



NEWSLETTER

President's Message



On behalf of the new Executive Board, I'd like to thank all of you that have participated in our activities up to this point. And we look forward to your participation in our future activities. On the back of the newsletter are the names of the new Executive Board Officers and Committee Chairmen. I would like to welcome Abdul Basraoui, Mohammad Kleit, Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh and Issam Abozir, new members of this year's Board. We thank them for giving a commitment to serve this Association. I encourage all to volunteer in some way to the AAAEA by joining a Committee. This can mean helping all year or for just one activity. E-mail us if interested.

I would also like to thank Dr. Soliman Khudiera, Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz, Hani Mayzouni, and Darlene Attiah for their past service. Soliman, whose leadership the last two years has helped keep this Association a great success, now moves on to his new role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Kazkaz, whose efforts on behalf of the Education committee continue, is also a new member of the Board of Trustees. I greatly appreciate their commitment and assistance.

If you haven't noticed, we have a new address and phone number. Please make note of them for your future use. Also, the website is going through a transition and is continuing to improve under the guidance of our new IT Officer Mohammad Kleit. Please feel free to offer your suggestions via e-mail.

The past few months, we have concentrated on summer social activities. Four family picnics were held at various locations. It is hoped that all had the opportunity to attend and enjoy one or more of these outings. Thanks to Activity Chairman Omar Alsharbini and his family, the Basrawi family, Jihad Hasan, Bilal Almasri, Dr. Ahmad Hammad, Issam Abozir, Khalid Romman, Hesham Mahdy, Kassem Saad and all the others who helped at the grill, with the sports and with cleanup. With all your help, the picnics were successfully enjoyable for the entire family.

This fall brings our Education Committee activities, such as the PE/EIT review classes, math tutoring for our grade school and high school students, ACT prep classes, and a Technical Seminar. We will be looking for a few more volunteer math tutors.

The Semi-Annual Dinner Meeting will be December 13th. A flyer will be sent out soon with exact date and time. During the Semi-Annual Meeting, a Scholarship is awarded to a student member who shows excellence in & out of the classroom. Company sponsorship of this event is encouraged and is tax-deductible.

The major upcoming tasks are organization of the AAAEA into multi-person committees and membership. There will be a strong emphasis on member retention and member recruitment. I ask all to help in this effort. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have, thank you, and please spread the word and try to recruit new members.

I know I speak for all in saying how proud we are of our own Hanie Miri on his becoming the President of the Illinois Engineering Council (IEC), the prestigious Illinois umbrella organization for engineers. Congrats and good luck, Hanie! Also, congratulations to Dr. Soliman Khudiera, the new Secretary of the IEC.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Jamal Grainawi, our Vice-President, for taking care of things during my absence. I took a long family vacation overseas and Jamal did a great job while I was away.

In closing, I am looking forward to the year ahead and your support.

Abder R. Ghoulch, PE



INSIDE

Top Secrets of Resume Writing
2

Rehabilitation Planning of Transit Systems
3

AAAEA/PESO EIT Classes
4

News and Announcements
5

Picnic Photos
6

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.AAAEA.ORG

OR EMAIL US
AAAEA@AAAEA.ORG

AAAEEA
 P O Box 2460
 Bridgeview, IL 60455



AAAEEA Executive Board and Board of Trustees

President:
Abder Rahman Ghoulch, PE
(708) 229-9235

Vice President
Jamal Grainawi, SE, PE
(847) 705-6376

Treasurer:
Abdul Basroui
(847) 994-5764

Secretary:
Dr. Hiba Abdalla
312-328-9915

IT Officer:
Mohammad Kleit
(847) 247-8549

Activity Committee:
Omar Alsharbini
(708) 444-7138

Education Committee:
Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh, PE
(312) 681-4818

