Dear fellow IEEE Philadelphia Section members, I want to thank our Philadelphia Section members for allowing me to serve the Section for another year. I also welcome Taso Malatesta, 2021 Vice Chair, Denis Silage 2021 Treasurer, and Chris Dietsch our 2021 new Section Secretary. At the same time I would like to express my gratitude to Mark Madjar, J.J. Gingerich and Chris Vaile for their contributions to the Section. 2020 has been a challenging year that forced most of us to reinvent ourselves, the Philadelphia Section was not an exception. We moved our Philadelphia Section Night events to online Zoom based, that includes Senior Member elevation. We had to cancel our highly well known Awards Banquet and celebration, but we are not allowing this situation to defeat us, it just made us smarter. We have now an alternate plan for April, which is to have a virtual awards ceremony. Hope soon we will be back to normal. The Philadelphia Section Awards Banquet gives us the opportunity to recognize outstanding engineers in our area.
Volunteer Opportunity

Look for the link on our Section’s website to submit candidate names that meet the criteria. I am sure that among the Section we have many outstanding professionals that deserve recognition. If you or someone you know is worth recognizing, please be on the look for the 2020 nomination announcement.

2020 was quite a year for all of us at IEEE Philadelphia Section. I want to welcome all the Philadelphia student branches and encourage you to continue your increased participation with the Section. This year we will continue actively participating in the Congressional Visitation Days in Washington, DC. This very important event is an incredible experience to understand and interact with the US Congress. This is an event organized by the IEEE-USA Government Relations organization. And now, 2021 we have critical issues, or we can call opportunities that lie ahead. As we head into 2021, I ask for your continued support of our Section and increase the number of members. My best wishes for a successful 2021 to all our members, existing and new volunteers.

Happy holidays
Hello from Future City Philadelphia!

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! Even with these unprecedented times, the Future City Competition is going strong! As of today, there are 41 schools registered! This year's Future City Theme is Living on the Moon. The Competition Challenge: Design a future lunar city and provide examples of how your city uses two Moon resources to keep your citizens safe and healthy. This year's competition will be virtual. The competition Date is January 30, 2021. Details on how the virtual sessions are going to work are being developed. In the meantime, we need Volunteers! Volunteers for mentoring, judging, and support. Descriptions are as follows:

**Mentor:** Work with a student team to build their model and prepare for the competition. Teams are meeting virtually this year so you may be asked to work with a team outside your geographic area.

**City Essay Judge:** Evaluate a 1,500-word essay describing each team's city and response to the engineering challenge. The instructions for accessing and judging the essays will be emailed to you. Essays will be available for judging in mid-December and judging will be completed by mid-January. We anticipate 30–35 essays will be submitted; all judges will evaluate all essays, which could take about 20 minutes per essay. Rubrics will be provided.

**Model/Presentation/Q&A Judge:** All judging will be done virtually this year using Zoom and judges will input their scores into the Competition Management System (CMS). There will be three deliverables for each team that the judges will need to evaluate. The Model Slideshow (a pdf file) and a seven-minute Video Presentation will be available shortly after January 16; both will need to be judged and scores inputted into the CMS by January 26. The live ten-minute Q&A Session will be the morning of January 30. We anticipate that each judge will evaluate five to six teams and will need to evaluate all three elements for these teams. Rubrics will be provided for each deliverable. Training before the competition will be provided.

**Special Awards Evaluator:** Select which teams meet the criteria for a Special Award. Evaluators will be able to review team model slideshows and video presentations (available shortly after January 16) before the competition. These will also be available on the day of the competition. Evaluators will need to be available on the morning of January 30 to meet with teams virtually for Q&A. Scores will be recorded online which can be done using a mobile device while the a computer is used for Q&A via Zoom with the students. Training and detailed instructions will be provided.
**Competition Support and Zoom Hosts:** If you have been a “Competition Support” person in previous years, this is the equivalent role in the virtual world and we still need you regardless of Zoom experience. Zoom is our virtual platform and we need assistance both before and on the day of the competition to keep everything running smoothly. Individuals of all experience levels, including none, are needed. Duties will range from being virtual escorts for teams to helping to set up our virtual convention center. Instead of photographers we need people who can do screen captures. Training will be provided at all levels as needed.

**Zoom Experts and Tech Gurus:** The 2021 Philadelphia Future City Competition will be held in a virtual convention center and have about 50 simultaneous Zoom meeting throughout the morning. If you are already a Zoom expert or are an experienced tech person and know Zoom really well or want an excuse to learn more about it, we need you to help us pull this off. HTML and CSS skills would also be helpful but not required.

The following schools still need mentors:

- Abram Hebrew Academy – Yardley, PA
- Carver Engineering and Science – Philadelphia, PA
- Congreso De Latinos Unidos – Philadelphia, PA
- Dayspring Christian Academy – Mountville, PA
- Great Valley Middle School – Malvern, PA
- Pottsgrove Middle School – Pottstown, PA
- Springfield Township Middle School – Oreland, PA
- St Anastasia School – Newtown Square, PA
- St Elizabeth Parish – Uwchlan, PA
- St Hilary Poitiers School – Rydal, PA
- St Jane De Frances De Chantal – Easton, PA
- St Peter’s School – Philadelphia, PA

For more information on mentoring, please contact: Mike McAtee at mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit [http://www.futurecityphilly.org/fcvolops.html](http://www.futurecityphilly.org/fcvolops.html) to sign up.
IEEE SECTION OFFICERS

Emilio M. Salgueiro  
Section Chair  
emiliosalgueiro@ieee.org

Taso Malatesta  
Section Vice Chair  
t.malapetsas@gmail.com

Dennis Silage  
Section Treasurer  
silage@temple.edu

Chris Deitch  
Section Secretary  
chris.Deitsch@ieee.org

Peter Silverberg  
Past Chair  
psilverberg3@comcast.net

Robert Johnston  
Finance Chair  
rlj1620@gmail.com

ALMANACK STAFF

Emilio M. Salgueiro  
Publisher  
emiliosalgueiro@ieee.org

Zizi Elgamal  
Editor  
zizi.elgamal@ieee.org

Peter Silverberg  
Assistant Editor  
psilverberg3@comcast.net