

IEEE GOLDRush July 2007

The quarterly newsletter of IEEE GOLD for young professionals.



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Message from 2007 RAB GOLD Committee Chair, Soon Wan

Welcome to GOLDRush – now presented in three formats: as an e-mail notification, on the web, and as a graphic pdf version for download. This is the quarterly newsletter of IEEE GOLD especially for young professionals and graduate students. I hope that you will find this new design easy to navigate around, and know what's going on in IEEE GOLD around the world.

In this issue, I would like to congratulate the new GOLD Affinity Groups, and welcome them to the GOLD community:

- Missouri Slope (Region 4) with Jacob Zettel as GOLD Chair.
- Italy (Region 8) with Cosimo Stallo as GOLD Chair.

Several Sections are in the process of forming their new GOLD Affinity Groups. Together with the newly formed groups, they will create the additional opportunity to reach out to local GOLD members and increase the value of IEEE membership to them.

As promised in the last issue, I am going to share with you my three lives: Family, Career and IEEE. How do I manage them? Well, the answer is very simple: time management and prioritizing my daily

tasks. My family is my highest priority, my career is second, and IEEE is third.

I also have many hobbies in my personal life such as golf, traveling, reading, gardening, tennis, soccer, snowboarding, and flying. IEEE is my favorite hobby. Yes, there were many days that I have had to stay up late or not sleep for a few days to get something done for IEEE. However, I enjoy it very much and when I see the achievements and successful results, I feel satisfaction that I did something great for the Engineering community.

My daily schedule is usually packed from 6:00am to 12:00 midnight. During spring and summer, I usually play golf to start off my day. Then, I drive to work. Once I get home in the evening, I play with my kids until they go to bed. After that, I work on either my work projects or IEEE related tasks, including cleaning up IEEE e-mails. Occasionally, I have to work on Saturday to catch up on my project schedule. But, I always dedicate Sunday to my family – no work and no IEEE. You don't have to follow my schedule, as long as you have a plan for the day and know what you want to do, you will make full use of your day and

it will be a fruitful one.

Let me tell you why I volunteer. I enjoy people and love to make new friends. Through my volunteerism in the IEEE (from Student Branch Chair in the past to RAB GOLD Chair now), I have made many great friends around the world. I treasure the “Networking Opportunity” which keeps me motivated to volunteer. In addition, the experience gained from my active participation in the leadership positions in the IEEE have helped me to develop sound interpersonal and organizational skills. Thus, IEEE makes my life interesting.

My career comes before IEEE, and I use IEEE volunteering as a tool to further develop my leadership and interpersonal skills for my career advancement. If you manage the time well, you will definitely be effective in what you are doing. Also, you should learn to dedicate tasks effectively to someone, so that you can leverage your goals through other members.

Carl Selinger published an article in IEEE Spectrum (June edition) about “Workaholism”. I noticed that I have done just about all what he has said. I took the action similar to what Carl advised: “to step

Message from 2007 RAB GOLD Committee Chair, Soon Wan (continued from Page 1)

back and assess your work life in terms of your goals for your whole life". Now, I manage my time better. Carl said, "Analyze your job, determine which aspects are going well and which are not, and then review your priorities". I not only applied this to my job, but also to my family and IEEE. Carl also advised, "Don't be a Perfectionist". I agree with him: Do what you need to do, and meet the schedule. Then, you will have enough time for other things. Carl said "Don't eat lunch at your desk everyday". Well, this was what I usually do during my lunch break, except when I go out to play soccer with my colleagues twice a week. Carl added "Learn how to say no". Know your limit and check whether you have the extra time to perform or help. Carl encouraged trying to "work at home more". I have to be at my work office to attend day-to-day meetings, and support my co-workers. And, I usually do most of my paper work such as project planning, progress

reports, and presentations at home. Lastly, Carl encouraged us to "take Vacations". When I attend IEEE meetings in another area of the country, I usually consider bringing along my family. This way I do not miss them too much. They visit the local sites while I'm at the meeting, and in the evening we have time together.

