



Bill Kennedy, President Elect of IEEE Canada shared some of his wisdom on career management with GOLD Winnipeg.
L-R: Owen Preston, Dawn Nedohin-Macek, Bill Kennedy, Jennifer Jessop, Troy Dolyniuk

As Good As GOLD Student Industry Networking in Winnipeg

Jennifer Jessop, Winnipeg GOLD

It was a full house at the Winnipeg Squash and Racquet Club on September 26, 2003. One hundred invited guests gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Winnipeg Section. That night, Bill Kennedy, IEEE Canada's President-Elect, came to talk to members of IEEE GOLD with his presentation, titled: *Your Career: What are you doing about it?*

Mr. Kennedy discussed techniques like: how to get employed, resume writing, and finding the correct combination of technical expertise and managerial skills as one progresses through their career. He commented that today, the likelihood of changing careers is high, and the likelihood of staying with a single employer over a career is very slim.

"Eighty percent of what you know is based on how you communicate your technical know how," stated Bill Kennedy.

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CBC Vancouver Tour



CBC Vancouver's GM, Scott Stewardson (left), accepts a thank-you from Gerardo Rios (right).

Helen Ho, Vancouver GOLD

From a technical perspective, it's an exciting time for television and radio broadcasting in Canada. The broadcasting industry is in the midst of deciding what standards to support, and with the availability of Internet broadcasting, multimedia production has added another dimension to the situation.

Television and radio broadcasting at the CBC is done completely in data format, so network reliability is a major issue. After the recent blackout in Ontario, the CBC in Toronto was able to restore their broadcasting systems within four minutes because they had adequate backup systems. Lou Normandeau, one of the CBC tour hosts, covered the different data formats and compression methods used to transfer television content from the CBC Vancouver studio to the Toronto hub. He recently attended a seminar on the future of television, "with all the technological changes, I could read for 24 hours a day and still not be able to keep up." At this point, there is a lack of consensus on the technological standards for television. "I look at what is out there right now, and it's just a mess." This issue is certainly not unfamiliar to IEEE's members. Lou doesn't think the CBC will jump on the

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Engineering in World Conflict



Lt. Summers on his birthday. See more photographs at: www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca

Helen Ho, Vancouver GOLD

Have you ever wondered about what it's like to be the engineer in charge of a combat system aboard a Canadian Forces naval ship? Soon after arriving home from Operation Apollo in the Arabian Gulf, Lt. Ted Summers came to visit IEEE GOLD to talk about his experiences in the military.

Lt. Ted Summers is a Combat Systems Engineering Officer on the HMCS Regina, based in Esquimalt, BC. He obtained a degree in materials engineering from Royal Roads University, and later trained at Nova Scotia Technical University (now part of Dalhousie University). Over the course of his career he has had a diverse range of experiences, such as, spending sixteen months on the Israeli-Egyptian border as a military observer, outfitting mission bound ships with combat systems and being a leader to his crew.

Ted was fully manned on Operation Apollo with a crew of thirty-five technicians. At times he has found that his technical skills were less important than his leadership skills. "I find that it's very important to make sure that I am taking care of the men and women that work for me. I make sure they are well taken care of so that they can concentrate on their jobs. Keeping people motivated was challenging after the initial excitement of deployment had subsided." Social activities were organized to help cheer up the ship's crew. "Whenever someone had a birthday, we'd celebrate it."

Aboard a ship, ingenuity is the best tool you have and patience and persistence are your best weapons. Lt. Summers certainly demonstrated this point when he described two pieces of major weapons equipment that were particularly prone to breakdown, "the staff affectionately call these precious 1 and precious 2". During the six months that Ted

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CBC Vancouver Tour (continued from page 1)

HDTV bandwagon any time soon. He shared a humorous anecdote about the recent taping of a live sports event in HDTV format, and then having to compress it before they could send it to Toronto. "Even with the compression, most people won't see the difference. But with something like a hockey game, the data compression does make more of a difference when you compare that to watching a still picture with a talking head."



Lou Normandeau has been in television for over 20 years now.

Dave Toner took us on a tour of the radio facilities. The sound boards we looked at had 83, 000 buttons. Now there are boards that are fully automated, but that wasn't always the case, as Dave Toner explained, "these guys (on the boards) were like octopuses". With automation, a technician can record a sequence of levels onto a disk and use the sequence later for a recording session. "The CBC has only taken the leap to digital systems in the last ten years." The legacy systems were favoured because of their reliability. These legacy systems were installed in 1975 and have a high noise to sound ratio. However, the CBC is moving over to an all digital system in order to eventually get rid of the analog phone lines they're currently leasing to transmit the radio programming to Toronto. "We lease two analog phone lines from TELUS or AT&T or whatever carrier. They guarantee that these lines will be up 99.999% of the time, otherwise they start to pay big time."

CBC Vancouver supports five lines (services): English television, French television, English radio and interactive media over the Internet. This studio is the second largest production facility that the CBC has in Canada. The CBC Vancouver is completely underground because in the early days of television production it was important to keep out all sunlight. The current trend in television newscasts is to have the



Dave Toner received all his TV training in house at the CBC. The technical aspects of TV weren't discussed during his years at the University of Western Ontario.

newscaster sitting beside a window overlooking a busy street. Lou Normandeau explained "In fact, the current CBC Vancouver newsroom used to be the cafeteria."

Thirty-two IEEE GOLD members went on a tour of the CBC Vancouver's radio and television broadcasting studio on November 26, 2003, which was organized by Gerardo Rios and Amy Zheng of Vancouver GOLD.

