



# **IEEE South Saskatchewan Section AGM Package 2024**

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# 1. Land Acknowledgement

The University of Regina is located on Treaty 4 lands, these are the territories of the nêhiyawak (nay-hi-yuh-wuk, Cree), Anihšīnāpēk (uh-nish-i-naa-payk, Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. Today, these lands continue to be the shared territory of many diverse peoples. The nêhiyawak originally referred to Regina as oskana kā-asastēki (os-kuh-nuh-kaa-us-us-tay-kih), Cree for “the place where bones are piled up.” This is why Regina's nickname is "Pile O'Bones" and is the origin of the name Wascana Park, where the University's Regina main campus is located.

In additional, the area served by the South Saskatchewan Section serves also includes some Treaty 2 and Treaty 6 territory. As the IEEE is dedicated to fostering technological innovation and excellence for the betterment of mankind, it is important to acknowledge what we can learn from the indigenous caretakers of these lands, and approach life here with a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation – we are all treaty people.

## 2. Agenda

6:00pm Land Acknowledgement

Welcome by Adam Tilson, IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Chair

6:15pm Dinner

Ultimate Experience Catering

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Atlantic Salmon, Vegetarian Lasagne

6:45pm Invited Talk on “VR Applications in Education and Industry”

by Daniel Price, Melcher Studios

7:15pm Call to Order

Establishment of Quorum

7:20pm Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: To accept the Agenda as circulated

Motion: To accept the Minutes of AGM 2023 as circulated

7:25pm Chair’s Report

Motion: To accept the Chair's Report 2024.

7:35pm Treasurer’s Report

Motion: To accept the financial budget and actuals 2024 (to date).

7:45pm Presentation of Section Awards

8:00pm Motion to Adjourn



### 3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

## Minutes of the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday November 22nd, 2023, 6pm-8pm

**Venue:** University of Regina, College West CW 215 and Zoom

**Attendance:** 42 in person

#### ExCom

Dr. Kin-Choong Yow	Chair
Mr. Shahedur Rahman	Vice Chair
Mr. Usman Munawar	Secretary
Mr. Adam Tilson	Treasurer
Mr. Babith Varghese	YP Chair
Dr. Nashid Shahriar	Membership Development Chair
Mr. Ali Salehpour	Student Activities Chair
Dr. Tim Maciag	University of Regina Student Branch Counselor
Ms. Ashley Kanyatte	University of Regina Student Branch Chair
Mr. Kareem Marshall	Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw Student Branch Chair
Mr. Cameron Wilson	University of Regina Student Branch Vice Chair

#### Guests

Dr. Philip Choi	Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Regina
Mr. Cosme Loi	Vice-Chair, North Saskatchewan Section
Mr. Matt Brennan	Program Coordinator, Cultivator Powered by Connexus

#### Members

Mr. Chad Olson	Member, Award Recipient
Mr. Robert Martens	Member, Award Recipient
Mr. Wayne Timm	Senior Member, Award Recipient
Mr. Moeed Shamim	Senior Member, Award Recipient
Dr. Raman Paranjape	Senior Member, Award Recipient
Dr. Abdul Bais	Senior Member
Mr. Dean Yager	Senior Member
Abraham Mugerwa	Member
Dr. Bhavik Pandya	Member
Dr. Lei Zhang	Member
Reagan Ong	Member
Mr. Aditya PPathak	Graduate Student Member
Mr. Ali Nisar	Graduate Student Member

Mr. Amirhossein Motavali	Graduate Student Member
Mr. Benham Farzaneh	Graduate Student Member
Mr. Masih Abedini	Graduate Student Member
Mr. Niraj Bhakhar	Graduate Student Member
Mr. Olufemi Oluyemi	Graduate Student Member
Maksim Sharoika	Student Member
Simran Brar	Student Member
Deenoo Nirankush	Student Member
Hien Nguyen	Student Member
Jordan Hinrichsen	Student Member
Cohen Howes	Student Member
Robin Marquez	Student Member
Tao Truong	Student Member
Drashti Soni	Student Member
Nathan Camerson	Student Member

Please note: These minutes are a reconstruction based on the agenda and attendance sheet and agenda from the previous meeting. Since quorum was not met, no formal business could be conducted.

1. As per bylaws, quorum is set at 50% of general membership. (90 members). Thus quorum is not met, so no formal business can be conducted.

Welcome address by Dr. Kin-Choong Yow, IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone at 6:00pm, with a land acknowledgement.

An open address was also given by the Dean of Engineering.

2. Invited Talk by Mr. Matt Brennan, Program Coordinator, Cultivator Powered by Conexus

Mr. Matt Brennan spoke on the inspiring work being done by the folks at the Conexus Cultivator in helping tech startups thrive in a competitive landscape, including University of Regina Alumni's such as Kyle Smith and David Crossman.