To close my message, I want to encourage all the GOLD Affinity Group Chairs to keep in touch and inform your GOLD members about your activities. It is the key to drum up their interest in the GOLD program. The very successful event will be a "social and networking" type of event. Also, you should organize seminars of interest to young professionals such as Financial Planning and Investment as most recent graduates would like to learn how to invest and plan for their retirement when they get their first job. First home buying and Career Manage-

ment are also hot topics. The RAB GOLD committee has created a document on "GOLD Best Practices" for your reference to consider organizing some of the suggested events. Please let us know if you wish to receive this document.

Best wishes,

Soon Wan
(2007 RAB GOLD Committee Chair).



GOLD volunteers in Region 1.

Food for thought: Being innovative - an attitude or a skill?

By Adrian Pais (IEEE GOLDRush Editor)

Did you know that Thomas Edison never gave up in his search for the perfect filament for the light bulb? He tried about 1600 materials including hairs from a friend's beard before finding success with carbonized bamboo!

Alain Glavieux and Claude Berrou were greeted with scoffing from experts when presenting their paper on turbo codes at the 1993 IEEE International Conference on Communications. Little did the experts know that turbo codes would revolutionize the field of telecommunications.

Dr Muhammad Yunus, an economist from Bangladesh and the Nobel Laureate for Peace in 2006, approached several established banks and asked them to support his idea of giving micro-loans to underprivileged, poor people

in Bangladesh. All the banks rejected his idea saying that poor people could not afford to pay back the loans. What did he do? He decided to open his own bank (the Grameen bank) and today this bank has helped millions of people in Bangladesh to overcome severe poverty.

Strive Masiyiwa, an electrical engineer in Zimbabwe had the idea of starting his own mobile phone service to compete with the incumbent (government-owned) operator. However, the Zimbabwean government denied him an operating license. Eventually, after a lengthy legal battle lasting almost a decade, he was finally granted the license. Now his company, EcoNet, is the mobile operator with the largest market share in Zimbabwe.

These people are great. Obviously they had excellent ideas. But it wasn't their ideas alone that made them successful. They had to persist unwaveringly in the pursuits and go against the norms of society. Clearly they demonstrate that being innovative is as much an attitude as it is a skill. Like them, we must also have a 'can-do' attitude and never fear failure. So if you have an idea and truly believe in it, then just go for it even if the whole world tells you that it will never work!

So, I encourage you to have a go at writing an article for GOLDRush — e-mail it to me at a.pais@ieee.org. It could be as short as this one or as long as a page in the format of this newsletter. You never know—your article could have a massive impact on the lives of many engineers around the world.

My experience at GOLD Meeting 2007: how can synergy help?

By Robert Vice

(IEEE Boston GOLD Affinity Group Vice-Chair)



GOLD members attending the meeting in Boston.

Saturday began the IEEE GOLD Committee Meeting at the Embassy Suites at Logan International airport in Boston, Massachusetts USA after delays and layovers from the previous day's snowstorm. The Boston GOLD Affinity Chair, Uri Moskowicz, and I took up the offer to attend the second portion of the meetings. Much of the information was beyond my current grasp of IEEE GOLD specifically on the global scale. My previous perception of GOLD, namely about having fun and networking, has changed. The meeting offered insight into the true meaning of

GOLD at a higher level targeting more of what we can do for recent graduates and the young professionals without experience as they develop their careers. The meeting included discussions on making information more readily available to the sections worldwide by offering more synergy. The GOLD Committee focused on developing benefits that would conciliate graduating students to retain membership.

Verona Wong discussed the 2008 Section Congress and the importance of getting a large representation of GOLD Affinity Groups with emphasis on targeting the Section to cover travel and expenses for Affinity Group chairs and officers to Quebec City, Canada for the Congress. Verona was very passionate and enthusiastic about the event instilling the importance of all the ten regions involvement. The discussion provided a warm-up for the important topic to Boston Section GOLD Affinity, the Recent Graduate Reception. This brought this global meeting right

to the doorstep and provided a chance for open forum discussion of the issues that will likely arise.

The Recent Graduate Reception, outlined by Megha Joshi and Elizabeth Johnston, is a revolutionary event in the IEEE. The reception will reach out to students in each region to help demonstrate the values of retaining IEEE membership after graduation. Many students do not know what the IEEE has to offer after student membership. The transitional nature of the reception involved the joint discussion with the Student Activities Committee (SAC). GOLD stated the need of an event to capture the students while they are still members, before they fall outside the reach of the IEEE.

