



# A U R U M

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## From the Editor

Hello

Aurum is back for another exciting year with its first edition of 2006!

So far it's proving to be a very busy year. Given the current economic activity in Canada, I am certain the rest of year will be even more hectic. In such busy times, it is easy to overwork yourself and invite stress. It is, therefore, very important that we take time out to socialize and look for personal and professional growth opportunities. That's where GOLD comes in and offers just that.

You can have a successful year by planning early. Get your plan of events and budget approved by your section early in the year and save yourself lots of headaches later.

Please keep in mind to send me your events calendar and a write-up after your events. Here's a reminder of article submission dates for the rest of the year.

Issue 2	June 17, 2006
Issue 3	August 19, 2006
Issue 4	November 18, 2006

I wish you all the best, have a great year!

**Ahsan Upal, P.Eng.**  
**Publisher, Aurum**

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## About Aurum

"Aurum" is Latin word for "gold" and is where the periodic symbol Au originates. The Aurum newsletter is published quarterly each year, with the next issue being in July 2006. The next deadline for submissions is June 17, 2006.

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## Introductions from New Region GOLD Coordinator!

Lori Hogan, IEEE Canada Gold Coordinator

Hi everyone!

I'm Lori Hogan, and I'll be the Region 7 GOLD Coordinator for 2006. I'm taking over from Verona, who you'll be happy to know is moving on to another role with the RAB GOLD Committee, but of course is still around when we need her. :)

To give you a little bit of background on myself, I have been an IEEE volunteer since my days of Student Branch Co-Chair at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). I've served Region 7 as Regional Student Representative for 2004-2005. Academically speaking, I graduated with my undergraduate degree in Computer Engineering from MUN in 2003, and am finishing up a Masters in Computer Engineering on a part-time basis. In the work world, I am a project engineer at C-Core, a company that provides engineering solutions to clients in the areas of intelligent systems, remote sensing (my current area), ice engineering and geotechnical engineering.

Besides being R7 GOLD Chair, I'm currently involved in my Section (Newfoundland-Labrador Section) executive as WIE/GOLD representative.

I have a few goals for GOLD on the regional level I would like to accomplish this year that I think can happen if we work together. There needs to be more training materials (in whatever format time and budgets allow) for Section GOLD Chairs and volunteers so that there's less confusion and frustration over what you should be doing and who you can go to for support. We need to come up with new ways to recruit and support volunteers. I'd like to know what you all think - what the Region or RAB can provide to the Sections and GOLD Affinity groups.

I would like to make more formal the Region GOLD Committee and have regular meetings (in the form of teleconference or online meeting) with Section GOLD Chairs and other representatives. I'm currently looking into how to go about setting this up, and will keep you posted in that regard.

I would greatly appreciate any feedback or ideas you may have. The best way to reach me is by email ([lori.hogan@ieee.org](mailto:lori.hogan@ieee.org)). I look forward to hearing from you!

Take care,  
Lori Hogan

## Saying Good Bye!

Verona Wong, Past IEEE Canada Gold Coordinator

After serving as the IEEE Canada GOLD Coordinator for 3 years, I am passing this post to Lori Hogan from Newfoundland.

Looking back, our Canadian GOLD grew from 6 groups to 12 now and a couple new ones are coming along. These days, we have GOLD presence from Pacific coast to Atlantic coast. IEEE Regional Activities Board GOLD has been impressed with our success that we received a handful of awards for Winnipeg GOLD Group, Vancouver GOLD Group and for individual contributors Andy Balser and Peter Guy. I want to thank everyone who contributed to our success.

This year, I am going to back Lori as she settles in as our IEEE Canada GOLD Chair. At the same time, I am working with the IEEE Regional Activities Board as a GOLD representative on the Student Activities Committee. This will allow me to bring GOLD ideas to students.

## GOLD Achievement Award for 2005!

IEEE Regional Activities Board has awarded the GOLD Achievement Award for 2005 to our own Peter W. Guy from Montreal GOLD. Most of you would know Peter as he was our previous French Editor for Aurum.