3. Call to order (Kin-Choong Yow)

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

4. Acceptance of the meeting agenda
  - Due to lack of Quorum, cannot officially be moved or adopted
5. Acceptance of the previous minutes
  - Due to lack of Quorum, cannot officially be moved or adopted
6. Chairman's Report (Kin-Choong Yow)

The Chairman reported on a stellar year for the section, including winning awards for the Section from the Region and MGA, and for SaskPolytech Moose Jaw from the Region. He spoke about

having all time high numbers, not just since the pandemic but in general. He mentioned three members being upgraded to senior member status.

- Due to lack of Quorum, cannot officially be moved or adopted

## 7. Financial Update (Adam Tilson)

Adam

**Motion** – To accept the Financial report.

Adam Tilson, the treasurer for the section presented the financial position of the section. Finances are healthy. We had 33,230.27 in total assets. Year-to-date we spent 2,346.47 above income, which is typical operating procedure for the section, which typically makes up for shortfalls by hosting conferences every decade or so. There were no major unexpected expenses, and small amounts of unexpected income due (+500) due to winning a section award.

- Due to lack of Quorum, cannot officially be moved or adopted

## 8. Presentation of Lapel Pins and Certificates of Appreciation (Kin-Choong Yow)

The Chairman presented the Membership Lapel pins to all our members present. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Shahedur Rahman for his service as Membership Development Chair and to Moeed Shamim for his service as Treasurer.

## 9. Update to Section Bylaws (Kin-Choong Yow)

The Chairman presented the work done on the section bylaws. These updates exist to make the section bylaws consistent with MGA guidelines. However, due to lack of quorum, these changes could not be voted in.

## 10. Presentations

The Chairment presented the inaugural section awards (plaques) to the recipients. They were:

Outstanding Leadership Award	Mr. Chad Olson
Outstanding Achievement Award	Mr. Robert Martens
Outstanding Service Award	Mr. Wayne Timm
Excellent Volunteer Award	Mr. Moeed Shamim
Long Service Award	Dr. Raman Paranjape

Additional presentations included certificates of appreciation to excom members vacating their roles, membership lapel pins, and a presentation of the Section Chair Lapel Pin to incoming chair Adam Tilson.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.



## 4. Message from Section Chair

Greetings, my name is Adam Tilson, and I am the Section Chair for IEEE South Saskatchewan for 2024-2025. The IEEE South Saskatchewan section had another strong showing this year. This was my first year as the section chair, and my primary goal was to maintain the amazing momentum from the past chair, Dr. Kin-Choong Yow, from 2022-2023. Recall that under Dr. Yow's leadership, we were awarded section awards at the Region and MGA levels, and our student branch in Sask Polytechnic Moose Jaw was acknowledged for their hard work. In addition, we successfully hosted IEEE Canada's flagship conference, CCECE. After this outstanding showing, naturally we need to slow down a bit and catch our breath!

Despite this sentiment, in this year at a glance, between the section, student branches, chapters and affinity groups, we managed to host 20 events, including events that were informational, technical and social in nature. Our membership numbers remain strong, and though not quite maintaining the all-time high from last year, we are still well above our numbers from the preceding 20 years. Our finances are also strong, due to an injection of funds from the CCECE conference in 2023. Finally, our section and student branches remain active in engaging with Region 7 (Canada) by attending BoD meetings and Student Congress.

We are continuing the initiative begun in the previous year by again hosting the Section Awards. We have a total of 5 section awards, namely, the Outstanding Leadership Award, the Outstanding Achievement Award, the Outstanding Service Award, the Excellent Volunteer Award, and the Long Service Award. These awards recognize the contribution of technology professionals to the South Saskatchewan community, and have some fabulous recipients this year.

When we look to the horizon, we may need to be vigilant to ensure our finances and membership numbers stay strong. There are warning signs these could come under pressure, namely due to the increase in the costs of food and travel, but in the short term things seem stable in our section.

Overall, I am very proud of the work we have done this year. I would like to thank the many volunteers who whose hard work made this possible. Let's keep the momentum going through 2025!

