



Central Illinois Section

Centroid News • September 2005



Precision Driving School and Autocross with the Porsche Club of America

Sunday, September 11, 2005

Classroom Instructor:
Boris Peharda

High Performance Driving Instructor

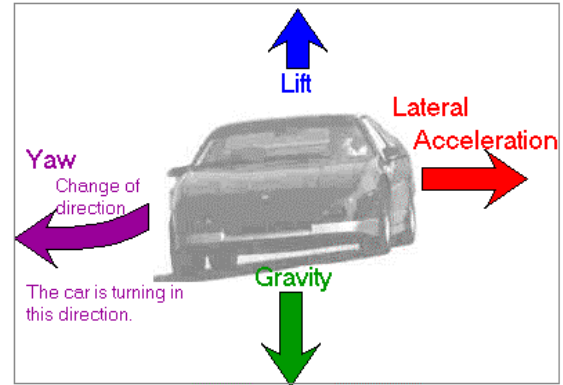
Location: Caterpillar Technical Center
Parking Lot G/K—Mossville, IL

8:00 – 9:00 AM Driver arrival and registration

9:30 – 10:30 AM Driver's meeting and Precision Driving School Classroom Instruction

10:30 – 11:00 AM Event line-up

11:00 AM First car off



All drivers must arrive before 9:00 am—NO EXCEPTIONS. See details below about registration.
Spectators welcome.

Details:

- Pre-registration is **required** and will close September 2nd. The event will be limited to 40 drivers on a first-come-first serve basis, with priority being given to SAE or PCA members. Plan to pay at the event—cash or check only.
- Driver entry fee is \$30, which includes a boxed lunch.
- Classroom instruction is free to anyone who wishes to attend
- Spectators, please plan to bring your lunch or travel over the lunch break—there will be no lunch services provided on-site.
- Seating will be available for classroom attendees, however we suggest you bring a lawn chair to watch the event

Directions:

From downtown Peoria, take Route 29 North 11 miles north of downtown. Just after Hwy 6 interchange, turn left on Old Galena Rd (not a stoplight). Stay on Old Galena and go past Cedar Hills Dr. Take the first entrance to the left into the Caterpillar Technical Center parking lot. Follow directions into lot as specified.

Registration:

Pre-registration deadline is Friday, September 2, 2005. You can register on-line at <http://ltr.pca.org/autocross.htm>. The number of open spots will be updated on the web site by September 5th. Questions can be directed to 800-512-1919 or sae_reservations@yahoo.com. **Spectators are welcome throughout the day.**

Society of Automotive Engineers has had a long-standing relationship with motorsports, and CIS-SAE chapter would like to expand on this relationship in Central Illinois. Our September program is co-hosted by the Lincoln Trail Region of the Porsche Club of America. The main event of the program is a precision driving autocross in which SAE and PCA members will be able to navigate a maneuverability course for time. This is a precision driving event and participants will focus on vehicle control, vehicle dynamics, and improving on their own lap times. The program activities will balance classroom instruction with in-car activities. For those who are not able to register or not interested in participating in the driving portion of the event, the classroom instruction will be open to all attendees. The instructor will touch on proper line, vehicle dynamics, smoothness, and overall proper techniques for finding the limits of your automobile. Most of the information presented can be directly applied to street driving. This is an excellent opportunity for drivers of all experience levels. This program will be very educational and interactive, so please join us.

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Table of Contents

In Their Own Words

Editor's Note

CIS Governing Board

Career Corner—"The Importance of Career Path Planning"

SAE Future Transportation Technology Conference (Sept. 7-9, 2005, Chicago)

The SAE Story Available through CIS

In Their Own Words

We're changing the format of our *Centroid*. This year, we invite you to hear from members of the CIS Governing Board, and the people who have brought the programs to our members. This month, **Andy Berberich** shares his thoughts on why he helped bring our September meeting to CIS. This is Andy's first year on our governing board, however, he participated in Formula SAE at the University of Illinois. While it takes a large number of people to put on an event, it is because of Andy's passion, commitment, and dedication that we are able to bring this special September program to you.



