

IEEE Baltimore Section 2025 Officer Nominees: Second Announcement

IEEE Baltimore Section Members:

This is the second announcement of the candidate slate for Baltimore Section Executive Committee (EXCOM) Officers for 2025. The first announcement provided an opportunity for Baltimore Section members not on that original candidate slate to petition the Election Committee for inclusion as a candidate. There were no petitions received by the Election Committee. Accordingly, there are no changes on this announcement from the first candidate slate announcement.

Officer election for Baltimore Section Executive Committee Officers for 2025 will start on November 1 and conclude on December 8; the results will be presented at the December 9 EXCOM meeting. Voting will take place using the web tool vTools Voting; the ballot can be accessed through the link: [vTools Voting](#). Additional instructions will be provided on November 1 via email.

This year's EXCOM officer candidates are:

Chair: Chinonso Ezeobi
Vice-chair: Neeta Basantkumar
Amit Srivastava
Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Rassa
Secretary: Bradley Taylor

Following below are biographies and position statements from each of the candidates.

Thank you for your support of IEEE and Baltimore Section.

Best regards,
David Kisak
Chair, Baltimore Section EXCOM Election Committee
dkisak@ieee.org

Chinonso Ezeobi

Nominated Position - IEEE Baltimore Section Chair

Biography:

I am the current secretary of the Baltimore Section and will need your support in the form of votes to be elected the next Chair of the IEEE Baltimore Section. I am also the current chair of Young professional IEEE Baltimore. I have been a student member of IEEE for five years and a volunteer section officer for two years. The volunteer opportunity as the IEEE Baltimore section secretary has helped me and is still helping me to build my leadership skills. It has offered me some great networking opportunities, and I would love to continue building my leadership skills in a different capacity as Chair to enable continuation of my personal and professional growth trajectory.

My academic journey in Electrical/ Electronic Engineering began at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Nigeria, where I obtained my B.S. degree in 2001. I furthered my studies with an M.S. degree in Science Technology from the University of Vaasa, Finland, in 2015, and a second M.S. from UMBC in 2022. Currently, I am a G-RISE (Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement) Meyerhoff scholar pursuing a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Maryland Baltimore. My research, conducted as a research assistant at The Center for Advanced Studies in Photonics Research (*CASPR*), focuses on photonics and optics, particularly the characterization of nonlinear properties of semiconductor materials and fiber optics using techniques like induced grating autocorrelation (IGA) and Z-scan.

Between my B.S., M.S., and current studies, I have about 15 years of work experience in Telecommunications as engineering Manager with Airtel, a mobile network provider, and telecommunication equipment vendors like LMN Erickson and Huawei. Details of my work experience can be found on my LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chinonso-ezeobi-65399b13/>.

I am the past UMBC Optica Student chapter president, formerly the Optical Society of America (OSA).

Position Statement

The IEEE is a professional organization that cares about the contributions of technology and the gift of technical professionals who are improving global conditions and fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. It also has a history of mentorship and provides incentives for students to thrive in engineering and science careers. These lofty goals align with my goal of making this world a better place for all. My graduate assistantship work with PROMISE (an organization under the graduate school at UMBC sponsored by the National Science Foundation) ensures underrepresented minority graduate students' success in STEM by providing professional development and networking opportunities programming. I would employ the skills developed through my work at PROMISE to make IEEE more inclusive for all scientists, professionals, and students in IEEE Baltimore. My primary goal in volunteering as chair is to continue my leadership skill learning trajectory, to bridge the gap between IEEE senior members, students, and young professionals, and to harness the students' chapters in all the tertiary institutions in Maryland and see how IEEE Baltimore can provide mentorship in producing the next generation of scientists that will solve today's and tomorrow's problems.

Neeta Basantkumar

Nominated Position - IEEE Baltimore Section Vice-chair

Biography:

Neeta is a dedicated and passionate engineering professional with a longstanding commitment to IEEE. Since 2015, Neeta has been actively involved in IEEE, beginning as an on-site volunteer for the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Forum. In 2017, Neeta took on a leadership role as the Chair of the IEEE WIE Forum, successfully bringing the event to Baltimore, where it became one of the most successful conferences in the forum's history.