Adam Tilson, *M.A.Sc., P.Eng.*,  
Chair, IEEE South Saskatchewan Section

## 5. Section Officers and Chapter/Affinity Officers



Adam Tilson  
Chair  
RES Representative



Shahedur Rahman  
Vice-Chair



Bhavik Pandya  
Secretary



Yogesh Sharma  
Treasurer



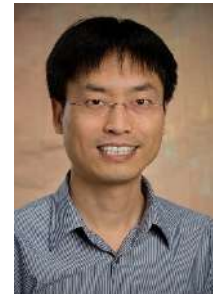
Kin-Choong Yow  
Past Chair



Olufemi Oluyemi  
Educational Activities



Nashid Shahriar  
Membership  
Development



Zhanle Wang  
Professional Activities



Aliasghar Salehpour  
Student Activities



Ashley Kanyatte  
Student Representative



Behnam Farzaneh  
Grad Student  
Representative



Amirhossein Motavali  
STEM Coordinator



Brooklyn Coulson  
Web Developer



Moeed Shamim  
eNotice Coordinator  
vTools Coordinator

## Computer Chapter



Tim Maciag  
Computer Chapter Chair



Niraj Bhakhar  
Computer Chapter Vice-  
Chair

## IAS/PES Joint Chapter



Samia Sami  
IAS/PES Vice- Chair

## Young Professionals



Young Professionals  
Chair  
Babith Varghese

## Women in Engineering



Women in Engineering  
Chair  
R Ong



Women in Engineering  
Vice Chair  
Drashti Soni

## 6. Financial Report

### Income and Expenditure Statement

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## IEEE South Saskatchewan

Prepared by Adam Tilson on Nov 19, 2024

### Balance

CIBC Local Bank Account	\$ 20,332.00	as of Nov 19, 2024
Balance		
NextGen Bank Account	\$ 19,783.98	as of Nov 19, 2024
Balance		

### Revenue

Rebate	\$ 5,960.46
CCECE 2023 Revenue	\$ 8,448.33
Interest	\$ 295.13

### Expenses

Section Meetings	\$ 1,119.74	
Technical Talks	\$ 360.26	
New Member Events		
Networking / Social Activities	\$ 382.49	
AGM Expenses	\$ 82.10	
IEEE R7 Meeting Fees	\$ 1,500.00	Spring BoD + 1 x Congress
Project Day Sponsorship	\$ 1,025.58	Includes supplies

**Sum** \$ 14,760.71 (\$ 4,470.17)

**Net Income** \$ 10,290.54

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## Outstanding Expenses (Estimated)

Due to several unforeseen circumstances, including the postal strike and a major upgrade to the IEEE banking system, there are a number of expenses from the fall still awaiting payment. These are included here as estimates, to give a more clear picture of that actual financial position of the section. Final numbers will be included in the final report, available early 2025:

### **Outstanding Expenses**

Section Meetings	\$	643.41	Aug-Sept Meals
Technical Talks	\$	86.14	Optical Network Talk
New Member Events	\$	355.15	Moose Jaw + Regina Events
Networking / Social Activities	\$	281.94	Escape Manor
AGM Expenses (Estimated)	\$	2,000.00	Plaques and meal
IEEE R7 Meeting Fees	\$	1500.00	Fall BoD Meeting, Student Congress

**Sum** (\$ 4,366.64)

**Net Income** \$ 5,923.90  
**(Including Outstanding)**

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Discussion: Section expenses minus R7 BoD fees are close to equal, even when we exclude the one-time boost from hosting CCECE 2023. However, these charges will likely expend reserves over the long term unless other spending is reduced or additional income streams are identified.

## Balance Sheet

### Balance Sheet FY 2024

#### Assets

Cash \$40,115.98

**Total Assets \$ 40,115.98**

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

Reserves \$30,000

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Total Liabilities \$30,000

#### Net Assets

Operating Funds \$  
10,115.98

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Total Net Assets \$

10,115.98

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 40,115.98**

CIBC Closing Balance Nov 21, 2023	\$ 20,332.00
NextGen Closing Balance Nov 21, 2023	\$ 19,783.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 40,115.98</b>

## 7. Membership Development

### Membership Overview

As of November 20, 2024, we have a total of 170 members in the following grades:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number</b>
Affiliate	1
Associate Member	1
Graduate Student Member	16
Life Member	9
Life Senior Member	4
Member	71
Senior Member	21
Student Member	47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170</b>

#### **New members**

Among them, we have 36 new members (membership effective date after 1 Jan 2024 and not previously a member at other grades).

#### **Membership upgrades**

Three (3) Members were upgraded to Senior Membership in 2024. They are:

