



Region 4

Serving IEEE Members in all or parts of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin



2024 – Issue 03

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Director's Column

Where has the summer gone? As we look towards fall and the holidays I want to share a few reflections of the past few months.

We again hosted a booth at [AirVenture](#) and spoke with over 800 attendees. See more about the event in the AirVenture article.

I represented the Region at IEEE Convene 2024: Designing for Success at Hilton Waikoloa Village, Hawaii. We participated in a hands-on event design session. Through hands-on experiences and collaboration, participants learned design methodologies that can take our events to new heights and accelerate our OneIEEE programs. More information can be found [here](#). More highlights and information can be found at the IEEE Conferences Events & Experiences [website](#) under Convene. If you would like more information on the event and presentations please reach out.

I also attended treasurer training in Piscataway with 4 other treasurers from the Region. The training was very informative and a lot of good information and questions were discussed. The training materials can be found [here](#) as well as the recorded events at IEEE.tv [2024 IEEE MGA Treasurer Training](#).

Looking towards next year I want to share that we are bringing back the joint Region meeting. So please save the date for our joint Region 4 and Region 6 RCom meeting January 24-26, 2025 at Embassy Suites South San Francisco, CA.

As always, thank you for all you do for IEEE!
Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Ozburn
Region 4 Director



Editorial Corner

In this issue:

Presenting the 2024 Q3 edition!

We have yet another fantastic edition again, this time around. A ton of regional and local updates. Of course, SKPL continues to make an impact in an ever-growing number of communities in our Central Region aka the Midwest. Trip and conference reports always make for interesting reading, where one gets to learn of topics of discussion elsewhere. What goes on.

In other news to celebrate we have two new Affinity Groups (AG) and 1 more Chapter (EMB) which recently have been activated. Congratulations to the new chairs, we hope to see your activity reports in the next newsletter!



In this edition, Connie Kelly shares her vision of R4 future. We also congratulate Dr Dayalan on his international achievement. NEXUS 2024 is coming up fast, students – be sure to check it out....

Finally, a quick round up/updates of local member activities from sections area chairs helps complete this issue.

Previous editions in this series may be found on the [Region 4 website](#). Click on the “Newsletter” button in the top left column. Comments and suggestions may be sent to the editor: sharan.kalwani@ieee.org

Microsoft Word format is preferred but we can work with ODT as well. Where possible use the Arial font in point size of 10. Images can be in either *JPEG, GIF, PNG or similar formats*.

We try to complete the newsletter layout a week before publication, to allow time for review and corrections. If you have an article or notice, please submit it as early as possible. We publish once every quarter.

The newsletter relies on the contributions of our members and officers, so please do not be shy. If you have something that should be shared with the rest of the region, we want to give you that opportunity. The next deadline will be end of December 2024 (about 2 weeks before the Xmas/New Year break).

Sharan Kalwani,
Editor, Region 4 Newsletter and Enthusiastic IEEE volunteer
Chair, IEEE Southeastern Michigan Section (2021-2024)

SMinn WiE AG Formation



24 October 2024

Yao Xiao
200 1st St SW
Rochester, MN 55905-0001
USA

Cecelia Jankowski

Managing Director

MGA

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Dear Yao Xiao:

Congratulations! On behalf of the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Vice President, Deepak Mathur, it is a pleasure to inform you that the requirements of the MGA Board Operations Manual have been met, and the IEEE Southern Minnesota Section, Women in Engineering Affinity Group has been formed. The effective date of this affinity group formation is 15 October 2024.

You have been recorded as Affinity Group Chair. When an election has been held, please report the name and member number of the new Affinity Group Chair to the IEEE using the online Officer reporting tool at <https://officers.vtools.ieee.org/>. Valuable information regarding IEEE Affinity Groups can be found at <https://mga.ieee.org/resources-operations/geographic-unit/affinity-groups>. If we can assist you in any way in the planning of the affinity groups activities, please let us know.

We extend our best wishes for the successful operation of this affinity group.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Jankowski

Cecelia Jankowski

Managing Director

Member and Geographic Activities

cc: D. Mathur – Member and Geographic Activities Vice President
V. Ozburn – Region 4 Director
C. Shahnaz – WIE Committee Chair
L. Downey – Region 4 WIE Coordinator
C. White – Southern Minnesota Section Chair
A. Tomaszewski – WIE Program Manager

Twin Cities WIE Formation



*Advancing Technology
for Humanity*

12 August 2024

Christina Schober
2902 Crestview Dr
St Anthony, MN 55418-2535
USA

Dear Christina Schober:

Congratulations! On behalf of the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Vice President, Deepak Mathur, it is a pleasure to inform you that the requirements of the MGA Board Operations Manual have been met, and the IEEE Twin Cities Section, Women in Engineering Affinity Group has been formed. The effective date of this affinity group formation is 08 August 2024.

You have been recorded as Affinity Group Chair. When an election has been held, please report the name and member number of the new Affinity Group Chair to the IEEE using the online Officer reporting tool at <https://officers.vtools.ieee.org/>. Valuable information regarding IEEE Affinity Groups can be found at <https://mga.ieee.org/resources-operations/geographic-unit/affinity-groups>. If we can assist you in any way in the planning of the affinity groups activities, please let us know.

We extend our best wishes for the successful operation of this affinity group.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Jankowski

Cecelia Jankowski
Managing Director
Member and Geographic Activities

cc: D. Mathur – Member and Geographic Activities Vice President
V. Ozburn – Region 4 Director
C. Shahnaz – WIE Committee Chair
L. Downey – Region 4 WIE Coordinator
A. Naumaan – Twin Cities Section Chair
A. Tomaszewski – WIE Program Manager

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Twin Cities EMB Formation



Advancing Technology
for Humanity

13 August 2024

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Managing Director

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Dear Sai Sanjay Balaji:

Congratulations! On behalf of the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Vice President, Deepak Mathur, and IEEE Technical Activities Vice President, Manfred J Schindler, it is a pleasure to inform you that the requirements of the MGA Board Operations Manual have been met, and the IEEE Twin Cities Section Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Chapter has been formed. The effective date of this chapter formation is 12 August 2024.

