

## NEWS BYTES

**The Results Are In!** IEEE's U.S. members have elected Ned Scuthoff as



IEEE-USA President-Elect 2000, which will make him IEEE-USA's fourth elected president in the year 2001. Scuthoff defeated running mate Michel

Andrews. U.S. members also elected James Leonard as IEEE-USA's Member-at-Large for 2000-2001.

### 1999 Draper Award Winners:

Congratulations to IEEE members Charles K. Kao and Robert D. Maurer, who along with colleague John B. MacChesney, were awarded the 1999 Charles Stark Draper Prize for their work in developing fiber optic technology. The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) awards the \$500,000 prize annually in recognition of individuals whose outstanding engineering achievements have contributed to the well-being and freedom of humanity. The prize will be presented at a dinner honoring the recipients next month during National Engineers Week (Feb. 20 - 26). For more information on NAE's awards, visit the NAE Web site at [www.nae.edu](http://www.nae.edu).

**Letter to the President:** Citing a substantial oversight, in which the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) issued as many as 20,000 unauthorized H-1B non-immigrant visas in FY 1999, IEEE-USA President Paul Kostek addressed the Clinton Administration in an Oct. 20, 1999 letter. "If the INS does not have the authority to reduce the total number of H-1B visas for FY2000, it did not have the authority to increase the total for FY1999; the agency cannot simply create visas whenever it loses count," said Kostek. IEEE-USA maintains its opposition to the escalating number of H-1B visas being granted and is instead suggesting an alternative solution: green cards, not guest worker visas. See the related press release at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/releases/991020pr.html>.

### FY2000 Energy Appropriations Set:

On Sept. 30, 1999, President Clinton signed into law the annual energy and water development appropriations bill, which includes funding for key science and technology programs of the Department of Energy (DOE). Funding for DOE energy supply R&D programs will decline by 1.5 percent to \$367 million (from \$373 million in FY 1999). The DOE science budget, holds steady (up just 0.1 percent) at \$2.65 billion. Fusion energy research climbs 11.6 percent to \$247 million. Support for computational and technology research drops 16.3 percent to \$131 million, and a funding request for DOE's Scientific Simulation Initiative (DOE's share of the President Clinton's IT2 research initiative) was denied. The bill also approves a plan to move DOE's nuclear weapon laboratories into a new National Nuclear Security Administration

— Greg Hill, IEEE-USA Staff

# IEEE★USA PERSPECTIVES

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## IEEE-USA: A Year in Review — The Challenge Continues



1999 IEEE-USA President Paul Kostek

**M**y term as IEEE-USA President has been interesting, challenging and enjoyable. In 1999, IEEE-USA continued pursuing initiatives and activities that will enhance the careers of all IEEE members. In addition, IEEE-USA played an essential role in establishing U.S. technology policy.

### Why Serve?

Many people have asked why I agreed to serve as IEEE-USA's President, and what things I have both enjoyed and sacrificed for this opportunity. The *why* is simple. I have been active in IEEE for many years, serving at the Section, Region and Society level. I also chaired and served on several IEEE-USA committees. Working in industry and hitting mid-career (20 years in industry), I felt I could represent and speak for a group not often heard from.

Having the time to do this job was an enormous challenge, along with balancing family and work commitments. With the help of my wife and professional colleagues, I tackled this challenge, and I would like to thank them for their support. I have also been fortunate to work with a board of directors committed to assisting members in developing their careers. Serving as IEEE-USA President is not a feat easily accomplished alone.

The positives of serving were the opportunities to meet with members in many Sections, including Rock River, Dayton, Hawaii, Oregon, and Seattle; share in 50th Anniversary celebrations with the Albuquerque and Virginia Mountain

Sections; and even venture outside the United States to the Victoria, British Columbia Section's Annual General Meeting.

### Continuing, New Goals

One of my goals this year was to establish a working relationship with industry. During last year's work on the H-1B visa issue, IEEE-USA and industry disconnected. It became important to us for companies, their associations and corporate leaders to understand why IEEE-USA took the position it did on this issue.

In 1999, we were successful in developing working relationships with several industry associations. These alliances have allowed us to increase awareness of the challenges that engineers face, and begin developing programs that will help our U.S. members to find employment — while industry finds the technical talent they need. The goal is to change the perception of engineers, and their roles from subordinates to partners.

Some matters from 1998 returned again last year. The H-1B visa cap became a highly visible issue once more. We continued our efforts to educate Congress and industry on the challenges mid-career engineers face, and the impact of technology changes on all technical professionals. The Cash Balance "Pension Program" was a new issue raised in 1999 — a concern to many of our members. IEEE-USA publicized the impact of these types of programs on working professionals, and made our members' concerns known to Congress. And once again, the work of IEEE-USA's volunteers received recognition throughout the entire Institute in 1999. In response to requests from outside the United States, IEEE-USA expanded its employment assistance program to include members in Regions 7-10.

### A Time for Reflection

Before concluding, I'd like to pause and remember some of those we lost in 1999: Mike Mulder, Wally Decker and Joe Wujek (volunteers) and Bob Walleigh, and Bill Anderson (IEEE-USA staff). These volunteers and staff members contributed many years to both IEEE and IEEE-USA, and they will be greatly missed. The best way we can honor their memories is to continue the efforts they began.

I also want to thank the members of the IEEE-USA Board, OpCom, volunteers, and staff for their continued support. In addition, I ask your support for incoming President Merrill Buckley and wish him the best of luck in 2000.

And finally, I want to thank all of the U.S. members for their encouragement, and for the opportunity to serve as your IEEE-USA President.

— Paul J. Kostek, 1999 IEEE-USA President



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