Financial Committee:
Issam Abozir
(312) 720-8952

Membership Committee:
Mohammed Rashed, PE
(773) 721-3927

Publication Committee:
Hanie Miri
(630) 830-4789

Career Enhancement Committee:
Eyad Elkag, PE
(312) 357-1840

Board of Trustees:
Chairman
Dr. Soliman Khudiera, PE

Members
Dr. Ahmad Hammad, SE, PE
Hasan AlGhoulch, PE

Bilal AlMasri
Ahmad Basrawi
Jamil Bou-Saab, PE
John Dasoqi, SE
Dr. Sam Elmoursi, PE
Dr. Mohsen Issa, SE, PE
Suheil Nammani, PE
Ayoub Talhami, PE
Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz



Top Secrets of Resume Writing:

In respect to our Career Enhancement Committee, I would like to share with some information I read early this year.

As we know today jobs are not easy to get and most job hunters believe "My resume isn't perfect, but I'll explain myself in the interview." But there's the catch: You may not get the interview for no other reason than your resume, which often gives employers their first impression of your professional standards and talents. Even top executives can have trouble writing a decent resume. They're not sure how to make the link between what they really want to DO in their next job with the needs of potential employers. An effective job hunt means having a complete, professional job search strategy and your resume must be a key part of that strategy.

First and Foremost: Tell Employers What They Really Want to Know!

Look at the hiring process from the employer's point of view. There you are with a stack of resumes on your desk and a job to fill, right now. You've got some key requirements that candidates must meet before you'll even consider calling them in for an interview. All you want to know from each person "sitting" on your desk is:

What can you do for me? How can you fill this job effectively? Why should I talk to you?

Employer wants to see what you can do for him. He/she does not want you telling him what you've done for someone else. Of course your previous work experience and accomplishments are important. But does all this really apply to his/her situation? Of course not, and he/she doesn't have time to read 10 or 15 years of your work history before he/she decides to call you in. This is why purely Chronological resumes, for the most part, are on the way out, and why you should

Consistently Market Your Skills and Abilities

Take a moment and really think about what this means. Does your current resume really market your most applicable skills and abilities, or is it a listing of your past? You must extract your most applicable skills and abilities from your past work experience and sell them at the very top of your resume in a summary section, titled PROFILE or EXPERIENCE

"A resume must be clear and to tell what you really want to do. "Employer doesn't have much time to look at a resume, so it must have structure and consistency" If a resume is too broad, we'll be passed over. Your resume should tell about special projects, skill sets, computer languages, leadership activities, people or team leading skills, and types of things outside the classroom. If employer needs to search through a resume for these items, he/she probably won't read it." Your Summary gives you control over your resume, and lets you focus on these key points.

Although Objective on your resume can be very useful when targeted and concise, but leave it out if you're afraid it may block you from certain positions

Combination resume is not really about previous jobs, but rather develops those skills and abilities you believe are most important and relevant to the position you're seeking right now. This is the heart of a Combination resume format. It combines a modified Functional (ability/skill) resume with a Chronological (job listing) resume. This gives you a two-pronged approach, and the best of both worlds. Your job descriptions substantiate your abilities on top.

If this sounds easy, it is. But it only works if you use clear, concise language describing tangible, no-nonsense skills: "Skilled in payroll processing, audits, and inventory control..." "Effectively hire, train, and supervise staff in..." "Plan and implement strategies for capital investment; assist in mergers, acquisitions, and financial planning..." "Proficient in COBOL, C++, AS 400, and Lotus..." "Experience in long and short-term strategic planning..." And so on.

Always avoid using fluff words in your summary such as "Self-motivated, hands-on professional with an excellent track record of..." Let's face it. The first two items in this sentence could be said about almost anyone. As for your track record, let the employer decide if it's excellent by reading about your abilities (on top) and your duties and accomplishments (under the Employment section). "References Available Upon Request" at the bottom of your resume. If employers really want your references, they'll ask. When sending cover letter, always respect the reader's intelligence!

"Predigest" Your Information

Employers don't want to think when reading resumes. Why trust an employer to study your entire work history and hope they find something interesting? Most resumes get only a few short seconds to grab the reader's attention.

