

Additionally, the magazine launched several initiatives to promote student involvement and engagement in the field. These initiatives included the *IEEE Potentials* Design Challenge, which challenged students to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems, and the IEEE Undergraduate Scholarship Program, which provided financial support to students pursuing degrees in engineering, technology, and science.

During this time, *IEEE Potentials* introduced theme issues to highlight particular topics, research areas, or emerging topics of interest to students. In doing so, the editorial board was able to plan issues in advance, solicit content through calls for papers, and therefore attract high-quality submissions from subject matter experts in the field. After testing this in a few issues, the magazine converged on publishing an average of four themed issues per year, dedicating the September issue to careers and graduate education, and having one catch-all issue to feature other content received throughout the year.

Today: Continuing to innovate and inspire

Today, *IEEE Potentials* continues to innovate and inspire the next generation of engineers, technologists, and scientists. The magazine remains committed to providing students with the latest information and resources to help them succeed in their academic and professional pursuits.

In recent years, the publication has focused on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain, providing students with insights into the latest developments and trends in these fields. The magazine has also continued to expand its digital presence, with an enhanced website, social media presence, and mobile app.

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A journey to discovering your vocation

by Erivelton Nepomuceno 

Selecting a career path presents unique challenges, with individuals required to weigh options—should they follow their passion, or should they seek the security explicitly provided by a different job? Addressing this dilemma forces people into finding a middle ground between the desire for a fulfilling work life and the achievement of financial stability—a tough nut, considering today’s professional environment. Discovering one’s true vocation represents an essential component of finding the perfect fit when it comes to choosing a career route leading toward a satisfying professional journey.

Doing so entails recognizing one’s purpose, pinpointing those things that give life meaning, and discovering how we can best harness individual abilities fully.

Graduate education is valuable for people seeking professional growth in this career journey. By earning degrees, people can deepen their knowledge and skills in areas of interest to them. This offers opportunities for personal and intellectual growth, increases competitiveness, and opens doors to a wider range of career opportunities. With specialist knowledge and qualifications, graduates with advanced degrees often have a competitive edge in their job. Awareness of the value of graduate studies allows people to align their passions with the practical requirements of career success, treading a path that combines personal satisfaction with professional

fulfillment. In any case, how could one be able to choose a career or a graduation scheme—or even to keep one that he/she has already chosen? There is no easy answer, but some help could be offered if you see both choices under the umbrella of vocation!

The criteria for determining one's vocation, as described in Julian Carron's "One Voice of the Ideal," include three key elements. The first one involves studying our natural inclinations, gifts, and desires. This self-reflection will allow us to recognize abilities and dispositions that guide us toward our vocation. Second, discovering one's vocation requires accepting the inevitable circumstances and conditions of life, without resisting or being resentful of them. By accepting and integrating these realities, we can find alignment with our calling and develop a sense of purpose. For instance, at some point in my life, I had considered becoming a basketball player. Very soon, I accepted that 1.72 m is far short of the required height for that career. Finally, Carron emphasizes the importance of recognizing the world's social needs and aligning our calling with the improvement of society. Societal challenges are usually areas of opportunities, which could allow us to use our talents to make a positive impact in the world. These three criteria could be of some support for people embarking on a journey to choose their work.

A final remark is related to our openness to signs. It is essential to be attentive to facts and feedback that we receive from the world. Reality is a complex network of systems, where information can be explored in this journey. These signals allow us to understand how we can best serve a greater purpose that spans the various aspects of our lives—social, cultural, and religious. By identifying our unique combination of talents, experience, and resources, we can recognize our true calling and use them effectively to serve to the common good. Through this process of self-discovery and a careful interpretation of the signs, we may discover our vocation and fight—through our job—for a more sustainable world.

Read more about it

- J. Carron, "The one voice of the ideal," *Communion and Liberation Int. Mag.*, Rome, Italy, May 2010, pp. 1–6. [Online]. Available: <https://english.clonline.org/archive/julian-carron/the-one-voice-of-the-ideal>

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