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Future

A Message of Gratitude from IEEE Foundation President, Marko Delimar

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every volunteer, member, friend, and donor who makes the work of the IEEE philanthropic programs possible. Your generosity transforms ideas into action, and your support continues to shape a brighter, more innovative future for people around the globe.

2025 has been an extraordinary year of growth, recognition, and impact. Together, we've reached new milestones that remind us why gratitude and giving are so powerful.

I am proud to highlight just a few of this year's inspiring moments:

- Honoring Excellence: The [IEEE Medal of Honor](#) recipient, Henry Samueli, has designated the US\$2M cash prize to provide long-term support for IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu, exemplifying the spirit of giving and reinvestment in the community.
- Celebrating Recognition: Our Annual Report received the 2025 Graphic Design USA Digital Design Award in the Annual Report category—an honor that reflects our commitment to transparency, storytelling, and celebrating impact.
- Engaging the Next Generation: In June, the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago, IL, USA, welcomed IEEE Foundation Board members and staff to see the [IEEE Region 4 Science Kits for Public Libraries \(SKPL\)](#) program in action. [Read more here.](#)
- Showcasing History and Innovation: The [IEEE Global Museum](#) opened the *Unseen Signals* traveling exhibit in Bethlehem, PA, and Wall Township, NJ, USA, bringing IEEE's history to life through immersive traveling exhibitions. Earlier this year, [our April newsletter shared the vision behind the museum's global reach.](#)
- Fueling Talent Development: Donors to the [IEEE AP-S Talent Development Fund](#) were welcomed as [IEEE Heritage Circle](#) members during a luncheon at the 2025 IEEE International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation and North American Radio Science Meeting, spotlighting the generosity that fuels student opportunities in advancing engineering and scientific developments in applied electromagnetics.



- Driving Relief Efforts Worldwide: IEEE MOVE expanded its global reach with the [new MOVE India vehicle](#), increasing capacity to deliver disaster relief and community support.
- Empowering Communities through EPICS: The EPICS in IEEE Dr. Swarn S. Kalsi Community of Projects, a meaningful initiative supported through tribute giving, is inspiring multidisciplinary teams of engineering students to collaborate and engineer solutions to address local community needs—showing how gifts in memory and honor can spark hope and action.

Beyond these highlights, 2025 has been filled with moments that remind us why this community is so special. We came together on [IEEE Foundation Day](#) with anticipation for 2026 and beyond. Supporting educators through [TryEngineering educator sessions](#), we empowered those who inspire future engineers. We partnered with [IEEE-USA to host financial planning webinars, equipping members with tools for security and success.](#) The revitalized [IEEE Life Members Committee](#) celebrated by reconnecting in person and sharing their stories. And we honor [15 years of IEEE-HKN](#) as part of IEEE, a testament to lasting partnership and excellence.

Thank you to all who make this impact possible. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure fuel IEEE's mission of advancing technology for humanity. As we move toward the giving season, let us celebrate the power of gratitude—not just as a feeling, but as a force that drives real change. Together, we are building a future of opportunity, innovation, and impact.

With gratitude,

Marko Delimar
President, IEEE Foundation ■

IEEE MOVE Global Launches First MOVE Vehicle in India



IEEE MOVE Global launched its first international Mobile Outreach Vehicle in Bengaluru, India, on 21 July 2025.

This marks the first MOVE vehicle outside the United States, expanding IEEE's humanitarian efforts to new global frontiers. Unveiled at the IEEE India Office in Bengaluru, the MOVE India Vehicle is specially customized for Indian roads and climate conditions. Built on a rugged Force Traveller T2 DV 2020 chassis, the vehicle is designed to navigate diverse terrains across the country and support communities during natural disasters.

IEEE President and CEO Kathleen Kramer was in attendance and noted, "This vehicle will provide essential communication tools during disasters and serves as a mobile classroom to promote STEM education and sustainability awareness when not deployed for emergency response."

Thanks to generous donors and IEEE support, the MOVE India Vehicle is equipped with HAM Radios, Wi-Fi 6e, 4G/LTE connectivity, a hybrid power system, including grid and solar-powered energy, a lithium-ion battery bank, and a hybrid inverter system. This setup allows for 30+

hours of off-grid operation, ensuring uptime and support in disaster-hit or remote areas.

In addition to its disaster response capabilities, the MOVE India Vehicle carries interactive STEM kits to engage students and communities in topics like climate change, disaster preparedness, and sustainable technologies. The MOVE India outreach program aims to reach over 100 schools annually, starting in the state of Karnataka and gradually expanding throughout the country.

IEEE President-Elect Mary Ellen Randall added, "This is a tremendous step toward building more resilient communities. By combining emergency response and educational outreach, we're using technology to make a lasting impact."

Currently, three MOVE vehicles operate across the U.S., and India will begin its operations with one. With its dual mission of disaster relief and STEM engagement, the IEEE MOVE India Vehicle exemplifies how technology can be a force for good, bridging critical service gaps while inspiring future innovators. ■



Left to Right: IEEE President Kathleen Kramer, IEEE President-Elect Mary Ellen Randall, and IEEE Past President Thomas Coughlin pictured at the MOVE vehicle launch in India.



IEEE leadership and MOVE professional staff joined IEEE India Council members and MOVE India volunteers at vehicle launch in Bengaluru.

