

March 1, 2001  
Vol. 51 No. 3

## The Pulse of Long Island

### Chairman's Message

By Babak Beheshti



Greetings to all:

This month I want to talk about a few items. First of all, you will read an announcement about the LI Section's Awards Banquet to be held on Sunday April 29, 2001. This is the only time of the year that the entire section gets together to have good food, and enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It is held at Huntington Hilton, located on route 110 in Farmingdale. This year we have two keynote speakers, Professor Bertoni of the Polytechnic University and Joel Snyder, President of IEEE, and a long-term member of the LI Section. So if you have not been to any previous banquets, I suggest that you fill the form in this issue, mail it to Dave Mesecher, our banquet's coordinator, and bring yourself and your guest to this year's banquet.

Secondly, I would like to direct your attention to two great seminars we have scheduled for April. Please look at the announcements for these full day seminars and encourage friends who can benefit from them to sign up.

And lastly, I would like to share with you a conversation that I had with a new friend and a new member of the LI Section's EXCOM. In the surveys this friend had done, he had found that the impression most engineers have of IEEE is an organization intended to service the academia. Therefore they either decline to become IEEE members or if they are members, they refrain from getting involved in the EXCOM. It is our responsibility to tear up this false impression and familiarize the engineering community on Long Island to benefits of joining the largest professional society in the world whose spectrum of activities range from standards, to publishing technical papers, to professional and educational activities geared to enhancement of the working engineers' careers. In addition, I should mention that the 2001 LI Section EXCOM is composed of almost entirely engineers and engineering managers in the industry, and in fact the EXCOM noticeably lacks any representation from any colleagues in the academia. So whether you are an academic or a practitioner, drop me an email and express an interest in chairing one of our Technical societies, taking charge of an administrative position, or contribute in any way you feel you can give to your profession.

Have a prosperous March!

Babak Beheshti

**The PULSE is now  
available  
on-line!**

To get the on-line PULSE and get up-to-date information about the Section, visit our web site at:

**[http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/long\\_island/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/long_island/)**

**2001 AWARDS BANQUET UPDATE**

The IEEE Long Island Section 2001 Awards Banquet will be held this year at the Huntington Hilton on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We will be honoring the four recipients of the Long Island Section awards, as well as the four recipients of the Region 1 awards.

The Huntington Hilton is located at 598 Broad Hollow Road (Rt. 110), Melville, NY. It is approximately one mile south of the LIE exit 49.

As is tradition, the Long Island Section will be subsidizing the cost of admission, allowing us to offer this memorable commemorative affair to our members and their guests for a minimum cost of \$15.00 per person.

So mark your calendars and set aside Sunday afternoon, April 29<sup>th</sup>, and join us for good food, good talk, and good friends.

Please make your check payable to the *IEEE Long Island Section*, and send it to:

Dave Mesecher  
9 Beverly Road  
Huntington Station, NY 11746

<p>Registration Form <b>2001 Awards Banquet</b> Make checks payable to "IEEE Long Island Section". Send form to Dave Mesecher 9 Beverly Road Huntington Station, NY 11746</p>	
Name: _____	
Guest Name: _____	
Guest Name: _____	
Guest Name: _____	
Company: _____	
Address: _____	
City and Zip: _____	
Hphone: _____ Bphone: _____	
Fax: _____	
Email: _____	
Amount enclosed: _____	

<p align="center"><b>Long Island Section Officers</b>                  Chair. . . . . Babak Beheshti                  1st Vice Chair . . . William Rooney                  2nd Vice Chair. . . Dave Mesecher                  Secretary. . . . . Lisa Zannella                  Treasurer. . . . . Christian DiFranco</p>
<p align="center"><i>Address All Correspondence to :</i>  <b>PULSE EDITOR</b>                  Babak Beheshti                  101 Caffrey Avenue                  Bethpage, NY 11714-1435                  Phone: 516-939-0249                  Email: <a href="mailto:b.beheshti@ieee.org">b.beheshti@ieee.org</a></p>
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<p align="center"><b>PULSE Deadlines</b>                  For Apr. 2001: <b>3-10-01</b>                  For May 2001: <b>4-10-01</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Consultants Network of LI</b></p> <p>The Consultants Network of LI maintains a referral service of Engineering, Computer, Managerial and Technical Professionals. Call or write for more information. There is no charge to the client for this service.</p> <p>Voice Mail <span style="float: right;">516-379-1678 P.O. Box 1072 Commack, NY 11725-1072 <a href="http://www.consult-li.com">www.consult-li.com</a></span></p>
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# IEEE Long Island Section Calendar

(No membership requirements, no registration, no fees at meeting unless otherwise noted.)

