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Director looks ahead for R8

I BEGIN my term of office as IEEE Region 8 Director with a huge challenge to realise our common vision of the Region's future.

I have always believed that the activities of our local Chapters and Student Branches are our most valuable asset. Our Region, with over 65,000 members, has the largest number (400+) of Chapters and almost 300 Student Branches, most of which are very active.

Our Region's numerous technical events give plenty of evidence for our activity. R8 sponsors leading conferences – EuroCon, MeleCon, AfriCon – while local events are organised by Sections and Chapters. The ranks of our Region are powered by many knowledgeable and imaginative individuals, dedicated volunteers, competent officers as well as experts in their disciplines.

I would also like to throw a spotlight on our newly elected operating committee, OpCom. Its composition associates a group of individuals whose youthful zeal, experience and strong knowledge will help give Region 8 special potential for future activities and direction.

Our OpCom members come from many different areas of the Region and various Sections. We can look forward to many new productive ideas and concepts.

With pleasure I would like to welcome our Director-Elect Marko Delimar and three new

Vice Chairs: Eva Lang (Student Activities), Pilar Molina Gaudo (Member Activities) and Rami Mushcab (Technical Activities). Their past services as Region 8 volunteers will be familiar to readers of R8News.

I have distinct targets that I would like to attempt during my term of office:

- Improve Region 8 efficiency with greater support of Chapters and Student Branches.

- Encourage more young engineers who work in industry to join IEEE Region 8.

- Establish closer co-operation between our Region and national engineering societies, institutions and associations. Common initiatives – conferences, educational and scientific programmes – can help our professions and members.

- Region 8's bonds with IEEE's Technical Societies need to be strengthened.

- Investment into innovative products and services for membership needs better regional focus.

With the help of my dedicated and gifted OpCom, we will update our current bylaws to better suit the Region's specific needs and to ensure its strong position and transnational reputation in the Institute. This should lead to strengthening its significance in HQ and let it get larger share in building the IEEE's overall strategy.

Józef Modelski
IEEE Region 8 Director



Section Congress, Quebec 2008

Most of the Region 8 Sections sent at least one delegate to Sections Congress, held last September. At the time, Québec City was celebrating the 400th year of its foundation.

Richter is recognised for achievement in education



Left to right: Duncan Baker, Saurabh Sinha, Józef Modelski (Director-Elect 2009–2010, IEEE Region 8), Kurt Richter, Lewis Terman (IEEE President 2008) and Prof Tony Davies.

AT THE 2008 Educational Activities Board Awards Ceremony at New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA on 14 November, Kurt Richter, an Emeritus Professor of the Technical University of Vienna at Graz, Austria, and a former Director of IEEE Region 8, received the 2008 IEEE EAB Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education.

The citation is: "For outstanding contributions as a teacher and organiser of manage-

ment and leadership continuing education programs for IEEE members in Region 8".

Kurt introduced Leadership and Management Workshops in Region 8, and taught many of them himself in Sections throughout the Region. The workshops are primarily targeted at students, recent graduates and early-career engineers, and it is estimated that more than 1,500 people from Region 8 have attended them.

History activity makes plans for the future

THE HISTORY activity in Region 8 and in IEEE in general is growing. Here follows details of future activities already planned.

The next EUROCON, to be held at St Petersburg, Russia on 18–23 May 2009, celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Alexander Popov, with a special session: History of Electrical Engineering (TPC-8). See www.ieee.org/go/eurocon2009 for details.

The IEEE History Conference 2009 is currently being organised by the History Committee and the IEEE History Center, and the event will be held in Philadelphia, USA on 5–7 August 2009. The theme is the contributions by engineering societies to mankind, including a session on 'Views towards the future' on foreseen developments.

The History of the IEEE Region 8 was the subject of a meeting of the Region 8 HAC History Affinity Council in London on 6 November 2008. Bob Winton, one of our Region's oldest volunteers, joined in discussions for our HAC project to document the Development and Growth of region 8 through



History Activities council meeting in London

its volunteer activities.

Israel Section is running a project on the Development of Electrical and Information Technologies in the country, which will end with the pub-

lishing of a History book.

Let me know me about your history interests!