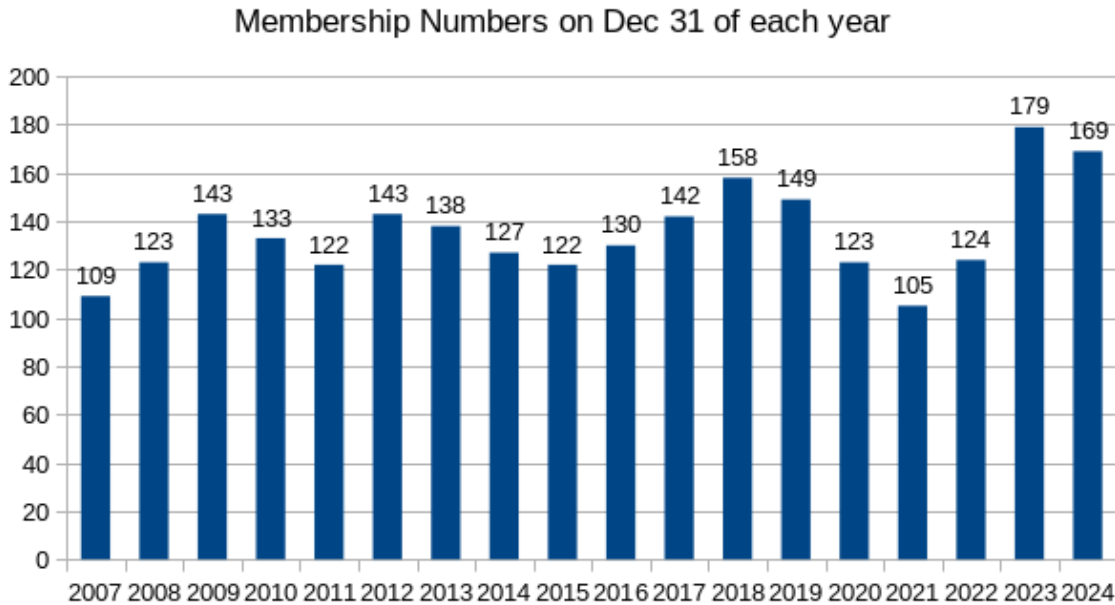
- Dr. Yogesh Sharma (February 2024)
- Mr. Behnam Farzaneh (September 2024)
- Dr. Bhavik Pandya (October 2024)

Congratulations to all!



## Membership Trends

Our membership number has experienced a slight decline from our all-time high in 2023. The following chart shows the membership numbers from 2007 to the present. These numbers do not include Affiliate Members, which we have one (1) as of November 2024.



The following chart shows the membership numbers for the past 12 months, from December 2023 to November 2024.



We can see that, after the service deactivation in February (where 2023 members who did not continue with membership were removed from the system), the membership numbers have

steadily increased with the most significant jump in September and October with new student memberships.

The following two tables show the membership numbers by grades between last year and this year (up to November 2024).

As at December 2023

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number</b>
Affiliate	1
Associate Member	1
Graduate Student Member	26
Life Member	8
Life Senior	3
Member	65
Senior Member	19
Student Member	57
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>180</b>
New members among the above (i.e. grade effective date after 1 Jan 2023 and not previously a member)	62

As at November 2024

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number</b>
Affiliate	1
Associate Member	1
Graduate Student Member	16
Life Member	9
Life Senior	4
Member	71
Senior Member	21
Student Member	47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170</b>
New members among the above (i.e. grade effective date after 1 Jan 2024 and not previously a member)	36

We can see that there a decrease in each of the student and grad student members (10 each), and an increase in members (+6), which is primarily caused by several student members upgrading to full members after graduation. We also have one new life member, and one new life senior – congratulations!

## 8. Events Organized

### 1 Sask Polytech Moose Jaw STB – Dynamo Seminar

Date: Jan 9, 2024

Time: 12:30pm

Location: Sask Polytech Moose Jaw

Dynamo Group hold a seminar describing their company objectives and encouraged EET students to apply at their organization for the cooperative work term.

#### Agenda

Discuss core values of the company:

-Safety

-Diversity

-Teamwork

Discuss various types of services provided by Dynamo:

-Field Services

-Engineering Services

-Construction Services

## 2 Sask Polytech Moose Jaw STB – Lunch and Learn

Date: Jan 10, 2024  
Time: 11:45 am  
Location: Sask Polytech Moose Jaw  
Safety Moment: Stair Safety

Interview tips and tricks

Describe the diverse opportunities available to students:

- can meet one's interests in field services, design, distribution or desk jobs
- big learning opportunity
- work with cutting edge technology
- work-life balance
- build a sense of pride by helping your community
- new experiences every day

## 3 Sask Polytech Moose Jaw STB – Bowling

Date: Jan 23, 2024  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: South Hill Bowling Center  
The IEEE South Saskatchewan Student Branch is going to South Hill Bowling Center in Moose Jaw for two rounds of bowling.

## 4 University of Regina STB – What is IEEE

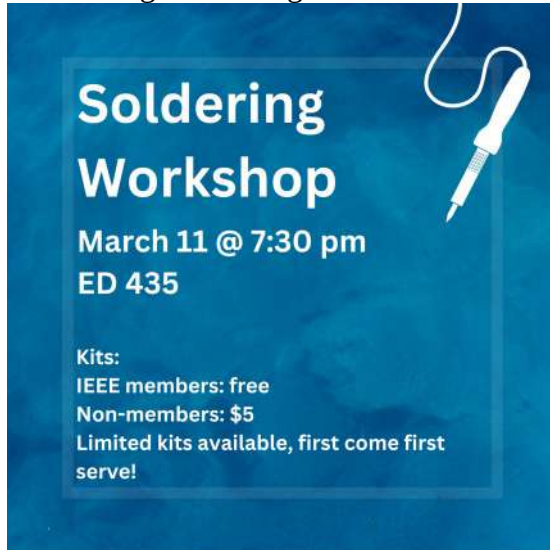
Date: Jan 25, 2024  
Time: 4:30 pm  
Location: The Lazy Owl, University of Regina

An interactive social event for those curious to learn what IEEE is all about and what the University of Regina Student Branch offers its members. Interact with the current council members as well as other current IEEE members. Refreshments served.



