

SEMS



Introduction to Daren Maynard

As one of two new directors on the board of the Society for Engineering and Management Systems (and one of two directors who live outside the United States), I was given this opportunity to introduce myself and share my vision of what I want to do during my three-year term.

I see my vision as adding a more international perspective to the society's board deliberations and decision-making. Although our membership is heavily from the United States, we have representatives from 52 other countries. After spending the past 1½ years as the SEMS newsletter editor, I also wanted to bring the perspective of a practicing industrial engineer to our society's deliberations and actions.

As the lead director on communications, I will continue activities I started with the SEMS newsletters. I have worked the recipe developed by the previous editor with modifications to enhance our offerings, increasing the open rate, incorporating more pictures, introducing international writers and adding the SEMS Says columns to the newsletters. Every two months, our newsletter covers the following areas:

- Presidents' message, written by the current president and assisted by the president-elect and past president
- SEMS Says, duplicated from this column
- Student Initiatives such as paper competitions, industrial visits and more
- Knowledge Zone brings together our book review and SEMS blogs roundup
- International Focus and Practitioners' Focus columns add content from international and guest writers
- Membership News puts the spotlight on our members

I am an applied researcher with training and practical experience in industrial engineering and projects portfolio management in an international setting. I have subspecialisms in organizational management systems, risk management and technology. I also participate in teaching and continuous personal development activities.

Currently, I lead the Shared Services Organization for three associated companies – Novus Tech, F1RST.com and S.M. Jaleel and Co., based in Trinidad and Tobago. I function as the shared services manager and the board champion for shared services for Novus and F1RST.

I used to run the Program Management Office that handled commercial programs for Novus Tech. I am an adjunct lecturer at the University of the West Indies – St. Augustine, teaching in the areas of research methodology and international project management on the M.S. project management degree. I also supervise graduate students for their theses and function as a second examiner.

— Daren Maynard has a PMP certification, an M.S. in program and project management and a B.S. in industrial engineering.

Says...

Introduction to Natalie Scala

I am happy to introduce myself to the SEMS community. I joined the SEMS board as one of two new directors in June and am an assistant professor in the Department of e-Business and Technology Management in the College of Business and Economics at Towson University.

Before working with SEMS, I served on the board for the Engineering Economy division and was the track chair for IE in the Military at this year's Annual Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee.

SEMS continues to provide value to its members, and this year we have many exciting initiatives planned. Through this column, I will keep you up to date regarding these programs. You also will see announcements related to the 2016 ISERC Conference (at Disneyland!), student-focused contributions, and messages from both SEMS President Suzie Long and other board members.

In the July/August SEMS Says column, Long wrote about volunteering and making the most of opportunity. We have something for everyone – professionals, academics and students – in SEMS, and I encourage the community to become involved, whether via participating in something you read about in this column or supporting a new initiative.

This year, the SEMS board is exploring the development of a formal mentoring program. Mentoring is an integral part of career development for young professionals and also provides solid benefits for experienced professionals. Young professionals and professionals new to engineering management or industrial engineering grow from being exposed to new opportunities, receiving tactful advice, and having a confidant outside their leadership chain with whom to receive feedback and discuss ideas.

Seasoned professionals take pride in imparting their wisdom, sharing their experiences and helping others avoid career mistakes. While working in industry, I benefited greatly from mentoring programs, and I now appreciate the mentors I have in the academic community. SEMS hopes to facilitate development for all members, so if you have ideas related to mentoring or would like to help establish such a program, please contact me.

SEMS is an active community with much to offer for academics, professionals and students. There are plenty of opportunities to get the most out of your membership. If you have something you would like the SEMS community to know about, would like to contribute to this column, or would like to ask, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with everyone.

— *Natalie Scala is an assistant professor in the Department of e-Business and Technology Management in the College of Business and Economics at Towson University. You can reach her at nscala@towson.edu.*

