



Newsletter August 2010

CHAPTER MEETINGS (Usually on 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 pm at Jacobs Conference Center on 1500 Perimeter Parkway)

LAST MONTH

On Thursday June 17th, Mr. Steve Hosner, PE, spoke on Systems and System Safety Engineering: Complementary Disciplines.

Mr. Hosner is safety engineer with QinetiQ-North America with more than 20 years as a civil servant with the US Air Force working systems and software engineering and currently works with the Army in airworthiness in rotorcraft.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

INCOSE members will not be able to participate in monthly meetings virtually; see the monthly meeting announcements for more information. We do not yet have the ability to record the meetings for viewing after the fact, although we are working towards this capability.

August 19: HRC-INCOSE teams with IEEE Computer Society to present Mr. Paul Sullivan speaking on the differences between SysML and UML.

September 16: To be Determined.

October 21: HRC-INCOSE teams with the Huntsville Project Management Institute. Keep a look out for the meeting invitation for speaker and topic.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations Tony Lindeman. Tony is the 2010 HRC-INCOSE Professional of the Year.

Congratulations to Bob Robinson. Bob is the chapter webmaster, communications chair and now the President for the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies ([HATS](#)). Our chapter is a member of HATS, a non-profit association of technical and professional societies in the Huntsville area that is dedicated to the advancement of science and engineering.

New CSEPS! Charleen Laughlin, ASEP in April – the first in Alabama, too; Jeff Brenner , CSEP in March; Donal Doherty, CSEP in May; Janet Fitzgibbon, CSEP in April; Patti Monell, CSEP in May. These people increase the number of CSEPs to 18. Remember to congratulate them the next time you see them.

Our Numbers are Growing. The chapter has seen tremendous growth this year. It added 46 new members since January 1st, bringing the total number of active members to 170. A larger membership allows us to provide more activities, so keep the new members flowing.

Officer Vacancies. There will be two officer vacancies at the end of the year. The positions of Government Representative and President-Elect will open up. Please contact Guy Osborne for more information on these officer positions.

2010 NASA / Army Systems and Software Engineering Forum. In May, HRC-INCOSE partnered with UAHuntsville, NASA, The Army and several other local professional organizations and companies to present the 2010 NASA / Army Systems and Software Engineering Forum. This multi-day, multi-track conference drew a crowd of over 300 people.

2010 HRC-INCOSE Survey Results. The chapter conducted a survey by email in April with a focus on soliciting member needs and desires and getting feedback on the direction of the chapter. Many people answered the survey and the results are shared at the end of this newsletter.

Introduction to CMMI 1.2 Class. Sandra Cepeda of Cepeda Systems & Software Analysis will be teaching an introduction to Capability Maturity Model Integration on August 10-12. For more information on the course, please visit Sandra at <http://www.cepedasystems.com>.

NATIONAL NEWS

Congratulations INCOSE Blues Chapter. The Blues chapter has recently progressed from an emerging chapter into a chartered chapter. The Blues chapter covers southern Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana and Alan Fitzmorris is the current chapter president.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Find us on the web at www.incose.org/huntsville. Please contact chris.t.derock@boeing.com ; 256-461-2841 with questions or comments about this newsletter.

The International Council on Systems Engineering is a not-for-profit membership organization founded in 1990. INCOSE is an international authoritative body promoting the application of an interdisciplinary approach and means to enable the realization of successful systems. Your HRC-INCOSE officers need your inputs to make this newsletter better speak to your needs. We solicit YOU, the INCOSE membership, for items of interest, from local conferences, published tech papers or books, news regarding job transfers, new jobs, etc.