You have been recorded as the Chapter Chair. When an election has been held, please report the name and member number of the new Chapter Chair to the IEEE using the online officer reporting tool at <https://officers.vtools.ieee.org/>. Valuable information regarding IEEE Society Chapters can be found at http://www.ieee.org/societies_communities/geo_activities/chapters. If we can assist you in any way in the planning of the chapter activities, please let us know.

We extend our best wishes for the successful operation of this chapter.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Jankowski

Cecelia Jankowski
Managing Director
Member and Geographic Activities

cc: D. Mathur – Member and Geographic Activities Vice President
M. Schindler – Technical Activities Vice President
V. Ozburn – Region 4 Director
P. Sajda – Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society President
R. Laverello – Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Vice President – MSA
N. Zimmerman – Executive Director Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society
N. Caballero – Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Student AdCom Member
L. Zhong – Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Chapter Development
A. Naumaan – Twin Cities Section Chair
K. Gilbert – Technical Activities Managing Director

Member News

Senior Member Update:

Kumar Avizeet, Senior Manager Software Engineering at Optum has been named a senior member of the [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers](#) (IEEE) in recognition of his experience and extraordinary professional accomplishments. IEEE is the world's largest association of technical professionals.



This prestigious honor highlights Kumar's significant contributions and expertise in the fields of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Automation, Data Security & Privacy, and DevOps.

Senior membership, one of the IEEE's highest grade, recognizes veteran scientists, engineers, and others with at least 10 years of professional experience, who have made extraordinary contribution in the field of engineering over at least five years and have been nominated by other IEEE fellows and senior members. Just 10 percent of IEEE's more than 400,000 members have reached the level of senior membership.

IEEE senior members are eligible to hold executive IEEE volunteer positions, serve as a reference for other applicants for senior membership, and participate on the panel to review senior member applications.

As a Senior Manager in Software Engineering, Kumar has consistently demonstrated a profound ability to lead and innovate. His career, spanning over 17 years, is marked by numerous successful projects that have pushed the boundaries of technology and delivered transformative solutions across various industries like healthcare, banking & telecom.

Kumar's journey in technology is underpinned by a robust foundation in Computer Science, complemented by specialization in AI/ML, Robotics, solution design and architecture. His unique skill set has enabled him to drive innovation, automation initiatives that streamline enormous projects, processes and enhance operational efficiency. Beyond his technical prowess, Kumar is celebrated for his exceptional leadership and mentorship.

Looking ahead, Kumar plans to leverage his extensive expertise to drive transformative changes in the tech industry. His vision includes pioneering advancements in AI, Robotics, Data privacy, security, enhancing automation processes, and promoting sustainable technological solutions. By integrating cutting-edge technologies with strategic management practices, Kumar aims to create innovative solutions that address real-world challenges and contribute to a more efficient and connected future.

As the tech industry continues to evolve, Kumar remains at the forefront, driving progress and shaping the future of software engineering. His dedication to innovation and excellence makes him a true asset to any organization and a respected leader in the field.

One of our own is now a Fellow of the British Computer Society!**Dr Udhaya Kumar Dayalan – FBCS**

Dr. Udhaya Kumar Dayalan, is a member of both the IEEE Communication Society and IEEE Computer Society, has been making significant contributions to the field of engineering and academia for over 19 years. Currently serving as an Engineering Manager at Trane Technologies USA for the past 15+ years, Dr. Dayalan has demonstrated exceptional leadership and technical expertise. His work has led to the filing of 38 patents and the publication of 10 papers in top networking and IoT conferences, including ACM SIGCOMM, IEEE Network Magazine, and IMC.

Dr. Dayalan graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Master's in Software Engineering and a PhD in Computer Science. He is a Certified Systems

Engineering Professional (CSEP) by the International Council on System Engineering (INCOSE). His academic contributions extend beyond his own education. As a member of the IEEE Senior Member Application Virtual Review Panel, he has reviewed Senior member applications and has been part of the technical program committee for more than 170+ conferences. In addition to his professional and academic contributions, Dr. Dayalan serves as the Director of Academia & Government for the INCOSE Northstar Chapter. He is also an Advisory Board Member for the Customer Experience Certificate program at Minnesota State University and an Honorary Instructor for the same program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Dr. Dayalan's research contributions are noteworthy. He has contributed to the National Science Foundation Funding projects: "ICE-T:RC: Accelerating NFV Service Function Chain Processing at Scale" and "Collaborative Research: SWIFT: Exploiting Application Semantics in Intelligent Cross-Layer Design to Enhance End-to-End Spectrum Efficiency".

Dr. Udhaya Kumar Dayalan's extensive experience and contributions to the field of engineering and academia make him a respected figure in the industry. His work continues to inspire and pave the way for future innovations.



SKPL Report

**IEEE Science Kits for Public Libraries—Planting Seeds of Curiosity**

As many of you are aware, your Region 4 Science Kits for Public Libraries program (SKPL) sows the seeds of youthful curiosity by enabling public libraries to loan science kits to kids. Offered all across our region, the kits teach youngsters about science and technology using a wide range of hands-on, age-appropriate activities. SKPL kits cover an extraordinary range of subjects, from dinosaurs and insects to electric circuitry and robotics (with many, many stops in between). Like traditional library books, the kits can be used in the library and checked out to bring home.

With the program now in its thirteenth year, SKPL grants have been awarded to well over 150 libraries in large and small communities across the Midwest. One of the smaller libraries receiving a recent grant, is the Lester Public Library in the village of Vesper, WI—population approximately five hundred—located near the center of the Badger State.

**Focus on Early Learning**

The Vesper library faced an uncertain future because the elementary school in the village had closed at the end of the previous school year. As the staff report on the SKPL grant stated, “We were concerned what [the closing] would mean for our library, but the science kits that we now can provide for our patrons . . . [are] a huge benefit to us and to our patrons! Instead of a decrease in children visiting the library, we have seen an increase.” The Vesper kits, which focus on kids from kindergarten through fifth grade, are used daily, the report continues, often by children stopping by after coming home from school; the kids frequently “end up checking them out to bring home and explore further.”

The most popular kit was “Dash Dot Robot,” which has been “used countless times in-library,” often by children working “together to code the Dash bot to move around the library and respond to its environment,” with the young programmers “building on each other’s coding to further develop the robot’s skills.” Other popular kits fostering hands-on interest in science and technology include “Code & Go Mouse,” “Lazer Maze,” and the intriguing “Robot Turtles.”

