

ОБІЖНИК - NEWSLETTER

ТОВАРИСТВО УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ІНЖЕНЕРІВ АМЕРИКИ – НЬО ЙОРК
UKRAINIAN ENGINEERS' SOCIETY OF AMERICA – NEW YORK BRANCH



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From the President's Desk

The first order of business is a quick apology on the tardiness of this issue of the newsletter. Typically, we try to get the newsletter in members hands by the middle of each two month period.

Next, I would like to thank the members of the New York City Chapter Board of Directors and all of the volunteers that have pitched in to help with the various events that were held over the past Fall to Spring season. The Chapter has pleasantly demonstrated a marked increase in activity with the addition of our lecture series and successful pub night to the annual zabavas and Yalynkas.

Of special note is the hard work Board member Ivan Durbak has put in to developing the Lecture Series. All of the lectures given to date have been highly interesting and informative. They have also shown that members of the Society hold highly respected and relevant positions within the American professional community. Rather than being immigrants who are struggling in a new world, many of us have become "leaders of industry." Mr. Durbak is already hard at work in planning the next series of lectures which will begin again in the fall after a short summer recess. I encourage all of our members to consider attending the lectures. If you haven't been coming, then you're missing quite an impressive show.

Another aspect of the lecture series is that the Chapter is finally in a position to begin offering Professional Development Hour (PDH) credits to professionals who need to obtain continuing education units in order to keep their professional licenses active. In comparison to other lectures which qualify for PDH credits, the UESA lecture series is quite a bargain. If you need to collect these credits, I suggest you begin noting the lectures on your calendar. Not only will you personally benefit from the lectures, but you'll help the Society at the

same time.

As we continue to develop the lecture series, the Board of Directors is also looking into adding even more functions to our calendar. Currently, the Board is developing the structure for implementing a "mentoring program" which will give our student members access to the wealth of professional knowledge we have in our community. We are also getting back into the business of "Engineers' Balls" with a Malanka celebration on January 15, 2005. We're still early in the planning process, so anyone that would like to volunteer to help in the planning and execution of this event should contact me either by phone or e-mail. Finally, we're also considering sponsoring a pub-night at Soyuzivka during Labor Day weekend. It should be an interesting fall season.

Lastly, I would like to remind all our members that UESA membership dues are currently being collected by the National Board of Directors. The initial dues notices were mailed in January of this year. If you still haven't paid them, then you should expect to receive a second notice this summer. If you have not received the first notice or do not receive the second notice, then please contact the National Board of Directors. If payment is not received, then your membership status will be shifted to "inactive" and all mailings will cease. Also, please make an effort to return the member information form included with the dues notice as this information will be used in the publication of the annual membership directory.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the New York City Chapter of UESA, I would like to wish all of our members and their family and friends a safe and happy summer. I hope to see everyone at our events this fall.

Until next time.....

Marco Shmerykowsky, PE
Марко Шмериковський

NYC Lecture Series: Ivan Durbak Lectures on COMPUTER SECURITY

On April 20th, 2004, the New York City Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America presented a lecture by Ivan Durbak, Chief Information Officer at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, on "Computer Security: Protecting the Integrity, Availability, and Confidentiality of Computer Systems, Both at Home and at the Office".



Mr. Ivan Durbak, CIO of SUNYT Downstate Medical

Mr. Durbak provided a broad overview of all aspects of computer security, at various levels across organizations and on the home front. He addressed key questions such as: What is security? Can open access and privacy and security co-exist on the internet? Who polices the internet? How to deal with computer viruses and "spam-rage"?

Mr. Durbak began from a national perspective, describing the major federal legislative initiatives: Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act (1999), Health Insurance Portability & Accountability (HIPAA) Act, USA Patriot Act (2001), Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2003), and the recent CAN-SPAM Act (2004).

He then detailed the typical computer security actions by modern organizations: risk assessment, designation of a chief security officer, physical controls, environmental controls, access controls / password management, audit logs, transmission / network controls, encryption, audit logs, disaster recovery & business continuity, incident response plan & drill, policies & procedures, and awareness, education, & training.

Mr. Durbak next described current email problems,

for both large organizations and the individual consumer, and described ways to deal with "spam". He then discussed computer viruses, which are small files that attach to emails or downloads and infect the user's computer. Mr. Durbak reviewed in depth the "hacking" problem and described in detail hackers as "the underbelly of the internet: people who randomly scan the internet to find openings so they can go in and snoop around, and once in your machine, they have as much access to it as you do, including your online banking, personal data, family data". Mr. Durbak, who has conducted considerable research on the world-wide hacker community, described their profiles, their habits, their culture, their hacker conferences, and described how hackers use commonly-available software in a typical hacker attack: first they reconnoiter the organization's perimeter, then scan servers & ports & services, identify vulnerabilities, plan the attack, then execute attack, secure back-door access, and finally eliminate all traces & evidence. He identified the top 12 defense actions to take, at both the corporate and individual PC level, to protect against virus/worm attacks.

Mr. Durbak also described spyware and adware, and how to deal with both.

Finally, Mr. Durbak provided tips and hands-on advice, listing the eight necessary items required to insure computer security: physical controls, access controls (passwords), anti-virus software, patch management, firewalls, IDS (intrusion detection), security awareness, and common sense



Mr. Durbak addressing the audience's questions

Throughout the presentation Mr. Durbak kept the audience engaged and involved with a balance of technical material and practical real-world problems.

The evening finished with informal and convivial discussions over food and drinks.