I found myself getting pulled into the discussion due to the Boston Section's upcoming Graduate Reception event. The GOLD Committee meeting raised the importance of finding a goal and a means to measure the success of each event. I be-

lieve the Boston Section will hold a successful event to show the students what they will gain by retaining IEEE membership and the great skill they can develop from volunteering.

All of the friendships made, ideas laid out and the excitement of everyone involved really illustrated the best side of GOLD. It was a truly exciting and fun experience aiding my leadership and professional development skills. I hope to have the chance to meet with the GOLD Committee again next year and discuss everything I learned over the upcoming year.



Lori Hogan (Region 7 GOLD Coordinator) engaged in discussion.

Career Decisions: Industry vs Academia

By Uri Moszkowicz

(IEEE Boston GOLD Chair)

Have you ever wondered whether you made the right decision by going into industry? Both industry and academia have their advantages and the differences are not always obvious. On March 7, 2007, the IEEE Boston Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Section and the Merrimack IEEE Student Branch hosted a free seminar at Merrimack College by Dr Grace Wong on the differences between working in industry and academia.

Dr Grace Wong has a long history in both academia and industry. She started her career with a PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Australia and has since worked for Genentech, Millennium, AstraZeneca and Serono on new drug discovery. She now works for Actokine Therapeutics, a biotech startup that she founded for new drug discovery. She is also founder of Student Vision (<http://www.studentvision.org>), an organization dedicated to helping biotech science students of all ages with career decisions. Dr Wong is a frequent volunteer speaker and author, well known for her knowledge

of career-related matters.

The session was originally planned to last about two hours but ended up taking the whole night. The event started and ended with networking. A strong proponent of networking, Dr Wong encouraged attendees to give their “smart pitches” after her presentation. A short pitch is similar to an elevator pitch; it is a very brief introduction focused on an individual’s accomplishments and background.

The presentation started with a short introduction of Dr Wong and her history in industry and then progressed to the differences between industry and academia, by highlighting over thirty major differences. Projects in academia, for example, are open ended but tend to follow hot topics while projects in industry are specified by upper management. Money is generally in short supply for academic research, as compared to industry where resources are ample. Team work is not as important in academia as it is in industry.

A bonus to the presentation was other career related advice from Dr Wong. She showed us a sample of her business card and described how to create an effective one for ourselves. This ad-

vice will be of particular use to attendees, since there appeared to be a short supply of business cards from the attendees. Networking involves more than just exchanging business cards. One should be proactive in following up on contacts and establishing more personal relationships that will last over time. She said to meet people by promoting yourself aggressively, submit papers, give and ask good questions at seminars, and collaborate with others in your industry. She also mentioned the usefulness in finding a mentor and remaining loyal to that person.

The event provided pragmatic information useful to recent graduates, and we plan on organizing other similar events in the future.

The mission of IEEE Boston GOLD is to develop programs and foster relationships, to provide tangible value to members, to promote the GOLD program to students, and to recruit, develop, and nurture volunteers. Anyone interested in more information about IEEE Boston GOLD or this event, please visit <http://www.ieee.org/go/bostongold> or contact Boston GOLD Chair Uri Moszkowicz at uim@ieee.org.

‘One should be proactive in following up on contacts and establishing more personal relationships that will last over time.’



Dr Grace Wong

IEEE Columbus GOLD partners for success!

By Jack Freund

(Region 2 GOLD Coordinator)

The IEEE Columbus GOLD Affinity Group has been partnering with local organizations to expand their reach and provide more connections for its members. Some of the recent activities included collaborating with the IEEE Columbus Communications Society (ComSoc) in a special presentation on Underground Railroad Communications. The two groups met at the Business Technology Center and Incubator where they were treated to a tour of the facility that was home to many biotech and IT startup companies. The main event was Tony Whelan, Founder and CEO of IP Everywhere, discussing his implementation of patent pending technologies to enable Broadband over Power Line Internet transmission on subway and railroad systems.