To learn more about IEEE MOVE Global and how you can contribute, visit move.ieee.org. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



Indonesian Students Create Solar-Powered Technology to Support Gili Genting Island's Needs for Fresh Drinking Water and Salt



Gili Genting Island in Madura, Indonesia, has approximately 10,000 residents who rely on fishing and tourism, which requires salt preservation and access to fresh water. Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) students in Surabaya, Indonesia, addressed this need through their EPICS in IEEE project entitled "Gili Genting Island's Oxygen Conservation: IoT-Driven PV-RO for Salt and Drinkable Water Production." The team successfully implemented and tested their solar-powered seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) system, which can produce both fresh drinking water and salt within a single setup while using IoT technology for monitoring.

"The idea for our system was born after we conducted a field survey on Gili Genting Island to assess the community's needs and found that, while most of the locals are fishermen who rely on salt to preserve fish, there's also high demand for fresh drinking water on the island," shared Rohmah Hidayah, ITS student and Team Leader. This team of students collaborated with people from the Karya Bahari community on Gili Genting Island to develop a modified reverse osmosis system. "Our modified reverse osmosis (RO) system directs high-salinity wastewater into a solar still with a heating element, using evaporation to separate water from salt. Powered by an off-grid PV system, it allows local fishermen to produce drinking water and salt from seawater whenever sunlight is available." Hidayah explained that the salt can preserve their catch, while the drinking water addresses water security on the island. In addition, collected data will be used by a short message service (SMS)-based software tool to inform the community whether the seawater has been successfully converted into drinkable water.

Through ongoing monitoring of the system's performance, the team aims to ensure it provides sustainable benefits to both fishermen and local residents of Gili Genting Island, as well as other small islands in Indonesia. "By combining renewable energy, seawater purification technology, and IoT-based monitoring systems, this initiative has great potential to accelerate digital transformation and food security in coastal areas," Hidayah said.

Hidayah confirmed that the project delivered many benefits to all team members. "We learned to design, develop, and calibrate an IoT-based PV-RO system for producing drinkable water with standard Total Dissolved Solids levels, and to optimize saltwater separation systems for local needs," Hidayah said.

Hidayah and teammates are thankful for the chance to join this EPICS in IEEE project, which was supported by the **Fischer Mertel Community of Projects**, a fund created to honor the dedication and contributions of engineering industry leaders Joe Fischer and Herb Mertel. ■

To learn more about EPICS in IEEE and how you can contribute, visit epics.ieee.org. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



EPICS^{IN}IEEE



EPICS in IEEE students from the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) in Surabaya, Indonesia, who created a solar-powered seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) system capable of producing both fresh drinking water and salt within a single system for the local community.



Right to Left: Team Leader Rohmah Hidayah seen here with a representative from the Karya Bahari community on Gili Genting Island, which worked with EPICS in IEEE to install and test the solar-powered seawater reverse osmosis system created by the project team.

Empowering Climate-Resilient Enterprises: IEEE Smart Village Supports CRE Hub Launch in Coastal Kerala, India



[IEEE Smart Village \(ISV\)](#), in collaboration with Kerala-based [EQUINOCT](#) and local partners, is proud to announce the commissioning of a Community Resource Efficiency (CRE) Hub in North Paravur, Kochi, India. This initiative represents the first ISV-funded project in Kerala, India, and will support 25 micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) operating across the coastal panchayats of Ernakulam district.

EQUINOCT is a Kerala-based organization that works closely with communities, institutions, and governments to build a climate-resilient future. As the technology partner and implementing lead for this initiative, EQUINOCT is applying its expertise in community modeling, clean energy, and enterprise systems to drive long-term impact.

At the core of the hub are solar-powered assets: a five-tonne cold storage unit, a two-tonne capacity solar dryer, and two electric cargo autorickshaws with charging infrastructure. These systems provide critical infrastructure for enterprises engaged in fish, dairy, and agricultural value addition—businesses that have long struggled without access to reliable energy or modern storage.

Beyond technical training, EQUINOCT is collaborating with scientific institutions like [Central Institute of Fisheries Technology](#), [Marine Products Export Development Authority](#), [Technology Innovation & Business Innovation Center](#), and [Chochin University of Science and Technology](#) to provide access to expertise in product innovation, sustainable processing, and export readiness. As the hub takes shape, working capital access and low-interest financial products are also being negotiated to help entrepreneurs scale their businesses. Plans are underway to develop a “green label” certification for the products, emphasizing their low carbon footprint and clean-energy-powered value chains, enhancing market potential in premium and eco-conscious markets.

With support from ISV, the project aims to become a replicable model that connects science, enterprise, and environmental adaptation at the grassroots. EQUINOCT’s commitment is to ensure the hub

transitions to full community ownership within one year, with ongoing oversight potentially managed by a collective of the 25 participating enterprises or a consortium of community organizations.

The CRE Hub will provide not just infrastructure but also a pathway toward professionally managed, tech-enabled enterprises. Participants will receive training in digital inventory systems, e-commerce marketing, accounting, financial literacy, branding, and business operations.

The CRE Hub will be financially self-sufficient by operating on a shared-infrastructure, fee-for-service model that blends affordability for local enterprises. Income will be generated through cold storage and solar dryer rentals, electric cargo transport, and enterprise support services such as marketing and accounting. Lean annual expenses and reinvestment of surplus into maintenance, training, and business development will further improve the long-term viability of the venture, eliminating the need for ongoing donor support.

Management is handled by a dedicated community-based not-for-profit entity, ensuring local ownership, transparency, and accountability. EQUINOCT is working with a range of strategic partners, including the Resilient Destinations Foundation, CRC Puthenvelikkara, and historic Gandhian institutions such as the Gandhi Smaraka Seva Kendram, to ensure deep community integration and enduring institutional support.

