



IEEE

MADISON SECTION NEWSLETTER

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SERVING IEEE MEMBERS OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 2007

An Unfair Start in Life: Why Pollution Matters for Child Development

Date/Time: Thursday, December 20, 2007, 11:45 - 1:00 PM

Speaker: Colleen F. Moore, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Location: Rocky Rococo's Pizza, 7952 Tree Lane (Madison Beltline Hwy. at Mineral Pt. Rd.), 608.829.1444

Menu: Pizza buffet, salad and soft drinks (cost \$10.00, free for student members)

RSVP: by December 17th to Les Schroeder via e-mail (l.schroeder@ieee.org) or call 608.224.0664

Non-member guests are always welcome!

Pollution has negative effects on behavioral development. Most pollutants are inequitably distributed in society. I will talk about the behavioral health impacts of exposure to two pollutants: lead (Pb) and noise. There are social inequities in exposure to both of these pollutants. Because exposure to multiple risk factors yields a higher than expected chance of a child developing special needs, environmental inequities are a concern. Finally, I will briefly describe how government policies are failing to address the socio-economic and racial/ethnic disparities in exposure to both noise and lead. In addition, I will describe the risk assessment used by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to decide on cutoffs for lead in children's crayons. I will describe the judgment calls and subjective values embedded in the risk assessment.

Colleen F. Moore is Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1978. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in Psychology, with emphasis on Developmental Psychology and a minor in quantitative research methods. She currently teaches graduate courses in the design of psychological experiments and developmental psychology. She has been teaching an undergraduate course on the Psychology of Environmental Issues for 10 years. Her research currently addresses several topics including prenatal influences on later behavior (in collaboration with Prof. Mary Schneider), and how environmental attitudes are related to risk perceptions, ethical reasoning, and other aspects of judgment and decision making.

Success Tips for IEEE Volunteers

by John W. Meredith

As the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, the IEEE is a very large non-profit organization, with 370,000 members worldwide (215,000 of them in the United States). It takes many dedicated people, both professional staff and volunteers, to carry out the important work of the IEEE. Needless to say, the IEEE needs a steady supply of volunteers.

The IEEE is divided into six major organizational units: Standards, IEEE-USA, Regional Activities, Publications & Services, Educational Activities and Technical Activities. Each of these units need more volunteers at the local, regional, national and global levels. Opportunities exist to participate in a wide range of technical and professional activities. Volunteer involvement ranges from casual participation, such as recruiting colleagues to assist in organizing a local workshop, to a more committed role, such as serving as an officer in your local IEEE section.

The important thing is to get involved. Begin by assessing your talents, skills and interests to determine what you would like to do. Local activities run the gamut from manning the registration desk for a local meeting, publicizing meetings and events within your company, or organizing a local event, hosting a tour of your work place, speaking at a local meeting, participating in educational outreach efforts through Engineers Week, or meeting with senior management to identify opportunities for IEEE to better serve your company.

Leadership opportunities at the section or chapter level abound. I was recently asked by a new member, "How do I become an IEEE section chair?" The answer is to work your way through various officer roles in an IEEE section or chapter. The typical progression is secretary, treasurer, vice chair and then chair.

Here at IEEE-USA, we have opportunities for you to serve on one of our policy committees. These include areas dealing with energy, research and development, careers, licensure and registration, intellectual property, precollege education and medical technology, to name a few. Leadership roles include committee vice chair and chair. If you do well in those positions, you might be asked to serve as an IEEE-USA vice president. If you're really fortunate, like I was, you might get elected IEEE-USA president. See IEEE-USA's current volunteer leaders at www.ieeeusa.org/volunteers/leadership.asp.



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April 2-4, 2008 in Orlando, FL

For further information...

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Engineers also have a responsibility to speak out on important public policy issues that affect the profession and public well-being. U.S. IEEE members are often called as witnesses before congressional committees to lend their expertise and perspective to an important issue before Congress. Not every member can do that, but you can communicate with your congressional representatives, or write a letter to the editor to voice your opinion. These public-advocacy roles are another form of volunteerism.

For members already active at the IEEE local level, I have a challenge for you: Become involved at a higher level. Consider volunteering on board-level activities. There are ample opportunities to participate on region executive committees or society administrative committees. Check out the IEEE Web site at www.ieee.org for possibilities.

Lastly, I have three tips for you on how to succeed as an IEEE volunteer:

1. Bring new ideas to the table.
2. Be a team player; build on others' ideas.
3. Support other volunteers and help them develop as IEEE leaders — mentoring is an essential element of leadership.

Please consider becoming an IEEE volunteer. Not only is it fun and rewarding, it's also a good way to give something back for all the good things that have come our way through our parents, teachers and mentors. Happy volunteering!

John W. Meredith, P.E., is 2007 IEEE-USA President. Comments may be submitted to todaysengineer@ieee.org.

IEEE Madison Section Elections

At the December 2007 monthly meeting, the IEEE Madison Section will conduct its annual officer elections prior to the technical presentation. The positions include chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and multiple member-at-large positions. Job descriptions can be found online at http://www.ieee.org/web/geo_activities/rab/scs/Resources/Officer_Training/job-desc.html. Nominations may be made by telephone or via e-mail to the Chair (263-1085, mmbradt@ieee.org). Additional candidate nominations are welcome and encouraged for all positions.

Your help is needed!

Remember that this is a volunteer organization. Being an officer does not require a large time commitment but some of us are ready to retire after many years of service!

The nominations to date include:

Chair:	Ken Hartman
Vice-Chair:	Dennis Bahr
Secretary:	Frederick Baguhn, Subhadra Ganti
Treasurer:	Mitchell Bradt
Mem. at Large:	Clark Johnson
Mem. at Large:	Sandy Rotter

IEEE Foundation Announces 2008 Application Deadlines

The IEEE Foundation, Incorporated, the philanthropic arm of the IEEE, is committed to improving the technological literacy of society from childhood through adulthood. One way the IEEE Foundation seeks to achieve this goal is by awarding grants to new and innovative projects. During 2008, unsolicited applications will be accepted in three cycles from IEEE units and other organizations working in areas of relevance and importance to the IEEE and its membership. Projects should achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Improve primary and secondary science, technology, and math learning
- Encourage pre-university students to consider engineering as a career path
- Increase the public's understanding of the role of engineers and technology in society
- Preserve the history of IEEE associated technologies
- Tap the technological expertise of IEEE members
- Demonstrate ability to be replicated

Application deadlines:

Deadline	IEEE Foundation Meeting Date
4 Jan 2008	Mar 2008
18 Apr 2008	Jun 2008
5 Sep 2008	Nov 2008

Before submitting the online application, please review "How to Apply for a Grant" (<http://www.ieee.org/organizations/foundation/grants.html>). All applications will be considered for funding by both the IEEE Foundation Board of Directors and the IEEE Life Members Committee. Questions should be directed to the IEEE Foundation Administrator at +1 732 981 3435 or foundation-office@ieee.org.



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