Did you know?

The CBC Vancouver's radio recording studio looks just like Abbey Roads, the studio that the Beatles recorded in. This studio has been featured in film and television more than once. The floor of the radio recording studio is made of wood from an extinct African tree. People have offered to buy the floor.

As Good As GOLD (continued from page 1)

His presentation stressed that in a fast changing world, effective communication is a key to success. The role that the IEEE plays in contributing to a successful career is a venue for networking, a place to build a community, a setting to find a mentor engineer, and the location to continue to develop and enhance your technical skills.

"The skills I use today weren't invented when I graduated from university." said Bill Kennedy.

"The skills I use today weren't invented when I graduated from university." Bill Kennedy.

Following the presentation the guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a beef carvery and wine, which promoted networking and the building of the IEEE community that Mr. Kennedy had talked about during his presentation.

CTTAM, (Certified Technicians & Technologists of Manitoba), Teshmont, IEEE GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade), and Red River College participated by setting up displays and providing literature about their organizations. Manitoba Hydro and Holowick Electronics provided written information, while MTS Communications set up an interactive display. Twenty-five other Industry representatives also attended the premiere event.

"80% of what you know is based on how you communicate your technical know how." Bill Kennedy

The combined efforts of GOLD members, University of Manitoba and Red River College Student Branches, the Local Section, Industry Representatives, and Friends of the IEEE, made the Winnipeg Section Student Industry Networking Event a triumphant success! Special recognition goes to Dawn Nedohin-Macek, Winnipeg GOLD Affinity Group Chair, for her tireless efforts and excellent organizational skills.

Welcome to Aurum!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Aurum, the national newsletter for GOLD Canada!

Aurum was created with two primary purposes in mind:

- 1) to increase national communication
- 2) help create a national GOLD identity

By creating a newsletter that can be distributed both electronically and in hardcopy, we hope to share ideas by promoting all of the successful GOLD activities happening across the country. Aurum can also be given to new and existing members to illustrate that GOLD Canada is a large and active organization that offers a wide variety of personal and professional benefits.

If you have an activity that you would like to promote or if you have any comments on the inaugural issue, we want to hear from you! The next deadline for submission is Feb 15, 2004.

Andy Balsler, andy.balsler@ieee.org
Publisher, Aurum



Montréal GOLD is Formed!

Peter W. Guy, Montréal GOLD Chair

A new IEEE GOLD Affinity Group was formed in Montréal, Québec in October 2003. With the help of Roni Khazaka, Assistant Professor of Microelectronics & Computer Systems at McGill University and Pierre-Luc Rigaux, Secretary of the Montréal Section of the IEEE, we have outlined ambitious plans for the upcoming year including tours of the Maison Radio-Canada, a cocktail with Québec Order of Engineers at Altitude 737, an information session on hydrogen power generation among many others.

We are excited about our upcoming events and look forward to developing a strong and active GOLD membership in the Montréal region!

National Awards

Verona Wong, Canada GOLD Chair

Year 2003 Regional Activities Board (RAB) GOLD Awards have been announced. Congratulations to Mr. Andy Balser of Vancouver GOLD and Ms. Dawn Nedohin-Macek of Winnipeg GOLD, our RAB GOLD Leadership Award recipients. Quotations from IEEE RAB recognize:

Andy "For developing a successful GOLD program that not only fosters the personal and professional development of its members but also strongly promotes networking and active member involvement."

Dawn "For Outstanding Leadership of the IEEE Winnipeg Section GOLD Affinity group in coordinating GOLD and Student Branch contributions to the Section's 50th Anniversary Celebrations."

In addition, IEEE Winnipeg Section has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the RAB Outstanding GOLD Program Award "For outstanding contributions to the advancement of IEEE by planning and promoting GOLD activities." Exciting GOLD programs are taking place across our country. How can your Section be missing it? Come forward to be an active IEEE member!

Thoughts on Working for a Living

*magister artis ingenique largitor venter ~
necessity is the mother of all invention*

The literal translation of this phrase is "the belly is the teacher of art and the dispenser of genius." This phrase first appeared in Persius' "Satires Prologue 10." The satirist self-deprecatingly explains why he is writing his verse. The prospect of cash renders all sorts of untalented people poetical.

From "A Dictionary of Latin Words and Phrases"
James Morwood for the Oxford University Press

World Conflict (continued from page 1)

was on Operation Apollo, he and his crew experienced half a dozen catastrophic failures. "At one point I completely lost a gun, and we could only get it back up half way." Getting supplies such as spare parts, fresh provisions (food and consumables) was challenging. Ted and his crew improvised by adapting equipment, for example substituting transistors in radio systems.

Lt. Summers talked about the benefits associated with a career in the military. There are quite a few fully sponsored opportunities for post-graduate training at military universities in Canada and the countries of close allies. The pay is also competitive with the private sector.

"Last year I made \$80,000, and because some of it was associated with Operational Apollo, not all of it was taxable."

About Aurum

"Aurum" is Latin word for "gold" and is where the periodic symbol Au originates. The Aurum newsletter will be published six times each year, with the next issue being for January/February 2004.

If you'd like to submit ideas for the next issue, please contact Helen Ho (hhob@yahoo.com) and Andy Balser (andy.balser@ieee.org).

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Getting Involved with GOLD

If you're interested in getting involved with the IEEE GOLD Affinity Group in your area, please contact your local GOLD Chair, or visit www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/7/activities/gold.htm

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