*Governing Board Member
Andy Berberich*

Greetings fellow SAE members,

I hope that everyone had a safe and fun-filled summer. September marks the beginning of another full line of technical programs offered by the Central Illinois Section of SAE. As a member of the CIS-SAE program team, I was empowered to organize a program that will be educational, exciting and most importantly, interactive. I believe the **"Precision Driving School and Autocross with the Porsche Club of America"** will exceed these expectations.

I first became an SAE member in 1995 while at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. What drew me to SAE was the Collegiate Design Series, and more specifically, the Mini-Baja™ program. I cannot say enough about the impact this program had on me—personally and professionally. This is one of the few programs in college where you can gain industry level experience without leaving campus. The same challenges and level of competition that drew me to "Baja" has given me the confidence to pursue my own motorsports interest. My first step was autocrossing with the local Sports Car Club of America. This is why I am very excited to help bring an autocross back to Peoria as our September program. If you have never been to such an event, I highly recommend it; for those who have, I am sure I will see you there. Think of it as a car show that pushes the limit of vehicle and driver performance.

As I write this, I can see cars scream through Turn 4 at Blackhawk Farms Raceway in South Beloit, IL. Today, the Midwestern Council Sports Car Club is hosting a high-speed autocross on the 1.8 mile, seven turn course. This is another opportunity to satisfy that need for speed. If you haven't experienced this before, then plan to show up for our September program and attend the classroom session if you are not able to participate. The topics covered in the classroom are valuable on the "track" or on the street. While you are there, talk to one of the experienced motorsports participants and take a step towards competitive driving. Word of caution though, once you start, it's difficult to stop.

Take care and see you in September,

Andy Berberich
CIS SAE Program Committee



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Editor's Note

SAE has two missions: standards development and life-long education. These are outstanding objectives, but I frequently get asked, "What does SAE mean to you?" There are many things, but most importantly, I think participation with SAE helps me stay competitive in my profession.



We are working in an increasingly global market, and jobs that were once thought to be guaranteed in the U.S. are now being filled over-seas. Whether you agree or disagree with this trend, it is happening, and as young engineers, we all need to determine what this means to each of us. In 1985, there were 95,000 engineering graduates in the U.S.; in 2000, there were 65,000, while India had 250,000 graduates. My father is a retired engineer, and worked for the same company for 45 years. He reads about these trends and worries about my future—I can always expect an apprehensive call after the latest newspaper article. What I have tried to do is keep myself competitive—seek educational opportunities, work on a project that is outside my expertise, take a job that stretches me outside my comfort zone, work on those soft-skills, etc.

How can you do this? Join and engage with professional societies, such as SAE, ASME, ASQ, Toastmasters, SWE, etc. Take advantage of the meetings these societies hold, for educational opportunities as well as networking. Join their operating board for a chance to meet people and lead an organization. I met one of my best mentors through the CIS-SAE Governing Board and have gained experience developing long-term strategies for an 800 member organization. Participating on the CIS-SAE Governing Board has given me opportunities I may not have gotten until much further in my career. Take training offered through your company's learning center that broadens your knowledge base. Visit CareerBuilder or Monster for resources such as career assessment, career training, or interview advice. SAE has excellent resources for its member—each month, CIS will include information from the SAE Career Corner. You can access this at any time by going to www.sae.org, and clicking on "Careers and Employment" in the upper right corner of the home page.

