LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As another year comes to a close in Blacksburg we say goodbye to our old officers and hello to the new ones. Brian Knauss and Sara Rangos, our current IEEE chair and treasurer, will be leaving us for the real world. We wish them the best and thank them for their efforts towards the IEEE.

We would also like to welcome our new officers for the 2004 – 2005 school year. I am George Eichinger, your new IEEE Chair. I will be joined in the executive council by Andrew Cormier as Vice-Chair, Brian Crosby as secretary, and Rob Klug as treasurer. We are all committed to bringing you the best IEEE year to date.

The next year is going to be very exciting and we already have many fun events planned for you. We will kick off the year with technical speakers galore. We already have the IEEE Communications Society in Washington along with other local companies set up to talk. The fall semester will include the normal Fall Kick-off along with a graduate roundtable. The spring semester will include a research symposium along with a regional conference. The conference will bring in several national speakers who will address issues related to engineering such as ethics or finding a job. We will round out the year with the annual Southeast conference. This year it will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and will be attended by our officers along with the hardware team.

George F. Eichinger III
Chair – IEEE @ VT Student Branch

IEEE END OF YEAR PICNIC

It’s the end of the year and you know what that means. Its time to come out to the annual Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Picnic. It will be held on Saturday, April 17th from 10AM to 3PM at the Blacksburg Municipal Park on Turner Street.

We will be providing food free of charge and there will be hamburgers, hotdogs, sides, drinks, and even alternatives for vegetarians. Activities include beach volleyball, horseshoes, and softball. Last year, our sluggers lost by a slim margin to IIE and we hope to regain the title this year! Please come out and have a good time before the school year ends. Feel free to bring a friend. Hope to see everyone there!
NEW RANKINGS

This just in: the IEEE at Virginia Tech is now NUMBER 10 IN THE WORLD! We have 369 members and are growing every day. Come be a part of the revolution and help the IEEE rise in the ranks. Remember, the IEEE needs you.

All of these great events cannot be accomplished without volunteers to help out. IEEE Publicity Chair and Membership Chair are currently open.

The Publicity Chair is responsible for making flyers for events, advertising via e-mail and word of mouth, along with writing articles for the newsletter.

The Membership Chair maintains the membership listserv and handles all membership drives.

Also, there are positions on the SPAC planning committee available. SPAC stands for Student Professional Awareness Conference and will be held at Virginia Tech in the spring. These positions are a great way to get involved with IEEE. If you are interested, send an e-mail to georgefe@vt.edu.

IEEE HARDWARE TEAM COMPETES AT SOUTHEASTCON

Fifteen Members of the Virginia Tech IEEE attended the annual SoutheastCon in Greensboro, NC on March 26-28th.

New officers attended training sessions, but the majority of those attending went for the Hardware Competition. The twelve members of the team spent the past six months designing and building an autonomous vehicle to navigate a large track and complete tasks like receiving an infrared serial transmission, following a line, detecting a stoplight, and picking up objects. Unfortunately, the team’s vehicle was eliminated in the first round due to sensor failures.

The team is preparing for next year’s competition (http://sec05.nova.edu/hardware_design.htm), which features an extremely different challenge. If you’re interested in joining the Hardware Team for next year’s competition, email Captain Matt Boyle (mboyle@vt.edu).

CALL FOR ARTICLES

We’re dedicated to bringing you the best reading entertainment every Fun Friday, but we cannot do it without you. Anyone may submit an article for publication. Maybe you’d like to review a recent event. Or maybe you want to submit an editorial about the curriculum at Virginia Tech. Maybe you have a question that no one else could answer. Or maybe you just want to show off your art skills with a funny cartoon.

Other things you can submit are ads for upcoming events, a how-things-work article, or a narrative on something interesting that happened to you the other day.

If you have a story idea or an editorial, send the text to ieee@vt.edu and you may see your article in the next “Dish”.

Send your letters to ieee@vt.edu
IEEE Officers for 2004-2005

Sanjay Raman, Faculty Advisor  sraman@vt.edu
George Eichinger, Chair  georgese@vt.edu
Drew Cormier, Vice Chair  acormier@vt.edu
Brian Crosby, Secretary  bcrosby@vt.edu
Rob Klug, Treasurer  rklug@vt.edu
Matt Boyle, Social Chair  mboyle@vt.edu
Erik Anderson, SGA/SEC Rep  eanderso@vt.edu
Abbas Hussain, SGA/SEC Rep  abbash@vt.edu
Andrew Hawkins, Member at Large  ahawkins@vt.edu
Albert Kao, Website/Newsletter Chair  akao@vt.edu
Rob Alwood, Fundraising Chair  ralwood@vt.edu
Tim Huggins, SPAC Committee Chair  thuggins@vt.edu
Matt Boyle, SoutheastCon Hardware Team Captain  mboyle@vt.edu
Rob Klug, SoutheastCon Hardware Team Hardware Leader  rklug@vt.edu
Erik Anderson, SoutheastCon Hardware Team Software Leader  eanderso@vt.edu
Rob Alwood, SoutheastCon Hardware Team Electronics Leader  ralwood@vt.edu
Abbas Hussain, SoutheastCon Hardware Team Treasurer  abbash@vt.edu
Publicity Chair  Open
Membership Chair  Open