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## Chapter News

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### Chapter Info

Thank you to all 20 chapters' presidents who submitted their chapter report on time for Society year 2008. Congratulations to the Washington DC Chapter, which received the Chapter of the Year Award for 2008. Please encourage and help all your chapter's affiliate members to upgrade to member.

### Bay Area Chapter News

The Bay Area Chapter held a general membership meeting on September 19, 2008, via a telephone conference call. Items discussed were the ISSC in Vancouver, the upcoming Conference in Huntsville, Chapter elections and possible tours at local facilities.

### Houston Chapter

The Chapter is alive and well, despite Hurricane Ike's best efforts. Members are in the process of collecting pertinent observations and lessons learned from a system safety perspective. To date, these range from the validation of building design codes as observed in coastal areas to the validation of system mitigation actions taken by various entities following Hurricane Katrina (for example, cell tower redundant power strings). Chapter President Diane Rivera resigned her position in August due to personal and work conflicts; we are sad to see her go, and thank her for stepping up as our president. Good luck, Diane — we hope to still benefit from your participation in the future. Derek Robins has assumed the duties of Chapter president.

### Sierra High Desert Chapter

Congratulations to Ken Chirkis, who was awarded Manager of the Year at the 26<sup>th</sup> ISSC for his outstanding leadership for Society year 2008. Ken's ability to motivate, lead and mentor is inspirational.

### Singapore Chapter

The Singapore Chapter held an Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 16, 2008. The agenda of the meeting included:

- Update the Singapore Chapter Executive Committee members on the developments at the Society Executive Council Meeting held during the 26<sup>th</sup> ISSC


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- Plan for a sharing session on Nov. 14, 2008
- Plan for a system safety course in early 2009
- Closing of books on the finances for ISSRC2008
- Discussion on a Chapter meeting with the Ministry of Manpower (MoM) on the concept of system safety

On Oct. 13, 2008, Yue Sang led a team comprising Eng Ling, Su Cheok, Associate Professor Chua and Kwee Seng for a dialogue session with the Occupational Safety & Health Division (system safety branch) of the MoM. The Ministry is keen to understand more about the concept of system safety and to explore how Singapore can leverage system safety to enhance the safety level of local industries. We also shared information on the activities of the System Safety Society. A major take-away from the meeting was the MoM's request for some of our more experienced system safety practitioners to share information on the concept of system safety at some of its safety officer courses.

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### Tennessee Valley Chapter

Twenty-seven members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter journeyed to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, to attend the ground-breaking 26<sup>th</sup> International System Safety Conference at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in downtown Vancouver. This year's awards banquet had some great news for Tennessee Valley, as our own Tom Pfitzer, of APT Research, received the Society's highest honor, the Professional Development award, for his sustained, significant achievement in the advancement of the system safety profession during the course of his career. In addition, Tom was also named a recipient of the President's award for his outstanding service to the Society.

TVC members contributed to the technical program with a total of six papers, a panel and a tutorial. The Conference was also a great opportunity for Rhonda Barnes, ISSC 2009 Conference chair, to publicize next year's event hosted in Huntsville, Alabama, August 3-7 at the Von Braun Center, with the Embassy Suites as our Conference hotel. Staffing the ISSC 2009 booth were Mary Bissell (social chair, ISSC 2009), Jo Seay (Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau) and Jennifer Terry (Von Braun Center). The Planning Committee would like to extend a thank you to those local vendors and businesses that provided donations and door prizes used to publicize ISSC 2009. Visit ISSC 2009 at [www.issc2009.org](http://www.issc2009.org).

On Sept. 9, 2008, 28 TVC members participated in the annual Huntsville Association of Technical Societies (HATS) dinner at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center to honor our Professional of the Year (POY), James S. Blanteno. The annual HATS POY dinner honors professionals from 19 local technical organizations. Jim was selected because of key contributions to TVC initiatives to educate high school and college engineering students about system safety early in their careers. Though not in a formal or traditional classroom setting, system safety is learned by future engineers through the development of the System Safety award in The Great Moonbuggy Race and the Symbiotic System Safety Award (Special Award Sponsor) in the Alabama Regional Future City Competition. The Chapter also hosted two Science and Technology Education and Training (STEDTRAIN) grant winners. Grants are utilized to further the quality of science and technology education in northern Alabama K-12 schools, both public and private. You can learn more about STEDTRAIN at [www.hats.org](http://www.hats.org).