Research the company's brochure and job advertisement, if any, and tailor your resume as much as possible to the position. If you have a Chronological resume, no matter how well it's written, it's still a listing of your past, and therefore not job specific or future-oriented. Your resume must be a brief advertisement.

Some Final Thoughts

Although personal networking is the best way to get a job, having an excellent resume is another way, often just by itself, to get an interview which can lead to a job. Of course, a brief cover letter should be targeted to the hiring authority whenever possible. Tell the reader what you know about their operation, and why you want to work specifically for his/her company. Make them feel like they're the only person getting your resume. Your resume is your life, your career on paper. Isn't it worth doing right?

Please remember AAEA Career Enhancement Committee members are investing their time to help you and help us. It is only a phone call away.

Eyad Elqaq, PE
Career Enhancement Committee
(312) 357-1840

AAAEA CALENDAR OF RECURRING EVENTS

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Award Committee appointed before 1/31 Newsletter Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Business & Professional Networking Reception Engineer's Week Thompson's Center Exhibit and Luncheon EIT classes begin ACT classes begin Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar Technical Field Trip Video Presentation & Seminar Feb 21st. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditing Committee appointed Newsletter Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar EIT classes End ACT classes continue The Nomination Committee submit to the President the slate of nominees by March 31 Family Bowling Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership expires April 15 Annual Social Dinner 10th Monthly speaker seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIT classes end ACT classes end Deadline for submittal of written statement to election committee-April 15 Deadline for submittal of petition to nomination committee is April 20 (for those who did not submit before)
May	June	July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Career workshop Sciences and Technology Conference May 1st Monthly speaker seminar General Assembly/Election meeting-May 22nd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic #1- Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar Technical Field Trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Picnic #2 Scholarship application deadline 7/31 Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic #3 - Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar
September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic #4 Career workshop Monthly speaker seminar Math Tutoring begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Committee interviewing applicants Career workshop EIT Classes begin Math Tutoring continues Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career workshop PE Classes begin Monthly speaker seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Committee meeting Dec 13th Semi-Annual Meeting Career workshop Nomination Committee appointed before Dec. 31



Welcome to the AAAEA's Newest Members

Ahmad Alrousan	Hayat Issa
Akram Salem	Hesham Mahdy
Anas Jarad	Ihab Elokda
Azzam Azzam	Issa Dababneh
Bashar Alsalah (Aldiek)	Khaled Alzoubi
Fadi Abdeljaber	Luis Arenzana
Firas Kassem	Mohama Noghnogh
Ibrahim Nezar	Mohammed Naddaf
Ibrahim Shillo	Shawki Sobhy
Lakhal Imad	TayseerSwailam
Menat Salem	Wafa Ahmad
Muhammed Mikbel	Abdelkader Elassar
Mu'taz Melhem	Emad Sharafeddin
Nasser Grainawi	Ibrahim Khatib
Ned Mansour	Ismail Abu-Hummos
Raad Assaf	Khalid Muhammad
Ragda Najar	Khalid Romman
Sabah Basrawi	Mahmoud Basraoui
Sami Diab	Mohammed Thalji
Suha Saber	Mouris Polis
Zuhair Alsakaji	Sami Alattar
Abdallah Elsheikh	Wasfi Shaer
Dalia Khilfeh	Wessam Daoud
Emad Ghaly	Raed Abushukhaidem
Faisal Salman	Mahmoud Basraoui
Hatem Elagha	Samer Dajani