Summing up their SKPL experience, the staff report concluded: “The amazing science kits we were able to purchase for our library have been invaluable. Children who would normally not have the opportunity [to access] kits such as these have them readily available now to explore. Their faces seem to light up when they find out they can bring the kits home with them to use.”



You can enable a library to loan science kits to kids.

<https://r4.ieee.org/skpl/contact-us/>

Contact Us: <https://r4.ieee.org/skpl/contact-us/>

Written by Bill Kennedy, Evanston Illinois, SKPL Volunteer

R4 Awards Nominations

Region 4 Awards: Nominations Are Now Open!

Dear Colleague,

Each year, IEEE Region 4 recognizes excellence among the leading contributors to the profession. To make sure that no worthy candidate goes undiscovered in our effort to recognize deserving individuals, **we need your help!**

You may know a mentor, colleague, or friend who has accomplished something impressive and noteworthy, but is too humble to seek recognition. In many cases, very deserving individuals are underrecognized for their achievements.

I am asking you to nominate a fellow professional who you believe is deserving of a Region 4 Award. Please circulate the awards information to your community members to assist us in reaching a broad and diverse pool of worldwide professionals. Recognizing innovative technical leadership is among the most impactful contributions we can make to the profession.

Start the nomination process today by visiting: <https://r4.ieee.org/committees/awards/>

Thank you.

Steve Kerchberger
Chair, Region 4 Awards and Recognition Committee

NEXUS 2024

For all who have not heard, Region 4 is putting on the Nexus Conference this upcoming November 8-10. For all who have been around for a while, this is the Student Leadership conference that was renamed after COVID. We are trying to rebuild this back up to the 100+ students that we had pre-2020.

We are looking for your assistance to ensure that your student branches are aware of this and putting some effort into trying to find a way to attend. At the Region level, we are having some trouble with getting in contact with some of our branches, so we are hoping you can help bridge that gap :)

Find more information such as a schedule, lodging and parking on our [website](#). Registration information can be found [here](#).

Thank you all for everything you do and if you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to Johnathon Wolf or myself directly!

Jonathon Wolf

Regional Student Activities Chair (RSAC) | IEEE Region 4

Young Professionals Vice Chair | IEEE Southeast Michigan Section

Electrical Systems Integration Engineer | Ford Motor Company

E: jonwolf5400@gmail.com | E: jonathon.wolf@ieee.org | P: (248) 212-9447

IEEE REGION 4 NEXUS 2024

Inspiring students and young professionals
in engineering and technology.

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024

**Milwaukee School of Engineering
Milwaukee, WI**



IEEE REGION 4 NEXUS 2024

Inspiring students and young professionals in
engineering and technology.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



ERIC WAYDICK
Technical Director of
Aftermarket at Leonardo DRS



DR. RUSSELL MEIER
Senior Past President of the IEEE
Education Society and IEEE Fellow

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024
Milwaukee School of Engineering



EIT 2024 Report

EIT 2024 - IEEE R4 Newsletter Report

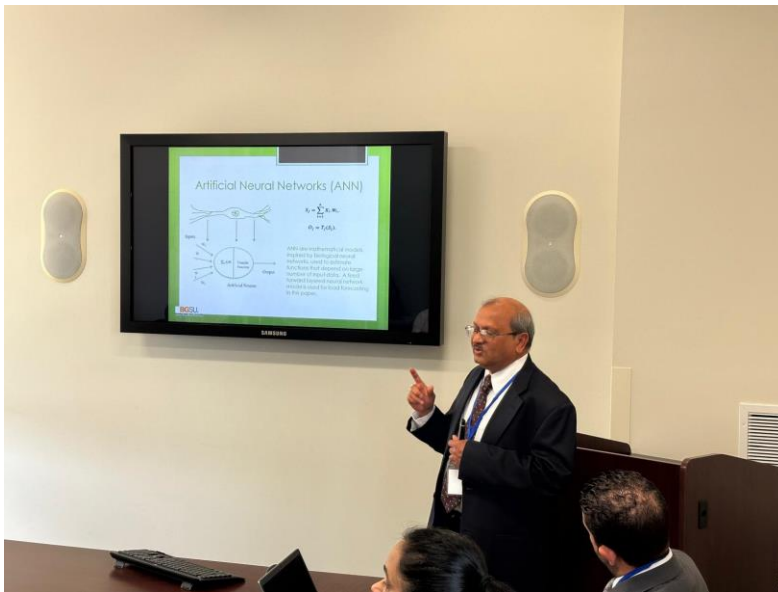
Prasenjit Banerjee

In the last week of May 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the EIT 2024 conference.