Please visit our web site at [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/long\\_island/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/long_island/) for up to date listings, changes and corrections.

**March 7, 2001 - LI Consultant's Network at 7:00 PM at Polytechnic Auditorium on Route 110 in Farmingdale, "Barcode Scanning Fundamentals" by Mr. Dana DeMeo of Lake Grove and Mr. Kevin Cordes of Coram, both of Symbol Technologies, Inc., No pre-registration is required. For further info call John Dunn at (631) 549-6555**

**March 26, 2001 - EXCOM meeting at 6:00 PM, Huntington Hilton**

April 5, 2001 – "A New View of the Radio Universe", Con Ed 14 St. & Irving Pl, NYC, Refreshments 5:15, meeting 5:45PM  
SPEAKER: Dr. Helfand of Columbia University Astro-Physics Lab, ADMISSION: free, CONTACT: Alan Osborne 212/460-6690

**April 5, 2001 – "Software Verification and Validation Seminar" by Steven R. Rakitin, 8:30 – 5:00 PM. For registration and more information call Babak Beheshti at 516-686-7437 or email to [b.Beheshti@ieee.org](mailto:b.Beheshti@ieee.org). (See details in this issue)**

**April 6, 2001 – "Management's Role in Achieving Predictable Software Development" by Steven R. Rakitin, 8:30 – 5:00 PM. For registration and more information call Babak Beheshti at 516-686-7437 or email to [b.Beheshti@ieee.org](mailto:b.Beheshti@ieee.org). (See details in this issue)**

April 24, 2001 – "Rail Rapid Transit Vehicle Innovations Forum", Additional information regarding program specifics can be obtained by contacting Mr. David Horn of Fluor Daniel Infrastructure, at (212) 947-7110, or by e-mail at [David.horn@fluor.com](mailto:David.horn@fluor.com).

**April 4, 2001 - LI Consultant's Network at 7:00 PM at Polytechnic Auditorium on Route 110 in Farmingdale, No pre-registration is required. For further info call John Dunn at (631) 549-6555**

**April 29, 2001 - LI Section Awards Banquet, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Huntington Hilton, for registration contact Dave Mesecher at 631-592-7314 or email to [d.mesecher@ieee.org](mailto:d.mesecher@ieee.org)**

**April 30, 2001 - EXCOM meeting at 6:00 PM, Huntington Hilton**

Retlif Ad  
Here!

## **Meeting Notice**

On Wednesday, Mar. 7, 2001 at 7:00 PM, the IEEE Consultants Network of Long Island will host a lecture "Barcode Scanning Fundamentals" by Mr. Dana DeMeo of Lake Grove and Mr. Kevin Cordes of Coram, both of Symbol Technologies, Inc., Holtsville, NY, at the Polytechnic University Auditorium in Farmingdale on Route 110. Admission is free (no charge) and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. For further information, call John Dunn at (631)549-6555.

## **Meeting Notice**

TALK TOPIC: "A New View of the Radio Universe"  
DATE: Thu Apr 5, 2001  
PLACE: Con Ed 14 St. & Irving Pl, NYC  
TIME: Refreshments 5:15, meeting 5:45PM  
SPEAKER: Dr. Helfand of Columbia University Astro-Physics Lab  
ADMISSION: free  
CONTACT: Alan Osborne 212/460-6690

EDA AD here

The Long Island Section of the IEEE Computer Society  
*presents a full day interactive workshop expressly for Managers*

## Management's Role in Achieving Predictable Software Development

April 6, 2001 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### Overview

The Long Island Section of IEEE Computer Society is presenting a full day workshop titled: *Management's Role in Achieving Predictable Software Development*.

### Who Should Attend

This workshop is intended for Managers and Executives who are interested in learning how they can help change the culture of their organization.

### Key Benefits

This workshop answers to the following questions:

- How can I influence the behavior of my organization?
- What behaviors should be encouraged and which should be discouraged?
- How can I know if I'm on the right track?