This project is just one of many life-changing projects ISV supports in all parts of the world. Thank you to the members of the [IEEE Power & Energy Society](#) for supporting this project and to the donors who are making the work of ISV possible. ISV invites you to be part of its transformative journey. Together, we can nurture local enterprises, harness technology, and ignite change in underserved communities worldwide. ■

To learn more about ISV and how you can contribute, visit smartvillage.ieee.org. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



Entrepreneurs being supported by the CRE Hub during the inauguration of the office facility.



CRE Hub's solar dryer and solar-powered cold storage equipment during installation.

Harnessing Positive Energy: Empower a Billion Lives Competition



Access to reliable energy is crucial for a community's growth, economic prosperity, and improved standard of living. However, according to the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), an estimated 666 million people currently lack access to electricity. Another 1.18 billion individuals have insufficient access to electricity, and 2.1 billion people have no access to clean cooking solutions.

The lack of access to clean, affordable, and modern energy has far-reaching consequences for people's livelihoods, education, and health. [The IEEE Power Electronics Society \(PELS\)](#) has long been determined—and is uniquely positioned—to address the significant global challenge of energy access. They have responded with the donor-supported global competition to crowdsource scalable solutions to energy access through [Empower a Billion Lives](#) (EBL).



Empower a Billion Lives teams, judges, leadership, and invited supporters at EBL 2023 Global Finals.

Unleashing Innovation

Officially launched by PELS, the biennial Empower a Billion Lives Competition invites students, companies, research labs, non-profit entities, and other vested organizations around the world to submit creative approaches incorporating exponential technologies with regionally relevant solutions that demonstrate the impact created for communities through a scalable business model. The solutions will deliver energy at a baseline of 50W for at least four hours per day, which is considered the minimum for productive use.

Since the competition began in 2019, it has been held twice and attracted participants from over 70 nations who have presented a wide array of innovative solutions. These solutions have shown significant potential in providing energy access, driving economic growth, and improving the quality of life.

Join the Movement!

All teams are field-testing their solution in an energy access community for track teams, and student teams are testing locally. The Global Finals will occur in December 2025 at the [IEEE PELS Southern Power Electronics Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa](#).

Participants are energy access experts who know the regional challenges in their sector in depth. Student teams benefit from being part of the EBL community and the energy access ecosystem, which has led to teams joining together to begin joint ventures. Prizes are awarded for each of the six tracks and the Grand Prize. Winners attract follow-on investments from countries, international organizations, and venture capitalists, and to date, prizes and team support (for 2019 and 2023) have reached US\$1M. ■

SOURCES: 2025 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank. "Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2025." <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/downloads>. This work is a joint product of the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization.

Husain, Ali, and Celusak, Jane. (10 October 2024). "Empowerment Through Energy: How Empower a Billion Lives Seeks to Address Energy Access." IEEE Power Electronics Magazine..

To learn more about EBL and how you can contribute, visit empowerabillionlives.org. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



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IEEE Foundation Directors Witness STEM Excitement at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago, IL, USA

By Lorena Garcia, IEEE Foundation Director



I recently had the pleasure, along with three other IEEE Foundation Directors and Foundation staff, of visiting the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago, IL, USA, to see firsthand the impact of the IEEE Region 4 [Science Kits for Public Libraries \(SKPL\)](#) program. This initiative, spearheaded by [John Zulaski](#), is igniting curiosity and creativity in young minds across the region through innovative Discovery Pack backpacks.

These STEM-focused kits, partially funded by the SKPL program, are available in all 80 programming branches of the Chicago Public Library. Each backpack is filled with hands-on tools that allow children to explore a wide range of STEM topics directly from their local library. Subjects include robotics, magnets, weather, dinosaurs, and electricity, ensuring every child finds something to ignite their interest.

Visiting the Harold Washington Library and seeing the SKPL program in action, as well as the excitement and pride shared by the library team, was truly inspiring. These backpacks are more than STEM kits; they're a way to spark children's interest in science and engineering, helping them discover the many opportunities these fields offer and see themselves as the next generation of problem solvers.

Under John's leadership, SKPL awarded a record 26 grants in 2025 across 10 U.S. states, reaching over 25,000 youth annually. By supporting public libraries, the program helps bridge educational gaps and ensures that all children have access to meaningful STEM learning experiences.

The SKPL program is a model of how closing the STEM gap doesn't require fancy labs to spark a lifelong love for science and engineering. Backpacks filled with STEM resources can unlock curiosity, creativity, and confidence in young learners. It would be amazing to see this kind of program replicated and expanded globally.

Thanks to the generosity of IEEE donors and the vision of leaders like John Zulaski and his team, the [IEEE Region 4 SKPL](#) program is significantly expanding its impact throughout the Midwest USA. Our visit highlighted the power of collaboration among volunteers, donors, public libraries, and local partners in expanding access to STEM education and building a more equitable future. Together, we are empowering the next generation, one backpack at a time. ■



IEEE Foundation Directors and Foundation staff, visiting the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago, IL, USA, to see firsthand the impact of the IEEE Region 4 SKPL program.



Marko Delimar, IEEE Foundation President, and I enjoyed the opportunity to see the Discovery Pack backpacks first-hand and remember when we discovered the love of all things STEM.

Forever Generous Donor, John Zulaski, Extends His Support of STEM Education Beyond His Lifetime



John Zulaski has been a member of IEEE for more than five decades, but his passion for learning and tinkering goes back even further. His inquisitive nature pre-dates his time at S&C Electric Company, even before he earned his master's degree in electrical engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois, USA. It all really started for John when he was just a kid.