The Chapter's September meeting was held September 17 at Westar, a QinetiQ North America Corporation in Huntsville, Alabama. There were 34 members and guests present. Don Hanline, Chapter president, provided a brief rundown of information from the ~~National Executive Committee~~ *System Safety Council* meeting held in Vancouver. The highlights included the EC discussions on increasing dues, the name change to "International System Safety Society" and the re-write of the by-laws and operating procedures. Keith Rose, health physicist in the AMCOM Safety Office presented the AMCOM Radiation Safety program and information on the three Nuclear Regulatory Committee licenses that are held by AMCOM.

Mark the Dates: For the rest of the Chapter year, meetings will be on the third Wednesday of each month: December 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 15. Pam Kniess is working on an exciting and varied presentation schedule. Watch for more information regarding meeting location and speakers for these and other meetings that may be called to support ISSC 2009.

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### Washington DC Chapter

Congratulations to all our Chapter members who contributed to our winning the Chapter of the Year Award for Society years 2007 and 2008.

For those of you who attended the WDC System Safety Training Symposium (WDC SSTS) and the hundreds who asked about future similar events, the WDC has decided by EC vote to hold a WDC *Chapter*

SSTS every other year, with the next one scheduled for 2010. Look for more information and details soon, and remember to check our Web site for updates.

Elections are complete, and we have a new Executive Council (EC). Congratulations to all those WDC members who voted - your activity in the Chapter is appreciated. Our new EC officers were inducted and outgoing officers were shown our gratitude at the October meeting and social.

Congratulations to all of our new Chapter EC members:

- Secretary — Kathy Garcia
- Treasurer — Vonderlear Fields
- Meetings & Events Officer — Kate Perrone, Sherry Smith and Marci Roan
- Education and Scholarships Officer — Janet Gill
- Webmaster — Donne Difiglia
- Memberships Officer — Nicholas Dunford and Connie Norris
- Special Projects Officer — Oscar Vera

Let us never forget that service to our professional society is noteworthy and that it does make a difference.

A number of awards were presented during this ~~Executive Council~~ EC year: At the June WDC SSTS, Amber Schauf and Dave Shampine received the WDC President's award for their significant contributions to the Chapter during the EC year. Donne Difiglia received a President's award for her unparalleled contributions to the Chapter in developing the first WDC Web site, as well as her continued support as Chapter secretary. Rachel Lupro, Nick Dunford, Oscar Vera, Michelle Arevalo, Peggy Rogers and Mark Annen received President's awards for their significant contributions to the successful SSTS. This was a landmark system safety-focused training event and a hallmark for the Society to follow. Two non-Chapter members also received WDC President awards. One was presented to the president of the College of Southern Maryland, Bradley Gottfried, for his and his staff's support in hosting the WDC SSTS. A Chapter President's award was also presented to Cathy Carter, administrative secretary for the System Safety Society for her unwavering support to the registration of more than 150 attendees to the SSTS and her on-site support for registrations and general logistics during the SSTS. *at*

A new Chapter honor and award was created and presented this year. ~~The Chapter of the Year~~ Plaque Display Honor and accompanying Letter of Commendation ~~was~~ developed and ratified by the WDC EC. This honor is reserved for the select organization that contributed significantly to WDC and System Safety Society goals and objectives. The Executive Council committee determines the recipients of this honor. The honor of displaying the Chapter of the Year plaque remains until the selection of the next recipient. *were*

The first recipient of this honor is EG&G Technical Services, a division of URS, and the Chapter members at the EG&G Dahlgren Virginia Office. The award was presented at the WDC October meeting. Finally, the WDC Technical Exchange award was also developed and ratified by the WDC EC. This award recognizes the organization that has provided our membership with the most rewarding educational experience of the year and is reserved for one organization or person per year. This year's recipient is Jim O'Connor, the director of the nano and microfabrication laboratory located at the University of Maryland College Park.