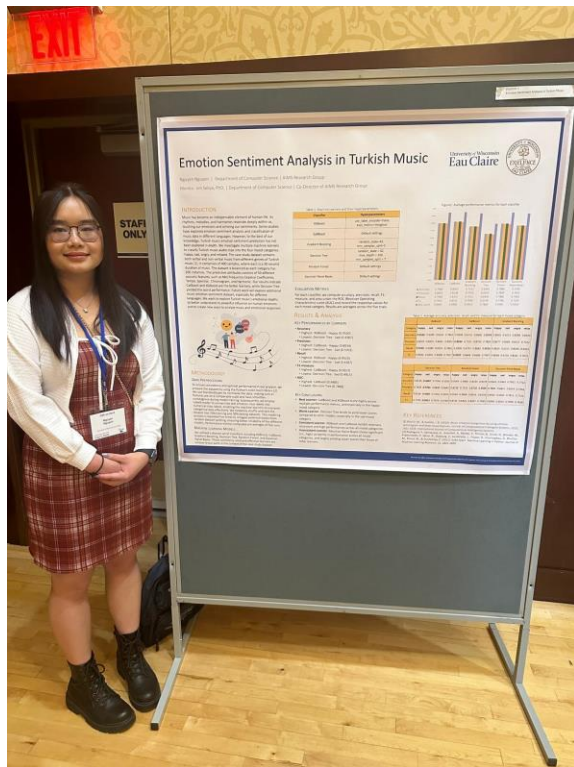
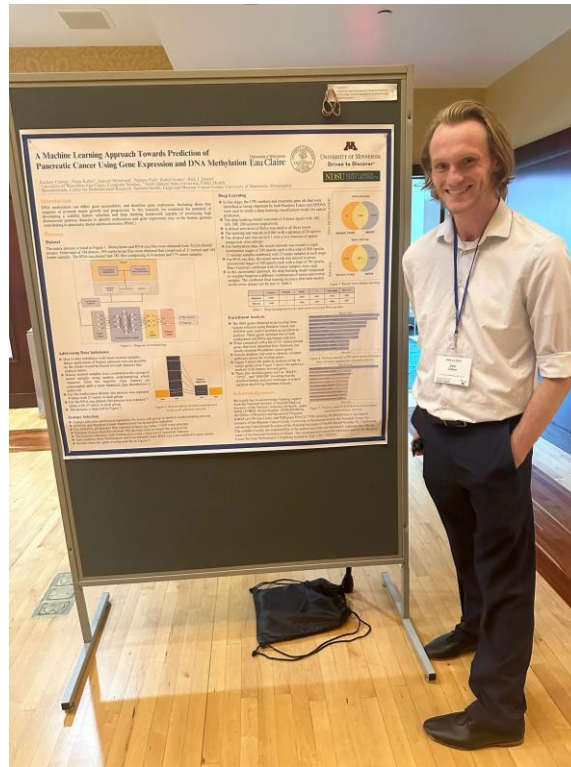
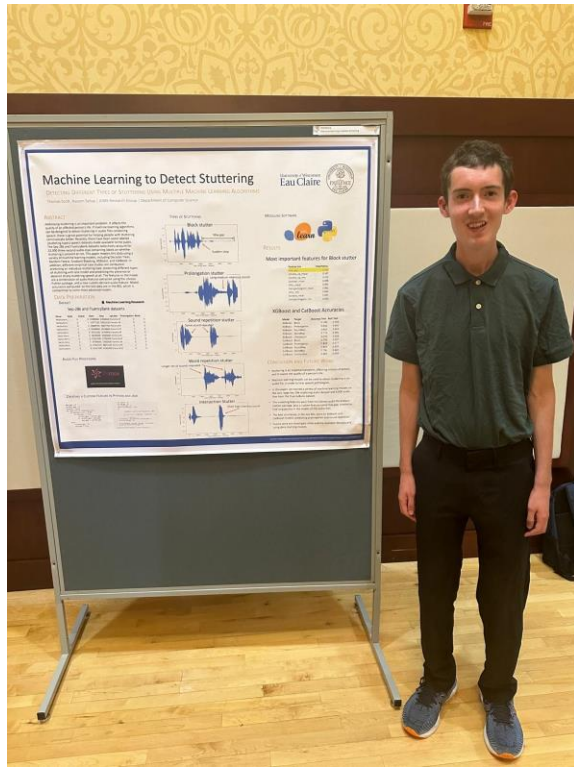
24th Annual IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ELECTRO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (eit2024) was held in University of Wisconsin Eau Claire from May 30 to June 1, 2024. It is one of the flagship conferences of the IEEE Region 4. Delegates from several local, regional, and international universities participated in the Conference. The conference was led by the Founding General Chair Dr. Hossein Mousavinezhad of Idaho State University and Dr. Rahul Gomes, EIT 2024 Conference General Chair from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The Conference was focused on basic/applied research results in the fields of electrical and computer engineering as they relate to Electrical and Computer Engineering, Information Technology, and related applications. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for researchers and industrial investigators to exchange ideas and discuss developments in these growing fields. There were exhibits showcasing the latest electro/information technology tools and products. The conference also offered an opportunity for professional activities development, workshops and tutorials.

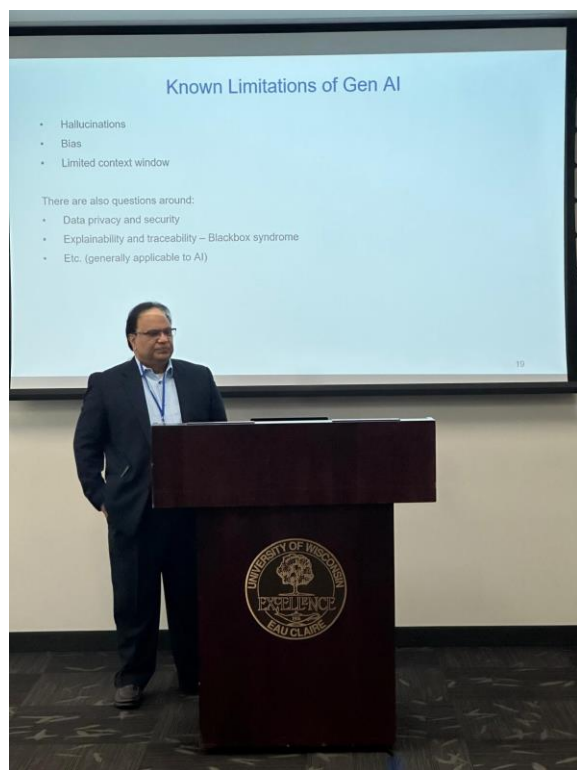
The research track included topics from various emerging fields of Electronics such as Robotics to control systems and innovative fields of information technology such as Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. The research track received a generous number of paper submissions from graduate, post-graduate and doctoral students across different regional universities and the published papers were presented and discussed.



There was a poster presentation competition for the undergraduate students, which had a lot of participation and very impressive poster presentations from regional colleges and universities apart from University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire such as the Minnesota state University, Mankato.



There was also an Industry workshop session delivered by professionals working in the industry and sharing how recent research findings find their way into the industrial applications. Generative AI, application of Large Language Models in the computer applications space was the focal theme of most of the discussions. However, we also had good emerging topics such as *privacy of location based services* and best practices of applying API led integration in building a composable enterprise.



I had the pleasure of meeting many peers and professors from the industry including Prof. Sam Abuomer from Lewis University and Prof. Bhushan Dharmadhikari, from Minnesota State University Mankato. Lastly, the warm welcome of the host Prof. Rahul Gomes, General Chair of the conference was unmistakable. It was a very rewarding and self-enriching experience. Looking forward to next year, the Silver Jubilee of the conference to be held at Valparaiso University, Indiana.