Your Local Chapter Contacts (detailed Bios at <http://www.incose.org/huntsville>)

Officer Position	Name	Email Address
President	Chris DeRock	chris.derock@incose.org
President-Elect	Guy Osborne	Guy.osborne@incose.org
Past President	Larry Smith	Lawrence.smith@incose.org
Vice-President	Bill Sowder	William.Sowder@incose.org
Treasurer	Jerry Wocken	gerald.wocken@incose.org
Secretary	Janet Fitzgibbon	Janet.Fitzgibbon@incose.org
Membership Chair	Sam Loo	Weei.Loo@incose.org
Industry Representative	Jack Stockdale	jack.stockdale@incose.org
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Program Chair	Tony Lindeman	Philip.Lindeman@incose.org
Communication/Webmaster	Bob Robinson	robert.robinson@incose.org

HRC-INCOSE Member Survey Results for the April 15 Survey

The beginning of the survey results documents the analysis performed on the respondents' answers. The answers themselves are located after the analysis section.

Question 1 – What is it that draws you to an INCOSE membership? There were primarily two reasons given by the respondents; professional development and networking with fellow systems engineers.

Question 2 – How can the chapter support your professional goals as they relate to systems engineering? Most of the responses centered around continuing to provide monthly speakers on topics of interest to systems engineers and a forum for networking and collaboration. There is interest in hearing about more systems engineering events and opportunities.

Question 3 – What encourages you to promote INCOSE membership to your co-workers? Most of the respondents answered that they already do, but there was one request for handouts showing the benefits of membership that members can take with them. The chapter has a package together already and will make this more available during the meetings and INCOSE sponsored events.

Question 4 – What can the chapter do better during its monthly meeting. Several respondents answered that we should have a self-introduction session at the start of each meeting; identifying and welcoming new members and new CSEPs. The chapter will now start each meeting off with a quick self-introduction session. We already try to acknowledge new members and new CSEPs.

Question 5 – What topics would you like to see presented during the monthly meetings. The chapter received many good leads for topics and has started identifying people to present those topics.

Question 6 – What other societies would you like to see INCOSE partner with for future events? The chapter received many society names. We have decided on joint meetings with IEEE for August and PMI for October. More joint meetings will be scheduled as they are coordinated between the different groups.

Question 7 – What can the chapter do to make chapter tutorials better? The response was varied, with some people indicating we should stick to a few quality tutorials, and others wanting to have more tutorials to choose from. The chapter will look into offering the CSEP Preparation tutorial twice a year and the addition of other non-CSEP tutorials. The chapter leadership is looking to partner with UAHuntsville to for the CSEP tutorials so that attendees can also obtain continuing education credits.

Question 8 – What aspect of systems engineering or INCOSE would you most like to see as a tutorial topic. Many good ideas; the chapter will continue to provide CSEP Preparation tutorials and is trying to schedule a SysML tutorial.

Question 9 – How can the chapter improve communications with its members? The respondents typically identified that lack of website updates as something that need improvement, and suggested

sending out an alert when the chapter website is updated. The chapter is working on updating the website more frequently but does not intend to send out an update alert at this time.

Questions 10 – 15 identified that most respondents are willing to contribute their time to INCOSE events and initiatives. However, most respondents are unable to commit company resources for INCOSE benefit/use.

1	What is it that draws you to an INCOSE membership?
A1	Our company has placed increased emphasis on a Systems Engineering approach to projects and INCOSE membership helps me keep a finger on the pulse beat of where Systems Engineering is going from a broader perspective than just at my company.
A2	Access to information, methods, tools and techniques to support me in executing systems engineering in my job.
A3	Being a systems engineer primarily.
A4	Professional development, networking opportunities
A5	It is an industry recognized certifying body (e.g. CSEP). Availability of reference material.
A6	An opportunity to work with professionals who take systems engineering seriously and want to shape its future direction, whether that is in working groups, meetings, tutorials or conferences.
A7	Update the chapter web site more frequently. Currently there are no 2010 meeting minutes or presentations from the 2010 events. Also: encourage use of LinkedIn for forum questions about INCOSE events rather than one-way e-mails.
A8	Networking with other SE engineers and ability to learn more about SE through topics covered in the chapter meetings, tutorials, etc.
A9	I have been studying SE for 10 years and work in SE&I for NASA. INCOSE helps me keep up to date in what is happening in SE outside of my work environment, provides contacts to experts in the various areas of SE, and provides a wealth of stored knowledge (SE Journal and Proceedings of conferences) that I rely on.
A10	To learn about current SE approaches and meet others that are willing to share their experiences.
A11	Affiliation with professional systems engineers.
A12	Social networking and learning though networking and invited speakers.