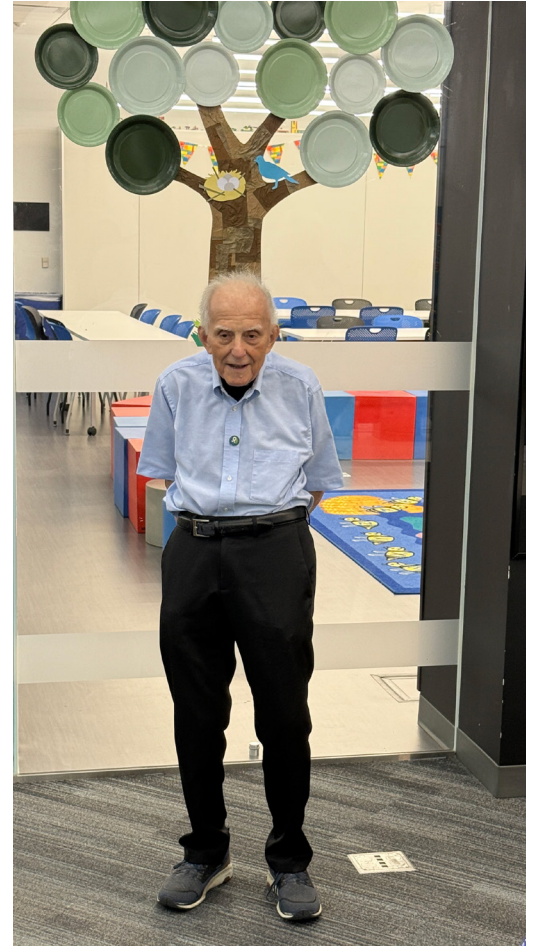
"Growing up in the 40s, my parents were very supportive of any educational interests I might have shown," John stated to the IEEE Life Members Newsletter in 2021. "Though money was tight, they always found a way to provide an Erector set, Lincoln Logs, chemistry sets, etc. that kept me happily occupied for many hours."

In 2009, John came full circle when his childhood experiences became the spark that inspired the [IEEE Region 4 Science Kits for Public Libraries \(SKPL\) program](#). For the past 15 years, John has been dedicated to developing this program from its modest origins. He has witnessed significant growth in the science kits each year, which are now available throughout the Midwest of the United States, including all 80 branches of the Chicago Public Library system.

And while John's volunteer efforts have been impressive, equally impressive is his commitment to supporting the program he launched beyond his lifetime. John has chosen to give a donation through his estate plans to the SKPL program, which makes him a member of the [IEEE Foundation's Goldsmith Legacy League](#).

"It is my hope," explains John, "that my gift can provide the resources for expanding the program beyond the territory of Region 4 and ensure that it is sustainable after I'm gone."

John explained that he feels confident in entrusting the planned gift to the IEEE Foundation due to its strong reputation. This reputation gives donors assurance that their expectations will be met and their contributions will be wisely managed. John worked with the IEEE Foundation staff early on to receive support for fundraising related to the SKPL program. ■



About the IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League

The **IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League** celebrates the elite group of legacy-giving donors building tomorrow by ensuring that IEEE programs can turn their ambitions into impact. These *Forever Generous* donors are recognized for including the IEEE Foundation in their estate plans. The Foundation team would be honored to assist with finding the right way for you to integrate IEEE into your estate plan and join the [IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League](#), just like John.

To learn more about the **IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League** and how you can contribute, visit ieeefoundation.org/our-supporters/ieee-goldsmith-legacy-league or scan the QR code.



To learn more about SKPL and how you can contribute, visit r4.ieee.org/skpl/. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



Educators Learn About Semiconductors



Thanks to a generous gift from the onsemi Giving Now program to the [IEEE Foundation](#), IEEE TryEngineering was able to host Educator Sessions to provide teachers with knowledge and resources about semiconductors for their classrooms in the 2025-2026 school year.

This gift was part of the onsemi Giving Now program's [generous support of US\\$2M](#) to fund global outreach programs at multiple recipient organizations. At IEEE, the funds were used by the IEEE Educational Activities' TryEngineering program to host Educator Sessions in five locations across the USA.

Each session is unique, as local partner universities share their resources and programs with the participants. This onsite experience, coupled with TryEngineering's high-quality videos, an [eBook](#), and a [lesson plan: Making of a Microchip](#), also funded by onsemi, gives teachers valuable resources and materials to take back to their classrooms in order to inspire the next generation of engineers and technologists. These resources can all be found on the [TryEngineering Semiconductor Collection Page](#). In addition, a semiconductor simulation game is currently being developed as part of the project.

The Educator Sessions welcomed IEEE members at many locations. IEEE Foundation Director [Stephen Phillips](#) from the School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering at [Arizona State University](#) joined TryEngineering to welcome teachers from Arizona

and New Mexico. IEEE Foundation Senior Development Officer [Michael Deering](#) also joined an Educator Session in Arizona.

IEEE Foundation Director [Lorena Garcia](#) joined TryEngineering at the University of Florida with a tour of the [Florida Semiconductor Institute at NeoCity](#). A highlight of the session at Neo City was the tour of [Valencia College](#), which introduced teachers to certificate programs for their students, including those in laser technology, photonics, optics, and more. Lorena is leading the instructional team at the EDS conference in Mexico.