R4 WiE Report**WIE Region 4 Report Sept 2024**

- Liang Downey

R4 WIE AG Chairs Kick off Meeting

- Virtual meet and greet took place on 2/2/2024
- AG Chairs decided to meet Bi-Monthly throughout the year skipping the summer month

Bi-Monthly Virtual Gathering

- Bi-Monthly Call on 4/5/2024
- Bi-Monthly Call on 6/7/2024
- Two more meetings scheduled on 10/11 and 12/16

Three Inactive Sections Has Become Active

- Twin Cities AG: Christina Schober acting AG Chair, reactivated
- Central Indiana: Noori Kim, new AG chair has kept her group active
- Southern MN, Yao Xiao from Mayo Clinic, AG now active

Planning for an In-person WIE AG Chairs Retreat

- Email just went out to AG chairs

Quarterly Webinars

- Q1: March 29, 2024

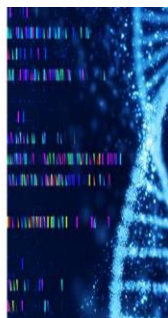
 MAYO CLINIC

AI ADVANCEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

**PATIENT REFERRALS
FOR RARE DISEASES**

Yao Xiao, Ph.D.
03/29/2024

Contact Email: Yao.Xiao2@mayo.edu
Address: 200 First St SW, Rochester, MN, 55905



- Q2 Webinar: May 17, 2024

Speaker: Aviva Carmen,

Topic: "This is My Story and I am Sticking to It"

Abstract: How to be a 70-year-old and look back at a life lived with acceptance, a giving heart, and humor



- Q3: September 27, 2024

IEEE WIE R4 Event



Quintessential
People - Lori Kim
(quintessentialbarrington.com)

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 283 767 399 727
Passcode: 86h76n

Dial in by phone

+1 323-849-4874, 879129568# United States, Los Angeles
[Find a local number](#)
Phone conference ID: 879 129 568#

- Q4 Webinar: tbd

Speaker: Vicky Lou, GE Vernova

Topic: "Careers Around the Globe ABE, Schneider Electric and GE Vernova, from engineer to director"



○

AirVenture 2024***Third Time Is the Charm***

This July IEEE again hosted an exhibit at the EAA AirVenture, July 21-27, in Oshkosh, WI. Why attend AirVenture? Over 677,000 attended AirVenture which also boasted a staff of over 7,000 volunteers and almost 900 vendors! We documented over 1,200 visitors to the IEEE who stopped to talk to us. That number does not include the people who merely picked up literature.

In addition to being interested in aviation and aerospace, attendees are also generally interested in engineering, computer science and other fields which are IEEE fields of interest.

There are many potential IEEE members who attend who graduated from non-ABET institutions or from ABET institution but not in EE. More and more non-ABET schools without student branches are graduating EEs and Computer Science students. There are many former student members who thought IEEE was just a college club. Several retired members did not realize they could still make a difference even though they were no longer practicing.

Based on the favorable reactions in the past two years, we are expanding our booth for 2025 to talk to even more pre-IEEE members. This means that we will need additional members to staff the booth. The exhibits are open from nine to five from July 21 to July 27. There will be ample time to take breaks in the exhibits and catch parts of the hours-long daily airshows.

IEEE will cover the admission fees, parking, and lunch for anyone who works in the booth. There will be a registration form available shortly so that we can coordinate staffing levels.

The 2025 ticket prices have not yet been published but attendees under 18 have been admitted free or at a drastically reduced rate for the past several years. There is a special program called KidVenture which features activities for youth attendees. This means that you could plan a family vacation around AirVenture with some of the costs covered.

Information on what AirVenture has to offer is on the web at www.AirVenture.org. Check your calendar and see if covering a few shifts at AirVenture fits into your summer plans.

For information on the IEEE activities, contact Vickie Ozburn (vaozburn@ieee.org) or Connie Kelly (ckelly@ieee.org).

INTEC 2024 Report

IEEE INTCEC 2024 - IEEE R4 Newsletter report

The Interdisciplinary Conference on Electronics and Computer (INTCEC 2024, www.intcec.org) was held at the Lewis University, Romeoville USA from June 11 to June 13, 2024. Dr. E. Kurt (ekurt52tr@yahoo.com) and Dr. Sam Abuomar (oabuomar@lewisu.edu). The goal of INTCEC 2024 was to gather scientists, engineers and researchers working on electrics, electronics and computers in an interdisciplinary manner. The event was expected to have cutting-edge studies on Electrical and Computer Systems. It gave an international and interdisciplinary media to present the technical studies and discuss the scientific and engineering issues to arrive at more complete systems for the applications of the future world. The audience of the interdisciplinary issues were senior scientists, M.Sc./Ph.D. Students, Post-graduate Students, Research Scholars, Post-doc Scientists and all other academicians related to Electrical, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Mechatronics, and Natural Sciences. In addition, companies focusing on entrepreneurship and research & development could participate and contribute at the event.

The event was a culmination of paper presentations from the research track with the presentation of more than 100 research tutorials across four different tracks; Electronics, and Communications, Computing and Systems, and Electrics. Over 40 Researchers from different universities in the USA and across the world came together to present their latest research and discuss observations in the broad applications of Computer science and electronics. The Research track had an approximate 22% acceptance rate, which goes to show the high standards of quality upheld at the conference.

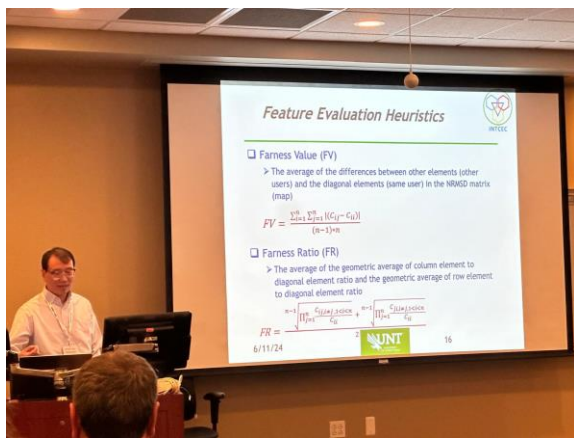
Apart from the paper presentations, there were workshop tutorials, keynote presentations and exhibitions.