Another great partnership for Columbus

GOLD has been with the Columbus Robotics Society (CRS). Columbus GOLD has lent its support to this fledgling group by helping to organize meetings and expand interest to the IEEE membership. These meetings revolve around hobby robotics and have diverse participation from electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, Artificial Intelligence programmers, and physical designers. The GOLD group is helping to sponsor monthly meetings with CRS. There are also plans to build enough interest so that the section can spawn an IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Chapter. The first joint meeting was held at DeVry University and featured a show-and-tell where a member discussed his trials with servos, motors, and precise motion in his robot, Dr. Orion.

Future plans for the Columbus GOLD Affinity Group includes collaborating with a local consulting company, Information

Control Corporation (ICC), which conducts their own monthly Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The plan includes co-sponsoring their Network Security and Infrastructure SIG and opening it up to the IEEE membership. This will provide a fantastic opportunity for the membership to be exposed to high-tech IT topics, and to network with professionals in the industry.

Partnering with these different groups has made Columbus GOLD a vibrant group and supports the overall mission of providing technical and career networking opportunities. It is important for GOLD Affinity Group chairs to work with other IEEE Societies to pool budget resources, and to provide good contacts for technical and career progression. Joint IEEE meetings between GOLD and another Society count as a meeting for both groups when you file the L31. This is a great tip for a great meeting!

IEEE GameSIG

By Russell Hunter

(Region 6 GOLD Coordinator)

In Orange County, California, the local IEEE Section has been busy with the creation of GameSIG (Special Interest Group). The local IEEE members have felt that the time has come for IEEE to have a greater recognition for the technology in games and gaming devices. The GameSIG members have been working to create Game Engineering as a new area in the IEEE.

The mission statement for the GameSIG is:

1. Provide a forum to share knowledge and technology relevant to the game engineering disciplines.
2. Encourage students interested in electronic game technologies to consider

careers in science and engineering.

3. Support development of electronic game industry standards.

Since the formation of the group in the Summer of 2006, the group has had two presentations on game topics. The first meeting had Brian Fargo, Founder & CEO of InXile Entertainment. His presentation was "How to Survive in the Video Game Business". He touched on topics such as "How to start a company", "How do you make a hit game?", and "How do the economics really work?" A copy of his slide presentation can be found at:

http://occs.ieee.org/presentations/2006/061023_Fargo_VGameBiz.ppt.

The next presentation the group had was Dr Stephen Jenks of University of California

at Irvine give a presentation on Multi-threading for Multi-core Architectures. This topic is very important because both the PC market and the game console market have multi-core architectures. The presentation talked about multi-threaded programming and how different multi-core architectures affect multi-threaded programming. A copy of the presentation is at : http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r6/occs/cs/presentations/2007/070122_Jenks_ParallelMicroprocessors.pdf

The GameSIG group is working to support other sections in creating local GameSIG groups. You can visit the web page for the group at <http://www.gamesig.org/>. You can also join the mail list for the group to see when new presentations are available for downloading.

Region 7 hosts GOLD training workshop

By **Lori Hogan**

(**Region 7 GOLD Coordinator**)

Region 7 is unique in that it is the only Region that spans exactly one country, Canada. We have 20 Sections, and 15 active GOLD Affinity Groups:

- Canadian Atlantic
- Hamilton
- Kitchener-Waterloo
- Montreal
- Newfoundland-Labrador
- Northern Canada
- North Saskatchewan
- Ottawa
- Saint-Maurice
- Southern Alberta
- South Saskatchewan
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Victoria
- Winnipeg

Prior to 2006, the last GOLD Training Workshop was held in 2003; between those two years, a number of GOLD Chairs had moved on to other IEEE positions and new volunteers did not receive the same volunteer training. During the second weekend of September 2006, in conjunction with the Region 7 Fall Meeting and Student Congress, a GOLD Training Session was held in Mississauga, Ontario. All Sections, even those not having GOLD Affinity Groups, were invited to send one or more representatives. Holding the GOLD Workshop in conjunction with the Region Meeting and Student Congress provided for a good deal of networking opportunities. In total, 11 Sections were represented by 16 attendees with a mixture of recently recruited GOLD volunteers and seasoned veterans. Sessions were held in conjunction with the Student Congress on the background of IEEE and IEEE Canada and the roles of GOLD, Student Activities and WIE within IEEE. To supplement training, the areas of starting

and running a successful Affinity Group were covered.