Additional sessions were held at [Lehigh University](#), with a tour of the [Integrated Nanofabrication and Cleanroom Facility](#), at [Rutgers University](#), with a tour of the [Nanofabrication CORE Facility](#), [Brookdale Community College](#), with a tour of the [Brookdale Cyber Center](#), and at the [University of Minnesota's International Institute for Biosensing](#). The Institute's Director, [Patricia Khashayar](#) connected teachers with the [University of Minnesota Nano Center](#), which includes a STEM Outreach facility where teachers conducted experiments under the direction of [Claire Dietz](#), Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Minnesota Nano Center.

At every session, the teachers expressed their gratitude to the IEEE Foundation, onsemi, and TryEngineering for the opportunity to learn about semiconductors. Plans for the 2026 sessions are underway! ■

To learn more about TryEngineering and how you can contribute, visit tryengineering.org. To make a donation, scan the QR code.



Left to Right: Stamatis Dragoumanos, Lorena Garcia, and Debra Gulick of IEEE are welcomed to the Florida Semiconductor Institute at NeoCity by Roseanne Perez, Workforce Development Program Specialist.



Educator Session participants are suited up for a behind-the-scenes tour at the University of Minnesota Nano Center.



onsemi's Leadership Team helped kick off the first TryEngineering Educator Session of the year at Arizona State University.

2025 Pugh Young Scholar in Residence: A Residency Wrap Up with Gratitude

Adapted from a letter written by George Borg to the Pughs' son, William



As a historian and philosopher of science, I have a long-standing professional interest in the relations between science and technology. This residency presented an occasion to advance that research, as well as an opportunity for training in museum and public history work. Hence, my objectives in accepting it were twofold: firstly, to gain experience in curatorial work; secondly, to work on a project on the historical impact of electronics on climate science in the 20th century. Thanks to this residency, I was able to make significant progress towards both.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Daniel Mitchell, IEEE History Center Senior Historian, on three projects. In the early weeks of the residence, I accompanied him on a number of trips he undertook as curator of the IEEE Global Museum's traveling exhibit on Edwin Armstrong, *Unseen Signals*. As one of my first exposures to museum work, this experience revealed to me its multifaceted nature.

Dr. Mitchell also enlisted my help with researching material for an [IEEE Global Museum interpretive banner](#) on graphical methods in electrical engineering. These methods, like the Nichols chart, were developed to simplify calculational work before the advent of computers. This was a fascinating, if challenging, project, being my first exposure to electrical engineering theory (it also supported the climate science project insofar as it provided an opportunity to learn more about the history of control theory, which is relevant to that research).



Left to Right: George Borg, 2025 Pugh Young Scholar, and Daniel Mitchell, DPhil., IEEE Senior Historian, standing in front of a display of a selection of historical measurement instruments held by IEEE at the IEEE Operations Center in Piscataway, NJ, USA.



Graphical Methods in Engineering Before the Digital Era

Before electronic computers, engineers leaned on graphical methods to reduce calculation and provide physical insight.

Additionally, I initiated a project to display some historical measurement instruments held by IEEE (see top right photo). We selected 12 instruments, including voltmeters, ammeters, an Apollo-mission instrumentation panel, a Wheatstone bridge, and slide rules, among others. These objects dated from the 1880s to the 1970s. Though now of historical interest, many were originally fairly routine, unheralded instruments. The resulting paucity of documentation made researching and interpreting some of them feel like mini-detective investigations.

Regarding the historiographical project, the residence allowed me to carry out a number of useful activities. The project concerns the emergence of modern climate science in the second half of the 20th century, with a focus specifically on carbon-cycle research. Evidence suggests that electronic technology and theory played an important role in getting that research off the ground. During the residency, I was able to investigate the archives of key players and extend my knowledge of relevant primary and secondary sources through the IEEE History Center's rich library and archives on the history of technology.

Last but not least, I very much enjoyed the social aspects of the residency. The IEEE History Center staff are both knowledgeable and very friendly, so I genuinely looked forward to going into the office during my stay there. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for making this fruitful opportunity possible. ■

About the Residency



Established in 2018 by **IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League** Members Elizabeth and Emerson Pugh. Emerson was the 1989 IEEE President and IEEE Foundation President from 2000 to 2004. The **Pugh Young Scholar in Residence** program provides research experience for scholars studying the history of technology and engineering. Unfortunately, George Borg is the first Young Scholar to not have the good fortune to meet Emerson Pugh, who passed away on 8 December 2024.

You can learn more about Emerson Pugh's extraordinary life here: spectrum.ieee.org/in-memoriam-emerson-pugh.

IEEE Life Members Committee Reconnects with Life Members



As the saying goes, you're never too old to start over. It holds true for the [IEEE Life Members Committee](#), which has been revitalized after COVID-19 pandemic disruptions.

The committee supports those at least 65 years old who have been members long enough so that their age and years of membership equal or exceed 100. Life members' dues, regional assessments, and society fees are waived, and some conference registration fees are reduced.

During the pandemic, fewer life members were attending in-person activities and joining local groups, and donations to the [Life Members Fund](#), which supports several programs, dropped off.

"As we rebounded from COVID," says [Howard Wolfman](#), past chair, "the Life Members Committee took a deep breath and said, 'Let's move forward. What are our issues?'" A life senior member, Wolfman has been an active IEEE volunteer for 64 years and a generous donor to the Life Members Fund.

"We re-established connections, developed new goals, and introduced new programs," he says.

During the past five years, the committee launched several initiatives including an [annual conference](#) and a [mentoring program](#). It also worked to reactivate [affinity groups](#) that had gone dormant, and it formed new ones. Affinity groups are part of an IEEE section or region.

