



# Midwest Gateway Newsletter

## International Council on Systems Engineering

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### President's Corner

William J. (Bill) Bezdek  
President MGC INCOSE

We will continue our robotics theme with the March 15th meeting for the BEST Spiral 5 robot by Marcos Chu and we have the regional FIRST robotic competition, like we supported last year, coming up on 19 March, in preparation for the national competition at the end of April. In January, we hosted Jill Malcom, Executive Director for the Mastodon Art / Science Fair in March. We will contribute and provide an outreach program for them on Friday, March 18, 2011 at Jefferson College. I encourage all INCOSE members to support the organization. We also provided a speaker for several classes at the St Charles Community College.

In April, we are working on a second tutorial for later in the year with a presentation on INCOSE certification as our monthly meeting. We hope to repeat the Value Front / Cost tools again this spring, perhaps in May in conjunction with Washington University.

For Engineer's Week, our past president, Bob Scheurer received

(see **President's Corner...** on page 3)

### Report on INCOSE International Workshop IW2011

Phoenix, AZ January 28 – February 2

Bob Scheurer, Region I Member Board Representative

While the Midwest was bracing for what was predicted to be a blizzard of historical proportions, the annual INCOSE International Workshop was being conducted in Phoenix, AZ. Even though the climate outside the conference hotel was a little more temperate than the Midwest, the climate inside could in some respects be described as a blizzard of activity.

As many already are aware, the annual International Workshop is a chance for INCOSE leadership, committees, and working groups to caucus, define, refine, and strategize what INCOSE is doing and will be doing over the next year and beyond. Bringing together systems-minded individuals into a setting such as this can often yield "interesting" results, and this time was no different.

INCOSE is closing in on 8,000 active members since its inception in 1990. While the growth is

impressive, INCOSE leadership believes the organization could be doing better. Discussions at the Member Board meetings, of which the author participated and led as the Region I representative, indicated

**INCOSE is closing in on 8000 active members**

that there is  
dissension among  
the ranks  
regarding the  
recent dues  
increase and the

process used by the INCOSE Board of Directors to set the increase last fall. Leadership reportedly needed the increase to fund on-going initiatives/services and develop more products, which are considered the life-blood of the growing body. Meanwhile, chapters are considered the heart of INCOSE, and the membership increases in many chapters indicates significant demand for INCOSE products and services. (Region I, of which the Midwest Gateway Chapter is a component, saw an average member growth of approx. 20% in 2010.) Only time will tell whether the dues increase ultimately helped or hurt INCOSE.

Without going into all of the nuts and bolts from the various sessions and meetings, suffice it to say that the

(see **Report on INCOSE...** on page 2)

### Congratulations Bob!!!



In case you missed it, the *February* issue of the **St. Louis Engineer**, the newsletter for the *St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers*, has named our own **Robert (Bob) Scheurer** an Outstanding Engineer in Industry. The entire article can be found at the following address:

[http://www.mspe.org/chapters/document/s/09-February\\_2011\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://www.mspe.org/chapters/document/s/09-February_2011_Newsletter.pdf)

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### *Report on INCOSE International Workshop IW2011 (continued)*

organization is positioning itself for prosperity into the next decade. Included in those plans is a goal to increase the number of Certified Systems Engineers (CSEP) far beyond the current 700+ certifications. Additionally, there is a strong move to have the CSEP recognized as the premier standard for systems engineering competency. Remarks made by some members were that certain DoD RFPs are already asking about the number of CSEPs at the responding contractor. There was a tone of anticipation that CSEP relevance will grow even more in the future.

As one of the more active chapters in INCOSE, the Midwest Gateway Chapter donated a basket (see

photo to the right) to the INCOSE Foundation to raise funds during the workshop and support systems engineering education around the world. The lucky recipient is enjoying products representative of or originating from the Midwest Gateway chapter area.

As we transition from the International Workshop to the International Symposium in June, feel free to express your thoughts regarding how you think INCOSE is doing. If you have any particular questions or comments regarding the products and services originating from INCOSE, please contact a member of the Midwest Gateway Board of Directors or drop a note to the author at [robert.scheurer@incose.org](mailto:robert.scheurer@incose.org).



INCOSE needs and depends on an active membership base to further the cause of Systems Engineering, -- locally, nationally, and internationally.

### *Broaden Your Horizons at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual INCOSE International Symposium*



June 20-23, 2011 takes INCOSE to another great city as we head for Denver, USA. This will be the highest altitude international INCOSE event to date, and is the first time that INCOSE has held such an event in Colorado, the Centennial State.

Home to both aerospace and defense and to industries newer to systems engineering such as ground transportation and renewable energy, the location provides the perfect venue for INCOSE to 'come of age' as it turns 21. As one of only 3 US states without natural borders, Colorado truly represents our profession as we continue to grow, unconstrained by either traditional domains or the limited view of systems engineering as 'process-centric'.

(see *Broaden Your Horizons...* on page 3)

#### **World Renowned Speakers:**

- Tsuyoshi Fujita, Ph.D., speaking on sustainable development.
- Chris Barkey, speaking on the evolution of aircraft engines.
- Conrad Lautenbacher, Ph.D., speaking on the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).
- Kedrick Brown, speaking on Telecommunications and networking.

#### **Presentations:**

- 96 papers representing a diverse range of systems engineering experiences & methods.
- 6 panels where the global leaders in systems engineering will debate, discuss, and interact with the audience.
- Tutorials that provide broad and fundamental training for systems engineers.
- An Academic Forum for discussion and debate on questions pertaining to systems engineering education and research.

#### **Technical Tours:**

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) located in Golden, CO.
- Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) located in Boulder, CO.



**St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers Awards Event**



Bill Bezdek (on the right in first photo) presenting the Outstanding Professional Engineer in Industry to Bob Scheurer. The second photo shows some of the other participants at the event.

**Presidents Corner (cont'd)**

the Outstanding Engineer in Industry award from the St. Louis chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) at the Prologue Room on 25 February and we had INCOSE support the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) at the Science Center on 27 February.

**INCOSE Vision**

The world's authoritative systems engineering professional society.

**INCOSE Mission**

Advance the state of the art and practice of systems engineering in industry, academia, and government by promoting interdisciplinary, scalable approaches to produce technologically appropriate solutions that meet societal needs.

**Broaden Your Horizons (cont'd)**

We look forward to bringing you a diverse program which reflects both our traditional domains and opportunities to make a difference in newer application areas.

Please join us in Denver – against the stunning backdrop of the 30 highest summits of the US Rocky Mountains – as we continue to reach new heights in systems engineering!

Sincerely,  
Samantha Brown  
President, INCOSE

**INCOSE MWG 2011 Board of Directors**

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