The conference started with a welcome address by Dr. Sam Abuomar followed by a keynote from Dr. Kewei Sha, Associate Professor, Department of Information Science, University of North Texas, USA. His keynote on Efficient, Secure, and Quality-aware Data Analytics and Sharing was very contextual for setting the stage. It was about modern applications such as autonomous driving, Internet of Things, online retailing, and social networks that generate extremely large amounts of data. Powerful machine learning and deep learning algorithms were proposed to make intelligent data-driven decisions that recognize the patterns in the data to optimize application performance and increase productivity.

In addition, the conference was held in a virtual format on June 12th and June 13th. During these two days, several paper presentations' sessions from all of the above four tracks were conducted. In addition, three additional keynote speeches were given by:

1. Dr. David Livingston; President of Lewis University:
Title: *Considerations on the Impact of Data science, Artificial Intelligence Augmented Reality on the Future of Higher Education and Society*
2. Dr. Alexandre Muzy; CNRS research fellow at Université Côte d'Azur (I3S computer science laboratory):
Title: *Enlightening into brain's frugality: Interplay of Computational and Neural Coordination*
3. Dr. Roger L. King; IEEE Fellow, Fellow Learned Society of Wales, Emeritus Distinguished Professor, USA
Title: *That was then, this is now*

Here are some pictures from the INTCEC conference's venue:



Organizational Changes

A New Year, A New Look

Connie Kelly

The current two-level Region 4 Excom/Opcom is prone to delay and inefficiency. It is not doing as good a job of recognizing experience, talent, or even accepted management principles as it could.

Span of control is the number of subordinates that a manager or supervisor can realistically manage. Most management systems zero in on six to eight diverse subordinates as the optimum number for effective and efficient management with strong and timely communications between echelons. This number can go up or down as long as the members of the group are logically appropriate. Region 4 has been functioning with one to forty! This means that emails get buried and answers get delayed due to the sheer volume of material to deal with. We can do better to improve communications and promote more collaboration.

To address this Region 4 is going to a new structure: Region 4 Committees will be broken into functional groups with similar activities or goals

- Region Management Group
- Professional Activities Group
- Section Support Group
- Outreach Group
- Marketing and Member Communications Group
- Region Support Group

Each Functional group will have a chair with authority to hold meetings, research questions, and act on behalf of the Region director to improve the timeliness of responses. The Group Chair will keep the Director informed of the activities in the group and will request intervention when necessary. The similar nature of the Groups should provide some shared experiences that will translate across committees. Smaller similar groups will encourage collaboration.

The first group is the Section Management Group with membership consisting of

- Group Chair
- Area Chair Large Sections
- Area Support Chair/Vice Chair Large Sections
- Area Chair Medium Sections
- Area Support/Vice Chair Medium Sections
- Area Chair Small Sections – East
- Area Support/Vice Chair Small Sections – East
- Area Chair Small Sections – West
- Area Support/Vice Chair Small Sections – West
- Chapter Coordinator.

The second functional group is the Professional Activities Group consisting of

- Professional Activities Group Chair (Director Candidate)
- PACE Chair
- Career Services Chair
- A & A Chair
- N & A Chair
- Technical Activities Chair
- Educational Activities Chair
- Standards Chair
- EIT Chair

The next group is the Section Support Group consisting of

- Section Support Chair – Former Director
- Membership Development Chair
- Local Groups Chair
- Women in Engineering Chair
- Life Members Chair
- Young Professionals Chair
- Student Activities Chair
- Student Representative Chair (Elected by Student Section Chairs subject to SAC review)
- Student Professional Awareness Chair
- Special Interest Groups (Other) Chair
- Vitality Coordinator

The Outreach chair will group similar activities which coordinate activities between IEEE and external groups.

Outreach Group Chair

Government Relations Chair
Humanitarian Activities Chair
SIGHT Chair
Tech for Good Chair
EPICS Chair
SKPL
Climate Change/Sustainability Chair
Industry Engagement Chair
Academic Engagement Chair
External Organization Relationships Chair
Conference Chair
AirVenture Chair

This Group contains several new committee areas.

The area of Market/Public Relations is an important area to support the Region 4 Recruiting area.

Marketing and Member Communications Chair

Marketing and Member Communications Support/Vice Chair
Public Affairs/ Publicity Chair
Technical Writing Chair
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
Social Media Chair
Information Management Chair
IEEE Day Chair/IEEE Day Region Lead

The last group is the Region Support Group which basically is the core staff group.

Region Support Group Chair

Secretary
Treasurer
Audit Chair
Awards Chair
History Chair
Milestones Chair
Sections Congress Coordinator
Bylaws Chair
Advisory Committee Chair
Strategic Planning Committee Chair

In addition to the Group Chairs, there are several new positions to give added attention to some areas.

- ▶ Career Services Chair – Seek out open positions -both permanent and internships- in the Chicago Section and make the information available to the membership.
- ▶ Technical Activities Chair – Coordinate Society Chapters and establish new chapters
- ▶ Standards Chair – Promote information on standards to membership and beyond
- ▶ Local Groups Chair – Coordinate Local Groups
- ▶ Special Interest Chair – Coordinate nonaligned activities
- ▶ Climate Change/Sustainability Chair – coordinate regional sustainability activities
- ▶ Academic Relations Chair – Work with Region Colleges and Universities to promote IEEE programs and research extension possibilities.
- ▶ External Group Relationships Chair– Coordinate Industry - Academic Partnerships as dictated by many new projects or contracts
- ▶ Public Relations/Publicity Chair-Manage press releases and other external publicity
- ▶ IEEE Day Chair – Represent Region 4 on IEEE Day Committee and coordinate section leads
- ▶ Milestones Chair – Seek out and support sections in applying for milestones
- ▶ Technical Writer – Generate copy for Marketing Group/Assist with writing and editing as necessary

This is a work in progress so in the future committees may be combined or even broken down further based on feedback from the committees and the various chairs. All commentary is welcome.