Since 2006 was the tenth anniversary of the GOLD program within IEEE, the Workshop was used to highlight GOLD achievements in Canada over ten years and to reflect on what the role of the GOLD program is and should be in Canada. The general consensus seemed to be that GOLD is important to many Sections in that it provides activity and volunteer opportunities to younger members, but often it is hard to find the volunteers and resources needed for an Affinity Group to run a successful GOLD Program. Group discussions focused on how to recruit more volunteers, how to get more industry involvement, how to interact more effectively with other IEEE entities, and how to store and present training material in the future.

It is hoped that the outcomes of this Workshop will make GOLD in Canada even better!



Attendees at Region 7 GOLD Training Session.

Eight Ways to Project Success

Reprinted with the permission of IEEE The Institute

By Nancy Salim

In today's competitive workplace it's important to be the best project manager you can be, says IEEE Member Margaretha Eriksson, founder of Irbis Kon-sult, an engineering management consulting firm in Stockholm. In a 30 November Webinar sponsored by IEEE Graduates of the Last Decade, Eriksson, who was chair from 2000 to 2002 of the IEEE Sweden Section, outlined eight ways to be a successful project manager.

KNOW THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE Focus on your end goal and talk it up with other team members. Think smart: in specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-set terms. Be clear on what you must do. Ask your supervisor to clarify details if necessary.

CREATE THE TEAM YOU NEED Start small, say, with two or three team members and grow

from there. Recruit diverse people with different abilities. Create an environment that encourages teamwork.

TAKE A REALITY CHECK Before you even begin, ask yourself if the project is realistic. Make sure you have the needed technology, resources, organizational support, and funding.

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN Good planning and knowing where you're going is 80 percent of your project's success, while the other 20 percent is the actual work, Eriksson says. The planning phase should include a project map with a list of all team members, individual responsibilities, their contact information, and whom they report to and when.

TAKE A MEETING, OFTEN Book recurring meetings. Put them on your calendar way into the future. Such meetings should be scheduled on the same day of the week, in the same place with the same people, although it is occasionally useful to invite

others to gain different perspectives. Keep meetings to one hour at most. If a problem can't be solved in an hour, end the meeting and schedule another.

Keep the meetings simple. Use templates for agendas and reports, and distribute meeting minutes immediately. Appoint a project secretary to organize the process.

BE A ROLE MODEL Lead by example. Create an open atmosphere, be fair and straightforward, show respect, be enthusiastic, give a lot of praise, and trust your team members. Having a spirited team helps, Eriksson says, because happy people ultimately do more work. You should be goal-oriented, flexible yet firm, and realistic. You also should communicate effectively and be a good planner.

KEEP THE TEAM TALKING Huang Qiang, IEEE student number and a graduate student at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, in China, says the importance of communicating clearly and

maintaining good relationships with team members was the most valuable advice he learned from Eriksson's Webinar.

CLOSE OUT THE PROJECT Don't let it just wander off into the sunset. Celebrate the results if you're successful or discuss how to do better next time if you fail. Most important, always review lessons learned with your team members. You might ask these questions: How did we do? What worked well? Any advice for the next project? Why did we fail? Was it us or was it something we could not foresee?

Being a successful project manager doesn't happen overnight, Eriksson says. "But almost every job-related experience can add to your mastery and excellence in project management," she adds.

An hour-long recorded version of her online seminar is available at <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/gold/PrMgrSucssRecod.html>.

Digital Portfolios: Not Just for Artists

Reprinted with the permission of IEEE Spectrum, acknowledging the California Job Journal (<http://www.jobjournal.com>)

How do hiring managers decide which of the possibly dozens of equally qualified candidates for a job to call back for a second interview? No matter the vetting method, the people who are most

memorable have a clear advantage over the competition. So, how do you differentiate yourself? Hint: it's not a resume printed on pink paper with orange polka dots. More and more people are submitting digital portfolios that give them a chance to showcase their creative, computer, and job skills. Portfolios are "the new standard

for delivering work samples to employers," say Susan Amirian and Eleanor Flanigan, authors of "Create Your Digital Portfolio: The Fast Track to Career Success." Amirian and Flanigan provide a few tips for creating a winning portfolio, including omitting material that you would not discuss in a formal face-to-face interview and resisting the

temptation to go overboard with graphical bells and whistles. "It's one thing to demonstrate your software and computer skills through a well-crafted design," say the authors. "It's quite another to cheapen the quality of your portfolio with distracting, amateur graphics." Read on at: http://www.jobjournal.com/article_printer.asp?artid=2036.

