

Briefing of First Session for MJAA Mentorship 2007-2008

On Saturday, November 17, 2007, a group of aspiring and ambitious young professionals converged on downtown San Jose to meet their chosen mentors. The MJAA mentorship committee had painstakingly planned this day for several months, and there was a sense of relief and nervousness in the air as the committee members completed the last remaining items before the mentors and mentees arrived. But the committee members were confident that their preparation these past few months would pay off.



At 9AM, registration began and the mentees and mentors started filtering in. As the participants completed registration, a delicious continental breakfast filled with fresh pastry delivered directly from San Francisco awaited them. At 9:15 AM, the session began. For the 2007 mentorship program, the mentees were in for a treat. As assembled by the mentorship committee, this year's group of mentors represented the diverse industry experience that is present in

the San Francisco Bay area. They were:

- Milton Chang, Industry: VC
- Bobby Chao, Industry: VC
- George Koo, Industry: Consulting
- Paul Lo, Industry: Semiconductor/Electronic Design Automation
- Elizabeth Xu, Industry: Software
- Ed Yang, Industry: Computing & IT for businesses and consumers

The session started off with a panel discussion. Moderator Andrew Kao, kicked it off with questions presented to the mentors. Each mentee also had a chance to ask their questions to the mentors as well. The questions, which were challenging, non-trivial and thought provoking, included:

- What is the difference between working in a small versus a large company?
- How does one overcome the glass ceiling?
- How does one balance the family and work life in the Silicon Valley?
- What are the characteristics of an entrepreneur?

Several of the mentors delivered their answers with awe based on their personal experiences and knowledge. The answers were well received by the mentees and soon many mentees were eager to ask mentors additional questions.

The panel discussion gave the mentees a small taste of what was to come for the mentorship program. Followed by the panel discussion, the mentees were separated into their assigned "family" group and given their first chance to spend one-on-one time with their selected mentor. During this time, the mentors had a chance to understand the



“family” group and to field any questions that their “family” group may have or expand on any of the topics that were discussed during the panel discussion. Time quickly elapsed and in a blink of eye it was lunchtime.

During lunch, all of the mentors were present and this gave the mentees an opportunity to have an informal dialogue with other mentors. The mentors and mentees were soon involved in in-depths discussions and

MJAA volunteers had to sadly remind everybody that lunch was ending and that the closing remarks session was going to start shortly.

During the closing remarks session, Andrew Kao wrapped-up the day by taking care of logistical issues and acknowledging all the people and sponsors that made the event happen. Special acknowledgement was given to the Deloitte & Touche (D&T), which graciously offered their office and volunteers to assist in this year’s mentorship program. The mentees were reminded of upcoming mentorship events and were dismissed. The first session of the 2007 MJAA Mentorship has officially concluded.

Once the last mentees had left, the MJAA volunteers quickly cleaned the D&T site and wrapped up last minute logistical details. The volunteers glanced at their watches and it was already 3PM. All of the volunteers congratulated each other for a job well done knowing that the first session went well as planned. As the last exhausted MJAA volunteer exited the D&T office, they knew that their efforts and the contacts made by the mentees will have profound effects on the mentees for many years to come.

-Patrick Feng, MJAA Mentorship 2007 Committee member