



***IEEE Communications Society***

***ComSoc 2007 LA RCCC  
Membership Development***

Yigang Cai, PhD  
Chicago Chapter Past Chair

March 2007



# *Chicago Chapter Overview*

## ■ Officers

- Chair: John Poust
- Past Chair: Yigang Cai (2003-2006)
- Secretary: Jack Sherman
- Membership: Jack Sherman
- Treasurer: Burnie Sander (Section)

## ■ Membership

- ~1900 (include also Computer Chapter)
- Hundreds non-members in the distribution list

## ■ ComSoc Chapter Achievement Awards (2004 and 2006)

# *Activity and Accomplishment*

- **Successful chapter activities attracting people**
  - 9 meetings, workshops and conference per year
  - Distinguished Lecturers program
  - Interesting topics; distinguished speakers; web, email and newsletter announcement; university programs; telecom industry (Lucent, Motorola, Avaya, AT&T, etc) sponsorship
- **Networking and professional development**
  - Networking session during meeting, workshop and conference
  - Professional development education certificates
  - Post job opportunity to members
  - Post internship opportunity to students

# *Membership Development*

## ■ Membership drives

- Always free activities open to the public, attracting many non-members
- Membership application form available at all activities
- SM elevation for qualified members
- Frequent student activities

## ■ Encourage and retain volunteers

- Never short of volunteers in Chicago
- Invited speakers turn to volunteers
- Students activities attract student volunteers
- Recognition

## *Chapter Financial*

- No direct funding from ComSoc HQ
- \$10,000+ savings from previous conferences
- \$2,400/year budget from the section. Chapter financials are managed by Chicago Section
- ComSoc chapter achievement awards (2004 \$500, 2006 \$1,000)
- Free activity locations from IIT, Lucent, and Motorola
- Free meetings and seminars (with free snack and beverage) to the public
- Joint workshops and conferences with local industries and universities

## *Success Experience*

- Strong chapter leadership
- Frequent communication with members
- Understand and meet the need of members
- Elevate qualified members to SM
- Maintain good relationship and collaboration with local industries and universities
- Always get supports from the section and ComSoc HQ

## *Future Development Plan*

- Broaden the meeting topics to attract more audiences (we have sent a survey to our members)
- Increase members and student members involvement
- Enhance collaboration with local companies and universities (more joint workshops and conferences)
- Increase numbers of new members, SM and Fellows