



# Madison Section NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Number 2

Serving IEEE Members of South Central Wisconsin

February 2000

## 2000 ENGINEERS WEEK BANQUET

### The Overture Project - joint dinner meeting with ASCE and WSPE

- Date/Time:** Thursday, February 24, 2000, 5:30 Social, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program  
**Speaker:** George E. Austin, President of the Overture Foundation  
**Location:** Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton Street, Madison  
**Parking:** Parking is available in the hotel for a fee. Parking is also available in the Dayton Street ramp kitty-corner from the hotel.  
**Menu:** Roast loin of pork (vegetarian option available), salad, potatoes, vegetable, dessert & beverage  
**Cost:** \$23.00, \$12 for students  
**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Ernie Peterson via e-mail (ernest.peterson@dot.state.wi.us) or call 608-266-3589. Reservations are due by noon, Monday February 21st. Please include names of guests, name of firm, and phone number.

*Non-member guests are always welcome!*

The Overture Project is a \$100 million privately funded initiative to promote excellence in the arts and continue the downtown Madison renaissance. The Overture Project will transform the current Civic Center block in downtown Madison, remodeling and expanding existing performing and visual arts facilities and adding new ones.

George E. Austin is the president of the Overture Foundation, a newly formed foundation to provide support for cultural arts facilities in Madison, Dane County, and the State of Wisconsin, which is currently developing the Overture Project. His previous position was Director of the City of Madison Department of Planning and Development, and Director of the Community Development Authority of the City of Madison, including serving as Project Manager for the development of Monona Terrace.

The program will also include some student scholarships and professional engineering awards.

### Astronomy at UW-Madison: 120 Years on the Frontier

- Date/Time:** Thursday, March 16, 2000, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM  
**Speaker:** Dr. Jim Lattis, Director of UW Space Place  
**Location:** UW Space Place, 1605 S. Park Street, Madison, Tel: 262-4779  
**Menu:** Pizza and soft drinks (cost \$8.00)  
**RSVP:** by March 13th to Roy Thompson via email (roy.thompson@tdstelecom.com) or call 608/664-4415

*Non-member guests are always welcome!*

**Presentation & Self Guided Tour:** The presentation will begin with an historical overview of the founding of the Washburn Observatory, located on Observatory Drive overlooking Lake Mendota on the UW-Madison campus. Its key role in the development of modern astrophysics, and how that work led into space astronomy and the founding of the Space Astronomy Laboratory, will be discussed. Opportunity will be provided after the presentation for short self-guided tours of the Space Place. *...continued on page 2*

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### IEEE MADISON SECTION OFFICERS

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*continued from page 1...*

Dr. Jim Lattis is director of UW Space Place, which he co-founded in 1990. He presently works with the Space Astronomy Laboratory and Astronomy Dept. to develop science education and outreach programs for schools, school teachers, and the general public. Jim has graduate degrees in physics and the history of science and teaches introductory courses in astronomy, history of science, and history of astronomy on the UW-Madison campus. He has also taught at Marquette University and spent two great years in Rome pursuing research on the history of astronomy in the 16th and 17th centuries. Jim is also an amateur astronomer and amateur radio enthusiast.

## IEEE Madison Section Officers Elected for 2000

At its January 20 meeting, elections were conducted for the new slate of section officers to serve during the 2000 calendar year. Elected unanimously to the following positions were:

Chair: Craig Heilman, Bugaboo Software

Secretary: Roy Thompson, TDS Telecom

Treasurer: John Hicks, University of Wisconsin (retired)

Member at Large & e-mail coordinator:  
John Cortsvets, Modern Electro-Design

Member at Large: Les Schroeder, IBM

Member at Large: Sandy Rotter, Rotter Engineering

Congratulations to all of the above individuals for being elected to their posts and many thanks for their willingness to serve and contribute to the IEEE Madison Section's needs.

A special thank-you to outgoing chair Dan Danbeck for several years of service as an section officer.

Please note that we still have the position of Vice-Chair open and we can always use a few extra Members at Large, so if any of you would like to participate, please contact the Chair.

## National Engineer's Week February 20

National Engineers Week will be held during the week of February 20, 2000. It is a coordinated effort by major companies, engineering societies, schools, and students to focus public attention on the role of engineering and its importance to our quality of life.

Raise awareness of the role of engineers in your organization with a free planning kit (with tips for sponsoring local activities and events). For further information, see the National Engineers Week Web site at [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).



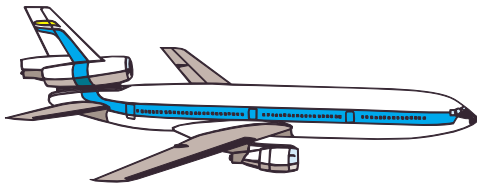
National Engineers Week  
February 20 - 26, 2000

## IEEE Launches New Online Store & Catalog

The IEEE has taken a major leap forward in its ongoing objective to "do business electronically" with the launch of the new IEEE Online Store & Catalog. The site went live 28 Dec., at [www.ieee.org/ieeestore](http://www.ieee.org/ieeestore). The definitive source for IEEE products, the Store is fully searchable and sells IEEE books, conference proceedings, subscriptions, Standards, mixed-media products and merchandise in a secure environment. It includes such value-added e-commerce features as shopping lists and a help desk. A kickoff promotion offers a free IEEE shirt with every book purchase. For more information, contact Terry Burns, Sales & Marketing, at [t.burns@ieee.org](mailto:t.burns@ieee.org).

## American Airlines Discounts Offered to IEEE Travelers

IEEE Global Travel Services has established an exclusive agreement with American Airlines that gives IEEE patrons 10 percent off all published fares. This discount can be used for both business and personal travel, and travel can originate from inside or outside of the United States. For more information, contact Global Travel Services, [ieee-travel@ieee.org](mailto:ieee-travel@ieee.org).



## IEEE Membership Hits All-time High

IEEE membership for 1999 reached a record high of 352,259. This is an increase of 5.2 percent over 1998, and surpassed the IEEE Membership Development goal of 350,000 members. Student membership also hit an all-time high of 53,270, surpassing the record set in 1998.

## IEEE Offers Online Courses

The IEEE together with Stevens Institute of Technology will offer IEEE members graduate credit and a graduate certificate in Wireless Communications after successful completion of four online courses: Wireless Systems Overview, Physical Design of Wireless Communication Systems, and High-Level Design of Wireless Communication Systems. Classes begin this month and run through May. For more information, contact Alan Trembly, IEEE Educational Activities, at [a.trembly@ieee.org](mailto:a.trembly@ieee.org) or call +1 732 562 5488.

Department of Engineering Professional Development  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
College of Engineering

### Spring 2000 Telecommunications Short Courses

- Using and Installing Fiber Optic Communications Systems, February 14-16
- Fundamentals of Data Communications, March 7-9
- Fundamentals of Cellular and PCS Wireless Communications, March 29-31
- Engineering and Planning Telecommunications Local Loop Facilities, April 3-6
- Basic Telephony and Digital Switching, April 17-20
- Planning and Implementing Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Systems, May 1-3

Info: [epdweb.engr.wisc.edu](mailto:epdweb.engr.wisc.edu) or [danbeck@engr.wisc.edu](mailto:danbeck@engr.wisc.edu)

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