## 5 University of Regina STB – Soldering Workshop

Date: Mar 11, 2024  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: University of Regina ED 435  
An evening of learning how to solder to help with you university and hobby projects



## 6 University of Regina – Engineering Project Day 2024

Date: Apr 6, 2024  
Time: 8:30 am – 4:30pm  
Location: University of Regina ED Building First Floor  
IEEE South Saskatchewan is inviting all members to University of Regina Project Day hosted by the University of Regina Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

What is Project Day?

Project day is an annual conference where our 4th year Engineering students present their final-year design projects. It is the culmination of a great deal of work and effort on the part of university students. The event also includes a trade show and poster session where projects will be on display.

The IEEE South Saskatchewan Section attended and provided IEEE Branded bottled water.

## 7 University of Regina Student Branch AGM

Date: Apr 8, 2024  
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

Location: University of Regina ED 436.14  
IEEE University of Regina Student Branch AGM for year 2023 - 2024.

Agenda has been shared with all members for approval.

Food and drink will be served!



## 8 Technical Talk: Strategies for Excellence in Academic Research and Publication

Date: May 15, 2024  
Time: 11:00 am  
Location: University of Regina ED 438

This seminar aims to share various tips and best practices to achieve excellence in academic research. The talk will start with discussing how to perform research that creates an impact to the community. It will be followed by discussions on how to write up that research in a way that will attract audiences to read your articles. We will then discuss how to make oral presentations that will get your idea across to your audiences and attract collaborations. Finally, we will talk about academic integrity and ethical academic practices.



Kin-Choong Yow obtained his B.Eng (Elect) with 1st Class Honours from the National University of Singapore in 1993, and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University, UK in 1998. He joined the University of Regina in September 2018, where he is presently a Professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Kin-Choong Yow's research interest is in Artificial General Intelligence and Smart Environments. He has published over 100 top quality international journal and conference papers, and he has served as reviewer for a number of premier journals and conferences. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Advances in Information Technology (JAIT), a Managing Editor of the International Journal of Information Technology (IntJIT), and a Guest Editor of MDPI Applied Sciences. He has been invited to give presentations at various scientific meetings and workshops, such as ACIRS in 2018, ICATME in 2021, CSEA 2023 and AIRC 2024.





## 9 Technical Talk: Generative AI in Academia: Factual and Ethical Use

Date: Jun 12, 2024  
Time: 11:30 am  
Location: University of Regina ED 388

Join us for an exciting talk on the usage of generative AI in academia. This talk aims to achieve three main goals:

1. Demystify Generative AI - by exploring various non-technical analogies and technical explanations, help the listeners understand that Generative AI such as Large Language Models (LLMs) or Diffusion techniques are not actual intelligence, but rather deep learning algorithms trained on very large datasets which product repeatable patterns which mimic human creations.
2. Getting Factual Information from Generative AI - Discussing the outputs of these models, their strengths and weaknesses, whether or not the information can be trusted, whether or not the generated text can be legally used or claimed as your own, and who is responsible for any errors created by the AI.
3. Ethical Implications of Generative AI - What are some of the impacts on these technologies on Academia, other industries, and the environment. As students and academics, should we be dedicating a significant amount of time to learn these technologies effectively? How will the impact of generated content proliferating the internet influence the following generations for AI. And finally, how much of generative AI is groundbreaking new technology and how much is hype used to sell products?

This is intended to be a thought-provoking conversation to cause you to think deeper about the subject rather than providing all of the answers. We will conclude with a brief question and answer period, pizza and pop, and networking.



Adam is a laboratory instructor in Software Systems Engineering at the University of Regina, and the current chair of the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section. He wrote his Master's Thesis in 2020 on using Generative AI in Game Development, before the technology had taken off. As an early adopter of the technology, he has since followed further developments with some level of enthusiasm and a healthy amount of skepticism.



## 10 Workshop: Java for C/C++ Programmers

Date: Jul 19, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00pm

Location: University of Regina ED 485.1 / Zoom

This workshop aims to introduce a participant who is skillful in C/C++ programming to the concepts of Java Programming. The workshop will start with an overview of the main differences between Java and C/C++, and then go through the Java syntax for essential topics like Objects and Classes, Data Types, Variables, Branching, Loops, I/O, Packages and Collections. For each topic, the difference between Java and C/C++ is highlighted, and there will be exercises so that participants can feel the difference between writing a program in Java and in C/C++.

