating and for making the learning experience better for us all.

But, as you move on with your life and get a “real job”, we would like to remind you to keep in touch with the IEEE. As members, many of you should have received a pamphlet in the mail asking you to give the IEEE your forwarding address. What you may miss out on, besides your monthly SPECTRUM magazine, is the change to lock in lower IEEE member rates for the next 5 years. You get professional IEEE services for a fraction of the price.

Second, did you as a member of the IEEE, you can get up to $20,000 of term life insurance for the next year, for free? No string, and it covers you in case something should happen.

There are lots of benefits to being an IEEE member. As a student, you got to participate in activities and stay up to date on the latest and greatest technological information through the IEEE. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue your membership in this international organization. For more information, visit www.ieee.org.

But, for now, enjoy your last couple of weeks here at Tech. You will be missed. So come back and visit.

GO HOKIES!!!

Congrats to all of our graduating Seniors. We’re proud of you guys. A little jealous too.