

Engineer's Week Celebration Event **ASME/IEEE RRVS Joint Meeting** **Electricity Deregulation and the August 14th Blackout**

Until recently most people gave little thought to the source of the power that comes out of the electric outlet. Any why should they? The North American electric power system had been designed as the ultimate in plug-and-play convenience. However, behind the humble wall outlet lurks one of the largest and most complex objects ever build -- a marvel that was named the top engineering accomplishment of the 20th century by the National Academy of Engineering. But then came deregulation, with its astronomical prices, and the August 14th blackout. As the electric grid collides head-on with financial markets, the results have not always been expected or desired. This talk provides an animated look into the realm of electric power grids, looking at the physics of grid operation, how deregulation can both lower and raise prices, the August 14th blackout, and what's in store for Illinois and the Midwest.

Speaker:

Tom Overbye is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983, 1988 and 1991 respectively. He was employed with Madison Gas and Electric Company from 1983 to 1991 where he worked to help develop their real-time power system analysis software. He was the recipient of the IEEE Power Engineering Society Walter Fee Outstanding Young Engineer Award in 1993 and an IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000. He is also the original developer of PowerWorld Simulator, an innovative computer program for power system analysis and visualization, and a co-founder of PowerWorld Corporation. During Fall 2003 he served on the DOE August 14th blackout investigation team, including leading the initial on-site investigations of FirstEnergy and the Midwest ISO.

Program:

Meeting is on Thursday Feb. 26 at Rock Valley College, Woodward Technology Center, Room 141. I-90 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 on right.

- 6:00 pm Social
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm Presentation
- 8:30 pm Open Q & A session

Dinner:

There will be a chicken and vegetarian selections. Please reserve your space and/or dinner selection By calling **Ginger** at **815-394-5696** or sending an email (ginger.spinasant@hs.utc.com) **by Wednesday, February 25, 2004**. Please include your name, phone number, email address, ASME member number, and dinner selection. The cost of the dinner is \$5 for ASME members, \$13 for nonmembers; \$2 for students.

National Engineers Week 2004, February 21 – 28

The event was originally established in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. The event is nationally celebrated and sponsored by hundreds of engineering societies, government agencies, corporations, businesses and universities. In Rockford there is a lot of activities to honor engineers, promote engineering between youngsters, and sharing the event with the community. The attached Rock Valley College Newsletter includes many of these activities that has been already arranged in Rockford area.

ASME Sponsors EPA's 'P3' Award

ASME is sponsoring the 'P3' Award, a student design competition that will provide grants to teams of college students to research, develop, and design sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.

ASME is one of the Environmental Protection Agency's 27 partner organizations from industry, non-profit and governmental agencies to sponsor the P3 Award.

Eligible teams initially compete for \$10,000 grants. The winners will use the money to research their projects during the academic year. In 2005, the recipients will be invited to Washington, D.C. to compete for the 'P3' award, which will provide further funding for more design development and implementation.

Applications can be found at <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/>

ASME Announces Conference on Nanotechnology Growth in Biotech and Medical Devices

ASME's Nanotechnology Institute will sponsor a conference on growth opportunities for the Biotech and Medical Sectors in Nanotechnology from April 15-16 at the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering in Irvine, Calif.

The conference will provide engineers, business developers, professionals from the biotech and biomedical sectors and students solutions on how to capitalize on the next wave of new technology.

Attendees to the conference will receive a tour of the Integrated Nanosystems Research Facility at the University of California, Irvine.

To register for this conference, or for more information call InfoCentral at (800) 843-2763 or visit the website at <http://www.asme.org/events/nanobio>

Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Recruit new members and receive a 'Certificate of Volunteerism!' *

50% of their 1st-yr dues will fund scholarships for ASME student members. **Any member that has been out of school 4 years or less saves up to 60% on dues.**

Campaign Details: <http://www.asme.org/membershipdrive/2003-2004/about.html>

Up to 60% dues savings:

<http://www.asme.org/member/info.html#dues>

*Must recruit 2 more new members to receive certificate.

Winning Strategies to Career Negotiations

Tips to getting that raise, promotion or new job

- **Prioritize your needs.** Define your overall objectives in terms of responsibilities, work environment, salary and benefits— and keep these in focus throughout the discussion.
- **Consider the employer’s needs.** The more you understand what the employer is looking for, the more effectively will you communicate your value.
- **Strive for mutual understanding.** “Put yourself in his shoes.” If you keep in mind the other person’s style and values, it’s easier to overcome areas where you may disagree.
- **Actively listen.** Focus on what is being said, rather than what you wish to say—otherwise you may miss subtle, verbal and nonverbal cues that convey the employer’s needs.
- **Be open-minded.** Believing there’s just one way to arrive at a positive outcome is very limiting. Instead brainstorm several outcomes that are mutually beneficial and then keep an open mind—an unanticipated solution may present itself through dialogue.
- **Research salary data.** Having objective salary criteria is absolutely critical. Objective data minimizes the emotion of the discussion, as well as provides third-party credibility.
- **Practice, Practice, ...** Role-playing with a career coach, or other objective individual, will show you exactly what you are comfortable asking for and how you come across to others.

Visit ASME’s Career Center at www.asme.org/jobs for more information on career building and negotiations.

Grants Available, First-Come, First-Serve

The Board on Diversity and Outreach's Partners in Mechanical Engineering (Partners) Program provides grants to ASME Sections for innovative projects and activities that support collaboration with local sections or chapters of organizations that support women and underrepresented minority groups in engineering.

Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and range from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the size and scope of the activity.

Applications for Partners grants may be submitted throughout the year. For additional information, go to <http://www.asme.org/communities/diversities/bdo/partners.html>

Message from the Chair:

The Rock River Valley Section is looking for volunteers to join the executive committee. If you want to shape the future of ASME, or like to organize interesting and exciting events, this is your opportunity.

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