Pre-requisites: Knowledge of C/C++ Programming

Speaker: Dr. Kin-Choong Yow

## 11 Workshop: Functional Programming in Java

Date: Jul 26, 2024  
Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00pm  
Location: University of Regina ED 485.1 / Zoom

Functional Programming is a programming style that is different from the more well-known Structured Programming or Object-Oriented Programming style. Functional Programming relies exclusively on functions as first-class citizens, which means that they are treated like any other values, and they can be passed around as arguments or returned from other functions. Modern applications that involves highly concurrent computing on multicore machines face a big challenge with the machines' "state". All imperative languages, including object-oriented languages, involve multiple threads changing the shared state of objects. This is where deadlocks, stack traces, and low-level processor cache misses all take place. If there is no state, there is no problem. In this workshop, we will explore the principles of Functional Programming and how we can implement those concepts in Java so as to build massively parallel applications in the field of Big Data.

Pre-requisite: Knowledge of Java Programming

Speaker: Dr. Kin-Choong Yow

## 12 Sask Polytech Moose Jaw STB – Introduction to IEEE

Date: Sep 6, 2024  
Time: 12:00 pm  
Location: Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw

Dr Kin introduced first semester students in the Electrical Engineering Technology program at SaskPolytech to the IEEE.

Speaker: Dr. Kin-Choong Yow

## 13 Sask Polytech Moose Jaw STB – Chat GPT Applications in Electrical Engineering

Date: Sep 12, 2024  
Time: 2:30 pm  
Location: Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw / Zoom  
Workshop about how Chat GPT works and some applications in electrical engineering.  
Speaker: Dr. Kin-Choong Yow

## 14 New Member Welcome Event

Date: Sep 13, 2024  
Time: 12:00 pm  
Location: University of Regina ED 318  
This is New Member Welcome event for new University of Regina students to listen to the benefits of being an IEEE member, and to meet with existing IEEE student members and the Section Executive Committee officers. Refreshments (Pizza + Pop) will be provided at the event. The event is limited to only the first 30 non-member students that registered. This event is also free for all our existing IEEE student members, and there is no limit to the number of IEEE student members that can attend the event.  
Speaker: Adam Tilson

## 15 University of Regina STB – What is IEEE

Date: Sep 13, 2024  
Time: 12:00 pm  
Location: University of Regina ED 318

This is New Member Welcome event for new University of Regina students to listen to the benefits of being an IEEE member, and to meet with existing IEEE student members and the Section Executive Committee officers. Refreshments (Pizza + Pop) will be provided at the event. The event is limited to only the first 30 non-member students that registered. This event is also free for all our existing IEEE student members, and there is no limit to the number of IEEE student members that can attend the event.

Speaker: Adam Tilson

## 16 University of Regina STB – IEEE Day 2024

Date: Sep 26, 2024  
Time: 4:30 pm  
Location: University of Regina ED 114

Join us for an interactive social event to learn all about IEEE and what the University of Regina Student Branch offers its members. Interact with the current council members while enjoying refreshments.



## 17 Senior Member Upgrade Information Session

Date: Oct 16, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Am I eligible to become an IEEE Senior Member? What are the benefits of becoming an IEEE Senior Member? How do I apply to become an IEEE Senior Member?

This event shares with the participants the benefits of being an IEEE Senior Member, the requirements and the process to apply for it. This event also invites a recently elevated Senior Member to share his experience in the application process and what he perceives as the benefits of the IEEE Senior Membership to his career.

Student Members are invited to attend too as their period of Undergraduate Studies or Graduate Studies will count towards the 10 years of Professional Experience requirement.



Dr. Kin-Choong Yow.



Mr. Babith Varghese  
Mr. Babith Varghese is the Program Head of the Electrical Engineering Technology Program at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Moose Jaw Campus. He is also the Young Professionals (YP) Affinity Group Chair of the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section. He received his IEEE Senior Membership on December 1st, 2023.

You are screen sharing Stop share

IEEE South Saskatchewan Section



# Senior Member Upgrading Information Session

Kin-Choong Yow, *PhD, PEng, SMIEEE, MACM*  
Past Chair, South Saskatchewan Section  
October 16, 2024



- Kin-Choong Yow
- Shahedur Rahm...
- Shahedur Rahman (Shahed)
- Ujjwal
- Ujjwal
- Nashid Shahriar
- Nashid Shahriar

## 18 University of Regina STB – IEEE Xtreme 18.0

Date: Oct 26, 2024  
Time: 6:00 pm (24 hours!)

Location: University of Regina ED 485.1

Interested in participating in IEEE Xtreme this year? The University of Regina Student Branch is providing a room, proctor, and food for this event. If you haven't already, please sign up your team at <https://xtreme.vtools.ieee.org/> and then sign up for this event to ensure we have space and food available for your team to compete.