2	How can the chapter support your professional goals as they related to systems engineering?
A1	By providing lessons learned from both success and failure stories of how Systems Engineering has been implemented elsewhere.
A2	Continue to offer speakers on topics of interest.
A3	Providing knowledgeable presenters and helping local systems engineers to network & collaborate.
A4	Offer continuing education opportunities (PDUs) in various topics as relates to systems engineering in DoD acquisition environment, to include other topics, such as contracting, that affect the SE process.
A5	Provide plenty of qualifying training opportunities. The 40 hours a year to maintain a CSEP compared to the 16 PDH's required for a PE License is kind of excessive in my opinion.
A6	The local chapter is already doing a good job in this regard.
A7	Notify us of any SE opportunities available in Huntsville enhancing professional growth, covering topics related to MBSE and DODAF.
A8	Continue to provide speakers from the community. I can't participate very often, but when I have,

	it has been very helpful
A9	Speakers, training, seminars, opportunities to serve.
A10	Provide a cohort group for achieving CSEP.

3	What, if anything, would encourage you to promote INCOSE membership to your co-workers?
A1	I already do that.
A2	Benefits that support access to information, methods, tools and techniques to support me in executing systems engineering.
A3	Price reduction on membership fees?
A4	I already promote INCOSE to my coworkers for professional development, professional recognition and business building purposes.
A5	Training and reference material.
A6	I already promote INCOSE membership among my co-workers.
A7	Update the chapter web site more frequently. Currently there are no 2010 meeting minutes or presentations from the 2010 events. Also: encourage use of LinkedIn for forum questions about INCOSE events rather than one-way e-mails.
A8	Topics covered in chapter meetings.
A9	I already promote it to my co-workers. I see a ton of benefit for people working in SE. Reminders to encourage people help.
A10	That they will meet people with good SE skills and learn things that will improve their value to the company.

4	What, if anything, can we do better during our monthly meetings?
A1	Provide more informal one-on-one time with guest speakers and other attendees for the exchange of ideas and to ask questions.
A2	No response. I've not attended a local meeting yet.
A3	Introducing new faces each month, recognize new CSEP's.
A4	Haven't been attending due to my schedule so I can't really comment.
A5	The local chapter is already doing a good job in this regard.
A6	It's just hard with an active professional and personal life to have the time to come to monthly meetings. I think if you are consistent with having them and offering interesting speakers, you are doing what needs to happen. I would really like to be able to read the presentations given more quickly than they are currently being uploaded to the INCOSE HRC website. There seems to be a lag there.
A7	Try to keep the speakers on track to finish on time – I understand this may be difficult, but we have had some rambling.
A8	Always use an agenda; always go around the room for self-introductions; recognize visitors.
A9	Provide a focus group for Model Based Systems Engineering Tools.

5	What topics would you like to see presented during the monthly meetings?
A1	I would like to see topics associated with streamlining the Systems Engineering process.
A2	See response to 1 above.
A3	New information on systems engineering topics, like requirements development.
A4	How contracting process and federal funding process affect decisions and execution of the SE process in DoD acquisition. In essence, how to practice sound SE in real-world of contracts and budget constraints. (I'd like to help with that if possible).
A5	I prefer the fundamental SE areas. I always need new and good approaches to continuously sell

	the SE process to upper management. Otherwise, they tend to let funding dwindle. So, maybe, relate the topics to how use of the presented techniques can improve efficiency, lower cost, etc. (i.e. it is a good investment).
A6	System safety analysis methodologies, MBSE methodologies and notations, System Lifecycle Analysis, Preparation for CMMI SCAMPI B, Rapid Development, Estimating and Measuring, Emergent and Disruptive Technologies, Robustness Testing, Information Security System Architectures, More Lessons Learned
A7	Update the chapter web site more frequently. Currently there are no 2010 meeting minutes or presentations from the 2010 events. Also: encourage use of LinkedIn for forum questions about INCOSE events rather than one-way e-mails.
A8	MBSE, CM, DODAF, SE tools.
A9	Decision Analysis; risk management.
A10	SE success stories, company approaches to specific SE processes.
A11	Survey of Model Based Systems Engineering Tools.