GOLD News from Societies and Major Boards

EMBS GOLD Networking Reception in August

By Lisa Lazareck

(GOLD Representative on IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society)

In its effort to increase the value of IEEE and EMBS membership for young engineers, the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society will host, for the second time, an IEEE EMBS-GOLD Networking Reception at its 29th Annual International Conference in Lyon, France (EMBC'07). The continuing goal of GOLD is to find out what students need from their Societies at this particular stage

of their careers and how their Societies can in turn offer additional value of membership. The purpose of the joint EMBS-GOLD Reception is to establish, in an informal networking environment, what exactly these transitioning members need, want and must-have from the EMB Society. The Reception is free of charge, includes beverages and accompanying snacks, and is an excellent opportunity to meet GOLDies within the Society and from around the world. If you are a GOLD member attending EMBC'07, or are a GOLD member living in Lyon, or France,

or Region 8 – you are most cordially invited to this free event! The Reception will be held on Saturday, 25 August 2007 from 7:45-9:30pm at the Hall Bellecour (Centre de Congrès de Lyon, 50 quai Charles de Gaulle, 69463 Lyon Cedex 06). Unfortunately, IEEE/EMBS/GOLD cannot provide any financial remuneration for your participation in the Conference or cover travel costs. Further reminders and location confirmation will follow over the summer. In the meantime, contact the EMB Society GOLD Coordinator, Lisa Lazareck, (lisa.lazareck@eng.ox.ac.uk) for further details.

GOLD Track at Engineering Management Conference 2007

By Marisa Bazanez-Borgert

(GOLD Representative on IEEE Engineering Management Society)

The 19th International Engineering Management Conference (IEMC 2007) will bring together engineering and management professionals and academics from around the world. This year IEMC 2007 will be hosted in Austin, Texas USA.

IEMC 2007 is a forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences, theories, and knowledge between all persons involved in engineering management and economic development of technologically-focused communities. IEMC 2007 will offer a platform for sharing experiences, presenting new results,

and reviewing recent developments with keynote addresses by leading experts in the field. With the business and economic landscape undergoing rapid change, the human side of creativity, innovation, and change management is absolutely vital to corporate revitalization and growth.

This year the Engineering Management Society and GOLD have prepared a track for young professionals and graduate students who would like to interact with their peers, discuss and debate industry practices, publicize and exchange feedback on on-going thesis research, interact with established managers and researchers, learn about the skills needed for a successful transition to engineering management, and

establish connections in the engineering management community & help shape its future.

The GOLD track will be a highly interactive one-day workshop allowing opportunities for discussion. Some peer-reviewed short papers describing ongoing research and industry practices in areas of engineering management will be selected for inclusion as posters in the GOLD track program. The GOLD track papers will appear in the IEMC 07 proceedings.

For more information please refer to: <http://lifelong.engr.utexas.edu/iemc2007/gold.cfm>.

GOLD News from Societies and Major Boards continued ...

IEEE-USA PACE

By Vishnu Pandey

(GOLD Representative on IEEE-USA PACE)

A large majority of GOLD members in Regions 1-6 are not aware of the additional benefits that come with their IEEE membership. As part of IEEE-USA, GOLD members in these regions are given opportunities to become part of consultants networks, nominate their peers for awards, or apply for competitive fellowships in DC. For more information please visit <http://www.ieeeusa.com>.

PACE (Professional Activities Committees for Engineers) is a group within IEEE-USA that is dedicated to help you make the most of your membership. Our group provides seed funding and guidance for sections looking to organize Professional Development Seminars or any types of professional activities.

