

# Technologist

Includes information for the Syracuse Section of the IEEE and the NSPE

## SYRACUSE AREA TECHNICAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL

ACM - Association of Computing Machinery	Gerry T. Volger	Chair	433-1904
ACS - American Chemical Society	Steven Keller	Chair	
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ASHRAE - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers	Tom Buswell	Pres.	432-6510
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ASSE - American Society of Safety Engineers	Jerry Clark	Chair	445-4536
CNYAIHA - CNY American Industrial Hygiene Association	Steve Valentine	Chair	455-0224
CNYSLS - CNY Society of Land Surveyors	Robert Green	Contact	428-4358
CNYTEA - CNY Technology Education Association	Michael D. Thurlow	Pres.	598-6030
FLSA - Finger Lakes Sanitarians Association	Lary Duchaney	Chair	445-1597
IEEE - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	Mike Hayes	Chair	455-2000
IES - Illuminating Engineering Society	Paul Mahaney	Pres.	443-5328
ISMC - International Society for Measurement & Control	Steve Burrell	Pres.	445-5555
LCSEAA - LC Smith Engineering Alumni Association	Kelly Thompson	Contact	678-2171
NSPE - National Society of Professional Engineers	Michael R. Hayes, P.E.	Pres	455 2000
NYSAPLS - NYS Assoc. of Professional Land Surveyors	Robert S. Green	Chair	428-4358
NYSATE - NYS Association of Transportation Engineers	Mary Clements	Pres.	428-4627
SAE - Society of Automotive Engineers	Angie Errico	Chair	432-4363
SAS - Syracuse Astronomical Society	Stu Foster	Pres.	492-9118
SBE - Society of Broadcast Engineers	Vincent Lopez	Pres.	472-6800
SFPE - Society of Fire Protection Engineers	Dennis McCarty	Pres.	716-599-4238
SME - Society of Manufacturing Engineers	Sam Waite	Chair	432-0700
SWE - Society of Women Engineers	Susan Weaver	Pres.	432-0506

The Technology Alliance of CNY has been reporting on technical excellence since 1903.

Vol. 9 No 9

May 2007



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www.TACNY.org

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www.CNYPE.org



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The Syracuse Section of the  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/syracuse



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## The Institute Online

IEEE-USA award recipients are recognized for their professionalism and technical achievements, as well as literary contributions to public awareness and understanding of the engineering profession in the United States.

IEEE-USA's distinguished awards are administered under its Awards and Recognition Committee and approved by the IEEE-USA Board of Directors. The nomination deadline for 2007 awards is 31 August, 2007. Here's the complete list of 2006 IEEE-USA award recipients:

### CITATION OF HONOR

#### **Donald C. Herres**

For tireless efforts in professional activities, including career and workforce workshops

Grayson W. Randall For leadership that inspired precollege and college engineering students in the area of robotics

### REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Carl L. Hussey (Region 3) For promoting PACE activities in Region 3

James Jefferies (Region 5) For promoting the value of electrical engineering to Colorado legislators and the general public

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Reza Adhami For leadership in building collaborative relationships between industry and academia

Donald C. Loughry For inspiring retired engineers to support science education in local schools by leadership and example

Maura Schreier-Fleming For promoting community awareness of the practice of engineering

### AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS FURTHERING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROFESSION

WESH-TV Channel 2 News team: Dan Billow, Travis J. Sherwin, Tom Schaad and Claire Metz For accurate reporting in the "Return to Flight" series, which improved community awareness and understanding of the contributions of engineers in the space program

Paula S. Apsell For long-term efforts in promoting the understanding of science and engineering through NOVA programs

### PRECOLLEGE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TEACHER-ENGINEER PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Renato Recio and Joy Huebel For collaborative, long-term promotion of technological education at River Oaks Elementary School

### DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

William B. Bonvillian & David J. Goldston For outstanding support of science and technology-related legislation and policy in the U.S. Congress

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 220,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with 360,000 members in 150 countries. See <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.

#### **IEEECONTACT INFORMATION**

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<http://www.ieee.org/ra>  
+1 732 562 5501 (voice)  
+1 732 463 3657 (fax)  
[regional.activities@ieee.org](mailto:regional.activities@ieee.org)

**Those members who need to CHANGE CONTACT INFO on file  
with the IEEE, including e-mail addresses, should do so at:  
<<http://www.ieee.org/membership/coa.xml>>**

#### **SYRACUSE SECTION Meeting Information**

Our Executive Committee Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month and are open to all members.  
Minutes are available online at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/syracuse/meet.htm>

