



Midwest Gateway Newsletter

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President's Corner **Shared Vision**

It is a humbling experience and a honor to fulfill the role as President for INCOSE Midwest Gateway Chapter. As we develop an implementation plan for the year, a famous quote by Theodore Roosevelt came to me: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually try to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly. Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checked by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither

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New Members Join Chapter Board in 2008

by Bob Scheurer

Following a very successful election, the Midwest Gateway Board welcomes its new office holders in 2008. President-Elect is Brian Beyer (who is vacating his Directors seat), Treasurer (08/09) is Bill Schoening (returning to the board after serving in virtually all offices, local and international), Director (08/09) is Steve Recker (re-elected to a second 2-year term), and Chris Johann (08/09) is the newest board and INCOSE member. Bill Gold will also be joining the Board of Directors, filling in Brian Beyer's unexpired board position.

Marcos Chu moves up to the role of

President in 2008, succeeding Mason Myers. Mason stays on the board in his third year and becomes immediate Past-President. Having served multiple terms as Treasurer, Bill Bezdek has decided to take some time off (along with yours truly, leaving the Board as Past-President)! Continuing their terms are Tariq Ashraf (Secretary 07/08) and Steve D'Urso (Director 07/08).

Thanks to those who have volunteered their time in the past year on behalf of all our members and INCOSE. Let's welcome and support the newest board members for a very prosperous year in advancing our interests in Systems Engineering.

2010 INCOSE Symposium Proposal

Bill Schoening, General Chair

A team led by the Midwest Gateway chapter is proposing to host the 2010 INCOSE Symposium at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL, about 45 minutes west of O'Hare International Airport. Team members for the proposal are from the Heartland and Crossroads of America Chapters. MGC participants, as of this writing, are Bill Schoening (General Chair), Bill Jennings (Technical Program), Cihan Dagli (Academic Forum), Ron Howard (Publications), Bob Scheurer (Marketing & Publicity) and Steve Recker (Webmaster). We are seeking chairs for Finance, Sponsors, Plenary Sessions and others that will be filled later.

Why 2010? We proposed for 2009, but the INCOSE Events Committee chose Singapore. Also, it is our turn in the US Midwest to host a symposium. Also, 2010 is the 20th anniversary of INCOSE, so we have an opportunity and a responsibility to put on a good show.

Why St. Charles, Illinois? The committee began life looking at a regional conference and then grew into the symposium. With the help of PCMI, the conference management firm for INCOSE, we asked numerous cities to propose potential venues including both meeting and hotel sleeping rooms. Among those examined were St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis,

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Symposium Proposal ...

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Dallas, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Dayton. INCOSE needs meeting space relative to the number of hotel sleeping rooms we fill, and that limits the available venues from our perspective. In addition, some hotels (e.g., Adams Mark in St. Louis where IS 1995 was held) would have too many unused sleeping rooms and too few meeting rooms to attract other customers. Some venues are very expensive, some lack adequate meeting space, and some had too few sleeping rooms directly

adjacent to the meeting rooms, and some were not very appealing (cold and dark.) Pheasant Run in St. Charles Illinois and Cincinnati stood out as the best options. I made a site visit to both.

Pheasant Run is a resort setting, and we will be the only occupants. There is plenty of meeting space, and 600 sleeping rooms between the resort proper and a hotel owned by Pheasant Run directly across the road. That is more slightly more sleeping rooms that INCOSE has used in the immediately adjacent hotels in the past.

What comes next? Our proposal was submitted on 17 December, and will be reviewed by the Events

Committee at the Workshop in Albuquerque, NM in late January. We should hear by mid February. We do not know what other proposals might be submitted, but we suspect that the Wright Brothers chapter in Dayton will submit one. Once selected, we will begin recruiting co-chairs and chair positions that have not been filled. A few long lead items will be addressed, such as a contract with Pheasant Run as well as identifying and contacting major speakers. Most of the other planning and execution will take place beginning in the spring of 2009.

What is in it for members supporting the Symposium?

First and foremost, this is an opportunity to do something for the organization to which we all belong. In addition, it will encourage us to develop relationships with other INCOSE members, many of whom we have never met. No one will be paid; this is a voluntary organization. However, we hope to provide all those who provide support with a complimentary registration for their own use. We will have to establish some minimum level of involvement, but it is not expected to be very stringent.



