



IEEE Boise Section
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 Newsletter
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Section News

Visvanathan Shekar



Visvanathan Shekar, our Boise Computer Society (BCS) Chapter Chair, passed away on June 29, 2014. Shekar, as he liked to be called, was in India to mourn the loss of his father when he fell ill and never recovered.

Shekar with his smile, laugh and positive outlook was an active volunteer in the IEEE Boise Section, especially with the Boise Computer Society chapter. He currently served as chapter chair, as well as membership chair and treasurer in previous years. This year, through his leadership efforts, the chapter was on track to make 2014 one of its most active years. He made positive contributions to the chapter and Boise section by stepping up when there was a need to be filled, such as the IEEEExtreme competition. As a volunteer, he exhibited traits that naturally made those around him feel welcomed and involved. These same traits came through when he worked at HP.

Shekar worked as a software engineer at HP in Boise for over 20 years. He contributed primarily to the enterprise printer side of the business, putting in the extra effort to meet customer needs.

Shekar believed in supporting STEM activities with our youth and working with college students to convey the engineering knowledge and experience he gained through his career. He was actively looking into teaching at Boise State University.

Outside of work and volunteer activities, he talked of good food and wine and could be seen playing sand volleyball or Cricket at a local park.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

He was dearly loved and respected by his many friends and colleagues here in Boise and around the world. The ever-cheerful Shekar will be missed.

IEEE Boise SIGHT Group

The Boise Section added a new activity group last year: Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technologies (SIGHT). Humanitarian activities are not limited to target groups in distant lands; there are many local populations that need an engineer's hand. The group has met several times and devised two main activities. The first is helping refugees having engineering experience with their resumes so they can assume jobs commensurate with their education and experience. Many are from the Middle East, where they worked for many years helping American troops, and can speak excellent English; however, the main refugee centers and these refugees do not know how to look for high-tech jobs.

The second activity was helping the Idaho Native American population. Through a contact of Elisa Barney Smith's the SIGHT group was invited to put on a week-long STEM camp at the Lillian Vallely School in Blackfoot Idaho. Held June 23-27, the camp covered themes of energy, power and efficiency. KidWind materials were used to introduce the engineering design process and measurements of energy and power generated with different wind turbine blade designs. Analogies using water poured, squeezed or transported from different sized soda bottles and cups were implemented, and paper houses were constructed and viewed with an IR camera to see the effect of open doors and insulation on heat loss. Attending students reported this camp was "better" than any previous camp.

The SIGHT group will be meeting this fall to expand on these activities and select new ones. Look for notices in the section newsletter and events e-mails. If you would be interested in participating occasional workshops or supporting this effort, please contact Phil Anderson (philanderson@idahopower.com) or Kip Sikes (kip.sikes.us@ieee.org).

2014 EPICS in IEEE Project Submissions Requested

The Engineering Projects in Community Service-in-IEEE (EPICS-in-IEEE) is a social innovation initiative, which in its fifth year will empower IEEE members to work with community organizations and high school students on community service-related engineering projects with the objective to increase student interest in pursuing an engineering-related career path. Fifty such projects are running in IEEE sections all over the world and are currently seeking proposals for additional projects.

The EPICS-in-IEEE program is looking for applications for project funding. Each project must involve IEEE volunteers (e.g., student branch, Young Professional, section, affinity group) working with a local community based organization. Outreach and mentoring of local high school students on project related activities is also encouraged. Projects may address local community service needs such as access & abilities, education & outreach, environment, and human services. Typical awards use IEEE funding for project related supplies (as opposed to personnel costs) with award amounts in the \$5-10k USD range.

For further details, view this free e-Learning tutorial: <http://epicsinieee.ieee-elearning.org/>, which can be accessed through a free IEEE online account. If you do not have an account, you can register for free. Visit the EPICS-in-IEEE website for an application form, examples of past and current projects, and other information: <http://www.ieee.org/go/epics-high>. If you have any questions regarding EPICS-in-IEEE, or how to develop a project, contact epics-high@ieee.org.

IEEE Boise Senior Members

Senior membership is professional recognition from your peers for technical and professional excellence. IEEE members who apply for Senior membership must be in practice for at least ten years and show significant performance over a period of at least five of those years. The following Section members were elevated to Senior Member grade in 2014. For information on Senior Member Grade elevation refer to

http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/senior/index.html

Brent Keeth
Md Zahid Hossain
Nader I Rafla
Nirmal Ramaswamy

Said Ahmed-Zaid
Salman Akram
Taehoon Kim
Thy N Tran

Upcoming Events

IEEE Boise Section Operations Committee

Date: 2 September 2014
Time: 19:00-21:00
Location: Micron Engineering Center

If you'd like to get involved in spending the Section's money on activities of interest to you, consider attending our bi-monthly Operation's Committee (OpComm) meeting. All members are welcome to participate.

First Annual Electron Devices Society (EDS) Boise Chapter Banquet

Date: Wednesday, 3 September, 2014
Time: Doors open at 18:00, Dinner starts at 18:30
Location: Boise State University, Student Union Building, Simplot AC Ballroom

This First Annual IEEE Electron Devices Society Boise Chapter Banquet provides a valuable networking opportunity for members of the Boise technical community and features a special talk by Professor Thomas Lee of Stanford University entitled "The Victorian Moon Program: The First Transatlantic Telegraph Cable and the Birth of Electrical Engineering". Please see links below for banquet details, abstract and speaker bio. Early registration is strongly encouraged due to limited seating.