Jacob Baal-Schem

History Activities coordinator
jacob@info-gate.co.il

Council sets web goals

IN LONDON on 6 November, 2008 a group of volunteers of the Region 8 HAC and the first Secretary of Region 8, Bob Winton, met to launch the Region 8 Archives project. The goal will be to publish an expanded History section to the R8 website.

Topics will include:

- Facts, figures and dates recording meetings, conferences, interviews with prominent persons in the Region.

- Special sections including photos and video clips. You can share your knowledge of

past events and record personal memories related to IEEE activities in the Region.

Many of us have witnessed the impressive development of IEEE Region 8 since its formation in 1963. It has grown to become one of the largest professional organisations in Europe. This project aims to leave for our successors a comprehensive record of historical information on these achievements.

Contact us to discuss your ideas using the email address given above.

IEEE promotes higher standards in education

INTRODUCING THE IEEE Standards Education Committee, a joint committee of the IEEE Standards Association (SA) and the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB). Its aim is to...

- Promote the importance of standards.
- Circulate learning materials apply standards to educational programmes.
- Give short courses about standards needed in the design and development phases of professional practice.
- Promote the integration of standards into academic programmes.

The committee's website (www.standardseducation.org) will serve as the focal point for related tutorials, case illustrations and student application papers.

The IEEE can make mini-grants available to students and faculty mentors to help design projects with an industry standards component. The IEEE will publish results as student application papers. For more information, visit www.ieee.org/web/education/standards/applications.html.

David Law

David_Law@3com.com

EUROCON 2009

**18–23 May 2009
St Petersburg, Russia**

Eurocon 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Popov (1859–1906)

Venue: St Petersburg Electrotechnical University (LETI)

Web: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/russia/nw/cem/eurocon2009>



Above (left to right): Mischa Schwartz of Columbia University, David Robertson, Jacob Baal Schem.



Left: Mischa Schwartz delivers his talk on improving the noise performance of communications systems from the 1930s to early 1940s.

UK&RI members take active role in HISTELCON 2008

IEEE REGION 8 HISTELCON 2008 (History of Telecommunications Conference) took place in Paris on 11–12 September 2008.

The themes of the conference were: Inventors and inventions, message encoding, military and civil systems, innovating enterprises and museum items.

Several UK&RI members attended this conference and took active roles.

David Robertson gave the invited talk on 'Alec Reeves and PCM invention'. Brian

Bowers spoke on 'In a parental position to our telegraph system, Charles Wheatstone'. Chris Bissell's lecture was 'He was the father of us all – Ernest Guillemin and the teaching of modern network theory'. Peter Hill delivered a talk on 'Vigenère through Shannon to Planck – a short history of cryptography'.

Martin Bolton spoke on 'Wired Radio Broadcasting Technology in Britain, 1924–1950'. Anthony Davies gave a talk on 'WW2 British Army Battlefield Commu-

nications Equipment'. Bernardo Batiz-Lazo and Robert Reid, delivered a lecture on 'Evidence from the patent records on the development of cash dispensers and ATM technology'. John Moyle displayed a poster on 'Amplifiers before electronics – the 'Magnifiers'.

The conference was organised by IEEE France Section and sponsored by THALES, France Telecom and ISEP.

For further information, visit www.isep.fr/histelcon.



AFRICON 2009

www.africon2009.org

23-25 September 2009 • Nairobi, Kenya

AFRICON, the top-event of IEEE in Africa, is a forum for professionals, academia and industry to exchange ideas, present their newest research findings and to network. Be there for experiencing top-notch science and a vibrant social program in beautiful Kenya!

Gerrit Niezen, office@aficon2009.org, +27 12 420 3736

Newly elevated IEEE Fellows in Region 8

Austria Section

Helmut Rott

Benelux Section

Cor Claeys
Piet Demeester
Jean-Pierre Hermand
Jose Pineda-De-Gyvez
Sabine Van Huffel

Denmark Section

Ramjee Prasad

Finland Section

Jorma Nieminen
Niilo Saranummi

France Section

Jean-Pierre Berenger
Claude Berrou
Lucian Dascalescu
Raymond Quere

Germany Section

Georg Boeck
Aleksander Braginski
Manfred Depenbrock
Gerhard Fettweis
Wolfgang Heinrich
Uwe Helmke
Arne Jacob
Ludger Klinkenbusch
Rudolf Koch
Ralf Koetter
Klaus Petermann
Peter Vary
Wolfram Wellssow
Hans-Joachim Wunderlich

