



Midwest Gateway Newsletter

International Council on Systems Engineering

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President's Corner

Greeting fellow INCOSE Midwest Gateway members,

I can't believe we are already in July, time goes fast. This has been a great year so far with members such as Dr. Dagli representing us at INCOSE 2008 Symposium, first time having a booth at FIRST Robotics St. Louis Regional competition and a strong membership programs made possible thanks to the work of Bob Scheurer and the strong board we have this year serving our membership. As I reflect on the achievements done so far by our chapter I look forward to next year. We plan to begin doing 2009 budgeting in October, if you have an idea for a project that you feel the chapter should be engaged, let me know and send me a note at marcos.chu@incose.org.

Sincerely,

*Marcos Chu, Chapter President,
INCOSE, Midwest Gateway Chapter*

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Chapter Receives Fourth Consecutive Award

by Bob Scheurer,

INCOSE Member Board Representative for Region I

Our Midwest Gateway INCOSE chapter was honored in June with the "Silver Chapter Circle Award" at the 2008 International Symposium held in The Netherlands. Received on behalf of our chapter by member Dr. Cihan Dagli of Missouri University of Science and Technology, this award recognizes our chapter for "performing to the highest goal and standards established by (INCOSE)" in the past year.

This is the fourth consecutive year that a Circle Award has been received by our chapter and represents the board's continued commitment to quality in the membership experience. As the lifeblood of INCOSE, chapters are rigorously evaluated on their performance in the categories of: activities, communications, membership, technical, outreach, INCOSE support, operations, and general.

While there are no guarantees, rest assured that the chapter will attempt to extend the Circle Award string in 2009 to five years running. To make that a reality, however, the board asks that all members

participate in chapter activities and consider taking on a broader role in the organization, including serving on the Board, presenting at a chapter meeting, writing a newsletter article, or other opportunity for growth.

For additional info about the INCOSE Circle Award program, see: <http://www.incose.org/chapter/s/awards/criteria.aspx>

Asian Heritage Month

Marcos Chu, Chapter President

May was Asian Heritage Month, which commemorates the contributions of Asian-Americans here in the United States. Congress had passed a joint Congressional resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May.

As INCOSE MG interim outreach coordinator, I had the opportunity to facilitate a Japanese Culture Lunch 'n' Learn sponsored by BAAPA (Boeing Asian American Professional Association) here in St. Louis. At one of the slides I was presenting it mentions the definition of systems as "an integrated set of elements to accomplish a defined objective. This includes hardware, software, people, information, facilities, services and other support elements." It is important to see how people are a key part of any system and be able to understand the contribution of all people.

The best way to adapt to change is to be the one who's changing things.

*Jeff Tomchick, Manager of
Learning Technologies at THINQ*





We have a Winner!

Marcos Chu, Chapter President

The INCOSE Midwest Gateway Board of Directors has selected our 2008 FIRST FRC Robotics Trade Study Challenge winner. The winner this year is a team from St. Charles, Team 1094, The River City Robots Channel Cats!

To the right is part of their winning Trade Study submission.

Congratulations to the Channel Cats!

We plan to give the Channel Cats team a de-brief in August, if you are interested in joining us, contact me: Marcos.Chu@incose.org

EVALUATION CRITERIA DEFINITION

- A. Useable for Next Year - Would the purchase and implementation of the proposed item result in a useable product for the 2009 robot competition?
- B. Provides Skill Building - Would the proposed effort result in the addition of new skills on our team?
- C. Fixes Known Problems—Would the pursuit of the proposed item fix some known problem we have with our current or past robots?
- D. High Payoff - Would the use of this item have a profound positive impact on the performance of our robot and that of our team?
- E. Fits Within Budget - Would the proposal fit into the provided grant even if we were to add some amount of RCR organization funds to it?

PROPOSAL SELECTION MATRIX

| Proposals | Useable for Next Year | Provides Skill Building | Fixes Known Problems | High Payoff | Fits Within Budget | Total Score |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1- IMU | H | H | H | H | H | 5H, 0M, 0L |
| 2 - Rockets | L | H | L | L | M | 1H, 1M, 3L |
| 3 - Encoder | H | H | M | M | H | 3H, 2M, 0L |
| 4 - Sonar | M | H | M | L | H | 2H, 2M, 1L |
| 5 - Books | H | H | M | M | H | 3H, 2M, 0L |
| 6 - 2 Speed Transmission | H | H | H | H | M | 4H, 1M 0L |
| 7 - Compact RIO Controls | H | H | M | H | L | 3H, 1M 1L |

Joint Chapters Meeting Opens New Opportunities

by Bob Scheurer, INCOSE Member Board Representative for Region I

Learning from one another is an excellent way to grow. As members of INCOSE, we all have an excellent source of information on Systems Engineering as close as our local chapter meeting or web site. In May, 2008, though, that window of opportunity opened wider when the first INCOSE joint chapters meeting was conducted by various participants from INCOSE Region I (a vast geographic region encompassing northwest North America), including our Midwest Gateway Chapter.

Hosted by Bob Scheurer, INCOSE Member Board Representative for Region I, and featuring Joe Kasser of the U.K., the presentation seriously explored the hypothesis that systems engineers should actually be considered “Wizards of Modern Society”. Regardless of opinions regarding the claims, the meeting participants enjoyed a healthy discussion after the briefing and agreed that the joint meeting

approach is an excellent way to broaden our understanding of systems engineering from fresh, new perspectives.

After the presentation, Bob forwarded a report to the INCOSE Board for consideration of this medium on an INCOSE-wide,

international scale. That way, INCOSE members don't have to wait until an international symposium to share insights beyond their local chapter. They can learn from and engage one another at chapter meetings which anytime now can conceivably reach across all corners of the globe.

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