6	What other societies would you like to see INCOSE partner with for future events?
A1	IEEE
A2	Any that deal with systems engineering problems.
A3	AFCEA
A4	Association of Old Crows, NDIA, SWE and PMI. All professional areas affect systems engineering processes and practice.
A5	None, in particular.
A6	PMI, AIAA, SSS
A7	AIAA, ITEA, NDIA, IEEE, maybe AFA or AUSA.
A8	AIAA, IEEE, NDIA
A9	AIAA, ITEA, NDIA, IEEE, AFA, AUSA
A10	AFCEA for their personal development courses offered in the Huntsville area.

7	What, if anything, can we do better with our tutorials?
A1	Make them more interactive. Less lecture-style.
A2	No response. I've not used any tutorials yet.
A3	Offer tutorials on a regular/predictable basis supporting certification and offer tutorials at varying times to meet membership schedules when possible.
A4	Haven't attended but will try to get to some this year.
A5	I've been interested in your tutorials, but I just don't have a lot of time to attend them. I think you should at a minimum keep on doing what you are doing.
A6	Quality, not quantity.
A7	SysML certification.

8	What aspect of systems engineering or INCOSE would you most like to see as a tutorial topic?
A1	Requirements development in both hardware and software as this issue has impacted several

	programs I've been working on, i.e. bad requirements at beginning of the project.
A2	Applying SE concepts with more focus on incorporating legacy systems into "new" systems of systems and how to apply sound SE practices to systems originally designed without SoS requirements.
A3	SysML
A4	SysML, Assurance and Security Architectures (how to meet goals of Obama Administration guidelines for Cyber Warfare)
A5	MBSE, CM, DODAF, SE tools
A6	I'm very interested in cognitive systems engineering that Gavan Lintern has written about. I think it is probably relevant to the community here. That would be interesting to have him here, or something on that. I also see a need for better system architecting, but don't know if there are people who could speak to that.
A7	Requirements Management
A8	Decision analysis, risk management.

9	How can we improve chapter communications with its members?
A1	Continue with the monthly e-mails.
A2	No suggestions at this time.
A3	Include option for CSEP's to have "CSEP" or "CSEP-Acq" embroidered on INCOSE shirts to help promote certification. Post online member roster for local chapter, include links for other societies/associations in the local area (and nationally) that complement the SE mission area.
A4	Email works fine for me.
A5	Update the chapter web site more frequently. Currently there are no 2010 meeting minutes or presentations from the 2010 events. Also: encourage use of LinkedIn for forum questions about INCOSE events rather than one-way e-mails.
A6	Maybe revive the newsletter and e-mail a link/reminder to members
A8	I think there is good communications. Other than having the presentations from monthly meetings uploaded to the website faster, I don't have any suggestions. Maybe you could have a student area for the UAH students to virtually network.
A9	Reinstitute a newsletter

	Question Text	TRUE	False/ Don't Know
10	I am willing to commit my own time to INCOSE sponsored initiatives of interest.	10	3
11	I am willing to act as an HRC-INCOSE ambassador to my organization.	9	4
12	I am willing/able to commit my organization's resources (people, funding, in-kind support, etc) to INCOSE sponsored initiatives of interest.		13
13	I am willing/able to authorize departments or task teams in my organization to perform work on INCOSE initiatives as part of my organization's work.		13
14	I am willing/able to host meetings/events at my organization's facility.	4	9
15	I am willing/able to share selected processes, tools, or training for INCOSE benefit/use.	4	9