



A U R U M

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In this issue . . .

From the Editor	2
GOLD Canada Chairs	2
GOLD Congress 2006!	3
IEEE Toronto GOLD	4
Southern Alberta Gold	5
IEEE Teams With IBM to Launch TryEngineering.org	5
IEEE PES outreach to GOLD	6
Try Expert Now IEEE For Free!	6

From the Editor

Hello

2006 is turning out to be an exciting year for GOLD!

This year is IEEE GOLD's 10th anniversary. To celebrate a new GOLD website is being launched in July that will contain a history of GOLD, a bulletin board and introductions to others Regional GOLD Programs. There will be an Online Scavenger Hunt in October with some neat prizes like MP3 players and other such hot items.

Canada's GOLD Congress is being held on September 15th –17th in Mississauga. It'll be excellent opportunity to train existing and new Gold leadership and breathe new life into GOLD affinity groups that are currently in hibernation. One key agenda item is to develop a Gold Manual that will provide rules and guidelines for running a successful Gold in your section.

Remember you need to hold a minimum of two events each year to qualify for the Gold rebate to your section. There is a still lot of time left in the year to get organized and activate your group to hold events. So go ahead, plan some outdoor events and have a little fun to enjoy the beautiful summer!

Talk to you in the Fall.

Ahsan Upal, P.Eng.
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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 October 2006. The next deadline for submissions is August 19, 2006.

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GOLD Congress 2006!

Lori Hogan, IEEE Canada Gold Coordinator

After three years of trying, it finally happened! The last IEEE Canada GOLD Congress was held in 2003, and did much to raise the level of GOLD activity in Canada. However, it was a challenge to secure the funds for another one. The hard work of past coordinator Verona along with several others has paid off, so I am proud to report that there will be a GOLD Congress held in 2006, for which Region 7 (IEEE Canada) will be contributing approximately 50% of the costs (see below for details).

The 2006 IEEE Canada GOLD Congress will be held September 15-17, 2006 at the Delta Toronto Airport West Hotel in Mississauga, ON, in conjunction with the Region 7 Fall Board Meeting and the 2006 IEEE Canada Student Congress. This event will allow face-to-face training of GOLD volunteers on a number of points related to IEEE, GOLD, and starting and running a successful Affinity Group; will provide a forum to discuss topics of concern related to young professionals and recent graduates; will create an opportunity to interact with other GOLD volunteers, Board members and Student leaders, thus creating important relationships to foster activity growth.

A draft agenda is currently being finalized, but key group and breakout (concurrent) sessions include:

- Overview of IEEE Organization
- Regional Operations (includes attending part of Board meeting to observe how it runs)
- How to Run a GOLD Affinity Group
- GOLD - Student Interaction at the Section and Regional level
- GOLD and the new GSM member grade
- Building a better GOLD program in Canada
- GOLD/Section/Community/Industry relationship
- Attracting and keeping GOLD volunteers
- Dealing with issues specifically related to being part of a large or small Section
- Developing a GOLD Operations Manual

The Congress will start Friday evening at 8pm with a dinner reception, which will also be the awards ceremony for the 2006 IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Awards. The Congress will continue with different sessions on Saturday, some with the Student Congress attendees. A dinner banquet including Board Meeting and Student Congress attendees will be held Saturday evening. The Congress will finish up Sunday at noon with lunch, after several group and breakout sessions on Sunday morning.

It will be a busy weekend, but I am sure that there will be some opportunity for fun as well. A more detailed agenda will be sent to Congress attendees as September approaches, and will be posted on the IEEE Canada GOLD website (<http://www.ieee.ca/gold>).

Regional funding covers 50% of travel and accommodation costs for one representative from each Section to attend the GOLD Congress; this is currently based on two nights shared accommodations and travel costs. Any costs beyond this are the responsibility of the Section.

Response from Section thus far has been good, with over half Sections currently planning on sending at least one person. At this time, it is unclear whether Sections will be able to send additional delegates (at their own cost) as hotel rooms are limited – as soon as this is cleared up I will inform those interested.