**Check out the all new Syracuse Section website:  
<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/syracuse/>**



**Take Me Out to The Ball Game!**

*IEEE Family Night*

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

6:00PM

Picnic at Alliance Stadium

Syracuse Chiefs Ball Game Following the Picnic

\$10.00 per Adult

\$5.00 per Child ( 18 and under )

Your Check is Your Reservation

Due: June 8, 2007

Check Payable to: Craig Cobb

Reservations to: Craig Cobb 446-0625



Date	Time	Sponsor	Location	Topic
May 8 - May 24	6:00 - 9:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section & NSPE - open to all	C&S Engineers	Electrical Power System Engineering for non-EE's 18 PDH's available
May 9	full day bus trip	IES CNY Section open to IEEE Members	Jacob Javits Convention Center New York City	Bus Trip to LIGHTFAIR 2007
May 14	5 PM Networking 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Program	TACNY cosponsored by IEEE Syracuse Section	Holiday Inn & Conference Center Electronics Parkway Liverpool	Celebration of Technology Story Musgrave featured speaker
August 3	12:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section open to all members	C&S Engineers	Section Executive Committee Meeting
September 7	12:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section open to all members	C&S Engineers	Section Executive Committee Meeting
October 5	12:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section open to all members	C&S Engineers	Section Executive Committee Meeting
November 9	12:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section open to all members	C&S Engineers	Section Executive Committee Meeting
January 4	12:00 PM	IEEE Syracuse Section open to all members	C&S Engineers	Section Executive Committee Meeting

## Committees & Officers

Chair	Mike Hayes
Vice Chair	Prasanta Ghosh
Secretary	Larry Durante
Treasurer	William H. Maxwell
Newsletter Editor	Brian O'Hern
Professional Activities Chair	Scott Stumpf
Membership Chair	Lisa Osadciw
Educational Activities Chair	Prasanta Ghosh
Student Activities & Branch Advisor	Jay K. Lee
Syracuse University Student Branch President	Marian Chaffee
Webmaster	Don Herres
Chapter Chairs	
Aerospace/Communications (co-chairs)	Lisa Osadciw & Biao Chen
Circuits & Systems	Craig Cobb
Computer	Craig Cobb
Engineering in Medicine & Biology	Al DiRienzo
Industry Applications/Power Engineering	Mary Reidy
Life Members	George Kirkpatrick
Microwave Theory & Techniques/Antennas & Propagation	Ercument Arvas

**CENTRAL CHAPTER  
NY STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2007**

**Electrical Power System Overview  
18 PDHs FOR \$150**

*A Continuing Education Short Course for Engineers*

**Each class will be approved for 3 PDHs. A total of 18 PDHs are available.**

**INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

The short course will be held from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in May 2007 (see below) at:

**C&S Engineers**

**499 Col. Eileen Collins Blvd. (Hancock Airport access road), Syracuse, NY 13212**

NEC = NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, NEC 123 = National Electrical Code Article 123

Electrical Power System Engineering Overview for non-Electrical Engineers			
Attend	Class #	Date	Topic
	1	Tuesday, May 8, 2007	Typical building power system description, National Electrical Code (NEC) overview, single & three phase systems, voltage levels, & clearances
	2	Thursday, May 10, 2007	Services, feeders & branch circuits
	3	Tuesday, May 15, 2007	Overcurrent protection & grounding
	4	Thursday, May 17, 2007	Motor circuits & transformers
	5	Tuesday, May 22, 2007	Special cases: hazardous areas, elevators, hospitals, fire pumps
	6	Thursday, May 24, 2007	Load calculation & class exercise

**Cost:** Supper (sandwiches, salad, pizza, soft drinks, etc. – will vary) is included in the price.

**IEEE or NSPE member number:** \_\_\_\_\_ (**required to get member price**)

Deadlines	Register <b>AND</b> Pay on or before 4/27/07		Register & pay on or after 4/28/07	
	NSPE & IEEE Members	Non-members	NSPE & IEEE Members	Non-members
All classes	\$150	\$180	\$175	\$210
Individual classes	\$30	\$35	\$35	\$40

Name of individual for registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cash or check (no credit cards):** Make check payable to: **CNY Chapter, NYSSPE** and reference "short course" in the memo portion of the check.

**Mail checks to:** Mr. Tim Taber, PE, Stearns & Wheler, One Remington Park Dr., Cazenovia, NY 13035. Email: [tptaber@stearnswheler.com](mailto:tptaber@stearnswheler.com).

