

2014 CVD Registration is Open

IEEE-USA's annual Congressional Visits Day (CVD) will be held this year on March 25 & 26 in Washington, DC. Any and all IEEE members who are concerned about declining federal investments in basic research, our national labs and our research universities is encouraged to attend.

The CVD offers concerned IEEE members an opportunity to meet directly with your members of Congress and their staff in Washington. This annual event is a crucial part of IEEE-USA's ongoing efforts to protect federal investments in science and engineering.

These efforts are especially crucial in 2014. After three years of tight federal budgets, Congress is looking for additional programs to cut. Basic research and R&D have so far survived the first few rounds of budget cuts with only modest reductions. But that may be about to change. Programs that the public doesn't know much about or that can be cut without doing immediate damage to too many people are prime targets. R&D fits the bill perfectly. While R&D is vitally important to America's long-term economic prosperity, the fact is, should Congress cut the programs, the country won't feel the impact of these cuts for a few years.

And how many Americans know we have national labs, let alone how they contribute to the country?

If IEEE members want Congress to protect the basic research and R&D budgets, we need to speak up and make sure Congress knows how valuable these programs are to us and our country.

There is simply no better way to get a legislator's attention than to have a voter come to Washington and ask for the legislator's support. Especially in an election year.

All IEEE members are welcome and encouraged to attend this year's CVD. To join your colleagues from across the country, go here to learn more and to register:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/cvd/>

If you would like to speak with your members of Congress, but can't come to Washington, there may be opportunities to hold meetings in your local area. Please contact IEEE-USA staffer Russ Harrison to find out, or if you have other questions about this year's CVD. Russ can be reached at r.t.harrison@ieee.org or (202) 530-8326.

Joint Chapter Talk: Advances in Imaging of the eye: Is the End of Blindness in Sight?

On March 12th, Dr. Simon Barriga, Chief Research Scientist at VisionQuest Biomedical LLC in Albuquerque, gave his talk "Advances in Imaging of the eye: Is the End of Blindness in Sight?" at the Canyon Club as part of the Joint Chapter talk series.

In 2013 Dr. Barriga received the Outstanding Young Engineer award from our Section at the Joint Sigma Xi - IEEE banquet and his talk gave us the opportunity to learn more about his work and efforts to help save people's sight.

Dr. Barriga's talk focused on research efforts to minimize vision loss from the fourth leading causes of blindness: Cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma.

On the topic of diabetic retinopathy, he described his work at VisionQuest Biomedical to develop and commercialize software tools for the automatic screening of the disease using telemedicine and advanced digital signal processing techniques.

Besides his own work, Dr. Barriga described the role of imaging technologies such digital fundus photography, optical coherence tomography, and adaptive optics as tools to provide visualization of lesions and defect on the retina.

Dr. Barriga concluded his talk with a view into the future of vision prosthetics (bionic eyes) as a way to help people who otherwise would be blind.

The talk was attended by more than 30 members of the Section and their companions. This was one of the best attended talks and one with the most questions asked to the speaker afterwards.

Upcoming Events

APS/MTT/EMC/NPSS Joint Chapters talks

April 9, Everett Farr, Farr Fields, LC, "A Power Wave Theory of Antennas"

May 7, Goutam Chattopadhyay (MTT Distinguished Lecturer), Jet Propulsion Laboratory, "Terahertz Radar for Stand-Off Through-Clothes Imaging"

PLACE & TIME: Canyon Club (Formerly Four Hills CC), 911 Four Hills Road, SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123, Talk at 7:30 pm, Social begins at 5:45 pm, and Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

\$25 per person for dinner (full-time student members of IEEE, \$15)—reservations required by noon of the preceding Monday. No charge and no reservation required to attend just the talk. For updated information and RSVP contact Mike Harrison, harrisonmgabq@comcast.net.

Sigma Xi University of New Mexico Chapter Distinguished talks

The Science of Speed by Diandra Leslie-Pelecky, University of West Virginia. Thursday, 10 April 2014, 5:30 p.m.

All talks will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the UNM Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd. NE. FREE parking is available in the attached (well lit) parking lot. Refreshments will be served at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Jackie Ericksen; (505)821-0299; jhericksen@msn.com.

New Section website

The Albuquerque section has a new website. Please visit us at <http://sites.ieee.org/albuquerque/>

Upcoming Section Board meetings

March 25th

April 29th

May 27th

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. at Yanni's Mediterranean Bar & Grill (3109 Central Avenue NE). Come join us.

New place for Albuquerque kids to acquire STEM skills

A new place in Albuquerque has been established to help kids ages 4-14 to acquire STEM skills. This place is called Engineering for Kids and early this week our Chair, Gilberto Zamora had the opportunity of talking to Ed Hazlett, the site director.

Engineering for Kids offers classes, camps, and even birthday parties with STEM-oriented themes. Classes and camps are divided into three different groups: Junior Engineers (pre-K to 2nd grade), Apprentice Engineers (3rd to 5th grades), and Master Engineers (6th to 8th grades). Classes include not only Electrical Engineering concepts but also the basics of Mechanical, Chemical, Aerospace, and Civil Engineering.

Visit their general website for information on the programs and the Albuquerque website for schedules, availability, and fees.

Mr. Hazlett told me Engineering for Kids initiated operations in Albuquerque last October and have had around 50 kids in different classes. He also told me that they are growing and currently seeking engineers with extra-time to join their professional team of instructors on a 10 to 20 hours per week basis. These engineers should have some real world experience but, most importantly, should greatly enjoy teaching and motivating children and young adults! Applicants may send a resume and cover letter via email to their HR department at NewMexico@EngineeringForKids.net.

NOTE: No endorsement of the sites/business referenced in this post should be implied. Neither IEEE nor the Albuquerque Section of the IEEE are affiliated to the sites/businesses listed in this post. This post is provided to our members for informational purposes only.

IEEE Albuquerque Section 2013 Officials

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