

What an awesome CSVA conference

By Jim Bolton, PE, CVS, PVM

I had the distinct pleasure of being one of the keynote speakers at the 2008 CSVA Conference this past October, and I must say I was very impressed with this event.

It brought value to over 200 attendees in a variety of professional areas from manufacturing to infrastructure to construction to the service sector; and it was attended by many students who had little previous exposure to the value methodology. A tremendous amount of credit goes to their organizing committee including CSVA Past President Steve Holmes and CSVA President Steve Taylor, and to Rakesh Shreewastav, who is also the director of membership for the Greater Michigan Chapter of SAVE International and who is also on the organizing committee for SAVE International's 50th anniversary conference in Detroit in June, 2009. My only other previous experience attending [the CSVA] conference was in 2001, when I presented a technical paper titled "Taking an Active Role as Team Leader in VE Projects." [At that time], there were fewer than 100 attendees and the amenities were considerably less functional and not nearly as valuable.



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First, every paid attendee received a memory stick with all of the conference proceedings [loaded] on it. The memory stick had the CSVA logo imprinted on it, which doubled as a souvenir. Great value in my opinion and a good way to advertise CSVA! In addition, the lunches for the two-day event were buffet style. After setting up a second buffet line, everyone was served in a reasonable amount of time with plenty of really good food. There was something for everyone. The awards banquet was a "sit down" affair which was also well administered and once again, the food was excellent. The morning and afternoon breaks were similar to what SAVE International does for its conferences. Also similar was the level of sponsorship for the conference. The Ministry of Ontario sent many of its employees and—my guess—25 percent to 30 percent of the conference attendees were from this governmental body.

There was a good variety of well-presented technical papers from Canadians with many diverse backgrounds and some excellent experienced speakers from the USA as well. I am continually impressed with the work that is being done at McGill University in Montreal



CSVA conference attendees.

where a semester-long value methodology project course has been taught for many years. Many manufacturing organization partner with the university every year they sponsor a real project where students use the value methodology to solve an issue or enhance the value to that company through the completion of the VM project. As a director of the Miles Value Foundation and as the VP-Manufacturing for SAVE International, I would love to have more universities in the USA utilize the McGill University value education model to effectively teach students the practical application of how VM can be successfully applied in the manufacturing community. Again, thanks both professors for your excellent work with students at McGill University. You are a great inspiration for us in the U.S. to do the same nationwide.

Once again, it was a real pleasure to present at the CSVA conference this year. I want to wish them the best of luck as they continue to grow and spread VM across Canada.