Midwest Gateway Newsletter

International Council on Systems Engineering

President's Corner

Bob Scheurer
President MGC INCOSE

It's amazing that we're already a third of the way through 2010. A check of our chapter status and **plans for the remainder of 2010** shows that your Midwest Gateway Chapter is already having a great year. I'm pleased to inform you that our chapter has completed and filed all new planning requirements for INCOSE with the release of our Strategic Plan, Communications Plan, Operations Plan, and Member Recruitment and Retention Plan. You may find them posted on our chapter web site at:
http://www.incose.org/mdwest/ChapterDocs.htm

Our Workshop Committee just wrapped up the lessons learned from the **recent chapter tutorial** at Washington University and declared it a qualified success. Attendance was strong, with participation from a diverse group of both members and non-members, working profess-ionals and university students alike. Thanks to everyone who

INCOSE MGC at FIRST Robotics Competition

Several Members of the Midwest Gateway Chapter of INCOSE volunteered at the 2010 FIRST Robotics Regional Competition on Saturday, March 20th at the Chaifetz Arena on the at Saint Louis University campus.

Boeing employees Brian Beyer (INCOSE past president), Mike Mobley (Outreach Chairman), and Bill Bezdek set-up and ran an INCOSE MGC booth to help promote science and engineering to the Robotics Community. The team covered the booth from 8:30 am until early afternoon. They talked to hundreds of kids and parents wanting to know what SE was…and get a free Airplane/glider kit!

Common questions Brian, Mike and Bill fielded were: What is SE? What do you do? What is INCOSE? Where do you work? What do you do at Boeing?

The key is to have a 15-30 second answer, because most of the folks just want your free give-aways and they don't really have time to listen to a 3-5 minute speech. You have to be quick and give what is called an elevator pitch to catch their attention.

Talking to the kids was fun and the event is exciting. Brian took his children as well (two boys, 10 and 4 years old) and they didn't want to leave come afternoon… good times!

The event was open (free) to the public thanks to sponsorship by The Boeing Company. INCOSE

Brian Beyer at morning set-up

FIRST Robotics Cont'd

members highlighted the value of systems engineering while explaining our role in designing systems. We spoke to hundreds of high school kids from Ohio, Kansas, Texas, Missouri, and all over the Midwest.

Brian also brought a bike down to the Chaifetz as a systems engineering display to explain the role a systems engineer would have in the process of making a high end racing bike for someone like Lance Armstrong.

The Robotics competition is focused on high school students getting involved in science to develop a robot to execute a specific mission. Students only have 6 weeks to understand the game, design, build, and test their robots. Next year's National Championship FIRST Robotics event will be held in St. Louis.

The volunteers all had a great time and had a lasting effect on influencing the kids to become engineers someday!

Photos by Bill Bezdek , Brian Beyer, and Mike Mobley

Mike Mobley working the crowd

Our INCOSE Midwest Gateway Chapter booth – freebies!

Views of the competition from the peanut gallery

President's Corner Cont'd

either worked on the committee or attended the event. This tutorial may be repeated in the Fall at another university in the St. Louis area to help enlighten additional audiences on the virtues of Systems Engineering value analysis. Watch for future announcements on this possible event.

Our Programs Committee is putting the finishing touches on **our next chapter meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 27**. Suzanne Bergman will be presenting

"Exploring the Spectrum of Needs Using Decision Analysis" . Thanks to Suzanne for her willingness to present to us. While details on this meeting are included as often as possible in our chapter news-letters, you can always find the latest meeting information on our chapter web site at http://www.incose.org/mdwest .
 If you have a presentation on a Systems Engineering subject and would like to share it with us at an upcoming meeting, please contact

Dick Mayer at the address posted at: http://www.incose.org/mdwest/directors.htm

In July, INCOSE will be celebrating its 20th anniversary at the **2010 International Symposium** in Chicago. I hope you're making plans now to attend what should prove to be a memorable and professionally-rewarding occasion.   For details, check out the symposium web site at: http://www.incose.org/symp2010/

Our chapter was saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected

Achieving Best-Value Solutions through Systems Engineering Analysis Techniques Tutorial

On April 24th, the MWG Chapter of INCOSE sponsored a Skills Development Workshop: "Achieving Best-Value Solutions through Systems Engineering Analysis Techniques. The workshop was attended by 20 who were comprised of:

• Nine Washington University students

• Two Washington University faculty

• Nine practicing engineers, seven from Boeing.

