The International Society of Automation (ISA) Birmingham Section is proud to be a member of the Engineering Council of Birmingham (ECOB) and participate in the annual Engineer’s Week Awards Banquet. This event is set for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at the Harbert Center, 2019 4th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203, and everyone is invited to attend and celebrate the honorees who will be introduced at the dinner.

The ISA Awardees who will be recognized at the dinner are:

- **Engineer of the Year:** John Cover, P.E. – BBP Sales
- **Young Engineer of the Year:** Beth Clarkin – Southern Company Services
- **Gerney Mitchell Outstanding Service Award:** Jim Key, P.E. – Southern Company Services
ENGINEERING COUNCIL of BIRMINGHAM
61st Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, February 20th, 2020

The Harbert Center
Social 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Program 7:00 pm

Engineering Awards
Engineer of the Year
Young Engineer of the Year
Distinguished Service Award
Educator of the Year
UA Engineering Students of the Year
UAB Engineering Students of the Year

Ticket Information
Shunna Cannon, Ticket Chair
smcannon@southernco.com
or (205)257-6788

If you would like to attend the banquet, reservations may be made by sending the individual names and contact information to the ISA Birmingham Section Treasurer, Patrick Joseph, 1421 Oakridge Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242, along with a $60 check for each professional ticket, payable to ISA Birmingham Section ($40 for each student ticket). Patrick will send in the money and make the reservations for all of the ISA participants. This has always been an outstanding dinner and program and this is the same venue as last year.
TIME IS RUNNING OUT - NOW IS THE TIME!!!

The ISA Birmingham Section is among the various units of the society which provides a scholarship endowment and this one is available to a student in District 3 (Southeast). This is a real opportunity for a person to obtain assistance in their education costs and is funded by the local section. Much more information is available from the ISA web site (www.isa.org) or from Elizabeth Clarkin (epclarki@southernco.com) or Yao Wang (ywang@southernco.com).

Apply for an ISA Scholarship!

University students who have outstanding potential in fields related to automation should apply isaemail.isa.org for an ISA scholarship. For details and eligibility requirements, click here isaemail.isa.org.

All applications isaemail.isa.org must be submitted no later than 17 February 2020.

Apply Now isaemail.isa.org

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Celebrating Excellence Award Nominations are Open!

This is your opportunity to nominate our rockstar members, superstar sections, and distinctive divisions. The Celebrating Excellence awards salute our members, sections, and divisions for their outstanding technical contributions, volunteer service, and mentorship. Submit a nomination today!

View Criteria [isaemail.isa.org]

Nominate Now! [isaemail.isa.org]

Nominations accepted through 15 March 2020

Elevate the Extraordinary to Fellow

ISA elevates to Fellow only a select few members who have made extraordinary contributions in the science or engineering fields of automation. Submit a nomination to recognize the difference-makers in our profession.

View Criteria [isaemail.isa.org]

Nominate Now! [isaemail.isa.org]

Nominations accepted through 30 April 2020

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Heads Up for Early Bird Registration

The ISA Birmingham Section is proud to present the 50th Annual “Fundamentals of Industrial Automation, Instrumentation, and Control” training class. This popular and successful event will take place on May 5 – 7, 2020, in the offices of Revere Control Systems in Hoover.

Early Bird Opportunity to register: The registration fee before March 1, 2020, is $795.00, with another $100.00 discount available for ISA members. After this date, the fee is a very reasonable $895.00 ($795.00 for ISA members), for a valuable three day course led by industry subject matter experts.

Please make this information available to anyone who can use instruction and training in basic fundamentals of process control. This is a great opportunity to have education to improve job performance and to advance technical competence. The instructors are subject matter experts with years of practical experience in control systems design and operation.

Brochures, schedules, and additional information may be obtained by contacting Gerald Wilbanks at gwilbankspe@charter.net or by phone at (205) 566-9801.

Please use the link below to register for the class and to obtain additional information on logistics, housing, schedule, instructors, etc.

https://www.isa.org/events-conferences/events-calendar/event-details/?productId=66931208 [isa.org]
Mark Your Calendar:

➢ Engineering Council of Birmingham
  Dinner: February 20, 2020
  Harbert Center – Birmingham, AL

➢ 50th Annual Short Course: May 5 – 7, 2020
  Revere Control Systems
  Birmingham, AL
  https://www.isa.org/events-conferences/events-calendar/event-details/?productId=66931208 [isa.org]

➢ Honors and Awards Dinner: Tuesday, May 12, 2020
  Recognition of the award recipients for 2019, presentation of all former ISA Birmingham Section Presidents, and introduction of the officers for 2020 – 2021.