One student team persevered for about 8 hours of coding before bowing out to study for exams. Adam Tilson served as proctor for the event, with Cameron Oehler representing the student branch.



## 19 Networking Event: Escape Manor

Date: Oct 29, 2024  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: Escape Manor 1975 Broad St. Regina  
IEEE South Saskatchewan is hosting its networking and escape room event hosted at Escape Manor located at 1975 Broad St, Regina, SK S4P 1Y1 on Tuesday, Oct 29, 2024

IEEE Members: Free to attend

IEEE member can bring one guest free of cost

non-IEEE Members: \$15

Please register on vTools. Registration is mandatory. Cash can be collected at the event based on the availability. Please visit the <https://www.escapemanor.com/regina> to view the rooms. Please indicate your preference in the registration section.



## 20 Technical Talk: Next Generation Optical Network Transport

Date: Nov 12, 2024

Time: 11:00am

Location: University of Regina CT 133

Background information (i.e. building blocks, topology, architecture) of the optical transport network will be discussed, followed by a brief comparison of the older generation and the next generation of optical transport networks. We will conclude with new features, automation, and application of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning in optical transport network.



Shahedur Rahman

Shahedur Rahman (P. Eng.) is senior engineer with over 25 years of work experience mostly in the Telecommunications field. Shahedur completed both his B.A.Sc. and M.A.Sc from University of Regina. He is an IEEE senior member and a long term volunteer of IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Executive Committee.

In his career, he has supported wireline voice network, IP TV network, and fixed wireless broadband network. He has also supported and designed SS7 & Diameter based signalling networks, network troubleshoot tools & their infrastructure, and mobile wireless (3G) circuit switch core network. He is experienced in IP core and service development. Most recently, he has designed and architected a next generation long haul optical transport network.



## 21 Annual General Meeting 2024

Date: Nov 20, 2024  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: University of Regina College West CW 215  
6:00pm Land Acknowledgement

Welcome by Adam Tilson, IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Chair

6:15pm Dinner

Ultimate Experience Catering

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Atlantic Salmon, Vegetarian Lasagne

6:45pm Invited Talk on “VR Applications in Education and Industry”

by Daniel Price, Melcher Studios

7:15pm Call to Order

Establishment of Quorum,

7:20pm Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: To accept the Agenda as circulated

Motion: To accept the Minutes of AGM 2023 as circulated

7:25pm Chair’s Report

Motion: To accept the Chair's Report 2024.

7:35pm Treasurer’s Report

Motion: To accept the financial budget and actuals 2024 (to date).

7:45pm Presentation of Section Awards

8:00pm Motion to Adjourn

## **9. Section Awards 2024**

### **Outstanding Leadership Award**

#### **Scott Bannerman**

Director, Generation Asset Management & Planning, SaskPower

Scott Bannerman is an accomplished engineer and leader with over 30 years of experience, specializing in generation asset management, planning, and engineering services. In his current role, Scott oversees a multidisciplinary engineering department responsible for regulatory compliance, operational and maintenance support, and long-term generation planning. His role includes managing asset sustainment, directing capital investments, and planning the development and siting of new generation assets.

Prior to his current position, Scott spent over a decade as the Director of Engineering Services for Power Production at SaskPower. In this capacity, he spearheaded key initiatives such as the Swift Current Combined Cycle Project and provided technical guidance for projects like the Tazi Twe Hydro-electric development and geothermal and biomass evaluations. He also led the execution of major generation projects, including the Aspen, Chinook, and Great Plains Power Stations. Scott's career reflects a deep commitment to innovation and improvement. He has championed predictive maintenance programs, standardized engineering tools, and advanced multi-business unit collaborations to enhance asset reliability. Earlier roles included significant contributions to capital project execution and operational support, such as leading the Boundary Dam Unit 3 Clean Coal Project and pioneering carbon capture technology.

Beyond his professional achievements, Scott is an active volunteer and mentor. He has served as Chairperson for the Saskatchewan Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Board, a guest lecturer and capstone project sponsor for Saskatchewan universities, and a Technical Advisory Group Member for the Electric Power Research Institute. His dedication to mentorship has positively impacted countless engineers within and outside his organization.

Scott Bannerman's enduring impact on the energy industry is marked by his technical expertise, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedication to advancing sustainable power generation.

## **Outstanding Achievement Award**

### **Jeremy Gabel**

Director of Technology (Wireline Access), SaskTel

Jeremy Gabel is an accomplished technology leader with nearly two decades of experience at SaskTel, where he has made exceptional contributions to the telecommunications industry. As the Director of Technology (Wireline Access) since May 2020, Mr. Gabel has been instrumental in advancing the fifth generation of cellular communications. His leadership was pivotal in the successful completion of the Government of Saskatchewan's Wireless Saskatchewan initiative, culminating in the launch of 10 macro cell towers to enhance connectivity across the province.

