

Rising Stars 2024 is a fantastic opportunity for students and young professionals to learn about new technologies and network with peers and IEEE leaders.

Day 1 (Friday) featured workshops. I found two of them insightful, valuable, and inspiring:

1. Key Career Insights by John McDonald:

John is a holistic speaker who shared his life and career experiences with numerous examples. He is a great speaker and a well-rounded individual, a great inspiration to be around and learn from about IEEE.

2. Resume Development by Mike and Carolyn Andrews.:

Mike was a co-founder of the Rising Stars conference (I heard). He led an interactive resume-building workshop. He highlighted the importance of storytelling and using your resume to highlight what you can do rather than what you did.

This was the highlight of the entire conference for me. Unfortunately, Carolyn unable to speak.

I believe that Mike and Carolyn would be great to have as speakers for a YP/Section event. (Carolyn was enthusiastic and willing.)

Day 2 (Saturday) featured more technical talks and overviews of the technical advancements in Space, a panel of career opportunities in Engineering and Wealth management, etc.

I was looking forward to Carolyn Andrew's talk - Becoming the CEO of your Life, but it was canceled.

Day 2 evening networking event was exciting as we shuffled around tables and met new people.

1. I had the privilege of learning what IEEE EPICS does. They fund student projects relevant to problems faced in communities. I learned that one of their modes of advertisement is via the local section. This might be something to advertise on the Section website for the benefit of students (if applicable).

2. I helped promote IEEE MTT-S to undergraduate students when I sat at the MTT-S table. The students were surprised to learn the benefits they could receive for an MTT-S membership fee of \$1. Are we able to promote this to increase student participation in MTT-S?

Day 3 (Sunday)

I had the opportunity to talk to Fred Schindler and learn about his role on the IEEE Technical Activities Board during breakfast.

I enjoyed the Next Big Thing Panel, where five experts shared their take on where technology is heading in 2024.

Overall, this was an exciting opportunity for me to meet and network with IEEE leadership and students. I personally learned a lot from the workshops and through networking.

This conference is highly relevant to students (especially undergraduates) and young professionals. There were plenty of opportunities to learn about the impact they can make once they graduate and the different applications of electrical engineering. There were numerous opportunities during the conference to connect students with experts in the field and IEEE leadership. Thank you for sending me to the conference to represent the Section! I am grateful for the opportunity.