The IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Chapter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sponsors and cosponsors several technical events that are centered on myriad power electronics applications in motor drives, renewable energy, microgrids, and other emerging applications. On 16 June, the Chapter hosted a Distinguished Lecturer event at the Mequon Conference Center, located at Rockwell Automation, Wisconsin. The speaker, Prof. Krishna Shenai, gave a captivating lecture on the field-reliability of high-density power converters. Prof. Shenai has more than 40 years of experience in this area, and he currently serves as a distinguished professor and director of research and development at Nitte Mahalinga Adyanthaya Memorial Institute of Technology in Karnataka, India. Approximately 20 guests from several industrial companies and academic universities in the Milwaukee area attended the event. An extended question and discussion session followed the talk. Before the lecture, Prof. Shenai visited the Research and Development Labs at Rockwell Automation (Figure 1).

This August marked the two-year anniversary of the formation of the IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Student Branch Chapter at the University of California (UC) Berkeley. The last two years have been remarkable for our Chapter, so it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on our growth and what we have learned in this short time.

Power electronics and IEEE PELS both have a rich history in California, and especially in the San Francisco Bay Area. For many decades, pioneering institutions, companies, and entrepreneurs have contributed fundamental and ongoing innovations in the field of power electronics. At UC Berkeley, we formed our Chapter with two salient goals. First, we wanted to tap into this wealth of knowledge and history and connect our students with the ideas and people behind them. Our second goal was to provide a platform where we could showcase the latest and most exciting developments in power electronics to our students and people around the world.

A hallmark of our Chapter is our seminar lecture series, which provide a venue for top researchers and technologists in power electronics to...
present their work to our entire student body (Figure 1). Each lecture is recorded and uploaded to YouTube, where the videos have attracted more than 3,000 views to date.

Moreover, the formation of our Chapter serendipitously coincided with the return of the IEEE PELS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter in 2016, led by Brian Zahnstecher and his incredible team. Since the beginning, our symbiotic relationship has been foundational in helping our Chapter realize our goals and has resulted in five cosponsored events as well as invaluable networking opportunities for our student members.

In July, the 2017 IEEE Workshop on Control and Modeling for Power Electronics, organized by Prof. Juan Rivas of Stanford University, California, provided our members with a global perspective of the latest academic and industrial research in power electronics.

Since the formation of our Chapter, enrollment in the introductory power electronics class at UC Berkeley has increased by more than 100% year after year. Students are recognizing the exciting opportunities of doing research and working in the field of power electronics.

Looking forward to the next two years, our Chapter will continue on our mission to enable power electronics to cultivate and thrive at Berkeley.

by Mahmoud Saleh

City College of New York Student Chapter Society Members Receive Awards

In April 2017, the chair of the IEEE Power and Energy Society/Industrial Applications Society/Power Electronics Society (PES/IAS/PELS) City College of New York Student Branch Chapter, Mahmoud Saleh, won the James O. Gray Scholarship offered by the IEEE Systems Council (Figure 1).

The scholarship is named in memory of James O. Gray and recognizes students pursuing studies in process control systems engineering, plant automation, or instrumentation and measurement. The IEEE Systems Council presented Saleh with the award at the IEEE International System

![Image 1](https://example.com/image1)

**FIG 1** Mahmud Saleh, chair of the PES/IAS/PELS City College of New York Student Branch Chapter, winner of the 2017 James O. Gray Scholarship for studies in process control systems engineering and plant automation. (Photo courtesy of Mahmud Saleh.)

![Image 2](https://example.com/image2)

**FIG 2** Yusef Esa, vice chair of the PES/IAS/PELS City College of New York Student Branch Chapter, took third place in the 2017 IAS Chapters and Membership Development Thesis Contest, non-Ph.D. category. (Photo courtesy of Yusef Esa.)

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