If you are not involved in Section GOLD activities but find this Congress interesting, I would suggest you contact your Section Chair and/or GOLD Chair and see how you can get involved and participate in this Congress or the next one!

Take care,
Lori Hogan

IEEE Toronto GOLD

2005 was not as eventful as expected, and consisted of only two events; one was organized jointly with Computer Chapter - "Introduction to LINUX" in April, and we supported WIE in organizing "Mentoring Event" in September. As for 2006, The First General Meeting was held in February, when a few members joined and since actively participated in our activities. In April we organized technical presentation on "Plasma Pollution Control Technology for Sustainable Energy Development" by Dr. Drazena Brocilo, Researcher at McMaster University, and seminar on Project Management titled "Managing Projects Successfully and Becoming PMP Certified" by Cliff Brewster, the Principal of OnTime Management Inc. Future plans consist of organizing seminars that address different career paths that engineers explore (PM, Law, Medicine, Consulting, Financial, etc.), as well as company tours, and social events (hiking through High Park, Holiday party with WIE, etc.). Since last year's mentoring event was very well received, WIE and GOLD are planning to organize it again in the fall of this year. It is an opportunity to assemble a group of mentors and mentorees, with a guest speaker from the career coaching field.

We are looking forward to GOLD Congress meeting, which will be taking place in conjunction with the Region 7 Fall Board Meeting and the 2006 Student Congress in Mississauga, 15-17 September. It will allow four of our representatives to get a flavour of the issues discussed on a national level, as well as get the ideas for future events. If you are in Toronto area, or will become a member of our Section due to a move, please help us serve you better by contacting Aleksandra Jeremic at aleksandra@ieee.org.

Southern Alberta GOLD

Ahsan Upal, SA Alberta Gold Chair

SA Gold held a social get together on June 21st at The Garage Billiards and Sports Bar in downtown Calgary. The event had a good turnout with 12 participants who enjoyed a variety of munchies and games of pool. Admission was free for IEEE members and \$2 for non members. The 3 hour event proved to be a good way for Gold members to network with others in their industry. This is the 2nd time we've held the pool night in the same private room at the Garage which provides a good atmosphere to mingle and socialize in a non-smoking environment.

SA Alberta Gold Future Events

- BBQ in July
- Facility Tour in September
- Bowling Night in November

I like to thank the Gold Committee members for planning these events. Also, I thank Gold members who come out and keep the Gold spirit alive.

IEEE Teams With IBM to Launch TryEngineering.org

IEEE and IBM have collaborated to launch a new website that combines interactive activities with information on careers in engineering. TryEngineering.org is designed to educate a variety of audiences about the different engineering disciplines and the impact engineers have on society. Targeted toward teachers, school counselors, parents and students, TryEngineering.org lets site visitors explore how to prepare for an engineering career, ask designated experts engineer-related questions and play interactive games. Tools for teachers include lesson plans and engineering projects as well as a list of student competitions and science and engineering-oriented summer camps.

The site launched in June will feature a searchable list of accredited engineering programs in the U.S. and Canada. In the future, it will be expanded to include programs in other English-speaking countries as well as Germany and France.

IEEE PES outreach to GOLD

Aleksandra Jovicic, Toronto Gold Chair

Browsing through the agenda of PES 2006 General Meeting held in Montreal, Quebec, June 18-22, 2006, trying to find out when and where working group meetings that I was to attend will take place, I noticed meeting titled "IEEE/PES GOLD Outreach Meeting". It immediately attracted my attention, and of course feeling of guilt thinking that I omitted this notification by scanning, rather than reading carefully my e-mails.

So, I headed to the Outreach Meeting, whose only first third I had a chance to attend due to the afore mentioned commitment; and, it was a pleasant surprise! Power Engineering Society is trying to connect with the GOLD, and attract more young professionals to the field whose average member's age is about fifty. I also had a pleasure to meet a few other GOLD representatives, who attended the full meeting, and hopefully will submit a full report of this event!

However, if the full report is not submitted in this issue, please look up for continuation of this story in the following release of Aurum!

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