Greece Section

Nicholas (Nikos) Hatzargyriou
Nicholas Sidiropoulos

Israel Section

Ron Kimmel

Italy Section

Roberto Battisti
Pasquale Daponte
Paolo Fiorini
Andrea Lacaita
Matteo Pastorino
Dario Petri
Sebastiano Serpico
Enrico Zanon

Kuwait Section

Mohsen Guizani

Qatar Section

Mohamed Alouini

Russia (Siberia) Section

Nikolai Voropai

Spain Section

Francisco Ares
Juan Martin-Sanchez

Switzerland Section

Helmut Boelcskei
Dragan Damjanovic
Jean-Pierre Hubaux
Peter Steimer

Turkey Section

Levent Gurel
Levent Sevgi

UK & Rep Of Ireland Section

Bashir Al-Hashimi
Alessandro Astolfi
Sheng Chen
Alan Clements
Rodney Coates
Martin Dawson
Orla Feely
Nicholas Jennings
Emil Levi
Wayne Luk
Steve Young
Zi-Qiang Zhu

Ukraine Section

Konstantin Lukin
Felix Yanovsky

EICP draws industry closer

THE ENERGY Industry Collaboration Program (EICP) is a new initiative that calls for collaboration between IEEE and the energy industries. It is intended to bring IEEE closer to them and hence to increase the number of IEEE members in R8 and around other regions as well.

IEEE with its worldwide presence and strong technical and industrial background can greatly contribute to the success of the energy industry. More than 70% of the world's oil and gas reserves are located in the boundaries of our region. European countries mandate to have 20% of their energy through Renewable energy sources by 2020.

Establishing this initiative within Region 8 at this time is crucial to maintain the leadership role of IEEE. It will encourage more IEEE members, experts and volunteers to engage in joint activities with the energy sector.

Rami Mushcab

rami.mushcab@aramco.com

IEEE Anniversary website is open

THE 125TH Anniversary website is up and running at www.ieee125.org. Please consider posting to the message boards, register your events, upload videos and photos from your events, and continue to provide us with your feedback.

Workshop brings Comms Chapter and Section together

A WORKSHOP held on Saturday 31 May 2008 at Beirut Arab University with 140 attending was organised by the IEEE Communications Society Lebanon Chapter and IEEE Lebanon Section.

The opening ceremony included support from the director-general of the Ministry of Telecommunications, Abdel Menhem Youssef. Two sessions on cellular and telecommunications followed.

Two companies were honoured with certificates from the IEEE Communications Society Lebanon Chapter: OGERO board member Alain Bassil, for the attendance of 30 persons at the workshop, and MTC-Touch for its continuing support.

Usamah Farroukh from Hariri Canadian University (HCU) then presented details of the IEEE as an international organisation and the role of the Section and its sub entities.

Between the two technical sessions, the IEEE student branch at BAU presented an award to Onsy Abd El Alim from BAU for services rendered at BAU.

We heard technical talks

from Gebran El Khoury (Ogero Mobile), Mazen Osta (MTC-Touch) on EDGE and its performance in Lebanon, Elias Haddad (ESIB) on a proposal for wireless mesh networks in Lebanon, and Onsi Abdel Alim (BAU) with a presentation on mobile WiMAX.

A second session included talks from Rabi Mouawad (ESIB) on IPTV over WiMAX, Antoine Feghaly (Crystal Networks) on securing a voice conference, Ali Harmouch (AUST) on miniaturisation of antennas, and Robert Farha (Paris VI) on optical communication.

At the closing ceremony, certificates were presented to 19 volunteers from the IEEE student branches at BAU and, from ESIB, Marc Joe Chedid.

At the dinner, the chairman, an author representative and two volunteers from BAU and ESIB cut a big cake with the name of the workshop written on it (IEEE LCW'2008).

Elias Chafic Haddad

Chair, IEEE LCW'2008 and Lebanon Section/Communications Chapter
elias.chafic.haddad@ieee.org



Cutting the cake (left to right): BAU author, chairman, BAU volunteer, ESIB volunteer

Begin IEEE's 125th anniversary year on a new high

WHAT A year! In these pages we report on Sections Congress (Canada) '08, Student and GOLD Congress (London) and HISTELCON (Paris). Our members received top IEEE Awards and were elected to VP-Technical Board – a first.