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

Dilbert Funnies

[ONCE AGAIN, IT SEEMS YOU ACCOMPLISHED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THIS WEEK.]

[NO ONE WILL TELL ME OUR COMPANY’S STRATEGY, SO ANYTHING I DID WOULD BE RANDOM FLAILING.]

[A LACK OF STRATEGY ISN’T KEEPING ANYONE ELSE FROM WORKING.]

[But shouldn’t it?]
Visit the ISA Birmingham web site: www.isa.org/birmingham [isa.org]

- President: Meg Moore – W.G. Yates Company (mmoore@wgyates.com)
- Vice President: John Cover – BBP (cover.john5@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Patrick Joseph – Southern Company Services (pjoseph@southernco.com)
- Secretary: Steven Holland – W. G. Yates Company (sholland@wgyates.com)
- Past President: Jim Key – Southern Company Services (jimkey@southernco.com)
- Section Delegate: John Cover – BBP (cover.john5@gmail.com)
- Program Chair: Mark Isbell – W. G. Yates Company (misbell@wgyates.com)
- Education Chair: Gerald Wilbanks – DES (gwilbankspe@charter.net)
- Membership Chair: Catherine Andrews – Hile of Alabama (candrews@hilealabama.com)
- Honors & Awards Chair: Gerald Wilbanks – DES (gwilbankspe@charter.net)
- Web Master: Jimmie Johnson – Southern Company Services (jimjohns@southernco.com)
- Marketing Chair: Chris Sorensen – Southern Company Services (chris.sorensen@juno.com)
- Publications Chair: David Hyche – KBR (david.hyche@kbr.com)
- Standards & Practices Chair: Jim Key – Southern Company Services (jimkey@southernco.com)
- Historian: Skip Wells – Southern Company Services (skipandalice@att.net)
- Student Section Liaison: Yao Wang – Southern Company Services (ywang@southernco.com)
- Section Division Liaison: Charles Morris (c.morris7711@gmail.com)
- ECOB Liaison: Cliff Fleming – Control Equipment Company (cleming@eadsdistribution.com)
- President Advisory Team and Special Assignment:
  - Delane Ponder – Southern Company Services (I2ponder@southernco.com)
  - Grady Andrews – Hile Controls of Alabama (gandrews@hilealabama.com)
  - Cliff Fleming – Control Equipment Company (cleming@eadsdistribution.com)
  - Frank Flow – Flexim Inc. (fnflow@yahoo.com)
  - John Edge – Sick (john4auburn@gmail.com)
  - Kiumars Bahri – Southern Company Services (kbahri@aol.com)
Matt’s – Word for the Day

**Potentate**

POH-tihn-tayt
Part of speech: *noun*
Origin: *Latin, 15th century*

1. A powerful ruler; usually a monarch or dictator
2. Anyone with unlimited power or influence

Examples of *Potentate* in a sentence

"The potentate’s laws were unpopular, but no one had the courage to speak against him."

"The chef runs his kitchen like a potentate — what he says goes, and you’d better obey quickly."

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**Technical Brain Teaser**

Which of the following protection techniques is acceptable for equipment located in a Class I, Division 1 area of an industrial facility?

a. Explosion-proof apparatus and nonincendive equipment
b. Explosion-proof apparatus and intrinsically safe equipment
c. Dust ignition proof and nonincendive equipment
d. General purpose and intrinsically safe equipment

**Scroll Down for the Correct Answer**

**Answer**

A Class I, Division 1 area is defined in the National Electric Code as being for gases and vapors and an explosive mixture present at any given time. Since the area may be hazardous and subject to explosion under normal operation, explosion proof enclosures or intrinsically safe devices must be employed. Nonincendive equipment may only be used in Division 2 areas and an entity concept must be applied. General purpose and dust ignition proof enclosures are not suitable for use in a Class I, Division 1 classified area.

**The correct answer is B**