



## Louisville & Lexington Sections Joint Holiday Party

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – Reception with Cash Bar  
7:00 PM – Dinner  
7:300 PM – Presentation

Location: University of Louisville Golf Club  
401 Champions Way  
Simpsonville, KY 40067  
502-852-8542

Website: <https://www.ulgc.net>

Menu: Dinner Buffet, Cash Bar

Price: \$25 members, guests. \$5 students.

RSVP: Daniel Cambron  
Chair, IEEE Lexington Section  
Email: [ieee@danielcambron.com](mailto:ieee@danielcambron.com)

Please RSVP to [ieee@danielcambron.com](mailto:ieee@danielcambron.com) no later than Nov. 29th.

**Topic: Hard-Hearted Scrolls: Reading the Herculaneum Papyri**

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Parsons, PhD. Research Adviser, Vesuvius Challenge**

### **Abstract:**

The scrolls of Herculaneum were sealed away in 79 AD, when the eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried Herculaneum and nearby Pompeii in many meters of mud, rock, and ash. Discovered in the 18th century, these scrolls represent the only surviving library from antiquity. Charred and brittle, the scrolls are too fragile to be opened physically, and many hundreds remain unopened and unread. This talk will present the modern, noninvasive

efforts to reveal the contents of the scrolls. After two decades of development, techniques combining X-ray CT imaging, software, and machine learning are enabling the scrolls to be read for the first time.

### **Speaker Background:**

Dr. Stephen Parsons is a recent PhD graduate of computer science at the University of Kentucky. During his PhD, Stephen was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for his work using machine learning to detect the subtle presence of ink in CT scans of the Herculaneum scrolls. This work led to the first successful noninvasive recovery of hidden text from this collection, previously unseen for 2,000 years. Stephen is now a research advisor for Vesuvius Challenge, a \$1,000,000 global research contest launched during his PhD to extend his methods and scale them across more of the collection.

### **Co-sponsored by:**

Louisville Section of the IEEE

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