The technical challenge

Your most pressing professional challenge today as a computer practitioner, scientist, or engineer is to maintain your technical competence in this world of creeping obsolescence. Conservative estimates indicate that the technical decay rate is about 20 percent per year following college graduation. To meet this need, the Computer Society has for many years supported the activities of technical committees; they are now organized into two technical interest councils under the responsibility of two vice-presidents.

Beginning on the next page, we show the existing spectrum of technical committees and their present chairmen. We invite you to actively participate in those committees most closely associated with your interests. Many of the technical committees publish newsletters which are distributed to their members.

Two new technical committees have just been approved by the appropriate governing bodies of the society. Covering one of the most exciting new areas of interest, the Technical Committee on Computer Graphics and Applications is presently chaired by Michael J. Wozny, director of the Interactive Computer Graphics Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12181. We expect to see the Computer Society more actively involved in membership services in this technical area.

The interim chairman of the recently approved Technical Committee on Multiple-Valued Logic is Jon T. Butler of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201. This committee will continue sponsorship of the International Symposium on Multiple-Valued Logic and will expand activities to include workshops and a newsletter for its membership.

Furthermore, technical activities related to computers in the health sciences and in rehabilitation engineering are being considered as growth areas for potential technical activities. If you are interested in working with us in any of the technical areas mentioned, please contact the current technical committee chairman. If we don’t have a current chairman, contact Ed Parrish if the area is in software and applications. He can be reached at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901. If the area falls under systems technology, contact Oscar Garcia, Computer Science Program, EES Department (LIB 630), University of Southern Florida, Tampa, FL 33620. We will also be glad to hear about the needs and desires of the membership for increased attention to any technical areas that we may have neglected and to receive suggestions on how to fulfill them.

Oscar N. Garcia
First Vice-President
Technical Interest Council II
Systems Technology

Edward A. Parrish
Vice-President
Technical Interest Council I
Software & Applications