PACE is also helping to organize the Annual Meeting that is being held in Arizona during the Labor Day weekend (31 August – 3 September 2007) and all GOLD leaders are encouraged to be there! Be sure to ap-

proach your sectional or regional officers for funding. During this exciting weekend we will show you how to be a leader and organize activities for your members. All the organization's leaders will be on hand to answer questions about the available IEEE-USA programs as well. Please contact the GOLD representative to the PACE committee, Vishnu Pandey (v.pandey@ieee.org), with any questions and visit <http://www.ieeeusa.com/volunteers/pace/> for additional details.

“The future has a way of arriving unannounced.”

By Megha Joshi

(GOLD SAC Representative)

The title very rightly stated by renowned conservative American newspaper columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner George Will, truly captures the essence of uncertainty and change associated with life. For an engineer, change is eternal and perpetual. Those who are most responsive to new developments today will lead the world tomorrow!

IEEE student members across the globe

witness this change upon their graduation and then step into the realm of professional life. They find themselves caught up in a dynamic yet difficult world of innumerable challenges. The IEEE Student Activities Committee (SAC) and Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Committee are working together as a synchronizing force to address the needs of recent graduates and young professionals.

This year, SAC and GOLD have joined hands on the Student Transition Project which would provide a brilliant networking

opportunity to the fresh graduates to connect with their peers and professionals, and offer volunteering opportunities within IEEE. The highlight of the project is the Graduation Reception which shall be hosted by a pilot Section from each Region within IEEE. With this project in the pipeline we look forward to an electrifying year ahead. Watch this space for more updates on the Student Transition Project in the near future!!

GOLD Committee 2007

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Do you want to be an IEEE GOLDRush reporter?

IEEE GOLDRush is seeking enthusiastic volunteer reporters from around the world to write articles for this newsletter. For further information on what's involved, please e-mail the IEEE GOLDRush editor (Adrian Pais) at a.pais@ieee.org — a sample of your writing would be much appreciated.

IEEE GOLDRush Call for Articles

IEEE GOLDRush would like to invite you to submit articles on any topic related to engineering for publication in this newsletter. For further information on the requirements for submission, please e-mail the IEEE GOLDRush editor (Adrian Pais) at a.pais@ieee.org.

The IEEE Mentoring Connection

*Reprinted with the permission of
 IEEE The Institute*

By Cathy Downer

Engineers with little on-the-job experience are faced with a stark choice: sink or swim. Experience, by definition, takes years to develop. But not if you have a mentor—perhaps a knowledgeable older professional, a hotshot designer, or a dapper young academic to whom you can turn to for advice. This is where the IEEE Mentoring Connection comes in. The program connects young professionals and recent grads with IEEE members willing to devote time to guide them in their professional development.

How helpful can a mentor be? You judge by some of the questions and answers that have passed between mentors and protégés in the program:

Q: I am due for my first performance review. How should I approach it?

A: Prepare an outline of your projects or a list of your job responsibilities that you handled

during the year, and their results—including good and bad. Be prepared to explain how the projects progressed. If you were the project leader, have budget numbers and, if possible, final figures to validate expenses and back up the decisions you made.

Q: I have so many priorities on my desk that I don't know which to tackle first. How do I manage this?

A: Don't think you have to do everything by yourself. Ask your supervisor for help. Make a list of your responsibilities and priorities, and ask for help in deciding which are most important, based upon your supervisor's and your group's goals.

Q: As a team leader, I get criticized on how I handle the team when meetings don't produce actions toward reaching our goals. How do I handle this? Am I running the meetings poorly?

A: Learn from the negative feedback. Focus on the comments, and use them to help you achieve your goals. Try to understand why

you were criticized. For the next meeting, prepare a detailed agenda—and stick to it.

Q: My senior manager told me that our company is going to be reorganized and that my department will be affected. How do I help my group prepare for this kind of change?

A: Set up a meeting with your group to discuss the changes as soon as you receive them. See to it that your people learn the news from you, not from their coworkers or through the grapevine.

Q: When is the right time to consider going to graduate school? Should I go after I've been working for a couple of years?

A: First, work on a career plan and set goals for one, two, and five years out. Based on that, consider what you need to accomplish and whether graduate school can help you get there.

Participation in the IEEE Mentoring Connection is open to all higher-grade members. For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/mentoring>.