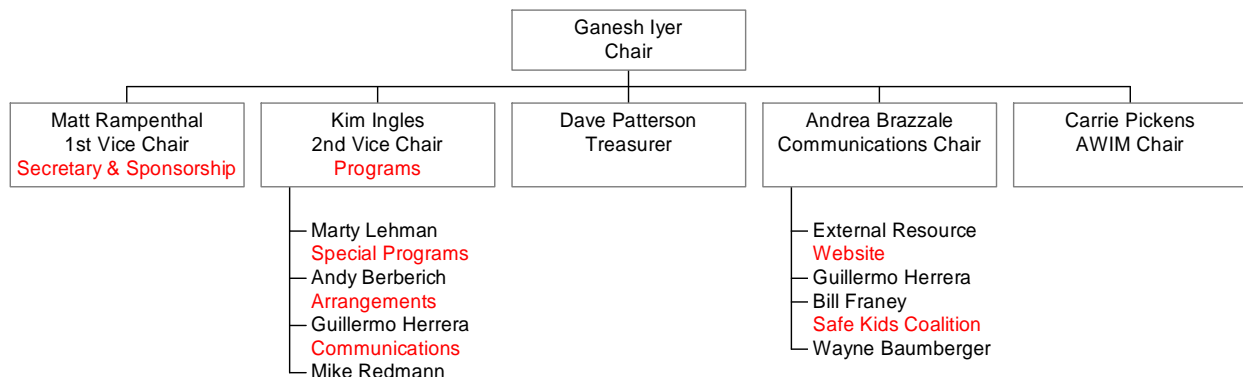
Every year, the CIS board works hard to provide programs and events that will add high member value. Engage in these events and make the most of the opportunity. SAE can open the door of knowledge to you, but each of us must choose to walk through it.

Best Regards,

Andrea Brazzale
Communications Manager and
Former CIS Section Chair

CIS Governing Board

Below is the organizational chart for our new governing board. If you have any questions, you can contact Ganesh Iyer at 800-512-1919 or cis_sae@yahoo.com



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Career Corner—“The Importance of Career Path Planning”

Career Corner is provided by SAE and written by Tracy Fedkoe, Product Manager for SAE Career and Member Services. Below is the July edition of “Career Corner.” You can access “Career Corner” at any time by going to www.sae.org, and clicking on “Careers and Employment” in the upper right corner of the home page.

In today’s competitive business market, it is the obligation of a company’s managers and executives to meet the needs of the company, not that of the individual employee.

“You are in charge of your own career,” said Tom VanderLaan, Director of Sales and Marketing at Remy International, at the 2005 World Congress Career Development Session on April 12. “If you don’t pay attention to ensure you are getting what you really want and deserve, you have no one else to blame.” Career-path planning is a valuable tool that is critical for success in any industry and should be done by everyone, no matter what your aspirations may be.

Starting a career plan is simple: You just need a beginning and an end. Easier said than done. This is the point where you need to make a serious reality check of where you are now and what can feasibly be achieved in the time you have to work until you retire. VanderLaan recommended that you ask yourself the following questions:

- *What are my interests?*
- *What are my unique talents?*
- *What are my limitations? (Be honest.)*
- *What is my risk tolerance?*
- *What do I enjoy?*

One way you can help yourself to create a better career plan is through professional journaling. The term might sound new, but the concept is simple. Take the time each quarter to write down what you have accomplished in your career. List what you have done and what the results were. Just one hour per quarter will make it much easier when it comes time for your annual performance review or when you write a resume. “You need to know what you’ve been doing to know what you can do for a company,” said Tammi Ramsey, Senior Technical Consultant with Management Recruiters of Indianapolis, also speaking at the Career Development Session.

Professional journaling helps to get you organized and keeps your accomplishments fresh in your mind. It develops your resume and cover letters and helps you get the recognition you deserve to move up in an organization. If you share this information with your supervisor, it not only helps them know what you have done, but gives them the information to tell their boss what you have done. “Only about 10% of people keep up with some sort of professional journaling, and they are the top 10% in their industry,” said Ramsey.

Like a business plan, your career plan should be flexible and adapt to the changing environment. A good career-path plan has three phases. The short-term plan is for 1-2 years and is primarily focused on skill development in your current position. The mid-range plan is for 3-5 years and targets the next position you would like to achieve. This could be a lateral move, promotion, relocation, or focus on another area of the company. At each step of the plan, you need to assess the position, what skills are needed to achieve it, what skill development it may generate for you, and what actions you need to take to get there. The last phase of your careerpath plan is the long term or 5-10-year goal. *What position would I ideally like to have? What position would I like to leave when I retire?*

Setting a plan longer than 10 years is really not realistic because you need to take a look at this often and change it as your current situation professionally and personally changes. “The plan is not a straight line. You need to be looking for both the big and small steps along the way. Both will help you get to where you’re heading,” said VanderLaan.

