The Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee

The IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) Chapters and Membership Department (CMD) has recently undergone a structural change, leaving the CMD comprising the following newly established committees: the CMD Chapter Development Committee, the CMD Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee, and the CMD Travel Awards and Events Standing Committee. The traditional CMD awards and contests will fall under the CMD Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee. These awards include the Outstanding Member Award, Outstanding Chapter Award, Chapter Web Contest, Most Happening IAS Chapter, Student Thesis Contest, Zucker Design Contest, Robotics Demonstration Contest, and Humanitarian Project Contest.

The mandate of the Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee is to not only promote the existing CMD awards and contests but refine and improve the current application and judging process for these contests. The aim is to encourage more Chapters to take part in the contests, particularly those that have never submitted applications in the past.

The submission deadline for all contests is 15 March every year.

The CMD contests have various categories to accommodate the different Chapters and members. The Outstanding Member Award recognizes the best Chapter organizer, CMD officer, Chapter chair, Student Branch Chapter chair, Student Branch Chapter advisor, and area chair. The Outstanding Chapter Award honors the best Chapters in the following categories: Student Branch Chapter, small and large IAS Chapter, small and large joint Chapter, and outstanding new Chapter. The Chapter Web Contest recognizes the best Chapter websites. The Most Happening Chapter honors the Chapters staging outstanding events and activities with frequent submissions to the CMD newsletter throughout the year.

The Graduate Student Thesis Contest acknowledges the best emerging academic work falling within the scope of the IAS. For the Zucker Design Contest, undergraduate students submit their academic design projects. The design contest has both an individual and a team category, and winners receive cash prizes. The Robotics Demonstration Contest encourages students to demonstrate how problems can be solved through robotics. The Humanitarian Project Contest recognizes students who have implemented innovative projects to aid any underprivileged community. The contest has grown in popularity over a short time, with students implementing successful projects in the energy, health care, security, and education sectors.

The IAS Myron Zucker Research Grant program will also fall under the Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee. The research grant program awards two grants, not exceeding US$25,000 each, to be given during every annual proposal cycle. Faculty members who hold a full-time appointment at an institution of higher education are encouraged...
to submit proposals to the Zucker Research Grant Program. The proposed project should be designed to produce publishable results within 12 months.

Adhering to Zucker’s goal, the principal objectives of the Student-Faculty Grant Program are

- to pique students and faculty interest in the industry applications of electrical engineering
- to involve students and faculty in engineering problems related to the scope of the IAS
- to provide financial assistance to students for their education
- to provide seed money that will allow faculty members to commence or expand teaching, research, or academic concentrations in the industry applications of electrical engineering.

The vast array of awards and contests under the Chapter Promotion Programs Standing Committee provides various opportunities for both individuals and teams to be recognized for exceptional work done both at the academic level and within their respective IAS Chapters. Contest winners have presented their work at past IAS annual meetings, which has further promoted the sharing of knowledge among members and Chapters. The vision for the standing committee is that the popularity of these contests will grow with more Chapters and members submitting applications in the future.

—Lesley Arakkal