This was the fourth in a series of engineering & scientific lectures presented by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of NYC during the 2003/2004 year. The lecture counted towards NYS continuing education credit for licensed professional engineers.

New York City UESA Chapter to Develop Mentoring Program

By Adrian Berezowsky

The executive board of the New York City Chapter is currently considering establishing a mentoring program for college members and young professionals. Over a number of meetings, the implementation of such a program has been discussed both in terms of the need and benefit of it and in terms of how to actually go about organizing the program.

There is a need for such a program in order to create a means for younger Ukrainian professionals to get a foothold in the competitive market. Furthermore there is a need to show prospective members that there truly is a benefit to the Society other than the highly successful zabavas and other social events. Additionally, many existing members have fallen out of the fold and no longer take an active interest in the society. Although these concerns are slowly becoming ameliorated due to the diligence of the board and the attendance at our social events, this program could significantly improve the Society all around.

The primary benefit is that this program will provide a tool for our younger members to gain experience and knowledge in their prospective field. It will enable them to receive advice from a professional about their career goals and about the field in general. It will also have the benefit of having someone as a reference in both a professional and personal aspect.

In addition to the benefit to the younger members, there is a benefit to the established members. They will have access to budding Ukrainian engineers (and architects, finance majors, etc.) The program will also hopefully draw many members back into the ever increasing flow of our organization. Through giving members a voluntary duty, they will have more of a reason to attend out other events and to take a more active interest in the Society.

The last benefit is to the Society as a whole. Prospective members always ask "what will joining

do for me?". There has always been a networking reason which was given as well as the many informative and, often, highly enjoyable events. The **mentoring program** will take the networking aspect to a whole new level. By working on a more individualized basis with an established engineer, students and young professionals will be able to benefit greatly.

The structure of the program will be loose and experimental for the first year. A panel will be created to oversee the program. Members will be encouraged to participate on a completely voluntary basis. Mentors will provide the panel with a short description of what they plan on doing. Mentors can simply be accessible for advice or to look over a resume or something from school. They can also provide intern opportunities or even paid opportunities if they feel that this is appropriate.

Of course, the aspect of being a mentor is the primary goal, and not to simply provide a pool of Ukrainian employees. The prospective mentees will provide the panel with resumes which should include career goals and what they expect to benefit from the program. Both mentors and mentees will be encouraged to attend Society events so as to meet other mentors and mentees and to benefit the

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Society as a whole.

The panel will decide how to pair prospective mentors with prospective mentees. Pairings will be decided based on the amount of time the mentors and mentees can provide as well as the type of work and any personal traits which may make the relationship more compatible. The panel will advise mentors if they feel that the proposal is not compatible with the program for any reason though much latitude will be given to the mentors. Both the mentors and the mentees will give a short description to the panel of what was done over a semester along with any concerns or proposals they may have. The panel will also be available for consultation should the pairing is not working out to either parties satisfaction.

After the experimental period has ended, the panel, along with the executive board will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and will adjust it in order to increase it effectiveness. It is hoped that eventually there will be enough members involved that the program will become competitive so that both mentors and mentees will be vying for positions. Those who sign up early will be given preference now and also in the future. Eventually, it is hoped that the program will become nationwide so that there truly will be a Ukrainian "network" with which to keep a strategic presence in the field

The Chapter encourages all members that would be interested in participating in such a program to contact us either via e-mail (nyc@uesa.org) or via regular mail at the address listed on the letterhead. We look forward to obtaining input from our membership.

7th Street Festival Pub Night

On Friday, May 14th the New York City Chapter of UESA organized an "Officially Unofficial Pub Night" at the Dibrova Social Club on Second Avenue in New York City.

The event was essentially "Unofficial" since banners or other advertising for the Society were nowhere to be seen within the club. However, the Chapter was able to successfully utilize the Society's growing e-mail distribution list to get the word out that an event was taking place. From that point on the, the communiques spread by themselves.



New York City Festival Pub Night

The fact that people were already in town for the annual Seventh Street Festival combined with the Chapter's improved image with younger groups of professionals lead to a pub night which was almost as crowded as the pub night before the annual Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball. In short, the pub night was "officially" a success.



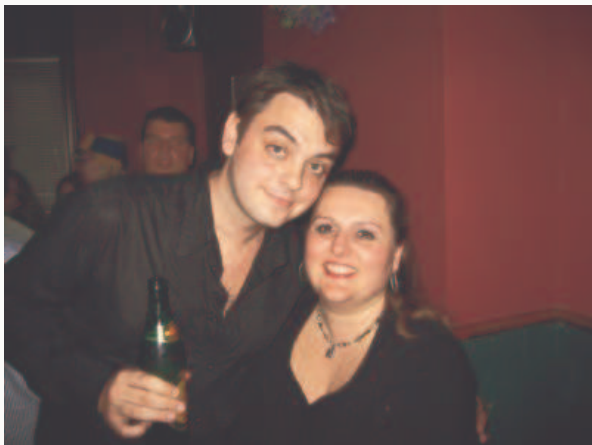
New York City Festival Pub Night



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The New York City Chapter Newsletter is published bi-monthly by UESA-NYC and is distributed to all chapter members. Additionally, past issues are archived on the UESA web site and are accessible by the entire internet community.

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For additional information, please contact us at the address on the letterhead or via e-mail at nyc@uesa.org,

Have you paid your 2004 Membership Dues?



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Please send news items, articles, information about our members, other interesting information and address changes to the following address:

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