The new structure means that there are a number of new “management” positions to fill. Interested Region personnel are invited to submit a request which includes the position applied for and why you would be good for the position. These positions are open to ALL Region 4 personnel. We would especially like to see Young Professionals applying for some of these positions. If you do not feel you can handle the responsibilities of the chair just yet, apply as an assistant for the area you wish to work in and get some practical experience. Experience as an IEEE Committee Chair is a serious addition to a resume and shows your initiative and ability to work on unique and often complex projects with a variety of

staff members. We are also opening up positions to Student Branch Members who are within six months of graduation. This means if you are graduating in May or June you can apply for a position on the 2025 staff which commences in January. Again the experience is something you can document and use to improve your current and future employment.

Email Vickie Ozburn (vaozburn@ieee.org) and Connie Kelly (ckelly@ieee.org) as soon as possible with the position you wish to apply for and why. Current chairs and staff members are asked to confirm they wish to remain in their position for the coming year, or if you wish to move to another position.

Experience, Empowerment, and Engagement are the key words for 2025: We are recognizing experience, affording empowerment, and promoting engagement for the benefit of Region 4.

Area Chairs Reports**R4 Small Section East and West Areas**

By John Johnson and Rakesh Vasudevan

The areas have begun monthly joint meetings with Small Section leaders to focus on:

- a) Vitality
- b) Member engagement and satisfaction through high quality activities. This includes joint meetings in-person and virtual, social and trying different meeting times and venues.
- c) Bylaws and Elections: most Small Sections struggle to find volunteers and Excom members, so it is difficult to hold elections and fill all positions. Sections are working to update their bylaws and election schedules.
- d) New issues are discussed and Sections share ideas to help struggling Sections overcome their difficulties.

Findings: Small Sections need the help of the Region and MGA with materials that help to better recruit and retain members and explain the value of IEEE membership, and with finding distinguished speakers. The Region 4 Area Chairs need to more closely monitor Section vitality to identify problems early. Small Sections need to combine their efforts with local Chapters due to the smaller number of members and volunteers. Volunteers need clearly defined tasks that are not too time consuming, because we often scare off potential volunteers by asking for too much of their time.

Discussed about current and upcoming meetings/seminar/workshops:

- Rock River Valley section is having monthly Computer & Controls on September
- The speaker is a Distinguished Lecturer. The topic is "Using open source to accelerate sustainability initiatives"
- Iowa-Illinois will be having a CornconX cybersecurity conference on October 4 and 5 th
- Rock River Valley Section has a tour of element labs and a distinguished lecture is coming from overseas. The date of meeting is Oct 24 th .
- Rock River Valley Section reported that they met or will meet the minimum 2 meetings for all their society. They also conducted elections for 2025.
- Discussed about sharing and having joint meetings with small sections east and small sections west area sections

We will continue to meet monthly and look for other areas where R4 can help and improve the vitality of Small Sections.

IEEE Region 4 Medium Sections Status

By Tom Kaminski and Hamid Vakilzadian

Nebraska Section

- Meetings to date:
 - IA34: 4
 - PE31: 3
 - c16: 1
- Section Administrative: 9
- Humanitarian Meetings to date: A joint IA31, PE31, and C16 Chapters:1
- Section Social Meetings: 1

Notes:

The Section is working on several issues related to section vitality. They are working to get active Student Branch Chairs and to hold joint Section/Student Branch activities. A Membership Development Activity is in the planning stages, just like a Career Development Workshop. Work is underway to solicit nominations for Section Leadership roles. Local Operating Procedures are under review. The Section is working to improve affinity group vitality.

Madison Section

Meetings to date:

- Section: 3
- EMB: 2
- LMAG: 2

- IAS/PES: 0
- YP: 0
- Section Social Meetings: 1
- Administrative: 9

Notes:

The Section has planned several technical events for the rest of the year. The Section is now connected with the University of Wisconsin Student Branch and has planned several joint SB/Section events in the near future. The Section is reviewing the Section's Bylaws and the procedures for donating to non-profits.

The MD chairperson attended the University of Wisconsin Madison Biomedical Engineering Seminar at UW-Madison, networked with the staff and presenters, promoted IEEE Madison, viewed the excellent student poster session, and raised awareness on energy use intensity and climate change in healthcare-associated buildings.

The MD Chair continues to encourage a strong focus on attracting new members, such as student members, young professionals, and professional members, at executive committee meetings. The Section discusses how to encourage members to become more interested in volunteering for executive committee positions.

Northeastern Wisconsin Section**Meetings to date:**

- Section: 4
- Section Social Meetings: 1
- Administrative Meetings to date: 4

Notes:

In addition to the meetings listed above, the Section has planned technical events for Oct., Nov., and December of this year. The Section is working on the paperwork to create another student branch at the Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI. The primary goals of Section for this year were to engage more students, have a new student branch, have more industry engagement, and continue to have monthly events. So far the Section has been successful in achieving these goals. In the last tour to Pierce Co. in Appleton WI, about 10 students attended.

West Michigan Section**Meetings to date:**

- EMC27: 4
- PE31/PEL35: 1
- CN: 1
- LMAG: 3
- CS/RA: 0
- Joint Section/CN Social Meetings: 1
- Section Administrative Meetings to date: 5

Notes:

The Section is planning additional technical meetings for 2024. The Grand Valley State Student Branch has had officer training meetings. LMAG sponsored an all-day visit to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum in Portage, MI, and, along with the WMCN, co-sponsored the WMS 2024 Whitecaps Baseball Game Social at the LMCU Ballpark in Comstock Park, MI. The LMAG plans to sponsor a social luncheon. In addition to three events reported, EMC is planning one more event to present a recent DF-related IEEE EMC webinar.

Calumet Section**Meetings to date:**

- C16: 3
- PE31: 2
- IA34: 2
- Section Social Meetings: 1
- Section Administrative Meetings to date: 4

Notes:

Section Re-Initiated Joint Calumet Section and PNW Student Chapter Annual Meeting and hosted joint meetings with both student chapters. The total number of Student Branches in the Section is 2 - PNW University Valparaiso University. The Section hosted an Engineering Ethics presentation in March and provided PDHs to fulfill the PE requirements of the attendees.

