

November 1996

Rock River Valley Section

www.ceet.niu.edu/orgs/rr-ieee/rrvs.htm



The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

# RRV Section & Student Branch Meeting History of Radio in Northern Illinois

**When** November 21, 1996

**Where** Northern Illinois University, Engineering Building Auditorium (Room 101), DeKalb, IL. Park in the Engineering Parking Lots (see map this page).

**Agenda**

- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Tours
- 6:30 PM Dinner - Buffet
- 7:30 PM Presentation

**Speaker** John Russell Ghrist, author and historian of radio broadcasting.

**Program** As the Northern Illinois region grew, so did radio. From just a few stations in the early part of the century, radio has become one of most influential industries in the region.

The presentation on the history of radio in Northern Illinois will include a discussion of the early radio stations in DeKalb and Rockford, both of which had religious connections. In DeKalb, WLBK was the first station. In Rockford, WORK is currently the oldest station on the air. Its call letters were KFLV in the 1920's. Northern Illinois University's station WNIU, also has an interesting background, and will be discussed at the meeting.

During the evening, John Ghrist will give a slide talk about radio in the Northern Illinois area. He will discuss the early days of radio in the Fox River Valley, present information on the development of radio in the DeKalb and Rockford areas, and play tapes of numerous old time radio shows. He will also present his viewpoints on where the industry is going today.

**Biography** John Russell Ghrist is a noted author and historian of radio broadcasting in Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana. His book, "Valley Voices," highlights the development of early radio stations in this region as well as features special sections on other aspects of pioneer radio operations.

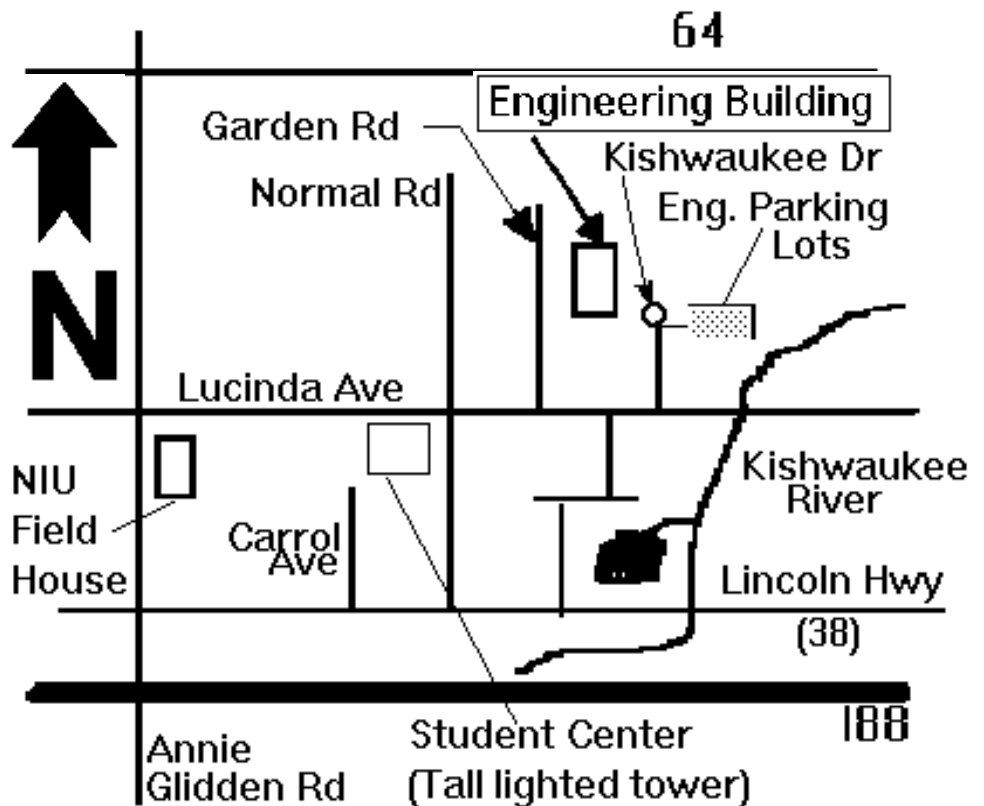
Ghrist's background includes 30 years of experience in the broadcasting field. He does some freelance work for local radio stations, and in the early 1990's was a traffic reporter in Chicago for stations WMAQ and WLS.

**Door Prizes**

Sponsored by RRVS

**Meal** Dinner will be chinese cuisine, buffet style, provided by Yen Ching of DeKalb. Please make your **dinner reservations** by calling **Sherri at 815-753-9974 by Tuesday, November 19, 1996**. The cost of the **dinner** is **\$2.00** for student IEEE members, **\$4.00** for IEEE **members** and **\$10.00** for **non-members**. Unemployed members may call one of the officers for special arrangements.

**Note** The meeting is open to the gen-



## RRVS Student Branch

As the Rock River Valley Section of the IEEE celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is worthwhile to reflect on the contributions the Northern Illinois University (NIU) IEEE student branch has made to the region. Being the only student branch in the RRVS, it has been helping to provide an additional dimension to the learning experience of students in engineering, technology and related fields.

NIU has a rich tradition of serving the educational needs of the region. It is currently in the midst of its five year centennial celebration commemorating the time from the signing of its charter in 1895 to the end of the first year of classes in 1900. Initially chartered as Northern Illinois State Normal School as a school to educate teachers, it went through a number of changes until it became a full state university in 1957.