In 2008 your volunteer editors only published two issues of *Region 8 News*. We are sorry. We ran out of time for IEEE work while we had to fill needs of our careers and families. But please keep your contributions coming in, because 2009 will be filled with delights as IEEE celebrates its 125 Anniversary.

"Throughout the year we will celebrate 125 years of innovation and ingenuity with special events online and across the globe." www.ieee125.org. The official IEEE anniversary date is 13 May.

There's \$10,000 in prizes for students in the Change the

World Competition, launched this month by IEEE President John Vig.

This is also the year to be involved with your colleagues. Set up your own discussions, using the IEEE message boards to share your stories. Visit our website www.ieee.org/r8 and see the fresh new look engineered by webmaster Thomas Watteyne.

There's a lot in this issue for your attention. Region 8 is growing, and you and I are helping make it happen. Send in your stories and make a great beginning to 2009!

Roland Saam
r.saam@ieee.org



Your editors: Roland Saam and Başak Yüksel

Winners of last issue's R8N Picture Quiz



This puzzle and its instructions appeared on page 11 of *Region 8 News* July 2008. You can download a copy in PDF format from www.ieee.org/go/r8news.

WE RECEIVED some 20 entries and it was difficult for the judges to choose the best, so *Region 8 News* will send one-year subscriptions to *IEEE Potentials* to those students who sent in the correct answers.

The overall winner of the IEEE T-shirt, however, is Ahmed Saied Khalil, a student member from Alexandria, Egypt. His was the best researched answer, giving references that our readers may care to look up on the web:

- 1) <http://library.thinkquest.org/11577/numbers.htm>
- 2) www.history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/HistTopics/Mayan_mathematics.html
- 3) www.michiellb.nl/maya/math.html
- 4) <http://mathforeurope.digibel.be/Numerals.htm>
- 5) www.authenticmaya.com/mathematics.htm

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REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE

Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/r8

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Benito Palumbo (Italy)

Standards Coordinator
TBA

Editor's note: At press time several appointments were not yet announced. See website www.ieee.org/r8 for latest information.

Information helpdesk

member-services@ieee.org



IEEE

Celebrating 125 Years
of Engineering the Future

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Extra copies If you would like extra copies of *Region 8 News* for distribution at your IEEE events, please email a request to the editor before the deadlines below, specifying quantity and delivery address. Please put *R8 News Extra Copies* in your email subject line.

Submitting articles We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to r8news@ieee.org, remembering to put *Region 8 News* in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at www.ieee.org/go/r8news.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

April 2009 issue..... deadline: 1 February 2009
July 2009 issue..... deadline: 1 May 2009
October 2009 issue..... deadline: 1 August 2009
January 2010 issue..... deadline: 1 November 2009

German winner of UPE award

EACH YEAR, the IEEE Computer Society awards the Upsilon Pi Epsilon Award for Academic Excellence to students who demonstrate high academic achievement and participate extensively in computer-related extra-curricular activities.

To raise the importance of academic achievement in our future computer professionals, four awards go to out-



Andreas Koltes

standing student members of the Computer Society.

This year, the IEEE Computer Society presented one of the UPE Awards for 2007 to Andreas Koltes from the University of Passau, Germany. Three further awards went to students from Japan, India and Colombia.

Manuel Kennel

Publications Officer
IEEE Germany Section



Svi recruiting more members for Elephant.

Technical writers get support organisation

SVI BEN-ELYA, an IEEE member living in Israel, has founded ELEPHANT (www.elephant.org.il) which is a national level professional organisation for technical writers in Israel.

Elephant's purpose is to share information and enable effective networking for free-

lance technical writers.

Group cooperation has enabled Elephant to successfully bid against other technical writing agencies on large projects when a single writer would have been unable to compete.

Esther Shira Stepansky
esthershira@ieee.org

Congratulations to Maurice Papo

IEEE'S ANNUAL Honours Ceremony was held in Québec City on 20 September 2008, during IEEE Sections Congress, before an audience that included IEEE members from all 10 Regions and representatives from almost every IEEE Section.

This was the first time that the Honours Ceremony had taken place at a Sections Congress, which brought this

important and spectacular event to a much wider audience than usual.

Maurice Papo, from the France Section, a former Director of Region 8, received the IEEE Haraden Pratt Award (given for outstanding service to IEEE).