The committee also ran campaigns to increase donations to the Life Members Fund, which the [IEEE Foundation](#) manages. The campaigns showcased how the donations are used to support member activities and IEEE programs.

The number of IEEE Life Members increased from 25,000 in 2019 to nearly 39,000 last year. IEEE now projects a 58 percent increase by 2034. The organization says it wants to make use of its most experienced and knowledgeable engineers.

Tech for an aging population

The inaugural [Life Members Conference](#) was held in April 2024 in Austin, TX, USA. Its theme was "Evolution: Technology, Applications, and Contributions." Open to all IEEE members, the event focused on providing a better understanding of how emerging technologies and new applications could impact senior citizens. More than 180 people attended.

[This year's conference](#), "Learning Never Stops," was held on 13 June at [Tufts University](#) in Medford, MA, USA. [Topics](#) included innovations in health technology, artificial intelligence, and robotics. A session on systems that impact society discussed the energy grid and telecommunications.



IEEE Life Members at the 2025 IEEE Evolution Conference: Technology, Applications, and Contributions in Boston, MA, USA.

Sharing experiences with younger generations

Last year, the committee introduced group mentoring. The group sessions involve life members meeting with high school students, college students, and young professionals. "The members share the ups and downs of their professional and personal lives, lessons learned, and pitfalls to avoid", Wolfman says.

"One thing I learned in talking to the participants is that mentoring works both ways," Wolfman says. "Life members get mentored as well. We learn about what's going on in today's world, so it's a two-way street."

Life members are generous. Last year they gave more than US\$1.7M to IEEE's philanthropic programs, according to the [IEEE Foundation](#). Life members account for 65 percent of the total donations given by individuals to the more than 275 IEEE Foundation accounts.

The IEEE Life Members Fund supports more than 15 programs, including [awards](#), [conferences](#), [educational outreach](#), [fellowships](#), and [humanitarian projects](#).

"Life members have the opportunity to share the wisdom they've gained through their membership as well as careers in industry or academia," Wolfman says. "We receive the satisfaction of knowing that we are giving back to the next generation of innovators, IEEE in general, and society."

This article is an edited excerpt of the "[IEEE Life Members Committee Reconnects with Life Members](#)" article published in *The Institute* on 26 May 2025. ■

IEEE's 2025 Medal of Honor Laureate, Henry Samueli, Creates an Endowment for IEEE-HKN



On 20 February 2025, Henry Samueli was named the [2025 IEEE Medal of Honor Laureate](#), in recognition of developing communications products that have touched virtually every person in the world. He was presented with his medal at the IEEE Honors Ceremony on 24 April 2025 in Tokyo, Japan. The IEEE Medal of Honor includes a US\$2M cash prize.

Inducted into the Iota Gamma Chapter at the University of California-Los Angeles in 1994 and elevated to Eminent Member in 2019, Samueli has donated the US\$2M cash prize to fund an endowment for the IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu, furthering his commitment to developing future leaders. During his acceptance speech at the 2025 IEEE Awards ceremony, he expressed, "I was made an Eminent Member of Eta Kappa Nu in 2019, and our family foundation has supported them for many years. So, it is truly an honor for me to endow such a wonderful student organization."

The new endowment will provide ongoing support for IEEE-HKN, including its signature event, the [Student Leadership Conference](#), offsetting the costs for students and chapters to attend this often life-changing event.

"We deeply appreciate Henry's generosity that not only guarantees the continuation of our programs but also uplifts our work in nurturing the next generation of ethical engineers to take on the world's challenges," said Nancy Ostin, Director of IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu.

Samueli's transformational gift will help ensure that IEEE-HKN's programming continues to inspire and equip future engineering leaders, ensuring a legacy of innovation and mentorship.

In addition to this remarkable gift, Dr. Samueli has been an *Honored Philanthropist* in the **IEEE Heritage Circle** since 2021.

To learn more about the **IEEE Heritage Circle** and how you can become an *Honored Philanthropist*, scan the QR Code. ■



IEEE's 2025 Medal of Honor Laureate, Henry Samueli.



HKN and IEEE Celebrating the 15th Merger Anniversary



Left to Right: Karen Panetta, IEEE Foundation Director and 2019 IEEE-HKN President; John McDonald, IEEE Foundation Vice President, Development and IEEE-HKN Board of Governors; Colleen Bailey, IEEE-HKN Board of Governors; Antonio Luque, IEEE MGA VP; Gerardo Barbosa, IEEE Treasurer celebrate the anniversary at the IEEE Life Members Conference at Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA.



IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) is the international honor society of IEEE. Founded in 1904 at the University of Illinois, HKN merged with IEEE in 2010, providing both organizations with opportunities for growth and expansion. HKN membership is lifelong and is conferred upon individuals who have excelled in fields like electrical engineering, computer engineering, and computer science. With over 280 collegiate chapters worldwide and 200,000+ members, HKN encourages and recognizes excellence in education, professional practice, and meritorious work within IEEE's designated fields of interest.

The merger is being celebrated all year long, and cake has been cut at several IEEE gatherings, including [SouthEastCon](#), IEEE [Regions 1 and 2](#) meetings, [IEEE Life Members](#) conference, and [IEEE CompSoc](#). IEEE-HKN is also marking this milestone in the October issue of [THE BRIDGE](#) magazine as well as working with the [IEEE Foundation](#) on a special [anniversary donation campaign](#), The Power of 15.