Currently, Neeta serves as an advisor for the IEEE WIE Forum, where she manages multiple responsibilities, including social media coordination, web management, and providing technical expertise. In 2020, she was appointed as the Region 2 Secretary, a role that deepened her understanding of the IEEE's regional operations, particularly the IEEE Bylaws. She also serves as an organizing committee member for the first Baltimore Technical Colloquium and Professional Development Conference.

Neeta is also a proud member of IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu (IEEE-HKN), the honor society of IEEE, which upholds the ideals of Scholarship, Character, and Attitude. Recently, she achieved IEEE Senior Membership, a prestigious recognition for professionals who have demonstrated significant performance and professional maturity over at least ten years in their respective fields.

With a strong passion for promoting IEEE and its numerous benefits, Neeta continues to contribute to the growth and success of the organization. She resides in Harford County and works in Baltimore as an Engineering Manager, where she brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her role.

Position Statement

As an engaged and skilled member of IEEE, I am committed to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of the profession and the broader community. My extensive experience with IEEE, particularly through leadership roles within the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Forum and as the Region 2 Secretary, has equipped me with the knowledge and dedication needed to support and enhance the member experience at the local level.

In the role of Section Vice Chair, I will leverage my expertise in event management, member engagement, and technical advisory to contribute meaningfully to the operations of the Section. I am passionate about establishing a local experience that our members recognize as invaluable and want to be a part of, thereby increasing the overall value of IEEE membership.

I will work closely with the Section Chair to ensure that our Section operates efficiently and in the best interests of our members. By collaborating with the Section Secretary, I will help select topics for our meetings that resonate with our members and reflect the latest technological trends and challenges. Furthermore, I will engage with the Chairs of our Technical Chapters and Affinity Groups to ensure that our programs are both relevant and impactful, meeting the needs of our diverse member base.

I believe my experience, passion, and commitment to the IEEE mission make me well-suited to serve as Section Vice Chair, where I will strive to create a professional home for our local IEEE members and contribute to the achievement of IEEE's Vision and Mission.

Amit Srivastava

Nominated Position - IEEE Baltimore Section Vice-chair

Biography:

I am an accomplished technology leader with nearly two decades of experience in healthcare technology, IT automation, and advanced AI/ML solutions. Throughout my career, I have led high-impact initiatives across both public and private sectors, where my work has consistently driven innovation, efficiency, and transformative change. My expertise spans cutting-edge technologies, including AI-driven automation, cloud computing, and large-scale system integration, making me a valuable asset to the IEEE community.

My technological journey has been marked by a commitment to excellence and a passion for pushing the boundaries of what is possible. I have led critical projects that have not only improved operational efficiencies but have also had a lasting positive impact on millions of lives. For instance, my work on the **CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services)** initiative involved implementing complex automation systems that significantly enhanced the accuracy and speed of eligibility verification processes, directly contributing to improved healthcare access for the American public.

As an active member of IEEE, I have consistently contributed to the organization by sharing my knowledge, insights, and leadership. I have participated in IEEE conferences, workshops, and local chapter meetings, where I have presented emerging technologies and best practices, helping to foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation within the community. My dedication to the advancement of technology and the professional development of my peers has been a driving force behind my involvement with IEEE.

I have also been recognized for my contributions to the field, with my work being featured in prominent industry publications(<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/306705/20240717/ amit-srivastava-celebrated-for-transformative-contributions-to-healthcare-technology.htm>) and receiving accolades such as the 2024 Global Recognition Award for contribution to healthcare technology and the 2024 Globe Award for technological excellence for my innovative approaches to solving complex challenges. These achievements underscore my ability to lead and inspire, qualities that I believe are essential for the role of Vice Chair.

As I submit my nomination for IEEE Vice Chair of the Baltimore Section, I am eager to bring my experience, vision, and dedication to this leadership role. I am committed to enhancing member engagement, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and supporting the professional growth of our members. I aim to ensure that our section continues to thrive as a hub of innovation and excellence, providing members with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

I am confident that my background, achievements, and passion for technology make me well-suited for this position. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and contribute to the continued success of the IEEE Baltimore Section.