Also honoured at the ceremony were Tim Berners-Lee, who is credited with the initial idea from which

the World Wide Web developed, and Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel Corporation, who received the IEEE Medal of Honour. Moore has become a household name for his 'Moore's Law' which in 1965 defined properties of the semiconductor industry which led to its universal impact on so much of all our lives today.

Tony Davies

Enercon co-hosts IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter



ON 5-6 June in Magdeburg, Germany, the Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter met with IEEE PES German Chapter at Otto von Guericke University. Wind turbine manufacturer Enercon GmbH were gracious co-hosts.

Welcome talks were followed by laboratory visits and concluded with a dinner party where students from RWTH Aachen University and University of Applied Sciences Cologne, Germany, presented their report IEEE

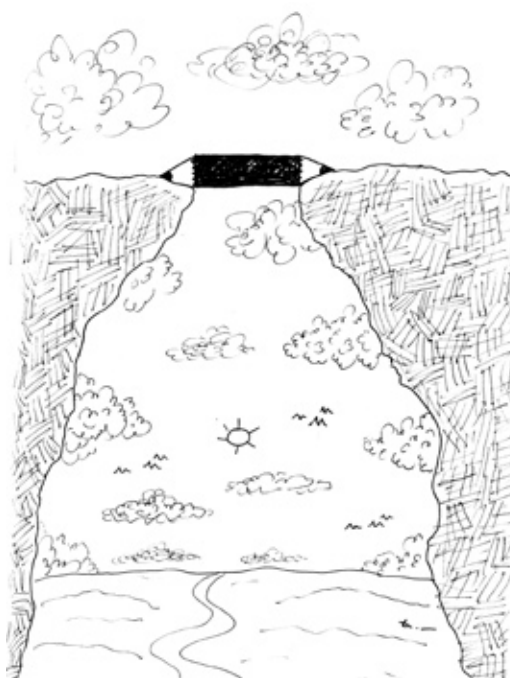
International Future Energy Challenge 2007 of PELS.

Technical presentations included vertical magnetic bearing for heavy rotary tables, converter with resonant load, and dynamic assessment in power systems.

For more information, visit www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels.

Omid Forati Kashani

omid.foratikashani@ieee.org



cartoon © Teylan Aygün

TERRA fuses four socs

WIRELESS VITAE 2009 is an international conference that brings together four IEEE societies: Communications Society, Vehicular Technology, Information Theory and Aerospace & Electronic Systems Technology. The theme of the first conference is TERRA,

symbolising the trends and developments on seamless, secure, innovative, personalised technologies supporting all areas of a wireless human life towards Tera-bits/s in wireless communications.

Christian Kloch

klloch@mail.dk

in brief

Capolino wins achievement award

Gerard-Andre Capolino, past chair of the France Section, and past Region 8 Chapters Coordinator has received the IES 2008 Eugene Mittelmann Achievement Award with the Citation: "For excellence in research related to condition monitoring and fault diagnosis techniques in electrical machines"

Pollard elected IEEE VP Post

Roger Pollard, a former Chair of the UKRI Section and a long-term active member and former President of the IEEE Microwaves Theory and Techniques Society, has



been elected by a large majority as Technical Activities Vice-President Elect for 2009. This is the first time that this position has been filled by a member from Region 8. Roger is Dean of Engineering at Leeds University in England, where he was previously Head of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Growth in members

Top Region 8 membership growth (by number):

603 – Iran Section

453 – Egypt Section

388 – Germany Section

Top Region 8 membership growth (by percentage):

76.6% – Iran Section

33.3% – Qatar Section

31% – Western Saudia Arabia Section

XXII Symposium WILGA 2008

FROM 29 May to 1 June 2008 the annual Symposium on Web Engineering and Advanced Applications of Photonic and Electronic Systems was held at WILGA near Warsaw.

Over the 11 years of WILGA's existence, the symposium has attracted some 3,500 participants, mainly young researchers. 12 volumes of Proceedings of SPIE have been published with some 1,000 research and technical papers.

The symposium fulfills several roles: a current digest of new science, an absolutely free debating and comparison platform for young researchers, a good pattern for those starting their research and/or academic career, and a place where the form and content of more advanced young researchers is friendly, politely but accurately polished. It is equally a place of meeting for the tutors and mentors of young researchers, PhD and MSc students.