Quotes and Sayings -Submitted by Soliman Khudeira

All things good to know are difficult to learn. Greek Proverb	By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn. Latin Proverb
An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep. Arab Proverb	Call on God, but row away from the rocks. Indian Proverb
The beginning is the half of every action. Greek Proverb	Complain to one who can help you. Yugoslav Proverb
Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still. Chinese Proverb	Confessed faults are half mended. Scottish Proverb
Be slow in choosing a friend, but slower in changing him. Scottish Proverb	Deliberate often--decide once. Latin Proverb
Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Chinese Proverb	Don't run too far, you will have to return the same distance. Biblical Proverb
A book is like a garden carried in the pocket. Chinese Proverb	Don't shake the tree when the pears fall off themselves. Slovakian Proverb
	Examine what is said, not him who speaks. Arab Proverb

AAAAEA Education Committee Needs Tutors

The AAAEA Education Committee headed by Dr. Maher Abu-Mallouh, in coordination with the Universal School and Aqsa School in Bridgeview, is conducting Math Tutoring at the schools. The 1.5 hour tutoring sessions will be held every Saturday morning, 10:00am-11:30am or 11:30am-1:00pm. All students, grades 6 and up, needing help in Math are welcome.

As a result of the success of last year's program, we have 35 students registered this year. But we only have 4 instructors. We need more members to volunteer and we ask you to participate in this very worthwhile program to assist the young people of our community advance to the highest level possible. Take this as an opportunity to help the next generation.

To volunteer to be a tutor, contact the AAAEA by e-mail or voicemail as soon as possible, or contact me at (708) 229-9235, or Maher Abu-Mallouh at (312) 681-4818 or cell (773) 619-8897.

Thank you,

Abder Rahman Ghouleh
AAAAEA President

Rehabilitation Planning of Transit Systems

Makarand Hastak* Maher Abu Mallouh**
*Division of Construction Engineering & Management
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA
hastak@ecn.purdue.edu

**O'Brien Kreitzberg/URS Construction services/Chicago Transit Authority
Capital Improvement Program Management, Chicago, IL 60607, USA
abumallouh@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT: The decision to rehabilitate a facility is governed by numerous technical, social, political, financial, and management constraints. This paper presents a decision support system called MSRP (Model for Station Rehabilitation Planning) that was developed to address the rehabilitation planning needs of subway transit systems. The MSRP has been designed to optimize the number of stations that can be accommodated within a given capital program for full and partial rehabilitation while incorporating the constraints mentioned earlier.

Introduction

With the decrease in federal role in supporting public infrastructure, maintaining, operating, and refining existing infrastructure systems is more prevalent than new large capital programs [GRI 96]. Consequently, more and more burden for infrastructure rehabilitation will have to be borne by the states and local communities. Therefore, it is important for every governing agency to plan effectively for rehabilitation of existing facilities within the constraints of the capital program. As numerous technical, social, political, financial, and management constraints govern the decision to rehabilitate a facility, a systematic procedure is required for selecting facilities for rehabilitation within the prevailing constraints [ABU 99], [HAS 00].

This paper presents a decision support system called MSRP (Model for Station Rehabilitation Planning) that was developed to address the need described above with respect to the rehabilitation planning needs of subway stations. The model optimizes the number of stations that can be accommodated within a given capital program for full and partial rehabilitation while incorporating the constraints mentioned earlier. This research evaluated ten Transit Systems to determine the state of practice for station rehabilitation planning. The information about the existing procedures was collected through available literature, questionnaire survey, and personnel interviews. The ten systems included (i) The Metropolitan Transportation Authority - New York City Transit (MTA NYCT), (ii) Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), (iii) Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), (iv) Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), (v) London Transport, (vi) Paris Rapid Transit Authority (RATP), (vii) Dallas Rapid Transit System (DART), (viii) Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority, (ix) Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), and (x) CalTrain Transit System. Many of these systems are more than 95 years old with need for station rehabilitation proportionate to their age. These systems include MTA NYCT, CalTrain, CTA, and London Transport [ABU 99]. Figure 1 illustrates deterioration on some of the stations associated with one of the transit systems mentioned above. This study indicated that while several in-house procedures exist for station rehabilitation planning, all of them lack in either one or more important considerations such as (i) systematic consideration of all the important criteria influencing rehabilitation planning, and (ii) optimization of rehabilitation planning with respect to capital budget, available additional funding, partial rehabilitation, social/political consideration, and management constraints [ABU 99], [HAS 00]. This phase of the research concluded that a better rehabilitation-planning model is needed that would incorporate the issues discussed above in selecting stations for rehabilitation.

