

Whew!! I think we all can agree that March was a unique month for the Central Texas Section and for all of us. We started the month pretty much in the normal manner [In like a lamb...] then pandemic events just kept coming in, cancelling meetings and events well into the future [Out like a Lion]. Many of us know that the IEEE provides Web Conferencing capability when requested for appropriate meetings; I will be encouraging Technical Society leaders to use this opportunity and work to arrange meetings that we can attend remotely. I actually have ambitions that I can attend more than the normal meetings just because I won't have to drive and only devote the meeting time to attendance! Watch the Analog and the mid-month Newsletter for notices of meetings to come although they can be viewed on vTools Events at your leisure.

Of course, several meetings were cancelled, but a number of leaders took the challenge and converted their meeting and technical presentation to on-line web presentations. There were three meetings I would like to highlight:

IEEE TEMS Graduate student chapter - Post-doc quest series Early in the month-real-time

IEEE TEMS Graduate Student Chapter at UT Austin hosted a "post-doc quest series" wherein post doctoral research fellows would share their experience with the graduate/undergraduate community. We were delighted to host Dr. Martha Serna who gave a talk on advances in 2D material research. Specifically she shares her journey researching the various techniques employed for 2-D materials growth, that are used to build semiconductors, insulators and superconductors, the building blocks for all electronics applications. In addition to discussing the pros and cons of the different 2-D material synthesis processes and their significance, our speaker presented her insights on pursuing research as a doctorate and a postdoc.

IEEE CTS Life Member and CTCN Joint Virtual Meeting - March 25 - 5G Overview

5G technology has the ability to radically change how we interact with the world. Not only will the new technology allow for higher speeds and throughput, the additional capability will unlock multitudes of different applications. This includes everything from remote surgeries to live VR sporting events to autonomous vehicles. But the big question is *how* this will be done. This presentation covers an overview of 5G, including how this new technology will work. The presentation covers topics such as carrier aggregation, frame and protocol structure, beamforming, and network architecture.

IEEE Austin Computer & EMBS Joint Chapter invites you to a Special VIRTUAL Double Sessions on SoC & Software and interview with Whurley on Quantum Computing

TOPIC A: Optimizing Pre-silicon software development" Nitin Garg, Principal Software Engineer at NXP Semiconductors,

In today's fast-moving technology era, the most common approach for handling the needs of the market is a system-on-chip (SoC). The growing demand for SoCs has created a highly competitive market. Because of this, SoCs are getting more complex, the peripherals in the SoCs are continuously evolving, and the time to market is shrinking. A crucial component to match the complexities of SoC development is the availability of software. There is little room for mistakes, and software must be ready as soon as possible.

TOPIC B: "An Interview with Whurley" A visionaries take on - Quantum Computing, Big Data and Analytics in the Age of Quantum Computing, Open Source, Emerging Standards, Things need to know about Qubits, etc...

A special note I'd like to make: Our Editor, Prof. Semih Aslan, is proposing to include a special, general-interest, technical note feature to reward you for making it all the way through! We would welcome your feedback both on the relative interest in this sort of technical treat and also if you would have a short note that might be of interest to include.

Message from the CTS Chairman

Chairman, IEEE Central Texas Section

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A. 2020 Highlighted Events

The Central Texas Section is building a program of excellent events into the Spring of 2020. In this message I intend to highlight a few of these for your consideration. Pay attention to this and the mid-month Newsletter as more events are being booked each week.

B. IEEE PI2 AUSTIN, MARCH 2020 WORKSHOP ON ENERGY STORAGE- - - NOTE: THIS EVENT WAS POSTPONED, NOT CANCELLED

Ben Hur Shrine Ballroom, March 18th: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/221515>

This one-day workshop includes expert presentations by David Hood, on battery technologies, applications, and sizing considerations, by Daniel Youngs, on lithium ion storage back-up, and by Thomas Domitrovich, P.E. an industry expert on the National Electrical Code with respect to battery installations. The Energy Storage Workshop is ideal for industry professionals with responsibilities of designing and installing battery systems within industrial and commercial projects.

Several events are scheduled into April and May. I'm going to defer writing on them simply as the majority are within "Shelter in Place" guidelines as of this writing. I will still encourage you to find events of interest and sign up for them - - but then watch carefully to see if they will be held and, of course, attend only if you feel safe doing so!