To make a donation to The Power of 15 campaign, scan the QR code or visit hkn.ieee.org/ieee-hkn-15-years-merger-anniversary. ■





The One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Its Impact on You

A new tax law in the United States, called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, is bringing some changes that may impact how you plan your charitable contributions starting in 2026. The good news? Whether you itemize your tax return or not, there are still smart and effective ways to support the IEEE Foundation and reduce your taxes.

Let's walk through what the new law means for you:

Good News for Donors Who Don't Itemize

If you typically take the standard deduction rather than itemizing, there's a great new incentive coming your way. Beginning in 2026, you'll be able to deduct up to:

- **US\$1,000** in charitable contributions (individual filers)
- **US\$2,000** if you file jointly as a couple

That means you can donate to the IEEE Foundation all while potentially lowering your taxable income, even without itemizing. Your contributions help facilitate impactful IEEE initiatives that deliver measurable benefits to the world, helping the programs you believe in thrive.

Modest Changes for Donors Who Do Itemize

If you itemize your deductions, there are two changes to be aware of—both of which are relatively modest and depend on your personal situation:

1. A New "Floor" for Deductions:

Starting in 2026, your charitable gifts will be deductible after they exceed 0.5% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

For example, if your AGI is US\$100,000, the first **US\$500** of your charitable contributions won't be deductible—but everything beyond that will still count.

2. Cap on Deductions for High-Income Donors:

If you're in the top income tax bracket (37%), your charitable deduction will now provide tax savings at a **maximum of 35%**, reducing the value of your deduction by just 2¢ per dollar. While the deduction will still reduce your taxable income, this slight cap may affect your overall tax savings.

Estate Tax Update: A Window of Opportunity

In addition to changes that affect annual charitable giving, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will also have a significant impact on estate planning, particularly for those considering a legacy gift to the IEEE Foundation.

The estate tax exemption, which had been set to revert to a lower amount in 2026, was made permanent and increased to US\$15M per individual in 2026 and will be indexed for inflation starting in 2027.

What this means for you: Those who exceed the threshold still need to contemplate and implement advanced planning to reduce estate taxes and to use exemptions to their fullest, particularly if they are concerned about the law being changed in a few years. Individuals with a net worth well below those figures still need well-thought-out living trusts and related estate planning documents. Individuals whose net worth is near those thresholds or who expect to exceed them should also consider further estate planning to stay ahead of the curve.

Interested in holding a private conversation about your giving to the IEEE Foundation? Contact Danny DeLiberato, Development Officer, by telephone at +1 732.562.5446 or by email at d.deliberato@ieee.org. Together, we can ensure that your gift has the greatest impact and works best for your financial goals.

This article is intended to provide general gift-planning information. The IEEE Foundation is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax, or investment advice, and this publication should not be looked to or relied upon as a source for such advice. Consult with your own legal and financial advisors before making any gift. ■

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IEEE Foundation Establishes Memorial Fund to Honor Late Board Member Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach

It is with deep sadness that the IEEE Foundation acknowledges the passing of Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, business leader, mentor, and dedicated IEEE volunteer. Her commitment to the IEEE community and invaluable contributions as a member of the IEEE Foundation Board of Directors and the IEEE Investment Committee will be profoundly missed. To honor her memory, the IEEE Foundation has established the [IEEE Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach Memorial Fund](#) and will match up to US\$20,000 in donations to this initiative.

The Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach Memorial Fund honors Mary Ellen's life and preserves her memory by supporting a program that was dear to her, the [IEEE Women In Engineering \(WIE\) Family Cares Grant \(FCG\)](#). This vital program provides financial assistance to [IEEE WIE](#) members—both men and women—responsible for caring for family members to allow them to attend IEEE conferences to enhance their academic and professional careers. Eligible members can receive up to US\$1,000 to help cover the expenses of caring for a child, parent, or other dependent living in their household while attending a conference. Mary Ellen and her husband, John Zellerbach, were among the first contributors to the IEEE WIE FCG program when it began in 2023.

Through the Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach Fund, IEEE WIE will annually award Family Cares Grants in honor of Mary Ellen. Beginning in 2026 and as long as the Fund remains active, recipients will be recognized as "Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach Family Cares Grant recipients" (Zellerbach Grantees).

Jerry Hudgins, IEEE Foundation Vice President, Programs, shared, "I think the specific program is a needed one, and a great [way] to honor Mary Ellen."

Reflections from the IEEE Foundation

Marko Delimar, IEEE Foundation President, noted, "Mary Ellen brought extensive financial experience and perspective to the Foundation Board. She was well-respected and a valuable member of our team, and she will be greatly missed."

Karen Gaulchie, IEEE Foundation Executive Director, shared, "I was deeply saddened by Mary Ellen's passing. In May, I was thrilled to welcome Mary Ellen and John as *Honored Philanthropists* into the **IEEE Heritage Circle** and present their certificate. The Foundation is deeply grateful for Mary Ellen's support and the positive impact she made. We will miss her."

To honor Mary Ellen's memory, please consider supporting the Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach Memorial Fund by visiting www.ieeefoundation.org/zellerbach or scanning the QR code. The IEEE Foundation will match the first US\$20,000 donated.



If you have questions or would like to hold a personal consultation about the Fund or ways to contribute, contact Eileen Heltzer at e.heltzer@ieee.org or +1 732.799.4431. ■



Mary Ellen Martin Zellerbach



In May 2025, Mary Ellen and her husband, John, were proudly recognized as members of the IEEE Heritage Circle at the Nikola Tesla giving level. Mary Ellen accepted their certificate during the 2025 IEEE WIE International Leadership Conference in San Jose, CA, USA. The Zellerbachs' good friends Sally Wood and John Treichler, both IEEE Heritage Circle members, joined Mary Ellen for a photo.

