The leaders and officers of the ISA Birmingham Section wish each of you a very happy and safe Holiday. This is a great country and a wonderful time to celebrate the economic and social achievement of all the American workers. It is an yearly annual tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

ISA Birmingham Kick-Off Meeting

The ISA Birmingham Section will hold the first meeting of the new section year on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. This will be a general get acquainted night with special reports from the section leadership on exciting plans for the coming months. The topics and outlines will include the scheduled technical speakers, a new meeting location and times, plans for a cybersecurity two day course in Birmingham, a plant visit, honors and awards details, and a preview of the three day short course for next spring.

When:  Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Where:  Logan’s Roadhouse on Highway 280 in Birmingham
Time:  5:30 PM is social time with dinner at 6:00 PM
What: Updates on ISA Birmingham Plans for the year and networking opportunities for everyone.

President, Meg Moore, and Program Chair, Mark Isbell, will have vital information that will be useful in the coming months. Other officers and committee chairs will
discuss their plans for the year. Also, the section is seeking recommendations for honors and awards recognition, and solicits your inputs. This will be an excellent time to ask any questions about the ISA Birmingham Section, make suggestions for future programs, and engage your fellow associates and friends in discussions of items of common interest.

The ISA Birmingham Section will pay for the dinner of any new member attending the meeting, and any ISA member who brings a new member. Come see what is happening in the world of automation and process control.

~~~~~~~~~~~~SPECIAL STUDENT EVENT~~~~~~~~~~~~

The ISA Birmingham Section will participate in a special emphasis event for students at UAB in September. Yao Wang, Student Section Liaison, announced the plans for the outing as an entry to encourage college students to consider automation as a career choice and to form a student section of ISA on the UAB Campus in Birmingham.

- **What:** Employment and Job Fair
- **When:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019
- **Time:** 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM
- **Where:** UAB Student Hill Center Ballroom on the 3rd Floor

**Event Details:**
- 9:00 AM – Doors open for Employer check-in and set-up
- 10:00 AM – Event open to Students
- 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM – Lunch Available

- **Who:** Primarily UAB Students and ISA Birmingham Representatives Yao Wang, Patrick Joseph, and others from section leadership.

The ISA Birmingham Section has announced plans to form and charter a student section at UAB and this is an initial activity. The section took part in this event last year, and is planning to follow this year’s job fair with a pizza lunch and introductory information meeting with interested students in the
near future. The focus is to inform students of the wide open areas of employment in the exciting fields of automation, control and instrumentation that are available to them. Also, the students may be exposed to the real world of automation by becoming a student member of ISA and participating in the training and education programs that are available.

Mark Your Calendar:

➢ ISA Birmingham Section Technical Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 4:00 PM, W. G. Yates Company
  Topic: “Lithium Ion Battery Technology”
  Speaker: Mr. Steven Boyles – Critical Power Systems Manager
  Schneider Electric

➢ ISA Birmingham Section Technical Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 4:00 PM, W. G. Yates Company, Topic TBD.

➢ ISA Birmingham Section Technical Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 4:00 PM, W. G. Yates Company, Topic TBD.

➢ Engineering Council of Birmingham Dinner: February 18, 2020
  Harbert Center – Birmingham, AL

➢ 50th Annual Short Course: May 5 – 7, 2020
  Revere Control Systems
  Birmingham, AL

➢ Honors and Awards Dinner: Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Anyone with suggestions as to program topics and presentations, should contact Mark Isbell at misbell@wgyates.com, with ideas and suggestions.
ISA Birmingham Leaders 2019 – 2020

Visit the ISA Birmingham web site:
www.isa.org/birmingham

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Matt’s -

WORD FOR THE DAY:

‘Laconic’

/luh-kon-ik/

adjective

using few words; expressing much in few words;

concise: a laconic reply.

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Technical Brain Teaser
A control loop of a DCS consists of an isolated 4–20 mA output and a grounded control element. A remote indicating device must be installed between the DCS and the control element. The indicating device has an input range of 1-5 V and is referenced to ground. Which of the following components (I/I is a current-to-current converter) is/are required to give a full-scale reading of the indicating device without affecting the control element?

(A) 100-Ω resistor only
(B) I/I and 100-Ω resistor
(C) 250-Ω resistor only
(D) I/I and 250-Ω resistor

**Answer**

In order to have the 1 to 5 volt signal, the resistor would have to be 250 ohms, so answers A and B are ruled out. Then, the input impedance would have to be taken into account and not overload the current loop. Therefore, it would be best to use the I/I current repeater to ensure signal integrity. Therefore, the correct answer is D.
The correct answer is (D).