Initial feedback from the attendees was very complimentary. A feature that was especially enjoyed was the teaming of students and engineers while performing three group exercises.

Tutorial Objectives:
To develop the attendees' Systems Engineering skills in identifying cost-effective solutions, making affordable trade studies decisions, performing cost-risk analysis and identifying best value designs.

Prerequisite:
Engineering background

Target Audience:
Systems Engineering students, faculty, and practitioners

Keywords:
SE, cost-performance, best value, workshop, Washington University, INCOSE

Slide Rule Lessons

Mike Franco with student

Smile for the camera

Jim Carlson with students

Bill Bezdek & team

Photos from INCOSE SE Workshop, 24 April at Washington University

In Memory of Dana F. Peterson

It is with great sadness that I am informing you of the passing of Dana Peterson, a trusted colleague, an amiable friend, and a fellow INCOSE member. Dana died suddenly Friday, April 2nd, 2010 of an apparent heart attack. He was 61 years old. He is survived by his wife Donna and son Sean.

Dana will be sorely missed by everyone at DRS and by the M1200 Armored Knight team in particular. We all benefited from Dana's detailed knowledge of the product and especially from his experience and knowledge in the area of Systems Engineering. Dana was the first CSEP at DRS and actively strove to recruit other members into the INCOSE organization as well. I, and many others at DRS, looked to Dana for leadership in the area of Systems Engineering - and he delivered. Dana even authored the DRS-SSI Systems Engineering Manual which is followed to this day. Dana was an INCOSE CSEP with a U.S. DoD Acquisition Extension.

Dana's obituary may be found at
http://www.legacy.com/link.asp?i=ls000141527544.

Sincerely,
Jim Strohmeyer
CSEP, INCOSE Midwest Gateway Chapter

President's Corner Cont'd

passing of a valued member and dear colleague, **Dana Peterson** of DRS. He was instrumental in achieving a strong commitment to Systems Engineering in his company and could always be counted on to participate in our chapter activities. A summary of Dana's obituary is included in this newsletter. He will be missed.

Chapter strength and success is directly related to the involvement of members in chapter activities. We appreciate everyone who is involved in whatever level possible. These are challenging times to say the least, but being involved in a professional society, whether it be at local or inter-national levels, is an ideal way to network with others and overcome the challenges together. If you haven't taken the time to complete our **chapter survey** e-mailed recently to members, please do so now so that your opinions can be factored into our future activities.

I hope to see you at an upcoming INCOSE event – and feel free to **bring along a colleague**.

Reaching the Vision

Our chapter continues to work hard in meeting the objectives set out at the beginning of 2010. We're well on our way to completing many of our goals, as noted in the status board below.

Goal	Status	Score
1) Develop and deliver at least one tutorial	🔵	4/24
2) Have at least two member papers accepted for the next symposium	🟠	TBD
3) Provide at least three special recognitions to members in the chapter	🟠	TBD
4) Publish at least four chapter newsletters	🔵	2/4
5) Conduct at least five outreach engagements with other societies, universities, schools, etc.	🟢	1/5
6) Have participation of at least six Midwest Gateway Chapter members in IS2010	🟠	TBD
7) Identify at least seven events where our chapter banner is exhibited (and photographed where possible).	🟢	1/7
8) Hold at least eight chapter general membership meetings/presentations	🟢	4/8
9) Receive at least nine new members into our local chapter	🔵	3/9
10) Conduct at least ten Board of Directors meetings.	🟢	4/10

Chapter Planning Docs

In our reaching out to provide more information and value to our stakeholders, we are capturing and publishing the following documents.

[Midwest Gateway INCOSE Strategic Plan](#)

[Midwest Gateway INCOSE Operations Plan](#)

[Midwest Gateway INCOSE Membership Retention and Recruitment Plan](#)

 [Midwest Gateway INCOSE Communications Plan](#)

They are published on http://www.incose.org/mdwest//chapterdocs.htm. We've added a link to the new page on the web sites' left

navigation bar. Some of the plans are still in draft form, but they outline how your Chapter Board of Directors has, and will be conducting chapter business. In the future, we plan on publishing more of the chapter's documents on this page. Stay tuned!

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