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January 2000

Rock River Valley Section  
[www.ieee.org/regional/section/rock\\_river/](http://www.ieee.org/regional/section/rock_river/)

Event

Sense

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The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

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RRV Section Meeting

## Distance Learning

### When

January 27, 2000

### Where

Rock Valley College, Technology Center, Room 117. I90 to Riverside Blvd., exit and go west to Mulford Rd. Go south to first light, turn east into RVC. Follow road to left to last building.

### Agenda

6:00 PM Social & Tours  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Program

### Program

The presentation will include a synopsis of work in Distance Education (DE) at Rock Valley College, a survey of some of the available DE courses and on-line degree programs. DE from a professor's perspective will be discussed and the characteristics of successful DE students will be described.

### Speakers

STEPHEN R. FLEEMAN

Steve Freeman is an Associate Professor of EET at Rock Valley College. He earned an AAS in EET, a BS in ET, and an MS in IED from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. While teaching at RVC, he has worked concurrently as an electrical en-

gineer at Hamilton Sundstrand in the areas of Test Equipment Design, and Ground Support Equipment. His work there has supported commercial aircraft, military aircraft, and the Space Shuttle Orbiter. He authored *Electronic Devices: Discrete and Integrated* (Prentice Hall, 1990), and is currently writing a new textbook. Professor Fleeman has been developing methods for applying the EIA Skill Standards to the EET program at Rock Valley College as a means for Student Outcomes Assessment.

### THOMAS LOMBARDO

Thomas Lombardo is an Associate Professor of Electronics Engineering Technology at Rock Valley College. He earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology from Jamestown Community College in Jamestown NY, a Bachelor of Technology in EET from the State University of New York (SUNY) Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome, and a Master of Science in Advanced Technology from Binghamton University. Prior to teaching at Rock Valley College, he was an R&D engineer in the machine tool industry, specializing in microprocessor-based systems.

Professor Lombardo has been active in the distance learning endeavor at RVC since its inception.

### Door Prizes

Sponsored by RRVS

### Meal

Dinner will be buffet style (with a min. of 15) and will consist of chicken, veggie's, salad, dessert. Please make your reservations by calling **Jennifer at 815-753-9974 by Monday, January 24, (please include your e-mail address)**. The cost of the dinner is **\$5 for IEEE members** and **\$14 for non-members**. Unemployed members may call one of the officers for special arrangements.

### Note

The meeting is open to the general public. You need not be an IEEE member. Guests are welcome. However, please call to enable us to make appropriate arrangements.

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## Nov and Dec RRVs Mtg Recap

By Don Zinger

### Nov

There were over forty people in attendance at the RRVs section/student branch meeting, held annually in November, in the Engineering Building at Northern Illinois University.

After a sumptuous dinner supplied by Yen Ching Restaurant in DeKalb, the audience digested an interesting presentation by Dr. Vincent McGinn. The main topic of his talk was electromagnetic compatibility. He started with an insightful demonstration using a standard light bulb dimmer and a radio. When the light dimmer was turned on, considerable noise could be heard from the radio, clearly demonstrating how common appliances can create electromagnetic interference.

After the demonstration, Dr. McGinn discussed the fundamental causes and problems that can occur with electromagnetic interference. He showed that the fundamentals of electromagnetic compatibility are not that difficult to understand. They can be understood using fundamental principles of physics and basic circuits.

Overall the evening was enjoyable and informative. Everybody seemed to have a pleasant evening and left a little more knowledgeable about electromagnetic compatibility.

### Dec

To provide some timely information to section membership about possible problems associated with Y2K, the RRVs held a rare December meeting. Emphasis was on the power grid, and appropriately we brought in a speaker from Com-

monwealth Edison, Steve Nailor.

Mr. Nailor has been in the electric utility business for about 33 years. As public affairs director from the Freeport and Dixon districts, Mr. Nailor has considerable knowledge of Commonwealth Edison's operations.

Because of the holiday season attendance was light, but it was still an enjoyable evening. There was a lively conversation around the dinner table. During this time Mr. Nailor imparted upon those gathered some of his knowledge gained through his many years of experience.

After dinner, a presentation was given. Mr. Nailor said that he could not guarantee that we would have electricity on Jan. 1, 2000, but he could assure us that if there turns out to be no power, the cause would not be attributable to the Y2K computer bug. There are so many other variables in the generation and distribution of power (weather, squirrels, vehicular damage to the utility's equipment, etc.) that are beyond the control of ComEd that it cannot say with certainty that lights will be on during that time. He gave an interesting overview of the electric power system, how the various utilities are interconnected and how the electricity generated comes to the customers. He said one of ComEd's big concerns is that many customers will shut down for the New Year. This could cause an unexpectedly light load and lead to problems in the system. Its best if everyone just acts as if it were a normal holiday weekend.

