LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

There’s an opening scene in the movie “American Beauty” where the main character is among a bustling office area. As the cameras zooms in on Lester, the character, you see piece of paper hung up saying “Look Closer”. What exactly does it mean? After seeing the entire movie, you realize there is a recurring theme that people metaphorically should not look at the bright shiny covering, but should pay attention to the insides and the surroundings of this beautiful thing. An example could be Eric Green’s interception for a touchdown in last week’s game against Miami. Did you see the glitz and glamour of Eric intercepting the ball and running back for the touchdown, or did you notice the amazing hustling of defensive end Col's Colas to make a pivotal block to allow that touchdown?

If you don’t take things at face value, this can lead to great opportunities. A perfect example was from last year’s Engineering Open House, a recruiting event for potential high school students to go to Virginia Tech for engineering. Most of us would think nothing of volunteering their time to tell high school students reasons to join the ECE department. While another student and I were sitting and waiting for the high school students to come by the ECE department booth, a man walked up to us and asked us various questions. They included things like what our majors were, what we were doing at the booth, and things along those lines. As the man walked away, he mentioned he worked for Northrop Grumman, gave us his business card, and said if we ever needed a job to contact him directly. Obviously you cannot put in the volunteer’s description something pertaining to the possibility of making contacts, but it is one of the unseen perks. Again, you must “look closer”.

I know we are all extremely busy at this time of year. Midterm exams have just passed and now we all will have the pre-Thanksgiving rush of several test and projects due the week before break. Take the time to “look closer” while doing your every day activities. Check out the horizon on your way back home. During the fall when the sun sets, it is one of the most beautiful scenes you will see while at Virginia Tech. Spend some time volunteering [hint: the IEEE is always looking for volunteers]. You might be given a job offer or another great opportunity. By taking the time to do things like this every day, you take a normally mundane life and have the chance to make it extraordinary.

Brian Knauss
Chair – IEEE @ VT Student Branch
Hey guys, I’m George Eichinger, the IEEE webmaster. There are some cool new features on the website that you should check out. The website is the premiere place to look for the latest information on all IEEE events on campus. There are also plenty of new additions to the website.

The first new addition for this year is the forum. It is a place to discuss issues related to IEEE or anything else for that matter. Need help on your next project? Have a homework problem you can’t solve? This is the place! Also, if you join the IEEE Hardware team, the majority of their discussions about parts and design are held on a special section of the forum.

The second cool part of the website is the job board. Within the last two weeks several different employers have posted jobs exclusively for Hokies! This is a unique opportunity and it should be utilized by anyone who is in the market for a job. For example, the latest job post was with Raytheon in Springfield, Virginia.

The old albums section of the website has been revamped and labeled the ‘Gallery’. We now have a fully automated photo gallery with pictures of all our latest events. If you have pictures, you can obtain a password from me, upload pictures of an IEEE event, and they will automatically be added to an online gallery! Current albums include the last two picnics and Southeastcons.

The last and perhaps most exciting part of the website is the new online store. Remember how we always sell Bradley department of Electrical Engineering shirts? Well, we are now selling these, and lots more IEEE and VT gear in the new store. You will find the traditional Polo shirt, IEEE male and female t-shirts, bumper stickers, bags, hats, coffee mugs, steins, etc. Buy today and have these items shipped to your home with easy billing via credit card.

Don’t delay, visit the website now at http://www.ieee.vt.edu

### REMAINING EVENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER

**Graduate student roundtable** – Come out and get all the information you need to apply to graduate school, either at VT or another school. Professors will be available to discuss the different concentrations at VT in grad school, and graduate students can answer questions about life as a grad student. Also, faculty and staff will be available to help out with things like filling out the applications. This takes place Tuesday, November 11th at 6:30PM in McBryde 209. Food will be provided.

**Ware Lab project group information session** – Interested in cars? Want to join one of the prestigious Ware Lab groups as they build their vehicles? Several groups, particularly the Formula team, need ECE students for the upcoming year. Come hear about what’s involved and how you can help out. This takes place Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30PM in McBryde 209.

### T-SHIRT CONTEST!

To go along with our new online store, we will be having a t-shirt design contest. The rules are as follows:

1. All files should be .PSD, .tiff, .png or something of very high quality.
2. DPI 300
3. 10’x8” or 8”x10” front AND back
4. All designs must be submitted by November 14th on the forum under General.
5. Slogans / images should be mostly appropriate, if the words VT are used, it will have to be approved by the school
6. Winner will receive a free copy of the T-shirt!
7. Shirts will then be sold in the new IEEE online store!
Sanjay Raman, Faculty Advisor sraman@vt.edu
Brian Knauss, Chair bknauss@vt.edu
Alok Bathija, Vice Chair abathija@vt.edu
Betsy Ellis, Secretary
Sara Rangos, Treasurer srangos@vt.edu
Mark Helms, Social Rep mahelms2@vt.edu
Olivia Miller, Member Rep olmiller@vt.edu
Melissa Molaire, SG Liason mmolaire@vt.edu
Babak Binesh, SG Liaison bbinesh@vt.edu
Rob Alwood, SEC Rep ralwood@vt.edu
Mo Amin, Outreach Chair moa@vt.edu
Matt Ortyl, Student Societies Chair mortyl@vt.edu
Andrew Hawkins, Fundraising Chair ahawkins@vt.edu
Sherry Ezhuthachan, Publicity Chair sherrye@vt.edu
David Miller, Programs Chair damiller@vt.edu
Miten Sampat, Student Competitions Chair msampat@vt.edu
Kirthana Sunder, Member at Large ksunder@vt.edu
Matt Anderson, Member at Large mra@vt.edu
Syed Tashkeen, Member at Large tashkeen@vt.edu
George Eichinger, Web Chair georgefe@vt.edu
Carson Baisden, Newsletter Editor cbaisden@vt.edu