

History Activities Coordinator

Anthony Davies

Goals

General goals are unchanged: encourage interest in the History of Technology in fields of interest to IEEE, especially among students and early career professionals, who cannot 'invent the future' with no knowledge of the past. Also, to make known more generally technical achievements and the people who were responsible for them. Particularly to raise awareness of the many new ideas and inventions that originated in parts of IEEE Region 8.

Status

Key activities are encouraging IEEE History Milestone Proposals, of which several are 'in progress'. Giving occasional invited lectures on History of Technology topics. Support for relevant conferences, now particularly HISTELCON2019 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, September 2019. Website is www.histelcon2019.org;

Outlook

There are many History Milestone proposals 'in progress' and it is hoped that several will be approved and unveiled in 2019. The IEEE History Committee may hold a meeting in Glasgow in September 2019. Coordination with IEEE History Center staff is considered important and valuable

Points of Concern

Difficulty in finding champions for Milestone Proposals who have the stamina to see them through to completion (takes at least two years, normally). Delays in the 'advocate' process which assesses proposals prior to their presentation to the History Committee. Difficulty in getting sufficient financial support and sponsorship for events such as HISTELCON2019, which is needed to keep the cost of attendance low enough for those whose employers will not pay for them to attend by sponsoring meals, conference bags, USB sticks with conference proceedings on them and so on, and perhaps paying travel costs for some key speakers.

Other Issues to report

The pictures show: 1. Squinty Bridge and Crane (Glasgow) - the HISTELCON locatio. Photo (c) Alan Roberston 2. plaque unveiling in Germany 3. plaque unveiling in Dundee, Scotland.

Photos and figures