Previously, as Manager of Technical Assistance (Voice Network) from October 2019 to May 2020, Mr. Gabel made significant strides in bridging wireless coverage gaps in underserved rural areas, ensuring equitable access to cutting-edge technology for rural communities. His work laid the groundwork for bringing 5G capabilities to these areas, extending the benefits of modern telecommunications beyond urban centers.

From July 2017 to October 2019, Mr. Gabel served as Senior Planner in Marketing Strategy, where he showcased his strategic acumen by identifying market trends and developing operational improvements to secure SaskTel's market leadership. He also briefly held the role of Senior Planner in Technology Strategy in early 2017, where he drove transformational changes to align SaskTel's technological infrastructure with future business goals.

Beginning his career at SaskTel in 2005, Mr. Gabel spent nearly a decade as an Engineer, contributing to a range of telecommunications projects with a focus on project management and technical versatility. His ability to synthesize complex concepts and lead diverse teams has been a hallmark of his career. Jeremy Gabel's enduring commitment to innovation and excellence has played a key role in SaskTel's growth and leadership in the telecommunications sector. His outstanding achievements and impact make him a highly respected figure in the industry and a deserving recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

## **Outstanding Service Award**

### **Brent Maksymiw**

Director of Major Projects, SaskPower

With over 28 years of service at SaskPower, Brent has been a pivotal leader in advancing Saskatchewan's energy infrastructure. Currently the Director of Major Projects, he spearheads efforts to modernize and decarbonize the province's power systems, overseeing significant investments that ensure sustainability and reliability for future generations.

Throughout his career, Mr. Maksymiw has held various leadership roles, including Director of Project Delivery & Construction and Director of Engineering. His accomplishments include guiding SaskPower through transformative periods, fostering local and Indigenous participation in major projects like the Chinook Power Station, and championing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining affordable energy solutions.

Starting as a Plant Engineer in 1996, Mr. Maksymiw progressed through increasingly impactful roles, gaining expertise in operations, engineering, and strategic management. His leadership extends beyond SaskPower through his volunteer work with the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section, where he has supported the professional development of his peers.

Mr. Maksymiw's commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community engagement makes him a standout leader in the energy sector. His contributions have left a lasting impact on SaskPower and the province, earning him the honor of the Outstanding Service Award.

## **Excellent Volunteer Award**

### **Dr. Kin-Choong Yow, P.Eng., SMIEEE**

Professor, University of Regina

Dr. Yow is a distinguished educator, dedicated volunteer, and accomplished professional in the fields of engineering and applied sciences. Currently serving as a Professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Regina since 2018, Dr. Yow is recognized for his expertise, leadership, and commitment to advancing science, technology, and professional development through education and volunteerism.

With the IEEE, Dr. Yow has served as South Sask Secretary (2020–2021), South Sask Chair (2022–2023), CCECE 2023 Technical Program Committee Co-Chair (CCECE, 2023), and Vice-Chair, Region 7 Conference Advisory Committee (2024), South Saskatchewan Representative, IEEE Canadian Foundation.

Under Dr. Yow's leadership, the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section achieved unprecedented success, receiving multiple prestigious awards in 2023, including the IEEE Canada Exemplary Small Section Award and the IEEE MGA Outstanding Small Section Award. His efforts contributed to record membership growth, with the section reaching an all-time high of 180 members. Dr. Yow played a critical role in organizing the Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE) 2023, coordinating reviews and managing the overall conference execution. The event was praised as a landmark success, marking the first post-pandemic IEEE Canada conference with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Dr. Yow's volunteerism embodies his commitment to mentorship, education, and professional growth. His contributions have left a lasting impact on students, professionals, and the local community, fostering a culture of excellence and service.

## **Long Service Award**

### **Dr. Craig Gelowitz**

Program Chair and Associate Professor, University of Regina

Dr. Gelowitz is a distinguished academic and professional dedicated to the advancement of software systems engineering and engineering education. He serves as the Program Chair for the Software Systems Engineering program at the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Regina. While not glamorous, administration roles such as these are fundamental to ensuring the quality and consistency of the program, and deserving to be recognized along with research, and Craig has served in this role admirably for years.

Craig has been an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) since 2000, achieving the prestigious elevation to Senior Member status in 2023. His commitment to the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section spans over two decades, during which he has held various leadership roles, including Treasurer (2004-2006, 2010-2013, 2016-2017) and Chair (2007-2008, 2014-2015). His contributions have been instrumental in cultivating a dynamic professional community and advancing software engineering in the region.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gelowitz has exemplified excellence in education, research, and service. His dedication to both the University of Regina and the IEEE community reflects his commitment to the engineering profession's growth and innovation.



~ THE END ~