Overall Steve Nailor assured the audience that Commonwealth Edison should have no problems when it comes to Y2K. The utility should be operating normally when the cal-

## Local Conference Call For Papers

This is an announcement and Call for Papers for the First IEEE Electro/Information Technology Conference to be held at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare, June 8-11, 2000.

URL: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/eit2000.htm>

Deadline/Format: Full Papers: January 30, 2000 (MS Word Attachment or PDF).

Send to: [hosseini.mousavinezhad@ieee.org](mailto:hosseini.mousavinezhad@ieee.org)

TOPICS include: Wireless Communications, DSP, IT Applications, Emerging Technologies.

## Chicago/Rockford Consultants Network Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 31. Dinner is at 6:15 PM at Bakers' Square (corner of US 14 Northwest Highway and N. North), and the meeting is at 7:30 PM at the Palatine Public Library (700 North Court, Palatine, IL 847-358-1216). Bob Abrant will talk about "Design Reuse and VHDL".

## Submissions to *Event Sense*

Send articles and job ads to the *Event Sense* editor, Bob Parro, via e-mail (preferred), or fax. Job ads will run for two consecutive months. Contact the *Event Sense* editor if the ad needs to run longer. Please make submissions by the twenty-fifth of the month. All submissions are subject to editing for style, clarity, and space considerations.

e-mail: [b.parro@ieee.org](mailto:b.parro@ieee.org)  
fax: (603) 947-3356



### **RRVS Executive Committee**

(l-r) **standing:** Larry Wachowiak, Treasurer; Hassan Mansir, ExCom member on leave; Don Zinger, NIU Student Branch Counselor; Matt Zimmer, Secretary and IAS Chapter Vice Chair; Roger Caruana, now moved out of the section; **seated:** Caio Ferreira, Former Past Section Chair and current IAS President; Bob Parro, Joint Computer/Control Systems Chapter Chair, Newsletter Editor & Past Section Chair; Bill Barber, ExCom member; Jim Buerosse, IAS Chapter Chair; Paul Peterson, former ExCom member. (not shown is Vietson Nguyen, PELS Chapter Chair)

***The Rock River Valley Section would like to give recognition to the following area company and university for supporting Section Officers:***

***Hamilton Sundstrand • Northern Illinois University***

## **Rock River Valley Section of the IEEE 1999-2000**

[W W W : [www.ieee.org/regional/section/rock\\_river/](http://www.ieee.org/regional/section/rock_river/)]

### **Elected Executive Committee**

Chair	Prof. Don Zinger	d.zinger@ieee.org	(815) 750-0540
Vice-Chair	Christ Wrate	cwrate@compuserve.com	(815) 633-7400
Secretary	Matt Zimmer	m.zimmer@ieee.org	(815) 394-3456
Treasurer	Larry Wachowiak	wachowiak@hughes.net	(815) 397-9090

### **Appointed Executive Committee Chairs**

IAS Chapter Chair	Jim Buerosse	j.buerosse@ieee.org	(815) 226-6078
IAS Chptr. Vice Chair	Matt Zimmer	m.zimmer@ieee.org	(815) 226-3456
Comp/CS Chapter Chair	Bob Parro	b.parro@ieee.org	(847) 490-6402
PELS Chapter Chair	Vietson Nguyen	aaejvn@snds.com	(815) 394-3230
Educational Activities	Joe Etminan		
Technical Activities			
Membership	Christ Wrate	cwrate@compuserve.com	(815) 633-7400
Awards			
Publicity, Newsletter Editor	Bob Parro	b.parro@ieee.org	(847) 490-6402
Nominations			

### **Northern Illinois University - Student Branch Officers**

St Br Counselor	Prof. Don Zinger	d.zinger@ieee.org	(815) 753-0540
St Br Chair	Jamie Phillips		
St Br Vice-Chair	Michelle Marotta		
St Br Secretary	Rob Reeder		
St Br Treasurer	Ryan McMillin		

*Messages for student officers can be left at the NIU Dept of Electrical Engineering,  
(815) 753-9974 or e-mail at [sb.niu@ieee.org](mailto:sb.niu@ieee.org)*



Rock River Valley Section  
Established 1947

**Electronic IEEE Membership Application**  
An electronic on-line application is available at  
[www.ieee.org/join.html](http://www.ieee.org/join.html).

## Calendar

**January Section Meeting ..... Jan 27**  
Distance Learning - Steve Fleeman and Thomas Lombardo



Joint Computer/  
Control Systems  
Society Chapter  
Established 1995



Industry  
Applications  
Society Chapter  
Established 1992



Power  
Electronics  
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### Time-Sensitive Material

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