Applying for Scholarships: Tips and Guidelines

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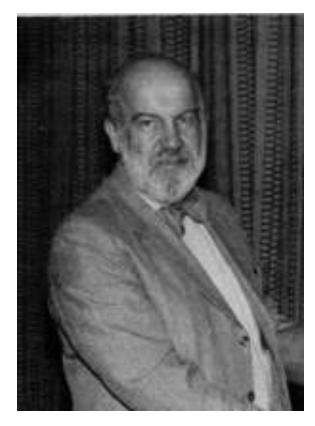**p.mager@computer.org**

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IEEE Computer Society Student Awards & Scholarships

▶ Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship

- Recognize and reward active student volunteer leaders in IEEE student branches or Computer Society Chapters
- Open to full time 3rd & 4th year and graduate students
- 36 awards of US $1,000

▶ Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) Honor Society Award

- Raise the importance of academic achievement in our future computer professionals (CS membership required)
- Mostly for graduate students & seniors (3 years of transcripts required)
- 4 awards of US $1,000

▶ Lance Stafford Larson Best Paper Award

- Open to all student members of IEEE
- 2 awards of $500: one for undergraduates, one for graduates
- Certificates and small awards for runner ups

Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship

IEEE Computer Society
Past President Richard E. Merwin

- Spring 2017

- 12 reviewers

- 52 applicants, 18 scholarships

- Deadline: 30 April

- Fall 2017

- 10 reviewers

- 60+ applications, 18 scholarhips

- Deadline: 30 September

Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship Criteria

- IEEE activities (30%)

- Other activities (10%)

- Grades/academic achievement including publications/awards (30%)

- Letter of recommendation from chapter/student branch advisor (20%)

- Vision Statement (10%)

- More information at https://www.computer.org/web/students/merwin

Preparing Your Richard E. Merwin Scholarship Application

▶ Be Concise; excessive material doesn't help

▶ Vision statement: what you will do as student ambassador

▶ Summary of your IEEE activities

▶ Recommendation should come from chapter or student branch advisor

▶ No more than 2 recommendation letters

▶ Avoid extraneous material: 10 page limit, excluding transcripts

Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship Recognition & Rewards

- Recognition on Computer.org and Press Release

- Monetary Award

- Mentoring/Guidance

- Student Ambassador

Student Ambassador Mentoring

▶ Merwin Scholarship Winners become Student Ambassadors and engage in a myriad of innovative activities.

▶ Former Ambassadors & other IEEE Volunteers serve as Mentors

▶ Help support new Awardees/Ambassadors & guide them to new IEEE activities & other adventures

Mentoring Committee headed by Prasanth Mohan and Shanu N

Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship

New Innovative Programs Started by Student Ambassadors

- ▶ IEEEXtreme 24 Hour Programming Competition—Prasanth Mohan, this year's program chair & now on mentoring committee

- ▶ madC, mobile application development contest—Josip Balen, founder & now on Merwin committee

- ▶ IEEE Compute, all India Newsletter

- ▶ New student chapters

- ▶ More IEEE activities

- ▶ These activities in turn provide the environment for developing future Merwin Scholarship winners

Examples of Merwin Student Ambassador Activities: IEEE Computer Society India Symposium (AICSIS) 2017 (hosted at IIIT- Allahabad)

▸ The IEEE CSIS, a flagship event of IEEE CS India SAC, was led by Aravindhan Anbazhagan(SAC Chair and a 2014 Merwin Scholar) and Megha Ben (SAC Secretary and a 2016 Merwin Scholar) mentored by Prasanth Mohan (former SAC Chair). The event helped engage new volunteers from the northern area in India. Several became Merwin scholars.

The IEEE CS India Student Activities Committee 2017 Team at the IEEE Computer Society India Symposium 2017 (IIIT-Allahabad)

▸ Chaired by Aravindhan Anbazhagan (2014 Merwin Scholar) the IEEE CS India SAC is instrumental in organizing various student activities across India.

▸ In the latest April 2017 cycle, 5 volunteers from the IEEE CS India SAC Team went on to become Merwin scholars.