The most important part of the plan is not setting your goals, it is defining the actions you need to take to achieve those goals and accomplish them. Most employees have the chance in their jobs to improve their skills in some way. The real chances come with opportunities outside the normal scope of your position, such as participating on teams, in start-up projects, research, and more. Professional societies such as SAE offer many opportunities for technical training as well as gaining leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through committees, sections, and meetings. “Skills have a shelf life”, said VanderLaan, “You’d better keep updating them throughout your career or you will become obsolete.”

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While we are often our harshest critics, it does help to seek input from others who know your work. Do not just ask for feedback. It gives someone the opportunity to say, "You're doing fine." Ask them what you could do better or what you could do to improve a certain skill set. One of the best ways to evaluate yourself is to write your resume. Even if you are not looking for another job, it will help you identify your most recent achievements. "It's not about the responsibilities that you have, but what you can deliver for a company", said VanderLaan. Add deliverables to your resume and your conversations in interviews and when networking. It will go a long way.

Successful career-path planning involves ongoing self assessment. Writing it down makes it more concrete and revisiting at least once per year is recommended. Continue your professional journaling quarterly and update your plan as your life changes. The skills of career-path planning and professional journaling can be learned with just a little time, discipline, and thoughtful insight and can help you achieve your goals. In closing, VanderLaan left a few words of wisdom, "Not everybody is going to be the CEO, but everyone can have a successful career."

[SAE Future Transportation Technology Conference](http://www.sae.org/events/ftt/)

<http://www.sae.org/events/ftt/>

September 7-9, 2005
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Join SAE for an up close look at the future of Transportation Technology!

Engineering for success in future transportation technologies requires perspective - technical, environmental, R&D, global, regional, business, government, and more. From the wide angle view to close-up inspection, get the full perspective at the 2005 SAE Future Transportation Technology Conference (FTT). Each day's technical session offers a variety of papers focusing on the impact advanced technology has on transportation, now and in the future.

Co-located with the [IEEE Vehicular Power and Propulsion Conference](#), attendees to the FTT conference are automatically entitled to attend the technical sessions of either conference!

With a thought provoking, in-depth advanced technology program, FTT will explore a broad range of topics covering:

Global and Area Environment Studies

Emission regulations • international perspective • states • perspectives • federal perspective • oil industry perspective • OEM perspective • emission inventories • global warming • environmental sustainability

Advanced Engines and Systems

Advanced spark ignition engines • advanced compression ignition engines • fuel injection and combustion • diesel engines • ; variable valve actuation • after-treatment • heat transfer and heat exchangers • 42-volts • materials • vehicular body/safety • automobile chassis • ship propulsion • railway traction systems

Alternative Fuel Utilization

Low-sulfur diesel • hydrogen and hydrogen blends • bio-fuels • oxygenates • propane • natural gas • syn-gas • alcohols • fuel cell technology

Future Transportation Systems

Electric and hybrid electric vehicles • advanced battery technology • auxiliary power units (fuel cells, turbines, ICEs) • advanced vehicular mechanica • hydraulic • and pneumatic systems • microelectromechanical systems • nanoelectromechanical systems • nano technology in vehicles



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[The SAE Story Available through CIS:](#)

CIS has arranged for *The SAE Story: One Hundred Years of Mobility* to be available for sale at the section meetings. Member price is \$24, and by purchasing it at the meeting, you avoid shipping and handling charges. This is a great gift for anyone on your holiday shopping list. Contact Andrea Brazzale at cis_sae@yahoo.com or 800-512-1919.

The SAE Story: One Hundred Years of Mobility combines an iconic collage of 20th-century popular culture with a view to the future role SAE International will play at the forefront of technical engineering advances -- advances that again will ultimately help to shape the world in which we will live.

True to the rich genre of "coffee-table books," *The SAE Story* is filled with archival images, historical background, and is punctuated with the personalities and pivotal moments in transportation technology. As told by Robert Post, a former transportation curator at the Smithsonian Institution and author of more than a dozen titles including *Technology, Transport, and Travel in American History* and *High Performance: The Culture and Technology of Drag Racing*, household names such as Henry Ford, Orville Wright and Mario Andretti become the architects in the building of an industry.