### Content

Most software organizations lack discipline, credibility, and most importantly, predictability. As a result, it's difficult to determine when software products will be released, the features these products will have, and overall quality. Without knowing when products will be released, you may not be able to plan customer training and product promotions, resource utilization becomes difficult to manage, and customers may be unable to plan for introduction of your software into their organization. A predictable software development process can significantly improve an organization's ability to deliver quality software on time, to meet customer expectations, and to improve your bottom line.

*You will learn how to:*

- Balance issues of Quality, Features, and Schedule
- Create accurate schedules you can actually meet
- Balance issues of People, Process, and Product
- Software Engineering Best Practices
- Risk Management and Project Post Mortems
- Improve testing effectiveness by finding defects your customers are likely to find

### Seminar Coordinator

Babak D. Beheshti is the Chairman of the IEEE Long Island Section and the Computer Society Chair.

### Instructor

**Steven R. Rakitin** is President of **Software Quality Consulting Inc.** He has over 25 years of experience as a software engineer and software quality manager. He presents tutorials and

workshops at conferences nationally. He is the author of the book: *Software Verification & Validation: A Practitioner's Guide*. His company helps organizations establish a more predictable software development process. Visit [www.swqual.com](http://www.swqual.com) for more info about this workshop.

### Location and Time

The workshop will be presented in Melville from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Course notes are included in the registration fee, as are refreshments and lunch. Registrants will be advised of the exact location and receive an acknowledgment by mail shortly after registration. The seminar is wholly the responsibility of IEEE Long Island Section and the instructor. For further information contact Babak Beheshti at 516.686.7437 or [b.beheshti@ieee.org](mailto:b.beheshti@ieee.org)

Fees refunded in full if the seminar is canceled or the registrant cannot be accommodated due to capacity limitations. Other refunds will be considered.

Payment Due	Public	IEEE or LIFT Member	Student/Life
By 3/30/01	\$350	\$300	\$200
After 3/30/01	\$400	\$350	\$250

### Registration Form

#### Software Verification & Validation, April 06, 2001

Make checks payable to "IEEE Long Island Section". Send form to Babak D. Beheshti, 101 Caffrey Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714-1435

Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Hphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Professional Activities Report

by Irwin Weitman, P.E.

For about two years I have been suggesting to members that we resurrect the Employment Activities Committee (EAC). I think it should be very clear that the sustained growth of the economy of the last eight years is now turning soft. This is only the usual behavior of our and all other economies since the beginning of society. Usually the growth of each cycle is greater than the decline which is why the standard of living of societies improves over time. The growth periods are great, but the declines are often painful to some members of society. As a decline approaches we should prepare to deal with it. Lets work together to set up our EAC so that it can be of service to those of our members who will be affected by this. During the last downturn of the economy, EAC helped some our members to prepare resume's and helped find jobs through our job data base.

This time IEEE-USA has a DATA BASE operational with access from the IEEE web site at: [www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org)

IEEE-USA is working with an experienced national job search company to provide us with a secure (no one can identify the searcher if he/she so wishes). This new data base should be available to our members within the next few months. It is not clear to me yet if local companies would prefer the national data base or a local one similar to the one we used to have. As soon as I get some more information I will publish it here. Any member may access the present data base through the above web address.

What else can we do? Résumé's of today are very different from those of 15 years ago. We need to bring this information to our members. We also need to help our members by making information available to them that will make it easier for them to decide on what course of action or selection of choices that are presented to them by prospective employers. We need to find out from our members what services would be useful to them and then provide them. If our services are useful in good time and bad times, there will be a continuity that will keep EAC effective all the time and we won't have to appeal for volunteers when things get bad and the infrastructure in not in place.

All my appeals of the last year provided me with only one member volunteer. Sad to say, I had to tell him to be patient until I get several more volunteers. A committee of one can hardly be successful in building the EAC to usefulness.

## TAKE AND KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE.

We are planning a presentation on the Subject of "Pension Planning and Retirement". It is never too early to start this process. Don't wait until some of the options are no longer available to you. This also applies to those of us who are near retirement. Among the considerations is "will you take early or late retirement". This session will prove valuable to employees and self-employed persons. The presentation is tentatively set for 7:00PM, April 4, 2001 at Polytechnic University. There will be a talk by a guest speaker, followed by a Panel discussion that will answer questions from the audience. **REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

Guest Speaker: George F. McClure

George McClure served as Chair of the Engineers and Scientists Joint Committee on Pensions for the American Association of Engineering Societies (1999-2000). He is a past chairman of the Individual Benefits & Services Committee for IEEE (that oversees the Financial Advantage program) and of the Pensions Committee for IEEE-USA. He is currently a member of the Insurance Committee for IEEE and a resource member of the Engineering Employment Benefits Committee for IEEE-USA.