The complete text of this paper can be read on www.aaaaea.org.



AAAAEA/ PESO PE/EIT CLASSES

Building on the success of last years program. Tee AAAEA and PESO (Philippine Engineers & Scientists Organization) will have combined EIT/PE Classes. The Classes will be held at Devry Institute of Technology. AAAEA members will pay the same fee as PESO members. PESO has been offering those classes for years and we encourage our members to register for the classes and the exams.

Classes will be held at: Room 225

For More information visit

Devry Institute of Technology,

www.aaaea.org

3300 N. Campbell,

Chicago, IL 60618

	EIT Review	PE Review
Date	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
October 16, 2004	Mathematics	
October 23	Mathematics	
October 30	Mathematics	
November 6	Mathematics	
November 13	Mathematics	Mechanical Engineering
November 20	Computer Science	Mechanical Engineering
December 4	Eng. Economics, Law & Ethics	Mechanical Engineering
December 11	Statics	Mechanical Engineering
December 18	Dynamics	Civil Engineering
January 8, 2005	Strength of Materials	Civil Engineering
January 15	Strength of Materials	Civil Engineering
January 22	Fluid Mechanics	Civil Engineering
January 29	Fluid Mechanics	Electrical Engineering
February 5	Heat Transfer	Electrical Engineering
February 12	Thermodynamics	Electrical Engineering
February 26	Thermodynamics	Electrical Engineering
February 29	Electrical Engineering	Chemical Engineering
March 5	Electrical Engineering	Chemical Engineering
March 12	Chemistry	Chemical Engineering
March 19	Matreial Science	Chemical Engineering



AAAAEA August 2004 Picnic





AAAEA August 2004 Picnic



Announcements and News

2004 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, December 13

5:30 pm

Drury Lane Oak Brook

100 Drury Lane

Oakbrook, Illinois

For tickets, call (312) 613-3713

or (312) 409-8560

or e-mail to aaaca@aaaca.org

Congratulations to Kayed Abdel Rahman and his wife for their new baby born boy Ali.

Congratulations to Talal Almasri for passing the FCC NARTE exam (National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers)

Congratulations to Izeddin Awaidah & wife on the birth of their baby Ahmad

Congratulations to Dr. Soliman Khudeirai for being elected to the position of secretary of Illinois Engineering Council (IEC)

Congratulations to Raghad and Abdo Dahhan on their new baby boy Zachariah

Congratulations to Hanie Miri for being elected to the position of President of Illinois Engineering Council (IEC)

Congratulations to Omar Alsharbini for defending his M.S. Thesis at University of Illinois at Chicago

Congratulations to Ibrahim Shillo on his new position.

Congratulations to Mohammad Alasfar on his new position

Condolences to Shaker Asfour on the passing of his grandmother

All members are encouraged to send engineering articles and news about themselves or other members for consideration in the next Newsletter.



Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to **Ms. Bara Falah Elmasri**
 Graduated from Von Steuben H.S. in Chicago, IL
 Plans on attending University of Illinois at Chicago



Congratulations to **Ms. Mays Almasri**
 On Graduating High School. She will be attending College
 this Fall



Congratulations to **Mr. Youssef Basrawi**
 Graduated from Streamwood High School in Streamwood,
 IL. Attending Elgin Community College in Elgin



Congratulations to **Ms. Laila Grainawi**
 Graduated from Palatine H.S., Palatine, IL.
 Laila is attending Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)



Congratulations to Bilal Almasri's son **Mr. Taleb Almasri** on
 his high school graduation. Taleb has been accepted by the
 University of Illinois



AAAAEA July 2004 Picnic

