

# YAP News

The buzz for Young Automation Professionals and students 18-30

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Join the YAPFEST  
Group on Facebook.  
Go to [www.isa.org/  
yapgroup](http://www.isa.org/yapgroup).

Watch the You Tube  
video, "What in the  
World is a YAP?"  
at [www.isa.org/  
yapvideo](http://www.isa.org/yapvideo)

Look for the next elec-  
tronic issue of YAP News  
in August 2009!

## That's a Wrap

YAPFEST 2008 was a huge success! We hosted more than 250 college students and automation professionals from Texas, Louisiana, California, Ohio, Russia, and the Netherlands, just to mention a few. It wouldn't be a party without those loyal student attendees from local Houston area universities and community colleges, including Lee, DeVry, University of Houston, and Lamar. What an awesome party we have to look back on.



YAPs engaged with others for invaluable networking talks with fellow students, automation professionals, and real-world industry leaders. Networking is the primary key to our unique event. When out in the real world looking for a job, it helps to know people who can help you get a foot in the door. So continue attending each year to reconnect with those you met and, of course, to make many more new connections.



YAPFEST continues to grow in diverse ways each year. A number of new activities were added to the event in 2008. Monte King, Workforce Development Manager for Shell, addressed the YAP audience sharing his knowledge of automation careers. He brought some cool light up yo-yo's and shades to hand out as well. On a similar note, Bob Vavra of *Plant Engineering Magazine* hosted an innovative panel discussion and recruited industry professionals from *InTech* magazine and Automation Direct to participate. YAPs walked away with a better understanding of why it is vital to study for a career in automation and how they can benefit from the experience. YAPs took home a cool T-shirt too, thanks to *Plant Engineering Magazine*.

Our event sponsors are our partners for engaging YAPs in what it takes to begin a career in automation. They offer real-world examples, including insights into working environments, day-to-day tasks, and advice on how to kick off a career in automation. They are priceless contacts that really make the event an ongoing success.



## A Solid Foundation—building the future for industry

The Automation Federation worked with industry experts and representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor, to compile the Automation Competency Model, a formal federal document defining the skills and competencies needed for a career in the automation field.

**How does this help a YAP?** The competency model provides a clear description of what a person needs to know and be able to do—the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform well in an occupation. Historically, competency models are developed through research and industry validation, and once completed, are promoted, maintained, and updated.

**What's included in the model?** It's made up of nine tiers, including personal effectiveness competencies, academic competencies, workplace competencies, industry-wide competencies, automation technical competencies, occupation-specific technical competencies, occupation-specific requirements, and management competencies.

**Why use it as a reference?** It's a tool for preparing for job opportunities in the automation profession. This unique model will also help academic institutions updating curricula to better prepare the technology workforce of the future. The components of the model will help you identify your common ground, identify and knowledge gaps, find opportunities to apply your skills in the real world, and continue building on what you know.

Take a look at the model on the US Department of Labor's website at [www.automationfederation.org/model](http://www.automationfederation.org/model). It is a valuable resource!



Founded in 1945, the International Society of Automation ([www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org)) is a leading, global, nonprofit organization that is setting the standard for automation by helping over 30,000 worldwide members and other professionals solve difficult technical problems, while enhancing their leadership and personal career capabilities. Based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, ISA develops standards; certifies industry professionals; provides education and training; publishes books and technical articles; and hosts the largest conference and exhibition for automation professionals in the Western Hemisphere. ISA is the founding sponsor of The Automation Federation ([www.automationfederation.org](http://www.automationfederation.org)).

## The year of contentment

Article inclusion complements of *InTech* magazine

At some point during a career, a person needs to understand what job satisfaction is all about. Niraj Kachhadi knows. The principal consultant for manufacturing IT and automation for Dallas-based Kim Automation Inc. clearly enjoys his career.

"Right now, I would not be willing to change anything about my job. I am satisfied with my job as an MIT (manufacturing IT) consultant, and it is fun," he said. "I get to use and analyze new technologies for SCM (supply chain management) and MES (manufacturing execution systems)."

Read On: [www.isa.org/yaparticle](http://www.isa.org/yaparticle)

## Let's YAP

Did YAPFEST help you land a career in automation? Let me know for a chance to be featured in the next issue of YAP News. Forward your comments to Crystal Strickland, Marketing Coordinator, at [cstrickland@isa.org](mailto:cstrickland@isa.org).

We're  
planning for  
YAPFEST 2009

Mark your calendar for  
6 October 2009. Keep  
checking the web at  
[www.isa.org/yapfest](http://www.isa.org/yapfest)  
for exciting event  
details!



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## Conferences & Exhibits

ISA hosts several annual events ranging in size from two-day technical conferences focused on current industry issues, to the largest automation conference and exhibition in North America. These events provide quality education to professionals and provide businesses an unparalleled opportunity to maximize their productivity and ensure their long-term growth.