IEEE Foundation Happenings

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member:

Melba Crawford will join the IEEE Foundation Board in January 2026. Please join us in welcoming Melba.



Melba Crawford

John McDonald, IEEE Foundation Vice President, Development, Recognized for Leadership

At the IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) General Meeting in Austin, TX, USA IEEE Foundation Vice President, Development, John McDonald, was honored with the **CIGRE USNC VP, Technical Activities Emeritus Award**, a recognition of his extraordinary leadership and contributions.

John has spent 19 years as a CIGRE member and 16 years as CIGRE USNC VP, Technical Activities. He established the USNC as the best practice in technical activities, driving growth in U.S. subject matter experts on CIGRE Working Groups, U.S. NGN (young experts) participation, and women serving on CIGRE WGs and as WG Conveners. John's legacy is one of vision and global impact that paves the way for the next generation of power and energy leaders.



IEEE Foundation Director, Alex Acero, selected for IEEE James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing Award

Alex Acero, IEEE Foundation Director, was selected for the 2026 **IEEE James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing Award** funded by Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs (MERL) "for contributions to and leadership in developing speech and language technology for robust large-scale deployment."



Alex Acero

The IEEE Foundation 2024 Annual Report received the 2025 Graphic Design USA Digital Design Award in the Annual Report category

The report highlights how your generous donations were directly used to enhance and sustain outstanding IEEE programs, scholarships, and funds, and how your contributions have not only facilitated these programs but have also delivered measurable impacts. The IEEE Foundation is the heart of IEEE's charitable giving, making a meaningful difference in the world. To download your copy, scan the QR code.



IEEE Foundation President Marko Delimar at the 2025 IEEE VIC Summit & Honors Ceremony



IEEE Foundation President Marko Delimar represented the organization at the IEEE Vision Innovation Challenges Summit & Honors Ceremony held in Tokyo, Japan. During the welcome reception, he discussed the pivotal role of the foundation in IEEE's charitable giving efforts.

Welcoming IEEE Heritage Circle Members



John McDonald attended the **IEEE PES General Meeting** in Austin, TX, USA where he and IEEE Foundation team members Danny Deliberato and Angela Marie Tayco presented six **IEEE Heritage Circle** recognitions.

Celebrating IEEE AP-S Talent Development Fund Donor Support



Ralph Ford, IEEE Foundation Past President, joined Michael Deering, IEEE Foundation Senior Development Officer, and Karen Galuchie, IEEE Foundation Executive Director, at the **IEEE AP-S International Symposium** in Ottawa, Canada, in support of the IEEE AP-S fundraising initiative for the IEEE AP-S Talent Development Fund held by the IEEE Foundation. A donor reception was held to celebrate this initiative to support student and early-career talent and to recognize the many donors to the Fund.

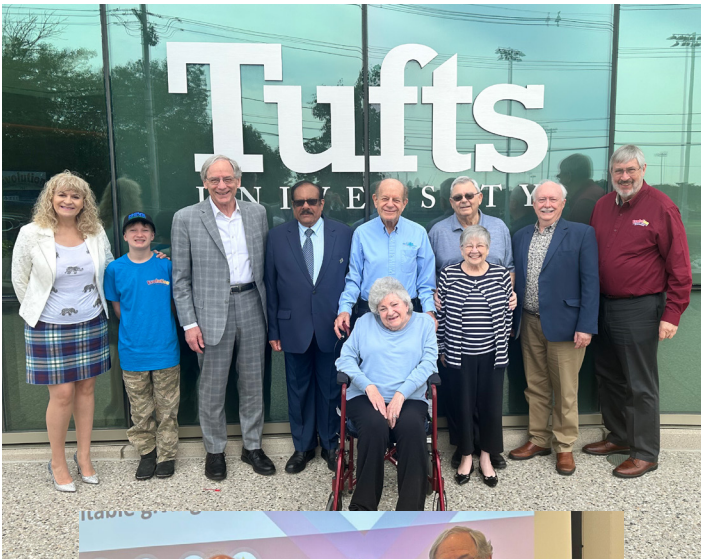
IEEE Society for Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) STEM Day



Left to right: Mostafa Mortezaie, Karen Galuchie, Ron Leder, and Alex Acero on board the USS Hornet for the IEEE Society for the Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) STEM Day.

2025 IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference

Rich Allen and Danny DeLiberato, IEEE Foundation staff, joined IEEE Foundation Board Directors Karen Panetta, Jerry Hudgins, and John McDonald at the **2025 IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference** at Tufts University in Boston, MA, USA. It was a busy conference for the team! Jacob Kulangara was recognized as a Thomas A. Edison Level member of the **IEEE Heritage Circle**, John McDonald led a panel discussion on mentoring, Jerry Hudgins presented on the IEEE Foundation, and the IEEE History Center collected an oral history from Jerry Hudgins.



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As the philanthropic partner of IEEE, the IEEE Foundation is the heart of IEEE charitable giving. We expand the IEEE charitable body of work by inspiring philanthropic engagement that ignites a donor's innermost interests and values. Together, we deliver opportunity, innovation, and impact, and advance the IEEE mission across the globe. We categorize the IEEE programs supported by your donations under five main pillars: Illuminate, Educate, Engage, Energize, and Future, though their benefits span multiple categories.

The IEEE Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization in the United States. Charitable contributions to the IEEE Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law in the United States. For other countries, please check with your local tax advisors.

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