IEEE

GOLD
Graduates Of the Last Decade

In the News!

Message from GOLD Committee Chair

GOLD to Celebrate 10 Year Anniversary in 2006

IEEE Region 2 GOLD Website

IEEE Launches Phase 1 of Web site Revamp in 2006

New Award Recognizes Ethical Practices

IEEE's Education Partners Program

GOLD Online Seminar held on 16 December

IEEE Travel offers Global Online Hotel Booking

Time Saver: Submitting GOLD Activity Reports Electronically

MARCH 2006 GOLD-RUSH NEWSLETTER
Message from GOLD Committee Chair Darrel Chong

Dear All,

Recently, I read one of John C. Maxwell's bestseller books, 'The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership'. This book listed 21 laws that described what Maxwell believes made effective leadership. In the opening chapter, Maxwell wrote about the law of lids, which explained the importance of leadership, and that leadership is both a result of talent and hard work. He emphasized that *personal and organizational effectiveness is proportionate to the strength of leadership.* Although one may choose to increase effectiveness by investing more effort, effectiveness ultimately depends on the person's leadership ability. While reading the chapter, I could identify with his illustrations through my personal experiences and observations on how others exercised leadership. I cannot agree further with Maxwell that leadership can be nurtured. However strange enough, despite the importance of leadership ability, it is probably one area that professionals who are early in their career often overlook. And few people take initiative to develop their leadership capabilities.

Being a volunteer in IEEE since the university days gave me many opportunities to lead. Though I might have been a leader by position, I do not think that I was a leader by influence since the beginning. It was through the daily experiences in decision making, casting vision, communicating ideas, building relationship and working along side with peers that I believe had gradually molded me into a more effective leader. In this short introduction, I would like to encourage you to consider volunteering in IEEE or any other organization that gives you opportunity to nurture your leadership ability. You will see yourself becoming a more effective person. All things begin with small steps; like the Great Wall of China did not exist before the first block of earth was laid.

The opportunity to volunteer and serve as the GOLD (RAB) Committee Chair allowed me to put the things I have learned in a greater scale. Recently, GOLD Committee 2006 held its annual meeting in San Francisco, 10-12 March. We discussed the relevance of GOLD, developed the vision and mission statements for the committee, approved the new committee structure, and delivered a comprehensive action plan for the remaining of the year. The details of the meeting will be highlighted in the June GOLD RUSH newsletter. In delivering value-added activities of our IEEE GOLD members, the Committee is nurturing and is in the pipeline of launching three activities that bring immediate value to GOLD members worldwide.

- First is the IEEE Mentoring Program. Based on this program, GOLD hopes to provide the process to match young members to more experienced professionals (IEEE members) who will then act as mentors. The program was piloted in Regions 1, 2 and 3 during 2005-06. The results are welcoming. We are evaluating this program and expect to launch it to all IEEE Regions during 2006.
- Second is the GOLD Online Seminar. We launched internationally the first one-hour online seminar in December 2005 featuring "Networking: How young engineers can open doors to more opportunities!" The recorded session is available on the IEEE GOLD website. In May 2006, GOLD will be launching its second online seminar on financial planning. Access information will be publicized in the coming weeks.
- Third is the IEEE Expert Now tutorial. GOLD is working with Carl Selinger, the

author of "Stuff You Didn't Learn in Engineering School" to develop a one hour online module. We expect it will be ready in 2006.

With kind regards, Darrel Chong, GOLD Chair, 2006

IEEE GOLD to Celebrate 10 year Anniversary in 2006

Do you know it has been 10 years since the IEEE GOLD program was introduced? Let's celebrate 10 years of GOLD achievement. Join us for an online scavenger hunt in the fall of 2006 with fabulous prizes. Check out our special celebration website to learn about IEEE GOLD's past and present and you will have chances to win. Watch out for details rolling out soon. You would not want to miss out!

For more information, contact Verona Wong at vwong@ieee.org.

IEEE Region 2 Website has new look and a Blog!

IEEE Region 2, Eastern USA, is updating the GOLD website with a new look & new links, information pieces, and GOLD contacts by its Region GOLD Coordinator, Wole Akpose. Visit the new site at http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/2/gold/ . Wole has also added a blog at this site, so go and visit and leave your comments at http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/2/gold/blog/ .

IEEE Launches Phase 1 of Website Revamp in 2006

IEEE members and other frequent visitors to www.ieee.org have likely noticed some changes since year end. The updates are the first of several planned enhancements to the organization website and are intended to make the site a more valuable resource for members, the technical profession, and the general public.

