Meet our Members

Meg Moore, PE, serves as an Instrumentation and Controls Engineer at Yates Engineers in Birmingham, Alabama. Within ISA, Moore has been a highly visible leader within ISA’s Birmingham Section, having served as section secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and delegate. In July of this year, she became section president.

What initially attracted you to the field of automation (and specifically your selected field)...and when was it? Was there any specific thing that triggered your interest?

It was very lucky happenstance, really, that I became an ISA member. A friend, Gerald Wilbanks (the owner of Documentation & Engineering Services in Birmingham, Alabama who served as ISA president in 1995), gave me the chance years ago and I am so thankful for that opportunity.

Please tell us about your primary career responsibilities (specific position, company), focus and background, and area of specialty in automation.

I am an Instrumentation and Controls Engineer with Yates Engineers in Birmingham, Alabama where I have the opportunity to work with and learn from many intelligent and experienced engineers. Most of my work has been involved with the pulp and paper industry. Right after I graduated from college, I worked in power plant construction and generation.

Could you explain a bit about your current and past involvement as an ISA leader and volunteer, particularly within ISA’s Birmingham Section.

Upon joining ISA, I was invited to become actively involved. I have worked up through the ranks as secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and delegate, and in July will be president. I
am looking forward to working with the newly nominated board members and committee members so that we can continue to make our section a member-driven success. Being actively involved and getting to know other ISA members is so rewarding and enjoyable. Leadership opportunities are great learning experiences that will help in one’s career and personal life.

Last year, I was our section’s appointed Society Delegate and spent several days in Montreal at the Fall Leaders Meeting (FLM). It was a privilege to attend the Council of Society Delegates and participate in making decisions about organizational issues. At other gatherings during the FLM, I was able to gain tips from ISA leaders from all over the world and from our ISA national employees and affiliates. It was a warm, friendly gathering.

**How did you initially get involved in ISA?**

Earlier in my career I was told about ISA by a co-worker. I joined but later let my membership lapse when I left the field. Several years ago, I re-entered the field of automation and wanted to rejoin ISA. I joined ISA nationally online and became involved in the local Birmingham, Alabama section.

**In general terms, are there specific ways your membership in ISA has benefited you as an automation professional?**

There are many ways in which I have benefited from being a member of ISA. Much is to be learned during the technical meetings held at different businesses several times during the year. Networking and becoming friends with knowledgeable members in a relaxed setting is a plus. Recognition at work as an ISA member reaffirms my dedication to automation as a career. ISA is a highly regarded international organization.

**Do you have any advice or suggestions to young automation professionals entering the profession? Are there things that you have learned that you might pass on...to help them better develop their careers?**

Work toward getting your license as a Professional Engineer (PE) and becoming either a Certified Automation Professional® (CAP®) or Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®). Get involved with your local ISA section. Offer to help with an ISA committee or become a board member.

Find a mentor. Many companies have some form of mentee/mentor opportunities; just ask your department head. You never know with whom you will be working in the future so be kind, understanding, and act professionally to all.

Push yourself to get involved, even/especially if it makes you feel shy or a little uncomfortable. Soon you will feel more comfortable with the situation and will have cleared an advancing hurdle. Consistently educate yourself with free online courses on ethics, safety, or automation.

Make a point to be positive. Life is good.
Mark Your Calendar:

- September 2019 - ISA Birmingham Section Kick-Off meeting on September 10, 2019 at location to be announced.

Anyone with suggestions as to program topics and presentations, should contact Mark Isbell at misbell@wgyates.com, with ideas and suggestions.

Dilbert Funnies

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ISA Birmingham Leaders 2019 – 2020

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www.isa.org/birmingham

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Matt’s -
WORD FOR THE DAY:

‘Confabulate’
/kuhn-fab-yuh-leyt/

verb
to converse informally; chat.

Technical Brain Teaser

A 16 foot tall tank is used for chemical solution storage and mixing. The tank is first filled partially with water, then the chemical is added as a 50% slurry with water. The chemical has a specific gravity of 2.4 when dry. The tank has a rotary actuator to maintain suspension, but the liquid surface is only mildly agitated and is free from foam. The tank is covered, but at atmospheric pressure. The most appropriate and economical level measurement technology would be:

a. Capacitance probe
b. Hydrostatic pressure transmitter with high side diaphragm seal
c. Ultrasonic level transmitter
d. Nuclear gauge

Scroll Down for the Correct Answer
Varying concentration will change conductivity and capacitance is not a good choice. The changing specific gravity rules out the hydrostatic head device. The nuclear device will be expensive.

Answer is C  Ultrasonic transmitter