



## Tennessee Valley Chapter Executive Officers

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## President's Corner

The TVC Chapter is off to a better start this quarter than last with better food at chapter meetings (and resulting better attendance)! Topics and meeting locations have been provided during the first week of each month by Myris Dowdy. Meeting presentations, scheduled by V.P. Jonathan Henshey have been of general interest and well attended. A number of local firms continue to be generous in providing facilities and refreshments. In particular, Qine-

tiQ, SAIC, and APT have hosted multiple meetings at their superior facilities.

It is a pleasure to work with this Tennessee Valley Chapter, thanks to the level of support.

## Secretary's Meeting Minutes

### 15 December 2010 TVC SSS Meeting

The December TVC meeting was cancelled due to icy road conditions therefore keeping our scheduled speaker from Birmingham from traveling. The general consensus was that conducting the meeting constituted too great a risk.

### 19 January 2011 TVC SSS Meeting

The January TVC meeting was held at QinetiQ with TVC member Steve Hosner presenting on "Why Analyze if you can Test?" In fact, analysis can reveal system faults that are not readily found by testing and improve system safety. The meeting attendance was 16 members and 8 guests.

### 16 February 2011 TVC SSS Meeting

The February meeting of the TVC was held at APT-Research with Dr. Michael Griffin, Eminent Scholar and Professor, University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), NASA Administrator (2005-2009), presenting on "How do we fix System's Engineering?" and leading a discussion on the role of System Engineering described as fielding an elegant system. As discussed, an elegant design is one which produces the intended result, is both robust and efficient, and generates a minimum of unintended consequences. The meeting attendance was 25 members and 7 guests.

### 16 March 2011 TVC SSS Meeting

The February meeting of the TVC was held at SAIC with Dr. Martha Bidez presenting UAB's Master of Engineering in Advanced Safety Engineering and Management. This is an 18 month on-



line set of classes resulting in a Masters of Engineering. Prerequisites include 5 years in system safety and an accredited degree (not necessarily an engineering degree). The meeting attendance was 21 members and 9 guests.

## Vice President's Corner

Our Apr 20 meeting will be held at APT-Research, with John Livingston presenting additional lessons learned in system safety entitled "More Snares, Traps, and Quicksand" A more detailed meeting announcement will be provided the first week of April.

## Special Events Corner

### **TVC Support to the 2011 Alabama Regional Future City Competition**

The 2011 Alabama Regional Future City Competition was held on January 15th at the University of Alabama Huntsville in the Shelby Science Center. This started the year off to a great start serving the community. Jim Blanteno and Phillip Eder served as the TVC SSS judges. The competition consists of middle school students in the seventh and eighth grades competing for an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to compete nationally. Using specific evaluation criteria based on engineering design principles, students develop an understanding of the hard work and dedication required to build and operate their future cities. The students are required to construct a future city using SimCity software based on a specific theme. This year's theme was "Energy from Renewable Resources". Future City is the nation's largest engineering education program and is among the most popular. The TVC SSS Special Awards Category is for the best overall consideration of System Safety principles during the development, building, and operation of their future city. The TVC SSS became a Special Awards category sponsor a few years back and have continued supporting it.

Approximately 15 teams arrived and registered for the event which began promptly at 7:30 am and the judging began at 8:30 am. After the initial judging, the top six teams were announced, and then each of the top six teams provided their final round presentations. The presentations were judged, scored, and a final determination of the top three teams was identified. The top team receives funds for the team to travel and represent the Alabama Region during the national competition held in Washington, D.C. The winner for the Future City Competition was Huntsville Academy of Science and Foreign Languages.

TVC provided awards to first and second place winners.

The TVCSSS judges were Jim Blanteno and Phillip Eder.

### **TVC Support to the 2011 Moonbuggy Race**

The 2011 Great Moonbuggy Race was held on the 1st and 2nd of April. Nearly 90 student teams demonstrated the same ingenuity and can-do spirit that sent the first Apollo-era lunar rover rolling across the moon's surface 40 years ago. See: [http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/pdf/521683main\\_495250.pdf](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/pdf/521683main_495250.pdf) The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the System Safety Society became a sponsor for the race about 5 years ago. We judge on how well they understand System Safety and how they apply it when building their moonbuggies. They must submit a paper on several safety problems, charts on severity and probability and the method used to correct or mitigate the problem. The winners this year were; First Place winner was UAH and the Second Place winner was MTSU. At the award ceremony TVC member Jim Blanteno gave a short talk on the importance of System Safety and how a lot of the problems they had at the race could have been avoided by using it. TVC provided awards to first and second place winners of the safety competition.



# Tennessee Valley Chapter

<http://www.iss-tvc.org/>

April  
2011



John Frost presenting speaker trophy to Dr Michael Griffin



Mike Pessoney presenting appreciation trophy to Rhonda Barnes.



Huntsville Center for Technology student racers Ezra Logreira, left, and Karine Wittenborg are geared up for the 18th annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race. (MSFC/David Higginbotham)



Mike Pessoney presenting speaker trophy to Steve Hosner





Dr Martha Bidez presents UAB Masters Program

NOTE: There is still time to nominate your SSS peers and advisors for ISSS annual awards at the national and chapter level. Please take the time to recognize those that aid you in your professional quest. Nomination forms and Awards criteria are available at the SSS website. TVC chapter members submit nominations to Pam Kniess: [pamela.kniess@us.army.mil](mailto:pamela.kniess@us.army.mil)