Philadelphia Section

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IEEE Philadelphia Section Presents Awards at Sold-Out Banquet & Gala Celebration
Celebrating 50 years of the merging of the AIEE and IRE

Awardees, sponsors, and guest speaker made for successful event.

Philadelphia, PA – May 2, 2013 – On April 13, the Philadelphia Section of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) honored contributions to the field at its Awards Banquet & Gala at the Union League in Philadelphia, PA. Keynote speaker, Russel E. Kaufman, M.D., president and CEO of The Wistar Institute, discussed the "growing convergence of scientific and technical disciplines" before a crowd of more than 160 attendees.

Kaufman's particularly hopeful message describing the direction of biomedical research was the highlight of his presentation entitled *Using Computers to Understand Biological Systems*. He discussed efforts "to change the culture in life sciences research from individual 'close to the vest' achievement toward a more collaborative model."

In commemoration of IEEE's 50th anniversary, IEEE Philadelphia Section Chair, Mark Soffa, offered a well-received historical perspective of the founding of the organization as a merging of two different electrical engineering societies. A citation from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter's office served to reinforce the importance of Philadelphia in IEEE's remarkable half-century history.

The event — sponsored by The Franklin Institute, The Burns Group, and Penn Engineering — included engineering demonstrations by Anamir Electronics, Inc., Channel Logistics, ECRI Institute, Rowan University, and Temple University. Described as "the best awards night in recent memory" by Marvin Weilerstein, IEEE Philadelphia Section Past Chair and current Chair of Technical Activities and Technical Conferences, the gala was attended by more than twice as many as last year — evidence of the growth of the field and dedication of the membership in the greater Philadelphia region.

Awards and distinctions were given in nine categories. "Because this event celebrates the 50th anniversary of the merging of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers

(AIEE) and the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE), we thought it appropriate to honor a larger number of excellent engineers and companies and their accomplishments than we did in previous years," said Soffa. The 2013 award winners are:

Philadelphia Past Chairperson Award – Awarded for dedicated service to the IEEE Philadelphia Section as Section Chairperson for 2012
Margaret S. Goodman

Alan L. Kirsch Outstanding Student Member Award – Awarded for outstanding commitment, leadership, peer impact, and accomplishment as an IEEE student member
David C. Mino

Chapter of the Year Award – Awarded for exceptional leadership in developing effective chapter activities and encouraging their growth
Vehicular Technology Society (VTS) / Recipient: Brandon Swartley, Chair, SYSTRA

Philadelphia Section Member Award – Awarded for long-term dedicated support to the section (*this year there are 3 recipients)*
Roger L. Boyell, Consultant
Robert Lawson, Lockheed Martin
John Sudano / Recipient: Daughter Joy Sudano

Benjamin Franklin Key Award – Awarded for outstanding electrical engineering design, innovation, and problem solving (*this year there are 3 recipients)*
Mark E. Bruley, BS, CCE, ECRI Institute
Nader Engheta, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
David Fiori, Jr., Anamir Electronics, Inc.

Corporate Innovation Award – Awarded for outstanding electrical engineering design, innovation, and successful contributions by a company or corporation *(this year there are 4 recipients)*
Analytical Graphics, Inc. (AGI)
ECRI Institute / Recipient: Joel Nobel
Lockheed Martin
Optofluidics, Inc. / Recipient: Dr. Robert Hart

Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year – Awarded for creative and recognized important works by an engineer under 35 years of age *(this year there are 3 recipients)*
Sean Fischer, Channel Logistics, LLC
Philip M. Gonski, PE, Keystone Engineering
Dr. Baris Taskin, Drexel University

Delaware Valley Electrical Engineer of the Year – Awarded for outstanding productivity and professional accomplishment
Robert Swayne, PE, LEED® AP, Burns Engineering, Inc.

Recognition of IEEE Fellows:
This year there are 3 recipients
Robert H. Caverly, PhD, Villanova University
Joel S. Karp, University of Pennsylvania

Chika Nwankpa, Ph.D., Drexel University

About IEEE

The mission of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is to conduct scientific, educational, and professional programs for the advancement of electrical and computer engineering, their related arts and sciences, and the stature of the professions they serve. IEEE sponsors numerous Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities and provides scholarships to engineering students.

IEEE is the world's largest professional association advancing innovation and technical excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community to innovate for a better tomorrow through its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, professional, and educational activities. IEEE is the trusted "Voice" for engineering, computing, and technology information around the globe.

About IEEE Philadelphia Section

The Philadelphia Section (or Branch as it was then called) of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, or AIEE for short, was organized in 1903. As the electric power industry grew so did the AIEE. However, on May 13, 1912, another branch of the electrical profession, the radio engineers, formed the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE), which grew so rapidly its membership soon surpassed that of the AIEE. As early as 1922, the AIEE and IRE discussed the possibility of merging, as the interests of the societies overlapped. No serious steps were taken until 1961. One year later, the membership of the organizations approved the merger, which officially took place on January 1, 1963, under the new name of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE).

Today the IEEE Philadelphia Section serves more than 4,000 members in the Delaware Valley including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania and Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties in New Jersey. The Philadelphia Section holds regular meetings and events, publishes a member newsletter, the Almanack, ten times per year; presents an annual awards banquet & gala, and offers a leadership scholarship through its student branch. For more information, visit http: www.ieeephiladelphia.org or call 484-270-5136. Visit IEEE Philadelphia Section on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/IEEE-Philadelphia-Section/128674543953396.

Editors: Event photos are available by visiting http: www.ieeephiladelphia.org

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