

IEEE Educational Activities Board Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education

The IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) is one of the major Organizational Units of the IEEE and recommends policies on educational matters and implements programs specifically intended to serve the educational pursuits of IEEE members, the engineering and scientific communities, and the general public. The IEEE EAB Award program recognizes and honors individuals and companies for major contributions to engineering and technical education. Awards are given for meritorious activities in accreditation, continuing education, educational innovation, pre-university education, service to the IEEE EAB, employee professional development and related achievements that advance the practice of engineering and of engineering education. The IEEE EAB Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education recognizes IEEE members for the dedicated contribution to the design, delivery, and support of continuing education courses and programs in the fields of interest to IEEE members. The 2006 IEEE EAB Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education has been awarded to Les Besser, an MTT member of long standing.

Dr. Besser will be recognized for receiving the 2006 IEEE EAB Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education at the Plenary Session of the IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium, Tuesday June 5, 2007. The citation reads *“FOR LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, AND WOLRD-WIDE COVERAGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING FOR RF / MICROWAVE TECHNOLOGY AT ALL LEVELS AND FOR TEACHING MORE THAN 10,000 ENGINEERS IN 30 YEARS”*.



Les Besser (S'64, M'66, SM'75, F'93) received the B.S. from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1966, the M.S. from the University of Santa Clara in 1973, and the Ph.D. from the Technical University of Budapest in 1991, all in electrical engineering.

Dr. Besser began organizing and presenting short courses on newly developed S-parameter design and measurement techniques at his first engineering job in the network analyzer group of Hewlett-Packard in the late 1960s. He also worked at Fairchild Microwaves and Farinon Electric as an Engineering Manager. During that period he authored the first commercially successful microwave circuit optimization program, COMPACT, and founded Compact Software to market the product. For that pioneering work, he is commonly known as the “Father of Microwave CAD.” In 1975 he began teaching a one-week “Microwave Circuit Design” continuing education short course at UCLA. The course became an overnight success and was presented regularly for many years at several major universities.

Because he enjoyed teaching new technologies to working engineers, his next career step was founding Besser Associates in 1985, which is dedicated to continuing education. The company has provided short courses for the newly emerging personal communication industry. Courses range from novice to a highly specialized level taught by experienced and respected engineers. His courses complement university engineering education that help graduate engineers to quickly become proficient on their jobs. Companies like Motorola, AT&T/Lucent, Hewlett-Packard and Nortel have used Besser Associates courses as the core of their in-house training programs. In Europe, he partnered with the leading training company, Continuing Education of Europe (CEI Europe) and presented numerous courses through them. During the past two decades, nearly 50,000 professionals have been trained by his company in over 30 countries. He also developed and presented other courses at RF and Wireless conferences. These courses are now also available in video format.

Dr. Besser has published over 70 technical articles, contributed to and co-authored several textbooks, including the recent two-volume best-seller, *Practical RF Circuit Design for Modern Wireless Systems*. He has also been involved in numerous IEEE activities during the past 35 years. He received the IEEE MTT Microwave Applications Award in 1995, the IEEE RFTG Career Award in 1987, and the IEEE Third Centennial Medal in 2000. He was elected Fellow of the IEEE in 1993 “for contributions to computer-aided microwave circuit design.”