IEEE Compute (The IEEE CS India Council Student Activities Committee Newsletter)

▶ IEEE Compute was the brain child of Maitri Vaghela (2015 Merwin Scholar). A handful of volunteers from IEEE Compute went on to become Merwin Winners including Anand J (2016), Megha Ben (2016), Abhishek Iyer (2016), Ashka Soni (2017) and Abhishek P (2017).

All Kerala IEEE CS Student Congress 2016

▶ Student Ambassador Initiative by Megha Ben (during her tenure as the Section Student Representative at IEEE CS Kerala Section)

Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE)

Upsilon Pi Epsilon
International Honor Society for the Computing and Information Disciplines

- 4 awards of US $1,000
- Open to graduate & undergraduate students: 3 years of transcripts required
- Must be IEEE Computer Society members
- Criteria:
  - Academic achievement (40%)
  - Computing related extracurricular activities (30%)
  - 3 letters of recommendation can be from anyone (30%)
- Letters should show involvement in computing activities & strong academics and provide a strong personal reference (not just regurgitate resume)
- Deadline: 31 October
- More information at https://www.computer.org/web/students/upe

Preparing Your UPE Application

▸ Cover letter

▸ Minimum of 3 years academic transcripts with a GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0) or higher

▸ 3 letters of recommendation

▸ Description of extracurricular activities related to computing

Winners of Richard E. Merwin Student Scholarship or UPE

within last 1 1/2 years ineligible

UPE Recognition and Rewards

▸ Recognition on Computer.org and Press Release

▸ Monetary Award

▸ Certificate of Commendation

▸ Periodical Subscription

Lance Stafford Larson Best Paper Award

▸ Endowed by a grant from the Larson family (including IEEE past president Robert Larson) in 1983 to memorialize Lance Larson who died in an electrical accident while an undergraduate at the University of Maryland

▸ To develop excellence in communication skills & achievement in Computer Science

▸ Expanded this year to attract more interest

- 2 awards this year instead of one
- More recognition of runner ups
- Open to all IEEE student members
- Now accept coauthored papers

Lance Stafford Larson Best Paper Award

▸ 2 awards: one for undergraduates, one for graduate students ($500 each)

▸ Runners up receive a certificate of commendation

▸ Allow multiple authors; prize divided among student authors

▸ All IEEE student members eligible to compete

▸ Deadline: 31 October

▸ More information at https://www.computer.org/web/students/larson

Putting Together Your Best Paper Submission

- ▸ PDF file of your paper

- ▸ Description of why it's worthy of the award

- ▸ Description of where it was presented or published

- ▸ Paper needs to have been published or presented within last year

- ▸ In the case of multiple authors, description of who contributed what

- ▸ Cover letter

Acknowledgements

Merwin Committee

Edward Addy (chair of spring 2017 review committee), Adel Alimi (vice chair of ARC), Josip Balen (chair of fall 2017 review committee), Nursuriati (Liza) Jamil, Chen Liu, Bamidle ('Dele') Oluwade, Wael Ouarda, Donna Roper, Shanu N, K Subramanian, Mini Ulanat, Murat Uzman, Michael Viron, and Fakhrul Yusoff

Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) Committee

Josip Balen, Chen Liu, Wenbin Luo, and Himanshu Thapliyal (chair)

Larson Committee

Srini Devadas, David Padua, Marco Domenico Santambrogio (chair), Guy Steele, and Stefano Zanero

Student Ambassador Mentoring Committee

Prasanth Mohan and Shanu N

Staff Support

Eric Berkowitz and Kerry Cosby

Summary

- **Richard E. Merwin Scholarship**
  - Deadline(s): 30 April & 30 September
  - Thirty-six (36) $1,000 awards for the full cycle
  - https://www.computer.org/web/students/merwin

- **Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society**
  - Deadline: 31 October
  - Four (4) $1,000 awards
  - https://www.computer.org/web/students/upe

- **Lance Stafford Larson Best paper Award**
  - Deadline: 31 October
  - Two (2) $500 awards
  - https://www.computer.org/web/students/larson

- For questions after the date of this webinar, please email membership@computer.org