## OFFICER ELECTIONS AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Ballots for a slate of officers for the coming year will be tallied and results announced at our May meeting (please check [www.cnype.org](http://www.cnype.org) for location and date after you have received this mailing. In addition, there are several Director and committee chair vacancies. **WE NEED NEW PEOPLE!** If you are interested, or know of someone who is, you are most cordially invited to attend. For any additional information call Secretary Carl Fahrenkrug, P.E. - 438 4722

**ANY LICENSED PE, LS, INTERN OR GRADUATE ENGINEER WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL CHAPTER OF NYSSPE IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.**

**Please complete the following ballot and make sure either your name or membership number is shown on the return address. Mail to Carl Fahrenkrug, c/o Microwave Filter Company, Inc, 6743 Kinne Street East Syracuse, New York 13057 - ATTN: Nancy Young ([carl-f@microwavefilter.com](mailto:carl-f@microwavefilter.com), 438 4722).**

**OFFICIAL NOMINEES ARE SHOWN: WRITE-INS ARE ENCOURAGED; MARK ONE FOR EACH POSITION.**

OFFICE	TERM	CANDIDATE
President	1 YEAR	Nominee - Mike Hayes P.E. Write-in - _____
1st Vice President	1 YEAR	Vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	1 YEAR	Nominee – Don Geiser P.E. Write-in - _____
Secretary	1 YEAR	Nominee - Carl Fahrenkrug P.E. Write-in - _____
Treasurer	1 YEAR	Nominee - Tim Taber P.E. Write-in _____

## President's Message

### Officers 2006-2007

<b>President</b>	Howie Hollander	456-6287
<b>First Vice President</b>	Mary Reidy P.E	428-5326
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Marc Viggiano	445-5754
<b>Secretary</b>	Michael Masingale	445-4108
<b>Treasurer</b>	William Busher	434-1242
<b>Technologist Editor</b>	Maria T. Welych	637-0663
<b>Teacher Awards Chair</b>	Dr. Vernon A. Tryon	343-9692

### E-mail Contact Information

E-mail addressed per the following list will automatically be forwarded to the appropriate officer or committee person:

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[jr.cafe@tacny.org](mailto:jr.cafe@tacny.org)  
[communications@tacny.org](mailto:communications@tacny.org)

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### Website of the Month

<http://www.spacestory.com/intro.htm>



#### Space Story

Learn more about Story Musgrave, the featured speaker at this year's Celebration of Technology banquet, set for May 14 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Liverpool.

About 40 years ago, folksinger Joni Mitchell sang, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." She was singing about paving over an area to put up a parking lot. In my case, it took our mid-April storm to come to the same realization. With power gone, I was unable to telecommute, and instead forced to drive into the office. During the drive, I got thinking about the many unsung technologists that made it possible for me to work from home in the first place.

Luckily, TACNY has its own way of singing praise about the technological breakthroughs of local technologists and companies, and the teachers that trained them. In May, TACNY will once again host two very special events. The first is our annual Outstanding Teacher Awards dinner on 4 May. Once again, we recognize the technology, science and math teachers that have made the biggest impact in our local schools. You can find their names elsewhere in *The Technologist*. We all have one – or more – teachers that helped shape our career aspirations. I am delighted to be able to honor those that are helping to train the next generation of technology leaders. Perhaps one of those students will develop the technology to allow high speed computing without benefit of electricity!

Also coming up is our annual Celebration of Technology banquet on May 14. At press time, winners in the various categories, including Technologist, Young Technologist, Engineer, College Technology Educator, Technology Project, and Technology Company of the Year, have not been identified.

We do know that former astronaut Story Musgrave will be our guest speaker. Dr. Musgrave has seven graduate degrees in math (from Syracuse University), computers, chemistry, medicine, physiology, literature, and

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psychology. A veteran of six space flights, Dr. Musgrave was one of two astronauts to restore the Hubble Space Telescope to its full capabilities. His topic at the banquet is "Be the Best You Can Be." Dr. Musgrave is a wonderful speaker, and he is sure to entertain and educate us all.

Reservations can be made by e-mail to [teacherawards@tacny.org](mailto:teacherawards@tacny.org) and [celebration@tacny.org](mailto:celebration@tacny.org). I hope to see you at both events!

There are lots of other technology related events in the area. Please check our community calendar at [www.tacny.org/calendar](http://www.tacny.org/calendar) from time to time. If you are not receiving TACNY email to keep you abreast of what's going on, please send me a note at [hollander@tacny.org](mailto:hollander@tacny.org) and I will get you added to the distribution list.

*Hollander*



**Wanted: Webmaster**

TACNY is looking for someone to handle its Web site, including overseeing a redesign of the site, instituting an easy-to-use calendar, and making regular updates. If you're interested in improving TACNY.org, send your name and contact information to Amber Markow and Maria Welych at [communications@tacny.org](mailto:communications@tacny.org).

**Technical societies come together**

TACNY unfolded some preliminary plans to invigorate the Technical Societies Council at its April 18 meeting at Sensis. Much of the conversation focused on helping the attending societies meet their most pressing needs, especially via a reinvented and redesigned newsletter.