Position Statement

As I submit my candidacy for the position of IEEE Vice Chair for the Baltimore Section, I do so with a deep commitment to fostering a thriving, innovative, and collaborative community within our IEEE network. Throughout my nearly two decades of experience in healthcare technology, IT automation, and advanced AI/ML solutions, I have consistently seen the transformative power of technology when combined with a dedicated, well-connected professional community. My involvement with IEEE has reinforced my belief that this organization plays a crucial role in shaping the future of technology and engineering globally and within our local communities.

If elected as Vice Chair, my primary goal will be to enhance the engagement and participation of our members across all levels of expertise and backgrounds. I believe that our section's strength lies in its members' diversity—ranging from seasoned professionals to young engineers and students just beginning their careers. I plan to introduce new initiatives to create more opportunities for meaningful interaction among members, whether through regular networking events, collaborative projects, or mentorship programs that bridge the gap between experienced professionals and those just starting out.

Another key focus of my tenure will be on promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. The rapid pace of technological advancement today means that innovation often happens at the intersection of different fields. By fostering closer ties between various IEEE societies and special interest groups within our section, I hope to encourage a cross-pollination of ideas that can lead to groundbreaking solutions to complex problems. I envision organizing joint workshops, seminars, and hackathons that bring together experts from different disciplines to work on real-world challenges.

In addition, I am committed to supporting the professional development of our members by expanding access to resources and opportunities that can help them stay at the forefront of their fields. This includes offering more specialized training sessions, certification programs, and access to cutting-edge research and industry insights. I also plan to strengthen our partnerships with local universities and industry leaders to provide IEEE members with greater opportunities for career advancement, internships, and collaborative research projects.

Finally, I believe that it is essential for our section to play an active role in promoting STEM education and outreach within the broader community. We can inspire the next generation of engineers and technologists by organizing and supporting initiatives that engage students, educators, and the public. Whether hosting local science fairs, offering workshops for K-12 educators, or participating in community events, I aim to make our section a leader in STEM advocacy and education.

In summary, if selected as Vice Chair, I will focus on enhancing member engagement, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, supporting professional development, and promoting STEM education within our community. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Baltimore Section and work with all of you to build a vibrant, innovative, and inclusive IEEE community.

Robert (Bob) Rassa**Nominated Position – IEEE Baltimore Section Treasurer****Biography:**

I offer myself as a candidate for Treasurer, Baltimore Section, IEEE, for 2025. I am a life Fellow of the IEEE and have been a member for 36 years. Currently I hold memberships in the Aerospace and Electronic Systems (AES) Society, where I am also a member-at-large of the Board of Directors; the Instrumentation and Measurement (I&M) Society, Systems Man & Cybernetics (SMC) Society, Computer Society (CS) and Communications Society (ComSoc). Previous offices held are President, and VP Technical Activities, I&M Society; President, AES, and most recently Treasurer (2012 - 2022). I am also the founder and past President of the IEEE Systems Council, previous VP Conferences, and currently Treasurer. I am also the VP Publications for the new Transportation Electrification Council and I am a Distinguished Lecturer for both AES and the Systems Council. At the IEEE level, I have held numerous positions, including member TAB Finance Committee (2021-2022), TAB Management Committee (2015-2019); TAB Hall of Honor Committee (2019 – 2020) and Chair, 2021. I was co-chair of the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Chapter Support (2020-2022). I was also a member of the IEEE NextGen Finance System Ad Hoc Committee. Within MGA, I am the previous Conference Coordinator (Region 6, 1998-2002) and Region 2 (2014-2015). I am also currently a member of the MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support (GUOS) Committee and have been for the past 3 years.

My BSEE is from the University of California, Berkeley and I held employment at Westinghouse Electric Corp, Linthicum where my last position was Manager, Programs Electronic Systems Division. After Westinghouse I was Group Vice President, Mantech International Corporation, Pasadena CA, and most recently, Director, Engineering Programs, Raytheon Technologies Corporation, El Segundo CA and then Fallston, MD. My background is in Logistics, Radar, Program Management and Systems Engineering. I chaired the steering committee for the Capability Maturity Model Integration project (CMMI) which is a world-wide process model for design engineering, systems engineering, software engineering, and program management. I hold the patent for an Advanced Maintenance System that utilizes satellite communications to facilitate rapid repair of military systems; now deployed on the F-22, F-35 and multiple other platforms (Patent 5,931,877, August 1999). I founded the National Defense Industrial Association's Automatic Test Committee, and their Systems Engineering Division, the latter to promote the acceptance and use of systems engineering within the Department of Defense since I had determined that a lack of systems engineering was the cause of poor DoD weapons performance.