IEEE Regional Activities Board honored Peter with this prestigious award for his outstanding contributions to numerous IEEE activities and the example he set in carrying forward the goals and objectives of the IEEE Regional Activities Board.

The Award was presented by Marc T. Apter, Vice President of Regional Activities and consisted of a cash prize of \$250 USD and a plaque, which carries the following citation:

2005  
**Peter W. Guy**  
**(IEEE Montreal Section)**

“For co-leading “Aurum” publishing efforts to successfully reach out to French-speaking members and to create unity amongst Region 7’s GOLD members”

We congratulate Peter for receiving this well deserving award and wish him all the best. Way to go Peter!

## Voices of Tomorrow!

Verona Wong, RAB Gold Rep to SAC

People often ask me, *"I can understand GOLD provides recent graduates professional development, but how does it really work?"*

Every position within an organization carries a particular function. When a position is vacant, we find someone to fill it. No one would remove a position from an organization chart just because no one is filling it.

If IEEE was our Government, GOLD is essentially the Minister of Professional Development for Young Professionals. IEEE created GOLD to give Young Professionals a place in the IEEE community. This is:

- ❖ Where recent graduates voice their opinions
- ❖ Where young professionals with no prior IEEE experience begin volunteering

When there is no GOLD Affinity Group Chair in a Section, who is "acting" to voice our opinions?

- ❖ Where can an enthusiastic person start volunteering for IEEE?

From the Section's point of view, GOLD Affinity Group Chair is:

- ❖ To make sure the Section has activities that serve recent graduates' needs

From a Recent Graduate's point of view, volunteering with IEEE GOLD offers a way:

- ❖ To explore volunteering without focusing on any technical aspect
- ❖ To explore volunteering without knowing anything about IEEE
- ❖ To improve communication and leadership skills
- ❖ To represent other recent graduates driving professional development

GOLD Affinity Group is IEEE's statement to welcome recent graduates to explore professional development through volunteering, to voice their opinions, and to ensure our voices shape IEEE's tomorrow! Does your Section have this voice? Do you know who is representing you in the professional community?

## GOLD Member? Student Member?

Verona Wong, RAB Gold Rep to SAC

You're working on your graduate degree, you're paying student dues, and you think you're a Student Member. THINK AGAIN!

You are also a GOLD Member! This year, IEEE is expanding the GOLD member coverage to include Graduate Student Member (GSM). So what does this mean to you?

As a Graduate Student Member, you:

- currently are pursuing graduate studies
- pay student member dues
- are eligible to hold office within your school's IEEE Student Branch
- are eligible to participate in any "Students only" activity
- are eligible to hold office as a GOLD Chair
- are eligible to participate in any "GOLD members only" activity

Sounds confusing? Not at all.

IEEE understands that Graduate students should enjoy all benefits as a student member, including reduced dues and scholarship opportunity. However, like anyone recently completed undergraduate studies, Graduate students need professional and career development. Graduate Student Members share the same needs of GOLD members in this aspect. Don't fall behind in professional development. Participate in GOLD activities now!

## 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](mailto:vwong@ieee.org).

## Southern Alberta GOLD Kick Starts 2006

Ahsan Upal, Gold Chair, Southern Alberta

SA Gold's first event of 2006 was a luncheon presentation on the C-Train, Calgary's Light Rail Transit (LRT) System. It was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> and presented by Allan Blatchford, P.Eng, former senior engineer with Enmax Corp. Mr. Blatchford gave a brief history of the C-Train, current and new projects, operating philosophy and technical overview of the traction power system and various other components.

C-Train, a popular choice of commute for 250,000 riders every day, proved to be an excellent choice of topic and drew a maximum allowed attendance of 32. Event admission was set at \$5 for IEEE members and \$7 for non-members.



SA Gold Committee consists of these five active volunteers:

Ahsan Upal	Chair
Eva Kelemen	Secretary
Kathy Tse	Treasurer
Carly Duerr	Marketing & Events
Ryan Carnahan	Membership Development

The Committee plans to hold at least another 3 events in 2006. The next events will be a pool night on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Garage in Calgary. Please watch the SA Gold website <http://www.ieee.org/sasgold/> for more information.

## 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](http://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>.