

# Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

## University of Connecticut Student Branch Newsletter

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### Also included:

- This semester's meeting schedule



### Things to Know:

- First general meeting - September 14<sup>th</sup>
- New officers were elected for all positions.
- BBQ – September 25<sup>th</sup>
- Volunteers needed for various activities!

## Welcome to the New Year!

A message to members from the new president:

Generally, when people hear “New Year” they think of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the literal start of a new calendar year in much of the world. It’s a time of celebration, where we kick out the old and bring in the new. For UCONN students though, the end of August signals the start of another type of New Year: the academic year. It often doesn’t turn out to be as much of a celebration as its January counterpart, but it’s still a time where we all have to focus on change. New classes, new teachers, new people, new ideas: a fresh start. It’s the perfect time for the UCONN IEEE Student Branch to hit the ground running.

There’s no hiding that the branch has challenges ahead of it, but there’s something to be said for the power of good teamwork. I hope that many of you will choose to have an active role in our community and take part in all of the great activities the officers and I are starting to plan. Whether you’re interested in enhancing your technical abilities, learning more about developments in our field, improving yourself professionally, volunteering for community service, or just having fun and making friends, we hope there will be something for everyone. If not, let us know! We’ll always be listening for new ideas. I look forward to working with everyone this year and hope to see you at our first meeting!

Ryan S. Wilson  
Branch President

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### Changing of the Guard

By Brian Helfer, Matthew Huang, Steven Milligan, and Ryan Wilson

Last April, elections for all officer positions were held as required by the branch constitution. Here are the names of the new officers and short messages from each of them.

- **President – Ryan S. Wilson**

Hello! I'm Ryan, as you probably already know if you're reading this. I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> semester Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering double major and the new UCONN IEEE President. Personally, there is nothing I enjoy more than simply hanging out with my friends. Engineering wise, it's hard for me to pick just one interest. I think everything is fascinating. I look forward to what should shape up to be a fun and exciting year with all of you. Feel free to contact me at [Ryan.S.Wilson@engr.uconn.edu](mailto:Ryan.S.Wilson@engr.uconn.edu) with any questions or concerns.

- **Vice President – Matthew Huang**

My name is Matthew TW Huang, a junior electrical engineering student from Cranston, Rhode Island. As the vice president of the UConn IEEE Branch, I hope to serve the members and the entire university as best as possible. I have a large amount of school spirit and very lively. Feel free to contact me at [Matthew.Huang@uconn.edu](mailto:Matthew.Huang@uconn.edu) or in person (I am usually at any sporting event or just around campus).

- **Treasurer – Brian Helfer**

Hi all; I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> semester Electrical Engineering major and the new treasurer of the UConn branch of IEEE. While a student here I would like to see our branch of IEEE grow and become more recognized across campus. I want to ensure that IEEE gives any student interested the chance to work with fellow engineers on projects or activities that they truly care about. If anyone needs to contact me, feel free to send me an email at [Brian.Helfer@uconn.edu](mailto:Brian.Helfer@uconn.edu).

- **Secretary – Steven Milligan**

Hi there! My name is Steve Milligan and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> semester Electrical Engineering student from West Chester, Pa. As the secretary for the UConn chapter of IEEE I hope to see the organization grow and begin to work on some engineering projects. Regarding my major, I am interested in power generation and sound/audio engineering. My personal interests include music and technology. Feel free to contact me at [Steven.Milligan@uconn.edu](mailto:Steven.Milligan@uconn.edu)

- **Webmaster – Carl Hinkle**

Hi! I'm Carl Hinkle, the new Webmaster for the IEEE here at UConn. I'm a 6<sup>th</sup> semester Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering double major. I transferred here from Manchester Community College in Fall 2008 after receiving Associate Degrees in Engineering Science and Computer Science. Before that I was an Electronics Technician in the Navy. If anyone has a question about the website, send me an email at [carl.hinkle@engr.uconn.edu](mailto:carl.hinkle@engr.uconn.edu) .

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Below: Various Images from the Spring '09 IEEE BBQ



## Nice Day for a BBQ!

By Ryan Wilson, Branch President

Last April, branch members came together and held the twice-annual UCONN IEEE BBQ. Funded by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, the free BBQ was held behind the Information Technology Engineering Building. Things got off to a late start, but once everything was set up, hamburgers and hotdogs were flying off the grill. The response to the BBQ was overwhelming! In total, over 100 students, faculty, and staff of the School of Engineering attended and at the end of the day we actually ran out of food. The officers, old and new, would like to thank everyone for your support and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Events like these are important to our student community as a way to take a break, get to know each other, and share ideas, and you can be sure that we'll be holding more like this in the future. I'd like to personally thank Professor Peter Luh, the former ECE department head, for helping fund and supporting the event. His assistance helped keep the BBQ as successful as it was.

This year's BBQs should be just as great! Professor Rajeev Bansal, the new ECE Department Head, has generously to help fund for the upcoming Fall BBQ. The BBQ is notionally planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> of September but if anything changes, be sure to check your e-mail for an announcement. We also wouldn't mind hosting some activities while serving food. There's a wide open space behind ITEB and maybe we could use it. Anyone want to play some football? Volleyball anyone? We're always open to suggestions.

If you have any ideas on improving the twice-annual IEEE BBQ or you would like to volunteer to help. Please don't hesitate to contact either me at [ryan.s.wilson@engr.uconn.edu](mailto:ryan.s.wilson@engr.uconn.edu), or our new Vice President, Matt Huang at [Matthew.Huang@uconn.edu](mailto:Matthew.Huang@uconn.edu).

See you on 9/25/09!

### **A Taste of Things to Come**

By Ryan Wilson, Branch President

The other officers and I have a lot of things we'd like to offer to branch members. Here's a simple list of some of the things we'd like to plan:

- Tee-shirt Fundraiser
- Engineering Coffee House
- Community Service
- Branch Design Projects
- Guest Lecturers
- Industry Field Trips
- Tutoring
- Special Topics Workshops
- Branch Resume Book

We'll discuss them more with you as the year goes on. Planning for the tee-shirt fundraiser, community service, and guest lecturers has already started and we'll discuss it with members during the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We'd love to hear any feedback anyone has and also would like to find volunteers to help us plan these events.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The notional meeting schedule for the Fall '09 semester is as follows:

- Executive Committee Meetings
  - September 18<sup>th</sup>
  - October 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - October 16<sup>th</sup>
  - October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - November 13<sup>th</sup>
  - December 4<sup>th</sup>
- General Membership Meetings
  - September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - October 12<sup>th</sup>
  - November 9<sup>th</sup>
  - December 7<sup>th</sup>