Screenshots from <http://pheasantrun.com/>



Tongue in Cheek - A Letter from Homomorpheus, A Scribe of the Order of the Divine System

*By Homomorpheus
a.k.a. Fredrick A. Steiner*

To all ye brothers and sisters of the gospel of Systems Engineering, Greetings! May thy labors be blessed with insight, that thou may become a font of structure and system understanding to the heathen among us all.

It has been disclosed, via the miracle of the mail of the electron, that disharmony has erupted among the followers of the gospel of Systems Engineering! Can it be

true? And over so small a matter as the vanity of the title of "Systems Engineer"? Peace be with thee, my brothers and sisters! Such disharmony has not been seen since the long fought battle of the trailing "s"! And for what?

Yea, verily, the gospel of Systems Engineering has planted the feet and strengthened the arm of the Manager of program, and has given substance to the secret workings of the Chief Engineer and Director of

Systems Engineering cannot be put in a box!

Technical. It has served as a guidebeacon for craftsmen of Wares that are Soft, and Wares that are Hard. It has served as a refuge for the followers of Quality, Safety, and Support, as well as the minions of Test and Integration. Had it not been so, it would have been a false gospel, indeed!

(see Tongue in Cheek... on page 3)



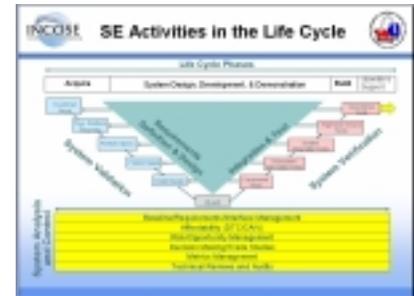


Force Majeure

By Marcos Chu

One of the activities that System Engineers (SE) perform is risk/opportunity management. It is not only necessary to manage possible risks but also extraordinary event or circumstance beyond control. The term "Act of God" is a legal term that usually refers to floods or other natural disasters. It is necessary for SE to work with other disciplines such as Contract Managers to ensure that such risks are mitigated. I had an opportunity to experience first hand the risks and opportunities of an act of God when I was mentoring INCOSE MG sponsored FIRST Robotics team 1706 and their robot got damaged by Force Majeure. Their story can

be seen on KSDK.com by going on the search field and typing : "Wentzville Robotics". The support from the community and the sponsoring companies was amazing, but something that really made a difference was the action of a group of children that goes to Boone Trail Elementary of the Wentzville School District and belong to an organization called "Character Club". The Character Club was able to raise more than a thousand dollars for the FIRST



Robotics Team and ensuring they could replace the parts damaged by the water flood. Something really caught my eye when I saw a photo of the members of the Character Club, and one of the members was wearing a River Oaks Church shirt on the photo. I showed the photo to my Pastor and commented that God works in mysterious ways in many ways from Force Majeure to getting the community involved.

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Let us not, my brothers and sisters, debase the gospel by confining it to a single name! Systems Engineering cannot be put in a box! Let us simply embrace the evangelical precepts of the gospel as disclosed to us by Sir Gerome of the Lake, Sir Brian of Mar, Bro. Eberhard and Bro. Mack! The heathen care not what the followers of the gospel call themselves, yet they continue to flounder in darkness! My brothers and sisters, cease thy bickering and concern thyself with the ministering compassion, structure, and meaningful system models to those who need them most. They, in turn, will find a name for thee, and that will be thy reward! Let us apply the gospel to our own actions. Let us concentrate on requirement before function, and function before form. Let us establish metrics on our own lives, and judge our alternatives accordingly. Amen.

(Tongue in Cheek is reprinted from the INCOSE Midwest Gateway Newsletter March 1997, Volume 6 – Issue 1)

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enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." I look forward to working with everyone, to be there "marred by dust and sweat and blood" as we forge ahead and share in the "glorious triumphs" to come.

Marcos Chu, Chapter President,
INCOSE, Midwest Gateway Chapter

MWG INCOSE chapter members:

I want to thank you for your participation in chapter activities during 2007 and I look forward to helping organize some engaging chapter activities during 2008. To help me fulfill this goal, I encourage you to provide me with suggestions as to potential meeting topics and activities that you feel would be beneficial to our membership.

Mason Myers, Past President

INCOSE MWG 2008 Board of Directors

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Secretary (07/08):

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Treasurer (08/09):

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