The College of Engineering and Engineering Technology is a relative newcomer to NIU. It has its roots in the Department of Technology that was previously part of the School of Applied Sciences. In 1985 the Department of Technology was expanded to the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology offering bachelor's and masters' degrees in Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology. Shortly after its founding, the college received full accreditation for its engineering degrees in 1990 by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Engineering courses were originally held in a building 10 miles from the main NIU campus. Last year, however, engineering settled into a

new home when it moved into a new building on campus. The new engineering building has 125,000 square feet of state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms. Electrical engineering laboratories include a world class clean room as well as signal processing, image processing, communications, control, robotics and electrodynamic laboratories.

The Department of Electrical Engineering currently has ongoing research projects and offers courses in the fields of signal processing, microelectronics, communications, controls, robotics and power electronics. Many of the graduate level courses are offered in the evening to accommodate the working engineer wishing to advance his/her education. Also under exploration are the possibilities of using television links to its Rockford and Hoffman Estates Campuses to further expand the availability of its courses.

IEEE has been part of NIU for longer than the College of Engineering. The branch at NIU is also celebrating an important anniversary having been founded 25 years ago in 1971. At the time of its founding it served the Department of Technology with Professor Darrell E. Newell as its first faculty counselor.

The current branch officers, Jeff Ciallette as chair, Chris Stegh as vice chair, Ryan McMillin as treasurer and Rob Reeder as secretary, are working to add another dimension to the education of the students in electrical engineering. With their help, the IEEE student organization brings in speakers who tell the students of the professional as well as technical aspects of their career. It offers tours of local industries so that

students can see how the material they are studying can be put into practice. Most of all it provides a forum that allows the student to interact professionally, technically, and socially.

For the past two years the student branch has been hosting the November meeting of the Rock River Valley Section. The past meetings included discussions of fuzzy logic controls and an advanced photon source.

### October Meeting Recap

This Computer/Control System Chapter meeting featured Dr. William Everett, IEEE Computer Society Distinguished Visitor and formerly of Bell Labs, on "Engineering the Reliability of Software." Dr. Everett emphasized that reliability does not just happen in a software project, rather he said "It must be planned and managed over the product life cycle." Faults are the cause of failures, and failures are what the end user actually experiences. Execution time refers to the amount of processing time. An operational profile refers to the operations that are performed in the software given its usage characteristics. Finally, reliability modeling refers to the statistical tracking of failures versus execution

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### January Meeting Preview

The January meeting topic is TBD.

### 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:** (815) 394-2497



### **RRVS Executive Committee**

(l-r) standing: Larry Wachowiak, Treasurer; Hassan Mansir, IAS Chair; Don Zinger, NIU Student Branch Counselor; Matt Zimmer, Secretary and IAS Vice Chair; Roger Caruana, Education Chair; seated: Caio Ferreira, Past Section Chair, Bob Parro, Section Chair; Bill Barber, Membership Chair; Mark Harris, Past Secretary; Paul Peterson, Awards Chair

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

***Sundstrand Corporation • 3C Computer Systems • William Barber & Associates • Northern Illinois University***

## **Rock River Valley Section of the IEEE 1996-1997**

[WWW: <http://www.ceet.niu.edu/orgs/rr-ieee/rrvs.htm>]

### **Elected Executive Committee**

Chair	Bob Parro	b.parro@ieee.org	(815) 394-2947
Past Chair	Caio Ferreira	c.ferreira@ieee.org	(815) 394-2903
Vice-Chair	Bill Barber	b.barber@ieee.org	(815) 235-4110
Secretary	Matt Zimmer	m.zimmer@ieee.org	(815) 394-3456
Treasurer	Larry Wachowiak	l.wachowiak@ieee.org	(815) 394-5676

### **Appointed Executive Committee Chairs**

IAS Chair	Hasan Mansir	h.manisr@ieee.org	(815) 226-6875
IAS Vice Chair	Matt Zimmer	m.zimmer@ieee.org	(815) 394-3456
Comp/CS Chapter Chair	Paul Peterson	paul.peterson@ieee.org	(815) 226-2584
Educational Activities	Roger Caruana	r.caruana@ieee.org	(815) 332-4606
Technical Activities	Roger Caruana	r.caruana@ieee.org	(815) 332-4606
Membership	Bill Barber	b.barber@ieee.org	(815) 235-4110
Awards	Paul Peterson	paul.peterson@ieee.org	(815) 226-2584
Publicity, Newsletter Editor	Bob Parro	b.parro@ieee.org	(815) 394-2947
Nominations	Matt Zimmer	m.zimmer@ieee.org	(815) 394-3456
RRVS Jubilee	Larry Wachowiak	l.wachowiak@ieee.org	(815) 394-5676

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

St Br Counselor	Prof. Don Zinger	d.zinger@ieee.org	(815) 753-0706
St Br Chair	Jeff Ciarlette		
St Br Vice-Chair	Chris Stegh		
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*

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time and can be used to determine the reliability of the software at a given point in its execution time. For more information on the topic of software reliability, search the WWW with the keywords "software reliability engineering." Dr. Everett is pictured.



**Internet Access For \$5/mo**

Obtain text-based Internet access from the Sinnissippi Valley Freenet. Ideal for Commodore 64, Apple 2 and VT100 terminal users that don't have graphics capability. Access Winnebago County tax information. Send/receive e-mail. Contact Carol Ford at:

sinnfree@sinnfree.org

# Calendar

**November Section Meeting ..... @ NIU Engineering Building Auditorium (Rm 101), Nov 21**  
History of Radio in Northern Illinois



Joint Computer/Control Systems  
Society Chapter  
*Established 1995*



Industry Applications  
Society Chapter  
*Established 1992*

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