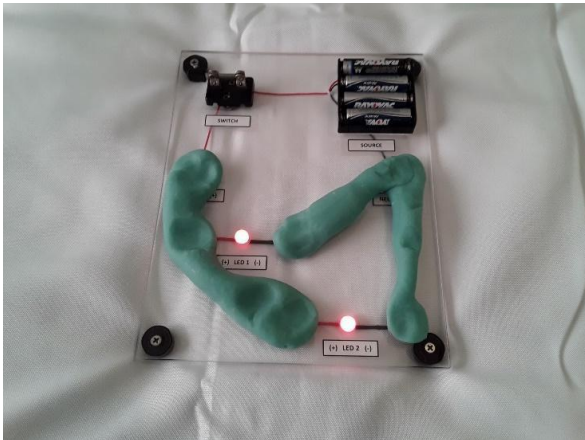
STEM Day

The **Central Iowa Section** participated in the 2024 STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair on August 18th. This has been an annual activity for the Section for the last several years and has proved to be an excellent opportunity for IEEE volunteers to engage young people in a STEM activity.

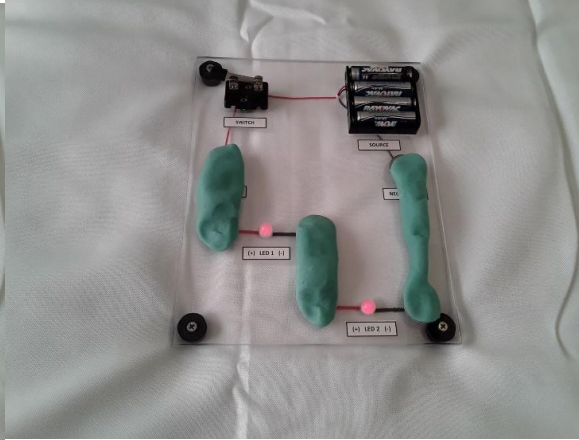
The young people are encouraged to complete circuits on demonstration boards using a conductive modeling compound that is similar to Play-Doh. The home-built demonstration boards have two LEDs, a switch, and a 6-volt battery pack.

This activity is an adaptation of Squishy Circuits. The Squishy Circuits concept was developed by Dr. AnnMarie Thomas of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, to teach children basic electrical circuits through play.

This year we had approximately 600 people stop by our booth including the children who built circuits, their parents and siblings, teachers, and others. Eleven volunteers took turns staffing the booth.



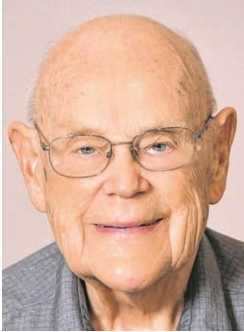
Parallel Circuit



Series Circuit

In Memoriam

Mike Wilson has passed away. He was a former Region 4 Director 2001-2002 and the 2011 Region 4 Jack Sherman Outstanding Member recipient.



Myron "Mike" Wilson passed away peacefully at home at Cottage Grove Place on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the age of 99.

Mike was born October 18, 1924, to M. Frank and Mae Wilson in Cleveland, Ohio, joining a sister Doris and two half-sisters, Gladys and Mildred. Mike served twenty-two months in the U.S. Navy as a radio technician during World War II. He then earned degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Engineering Administration at Case Western Reserve University.

Mike married Esther Secor on August 5, 1950. They moved to Cedar Rapids in February 1951 after he was hired by Arthur Collins to work for Collins Radio. He has been a longtime member of First Congregational Church.

Mike held management positions in Engineering, Manufacturing and Quality for Collins Radio and Rockwell International in Cedar Rapids and Dallas, TX. He was named a fellow in the American Society of Quality Control (ASQC), Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He helped form the Iowa Quality Center and was recognized at the White House- for his role as a senior examiner for the U.S. Department of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award.

First and foremost, he was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, serving as go-cart fabricator, math and physics tutor, TV kit builder, high school football videographer, and swim meet booster.

After retiring from Rockwell International in 1990, he became deeply involved in supporting arts, education, and human services as a volunteer. He served on many boards including Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers, Linn County Trails, Orchestra Iowa Foundation, Opera Theater, and Arthur A Collins Legacy Association. His favorite volunteer experiences include national competitions with Pierce Elementary LEGO robotics team, working to build wheelchair ramps with WRAP Iowa, and planning and promoting Honor Flights flying veterans to Washington, DC to visit military monuments.

Esther and Mike were honored at both state and local levels for their thousands of volunteer hours and financial support. Mike is survived by his four children; M Frank (Jody) of Cedar Rapids, Eric (Ann) of Austin, TX, Joyce Barrett (Jim) of Columbus, OH, and Becky Dreasher (Ron) of Longmont, CO; seven grandchildren: Sven Wilson (Stephanie) of Cedarburg, WI, Olaf Wilson (Eleanor) of La Grange, IL, Sarah Barrett (Brian) of New York City, Michael Barrett of Columbus, OH, Thomas Barrett of Vista, CA, Grant Dreasher of Boulder, CO, and Elaine Dreasher of Longmont, CO and 5 great-grandchildren: Cyrus and Camille Wilson, Cameron Wilson, and Ben and Emma Hendricks. He is preceded in death by his wife of nearly 72 years, Esther, daughter-in-law, Diane Wilson, his parents, and sisters.


A Celebration of life was held on his 100th birthday, Friday, October 18, 2024, at Cedar Memorial Park Funeral Home from 4-6 p.m. Friends are encouraged to live in accordance with his advice: "Keep at it. And help others when you can."

Memorials may be made to the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation.

[Myron "Mike" Wilson | The Gazette](#)

About R4 Social Media

IEEE
Region4




Social Media


Is your OU planning a future event?

Reach us to promote you event on IEEE Region 4 Social Media channels. Send us your event details (vTools Link) and we'll make the design and promote them. Email at rakeshmargam@ieee.org

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R4 Media Sites

Region 4 Website

<https://r4.ieee.org/>

Each of the sites below may be accessed through the Website:

R4 Event Calendar

<https://r4.ieee.org/events/month/>

R4 Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/R4.IEEE/>

R4 LinkedIn Page

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieeer4/>

R4 Twitter

<https://twitter.com/IEEER4>

R4 Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/ieeer4/>

R4 YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@IEEER4>

R4 Newsletter:

<https://r4.ieee.org/our-newsletter/>

R4 Committee Members:

<https://r4.ieee.org/committees/>