Position Statement

IEEE is the world's premier technical association/organization that focuses on engineering at all levels - student, academic, industry, and government, for the benefit of mankind. The 343 Sections of IEEE bring together the local members of IEEE to help promote the goals and objectives of IEEE. Included in those goals would be educational opportunities, events such as

conferences or symposia, the Robot Challenge that is prominent within the Baltimore Section, distinguished lectures to help broaden the experiences of local members, and more including social events for networking and similar. The Sections are where local networking for technical information exchanges and career building mainly occur, and the Baltimore Section is fortunate to have a number of prominent technology-based organizations that can greatly augment our capability. IEEE can assist in reducing the shortage of engineers that exist not only in the US but worldwide, and adding a focus on students would help this issue greatly. Students do not decide to become engineers the day they set foot on a college campus; that decision is made in high school and often earlier, so perhaps we can expand our outreach to high schools in the Baltimore area and help get more students interested in engineering, and I would hope to assist in that effort. And my background on the NextGen Ad Hoc, as well as over 10 years as a TAB Society/Council Treasurer gives me substantial experience to bring to the position as Treasurer, Baltimore Section, IEEE.

Bradley Taylor

Nominated Position – IEEE Baltimore Section Secretary

Biography/Position Statement

After a 25-mile train ride north from Fresno up the California San Joaquin Valley for his 5-year birthday party, troupe in costume, Brad answered a reporter about what he wanted to be when he grew up: "Areal engineer, not like the kind my Dad is." Yet, he grew up to become an engineer (Control Systems rather than Civil), learned to fly submarines, rather than operating trains; after helping to design water and power plants, his focus became the Complex Systems domain of computer science to uncover common underlying patterns and identify more natural and robust automated solutions.

A couple decades ago, two NASA teams, working on separate modules, missed Mars by a million miles because their assumed basic unit of measure differed: one feet, the other meters. Similarly flummoxed with power plant design shortcomings in industry, first he fixed the specific issues, then was asked to fix the teams. Recently signing up for a new postal service offering, their scanner wasn't configured for the 4-year-old state driver's license bar code, format since updated. Rather than systems designed to work for people, adjusting to expected variation, today's systems are often brittle, focused on narrow specifications. Dr. Taylor's teaching and research centered on the application and refinement of appropriate software engineering methods to improve robustness; and the exploration of machine learning methods, integrated with proven principles of trust and knowledge management, to address these issues when interacting with people and other organization's systems. Now casting a wider net, he seeks to share the lessons with a wider audience, through science fiction.

Joining the IEEE a decade ago as he presented his doctoral research to the IEEE/SCC at their annual meeting in New York City, hosting his doctoral students at a similar conference in San Francisco 4 years later. Elevated to Senior Member a year ago, Brad's interest is on helping our section attract, welcome and mentor younger members. He served as a Visiting and Clinical Professor at The Catholic University of America and The University of The District of Columbia after completing his Doctor and Master of Science in Computer Science from GWU, teaching there while a student and after graduating; his Bachelor of Science, Control Systems Engineering is from and subsequently taught at USNA. He qualified in Submarines and as a Nuclear Engineer, serving in technical leadership on 4 submarines; riding many more to teach and evaluate performance, observing and tuning performance of myriad systems and people. His control system design experience span critical infrastructure plants, such as electric power, water and wastewater treatment, to cyber security, optical, and laboratory information systems. Active in several professional societies, such as the International Society for Automation, as a Life Member, where his seminal work prompted an invitation to serve as a charter voting member of the now 900+ member Industrial Automation and Control Systems Security standards committee with representatives from around the world; previously holding a variety of local (Connecticut Valley) ISA section leadership positions, including President. His membership in Sigma Xi extends the past 25 years, invited to join while on the Naval Academy faculty. This past couple years he has been a member of the Montgomery County Beekeeper Association as he tries to learn a bit about their complex emergent behavior – and how to keep them from flying away!