The initial updates, which are based on both user comments and Web site best practices, include:

- Additional search capabilities; Users can search the IEEE Web site, the entire Web (using Google) and the IEEE Xplore® digital library database
- Refreshed design, more reflective of the organization's diverse activities and audiences
- Shorter, more user-friendly URLs
- Migration toward a more streamlined navigation utilizing information portals and "What Do You Want to Do" options to help visitors locate content relevant to their interest area

As the first step in an iterative process, these enhancements will pave the way for ongoing improvements. The IEEE encourages visitors to take a tour of the revamped site and to continue to share feedback as the site evolves.

New Award Recognizes Ethical Practices

Did you know of an IEEE member or an organization employing IEEE members that has shown exemplary ethical behavior or practices, or successfully advocated them? Then consider nominating that person or company for the newly established IEEE Award for Distinguished Ethical Practices.

The first award will be presented in 2007. The deadline for nominations is 1 July 2006. Nominations must come from the general membership of the IEEE. Members of the IEEE Board of Directors, the IEEE Awards Board, The IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC), and IEEE staff may not submit nominations. Nor are self-nominations permitted.

The nomination form is available on the EMCC website at http://www.ieee.org/ethics and through the "Other Awards Programs" link on the IEEE Awards website at http://www.ieee.org/awards.

Did you know about IEEE's Education Partners Program?

Education Partners, exclusively for IEEE members, offers on-line degree programs, certifications and courses at up to a 10% discount to members. The Partners are a carefully selected number of universities and corporations reviewed and approved by highly qualified IEEE volunteers to ensure members receive the most effective learning resources.

Some of the courses offered include leadership, marketing, business law, technology management, professional license reviewing, online master's programs and online graduate certificate programs. You will need to go to http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/education/partners/eduPartners.html to view the listing of the universities and corporations and their specific offerings. An IEEE web account is needed to access the partners' web sites. If you do not have an IEEE web account, go to http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/web/accounts/index.html .

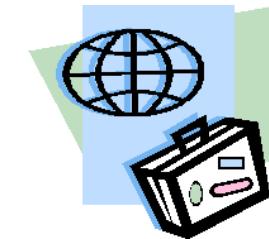**GOLD Online Seminar held on 16 December 2005**

It happened! In December, the pilot of our GOLD Online Seminar series took place, with Karen Susman, an independent consultant from the US, talking about "Networking: How young engineers can open the door to more opportunities". About 150 IEEE GOLD members from all over the world attended this event, which took place via the Internet Conferencing/Presentation platform used by IEEE.

This is the first product which is directly organized and coordinated by the GOLD Committee and brought to our 35,000 IEEE GOLD members around the world. With the great interest in this activity as a tailwind, we plan to bring this event as a "GOLD Online Seminar series" to the GOLD Community again in 2006. Also note that this conferencing infrastructure can also be used on an individual basis to link together geographically remote GOLD groups for common events. In the GOLD group here in Munich, we are thinking about using the system for a talk presented by a GOLD friend in Nigeria, talking about his experience as an engineer working on an oil rig to the GOLD group in Munich.

Click here for information on the IEEE Internet Conference Tool. For additional information on the IEEE GOLD seminar, visit the site here.

IEEE Travel Offers Global Online Hotel Booking

Travel Services has launched http://www.ieee-hotels.com , a free, online hotel reservation service enabling users to receive IEEE-negotiated corporate rates. Powered by hotel.de, Germany's most-requested hotel reservation service, www.ieee-hotels.com includes over 150,000 international hotels and accepts payments in both U.S. dollars and Euros. The site is available in English, German, Italian, French and Spanish and includes a Freenights Bonus Program, which lets site visitors earn points that can be redeemed for complimentary hotel stays. Visit the site at http://www.ieee-hotels.com.

Time Saver: Submitting GOLD Activity Reports Electronically

When you are ready to submit your GOLD Affinity Group activity reports to your Section, did you know that you could submit the reports after each meeting (instead of waiting until the end of year) and take care of it electronically on the IEEE web site? Submit your meeting report electronically at http://www.ieee.org/L31 and a copy will be sent to your Section. This is the best way to insure your meetings are recorded and the Section is notified. If you use the electronic reporting form, you are sure to submit all the required information, since the form provides prompts and it won't let you submit the record with missing information.

The minimum meeting requirements to earn a rebate each year is two (2) meetings for Affinity Groups. If you have any questions on the reporting form or have trouble using the form, please send an email to sec-rebate@ieee.org or call +1 732 562 5513.

The GOLD Rush is a quarterly electronic newsletter published by the IEEE Regional Activities Board Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Committee highlighting activities of the Committee and IEEE GOLD members. Sections of this newsletter have been excerpted from IEEE newsletters intended for the interest of IEEE volunteers and members and maybe shared with other IEEE members via email or through IEEE-related publications. It should not be sent to public bulletin boards or non-IEEE media.

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