Meeting Details: <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/27423>

Online Registration: <http://ieee-eds-boise.eventbrite.com>

IEEE EDS Member:	\$10	Student, IEEE Member:	\$10
IEEE non-EDS Member:	\$15	Student, Non-IEEE Member:	\$15
Non-IEEE Member:	\$20		

IEEE Boise Section Annual Picnic

Date: 12 September 2014
Time: 17:30 – 20:30
Location: Municipal Park Shelter, 500 S. Walnut St.

IEEE members and their families are invited to attend our annual picnic arranged by the Boise State University Student Branch. Refer to this link for further details—
<https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/26905>

Fireside Chat with George Mulhern of CradlePoint

Date: TBD November 2014

Some of you may have heard of Startup Grind events happening this year around Boise. We're happy to announce IEEE partnering with the Startup Grind team to host a special event in November. We will host George Mulhern of CradlePoint to tell us about his journey in the world of technology. The best part is that all IEEE members get free entrance to this event! Check www.ieeeboise.org and <http://startupgrind.com/boise/> periodically for further event specifics.

Utah Section Metropolitan Area Workshop

Date: 11 October 2014
Time: 17:30 – 20:30
Location: Weber State University in Ogden, UT
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ieee-utah-section-metro-area-discovery-workshop-tickets-1146447354> (includes agenda and pricing information)

IEEE Utah Section will host its first ever Metropolitan Area Workshop (MAW) on Saturday, 11 October 2014, at Weber State University in Ogden, UT. A MAW is a mini-conference designed to provide participants with a "unique learning experience with topics on the cutting edge of technical innovation today. These one- or two-day seminars are focused on providing an opportunity for participants to learn first-hand from field experts." The workshop is a single-day event focusing on four tracks: Automated Test, Emerging Technologies, Internet of Things (IoT) and Entrepreneurship. Cost is low by design.

If you have questions, please contact Larry Kirkland, (WesTest Engineering), IEEE Utah Section Metro-Area Discovery Workshop Program Chair at larryk@westest.com.

IEEE Conferences

IEEE Sections Congress 2014

Dates: 22-24 August 2014
Location: Rai Convention Center, Amsterdam

The IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board will partner with Region 8 in hosting IEEE Sections Congress 2014 (SC2014) in Amsterdam, Netherlands, at the Rai Convention Center, from 22 to 24 August 2014. The SC2014 theme is "Inspiring Our Leaders of Tomorrow."

The three program tracks will be:

1. Enhance Member Satisfaction
2. Improve Volunteer Experience
3. Reach Globally with Local Touch

Refer to this link for further details:

http://www.ieee.org/societies_communities/geo_activities/sections_congress/2014/sections_congress_2014.html

IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC)

Dates: 10-13 October 2014

Venue: SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Website: <http://www.ieeeghtc.org>

The Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) is the flagship IEEE conference for presenting, discussing, and developing technological solutions to global humanitarian challenges. GHTC attracts presenters and attendees who work to meet the needs of populations affected by poverty, disaster, conflict, environmental change, and other impacts resulting in their needs being unmet or underserved.

The technical focus of the Conference is complemented by an integrated understanding of broader contexts-economics, policy, culture, environment-to create and promote sustainable holistic solutions. GHTC welcomes participation by individuals and organizations from technical and non-technical backgrounds, including engineers, scientists, academics, small-businesses, corporations, philanthropists, foundations, and government and non-government organizations. The Conference theme of 'Technology for the Benefit of Humanity' is presented in five tracks:

1. Energy: infrastructure and off-grid power, renewable, transportation, lighting, cooking & heating
2. Health: medical technology, telemedicine, mobile care, primary care
3. Disaster, connectivity, and communication: disaster warning & avoidance, disaster response, disaster management, networks, remote communication, communication technologies
4. Humanitarian challenges and opportunities: education, housing, supply chain & distribution, business development
5. Water and agriculture: clean water, sanitation, irrigation, farming practices & agricultural technologies

Membership Referral

During the period 31 March-August 15, 2014, refer a friend or colleague and they will receive 50% off their membership dues. The merchandise and member-get-a-member incentive are the same. For every referral that joins, you will get to receive an item of IEEE-USA merchandise as well as \$15 towards your next year's membership fee for every higher grade member that joins. (If you get just 6 referrals to join, you would have almost HALF of your membership dues paid for next year.) It's simple, either direct your referral to the email message that they received when you submitted their information for referral or simply direct them to the IEEE join page at:

http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/join/join_USA.html

Provide them with your member number if they are asked to provide it, so you can get credit.

Company Liaisons

Do you work at a company that employs engineers within our section? We invite each company to have one 'Company Liaison' to join our section's operational committee. These Liaisons provide a point of contact to send information from the section Operations Committee to members working at these companies and to return information as to how the needs of their engineers can be met by

the section. Company Liaisons are included in email discussions from the OPCOMM, and are encouraged to help advertise section events to members and non-members at their place of employment beyond the section newsletters. They are invited along with all the section members to attend OPCOMM meetings and give us input. If you are interested in being a company liaison, please contact ieee.boise.chair@gmail.com.

Your 2014 Officers

IEEE Boise Section		
Chair	Kristen Hopper	kmmcnair@ieee.org
Vice Chair	Sean Collison	scollison@gmail.com
Secretary	Hao Chen	haochen@boisestate.edu
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Vice President	Vlad Calugaru	
Secretary	Suraj Deuja	
Treasurer	Rachana Acharya	
Region 6 Northeast Area Chair	Dan Christenson	Dan.Christenson@us.af.mil



You make a difference when you join the IEEE.