## NO SALE PITCH – JUST INFORMATION TO HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR FINANCES BEFORE AND AFTER YOU RETIRE!

I encourage you to prepare your questions for our Panel and if you have some good or bad experience, please share it with us, I am sure it would be useful to our audience.

Please e-mail your comments, questions and suggestions to:

[i.weitman@ieee.org](mailto:i.weitman@ieee.org)

or call: (631)266-2428 most evenings

The Long Island Section of the IEEE Computer Society  
*presents a full day workshop*

## Software Verification & Validation: An Overview for Practitioners

April 5, 2001 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### Overview

The Long Island Section of IEEE Computer Society is presenting a full day interactive workshop titled: *Software Verification & Validation: An Overview for Practitioners*.

### Who Should Attend

This workshop is intended for software QA professionals, software developers and software project managers interested in learning current techniques for cost-effective verification & validation of software.

### Key Benefits

- Learn Software Verification & Validation processes and procedures;
- Learn the formal inspection process
- Learn how to increase the effectiveness of testing

### Content

**What you will learn:** The workshop is based on the book *Software Verification and Validation: A Practitioner's Guide*, written by the instructor. The workshop provides an overview of current software V&V techniques with emphasis on practical skills that can be implemented quickly. Students will learn the formal inspection process and will participate in a mock inspection to practice roles and responsibilities. Students will also learn how to more effectively plan a testing activity and how to do a better job of finding those defects that customers are likely to find.

### Seminar Coordinator

Babak D. Beheshti is the Chairman of the IEEE Long Island Section and the Computer Society Chair.

### Instructor

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Fees refunded in full if the seminar is canceled or the registrant cannot be accommodated due to capacity limitations. Other refunds will be considered.

### Registration Fees

Payment Due	Public	IEEE or LIFT Member	Student/Life
By 3/30/01	\$350	\$300	\$200
After 3/30/01	\$400	\$350	\$250

### Note:

**Register for both 4/5 and 4/6 seminars and receive a 20% discount!**

### Registration Form

#### Software Verification & Validation, April 05, 2001

Make checks payable to "IEEE Long Island Section".  
Send form to Babak D. Beheshti, 101 Caffrey Avenue,  
Bethpage, NY 11714-1435

Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Hphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 30 YEARS AGO

Rod Lowman, Historian

In the late 60's after numerous articles and books about why Johnny can't read, the fickle public joined enthusiastic computer engineers in the rallying cry of "let computerized education ride to the rescue". Educators cringed as they saw their monopoly eroding away. The federal government poured money into the idea. And as with most new ideas in education it was ballyhooed to the skies but as success was not immediate, interest dwindled. In this educational environment of early 1971, Dr. Edward Lambe, Director of the Instructional Research Center at SUNY at Stony Brook made a presentation to the section on "**WHO PULLED THE PLUG ON JOHNNY'S COMPUTER**".

Dr. Lambe pointed out that computer assisted instruction was born about 8 years before and started to be implemented about three years later. In the following 5 years some 40 to 50 installations had developed with instruction as their major or sole purpose. Most of these projects were supported by federal funds (and this was before Al Gore "invented" the Internet - well, almost - the Internet was started in 1968). Because success was not immediate and obvious, districts or colleges were not assuming the cost of computer supported instruction and many of these project were dropping by the wayside.

Dr. Lambe believed that there is better reason than ever to believe that computers will be able to support efficient learning. New development strategies were emerging which take greater cognizance of the real problems of individualized learning, of materials production cost, and of the economies of delivery. Only if we learn more about the factors which influence a student's behavior in the school environment as he confronts and masters a learning task can we expect to utilize the real power of the computer. Given the societal sensitivities about its children the task is not trivial. He believed that engineers and other data oriented professional groups can play an important role in the rational discussion of these issues.

Our speaker was correct. After rational discussion and improvement the computers have taken their rightful place in the classroom. Their utilization has been more gradual and logical because, since they threatened jobs of teachers, they had to prove their mettle before they were given entry. Most new educational ideas tried require additional instructional aid and even if unsuccessful are often continued for years before the educational bureaucracy is willing to give them up. Most educators are still unwilling to admit that replacements for phonics were not a glowing success.



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