



# The Power of Networking

*The following is the first in a series of short stories from IIBEC emerging professional members.*

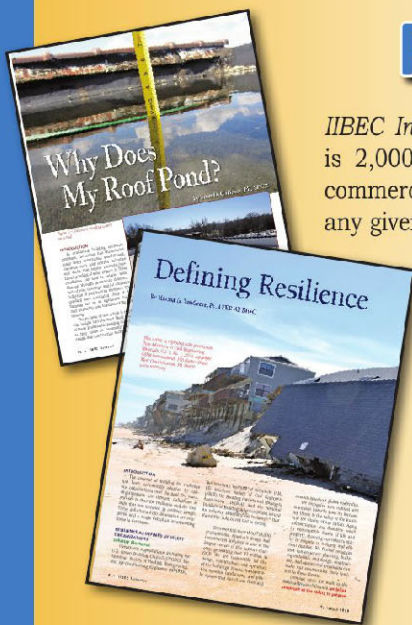
The summer before I graduated from college, I tagged along with a family member to [an RCI convention] he was attending. They had a networking golf event with a few available openings. I was matched on a random golf team with a couple of engineers who I didn't know, who were not involved in my field of study or what I wanted to practice. That helped, as I was not overly nervous about impressing them but more concerned with not shooting a 150. Although those engineers were not the ones who eventually hired me, they did introduce me to the business development representative for the company at which I am currently employed. Who knew that as a broke college student, tagging along on a networking event, I would land a free round of golf and my dream job?

My advice is to attend anything and everything you can, even if it's not directly related to your field. A lot of engineering fields and firms work together at some point. Socialize, and don't be overly focused on impressing everyone with your knowledge and résumé, but rather be yourself. A lot of people coming out of high school and college all have very similar résumés, so "who you know" and "the interview" may be the deciding factor. Being part of an organization with which your future employer is involved goes a long way and creates a step up on others. Organizations that have networking events such as conventions, social gatherings, educational events, etc., are invaluable for job opportunities, business growth, education, and so much more.

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