Among the ideas discussed are:

- Revamp the look and organization of The Technologist.
- Include event and other information from all TSC members at no cost.
- Option of electronic or print versions.
- Distribute every month of the year.
- TACNY would design and publish The Technologist.

Some ideas for the content of the new Technologist:

- Feature articles from TSC members, such as:
  - Interview with upcoming speaker.
  - Reaction to national topic in industry.
  - Closer look at local company project.
- Profile technical society or teacher award winner in every issue.
- Highlight a technology Web site, weblog, or book in every issue.
- Calendar of events.
- Volunteer, speaking and professional development opportunities.
- Highlight a fact about Central New York's technology history.

These are just some ideas TACNY has had, and nothing is set in stone. TACNY's Communications Committee wants to hear what you think. Contact co-chairs Amber Markow and Maria Welych at [communications@tacny.org](mailto:communications@tacny.org).

TACNY, though both through the Technical Societies Council and the Communication Committee looks forward to working with all technical groups to help them achieve their goals. Stay tuned: The next council meeting will be in late June. Attend and help set the agenda.



# 'The Best Kept Secret': that engineers make good writers

**By Bill Busher**  
Contributing writer

You never know where research and writing are going to take you. This started out as a book review, but has become more than that. It is a story involving writing within one's comfort zone, using familiar names and places to enrich and make a story line relevant – without getting sued – and using technical career experience while keeping the result reader-friendly.

"The Kept Secret" by Stan Wilczek, Jr., involves post-9/11 terrorist acts, but is more than the clichéd phrase "ripped from the headlines" would have us believe. There have been no comparable acts since that fateful day. Have we been duly diligent, or have we been lulled into a false sense of security by one too many terror alerts, combined with the false calm that creeps in with ever increasing distance?

Wilczek uses incidents from history, including the Cuban nuclear missile crisis of 1961 and the fact that Nikita Khrushchev died on 9/11 although 20 years earlier, that lends credulity to his premise, and expands that series of events into a present day threat that has an tinge of plausibility.

A plot unwinds that engages the reader to the end. What makes the premise unnerving and believable is not only the description of the attacks, but the way in which the attacks are carried out. In 1954, the ending of the movie "The Thing From Another World" had a reporter warning us to keep watching; keep looking to the skies for the next possible attack. The sky is not where this series of attacks comes from. Indeed, using common biological agents to infect a food supply should peg the reader's paranoia meter, given the contamination problems involving spinach, onions, chicken and peanut butter that have occurred over the past year. It's not so large a stretch to have similar events happen that were planned in advance by an enemy willing to use any means available.

The use of historical events to underpin a storyline is not unusual, nor is using local color that the author is most familiar with to enhance the plot. When information regarding actual places and institutions is incorporated in the storyline, however, the author has to use care. There is a danger in literary name-dropping. It can be overused in an effort to make the story more accessible. The author has succeeded in using an amount of location detail that enhances the story without dragging it down.

Wilczek is a degreed nuclear engineer, and in fact

was at one time an officer in Niagara Mohawk. His intimate knowledge of the nuclear industry gives him rare insight into that aspect of our power production and distribution system. It does the same in giving his writing a legitimacy that should further engage, and unnerve, the reader. Unfortunately, having a talent for a good story with the right amount of technical detail and local color doesn't guarantee you will be published.

It has been said that there are some five million aspiring writers in the United States, and less than five thousand of them ever get published. Most discouraging to potential writers is that only about fifty will make enough money from it to earn a living. Wilczek's quest to be published ended with him being self-published through a company in Utica. His experiences in getting published could fill a book all by themselves, but he has compiled several "lessons learned" for those wondering where to start.



**Stan Wilczek**

First, develop writing skills. For those who have not been through formal training, it may mean buying books on general technique, but it also means commitment to practice.

Second, set up reasonable goals for your time and output.

Third, be dedicated. No one is going to be standing over your shoulder

pushing you to come up with the five pages or thousand words that you established as a goal for the day.

Fourth, be aware of continuity. Changes on page one hundred will likely have impact on previous pages.

Fifth, have a great story. If you are not enthused, chances are your readers won't be, either.

Lastly, have a plan. What is your literary end goal, and how are you going to get there? Write it out, outline it, and revise it as you go along. Use it as your blueprint to keep yourself on track.

Writing isn't hard; good writing is. It requires dedication, skill, and attention to detail. When successful, it also combines a writer's educational, professional and personal experiences into a work that is satisfying to both writer and reader.

**May 2007 Technologist**

Distributed to over 750 professionals!

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Editor TACNY	Maria Welych	637-0663	mwelych@tacny.org

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