In particular, WILGA is a kind of PhD work digest realised by young researchers in the areas of web engineering, photonics, apparatus for high energy physics experiments.

WILGA is organised by students for students. Faculty



members present during the Symposium are guests and do only a topical supervision of students activities and review students papers.

The opening presentation for the symposium usually concerns a summary of activities during the last academic year and plans for the next academic year of the young Research Group PERG/EL-HEP ISE WUT. This Group consists of young researchers active in web engineering and advanced applications of photonics and electronics systems.

A tradition of WILGA Symposium is that one of the keynote presentations is devoted to art, literature or humanities. Tadeusz

Morawski from the Institute of Radioelectronics WUT presented his research advances and literary work on palindromes.

After the best student paper award ceremony, a business meeting between representatives of SPIE and PSP was organised. This covered a number of issues concerning cooperation, including functioning of SPIE Student Chapters, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between SPIE and PSP, organisation of common meetings, common publications, and building a new rapid internet publication under the title Photonics Letters (www.photonics.pl/PL).

The next WILGA Sympo-

sium is planned for the last week of May 2009.

A January edition of WILGA 2009 Symposium is also planned for 23–25 January 2009 at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technology, WUT. Information about the WILGA Symposium is available at <http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl>. All contacts with WILGA organisers are available through the email address: photonics@ise.pw.edu.pl.

We heartily invite young researchers and their tutors/mentors, working in the area of Internet engineering and advanced applications of photonics and electronics systems.

Ryszard S. Romaniuk

R.Romaniuk@ise.pw.edu.pl

Italy Section LEOS wins awards

ITALY SECTION'S LEOS Society has won the Chapter of the Year award for Large Chapters. Silvano Donati, now Italy Section Chair, accepted the award on behalf of the present Chair, Tiziana Tambosso. The award was presented by IEEE President L Terman.

Later in the year, LEOS Society's annual report revealed that the Italian Chapter was the most prominent in terms of membership increase (+18%), senior member elevations (6), conferences and workshops organised (12 in the year), and special events, in particular the 30th LEOS anniversary celebra-

tions, that the LEOS Italian Chapter held twice: at Rome University La Sapienza (30 January 2008), with a DVD recording of the speeches, and at Pavia University (14 March 2008).

So, if it is said that in IEEE the Section is like a father, and the Society is like a mother, then the LEOS Italian Chapter has been a good child!

Including these awards, the LEOS Italian Chapter, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007, received a total of seven honours: Most Improved Chapter 1998, Most Improved Chapter 1999, Chapter of the Year

Society 2001, Most Innovative Chapter 2002, Chapter of the Year R8 2002, Chapter of the Year R8 2007, and Chapter of the Year Society 2008.

The Chapter chair, Tiziana Tambosso, is a chartered engineer previously employed in the Telecom Research Center CSELT (Torino). The Chapter has 135 members and is active in organising lectures, visits to laboratories, and conferences.

Worth mentioning too are the series of WFOPC Conferences initiated by S Donati and T Tambosso on fibre optics and passive components. WFOPC editions were run in

Pavia in 1998 and 2000, then in Glasgow (by the Scotland Chapter) in 2002, then in Palermo (back in Italy) in 2005, and finally in Taiwan (R.o.C., by the Taipei Chapter) in 2007. The other serial conference is ODIMAP, on Optical Distance Measurements with Lasers and Applications, started in Nantes (France) in 1997 then run in Pavia University in 1999 and 2001, to proceed in Oulu (Finland) in 2004, and then in Madrid (2006).

We all hope the Chapter will be able to continue the activity carried out so far.

Visit the LEOS IC website at www.unipv.it/leos.

'Outstanding' achievement is recognised with award

NADEZHDA DVURECHENSKAYA, Vice Chair of IEEE R8 Russia Siberia Section, has been named 2008 IEEE IAS Andrew Smith Outstanding Young Member – "In recognition of outstanding achievement in IEEE Industry Applications Society activities by an engineer less than 35 years of age".

Nadezhda's award was presented at the President's Banquet of the 2008 IEEE Industry Applications Society 43rd Annual Meeting, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on 8 October 2008.



Egypt GOLD is cruising

DURING THE holy month of Ramadan, the IEEE Egypt Section supported the annual Sohour (Dinner) of the Egypt GOLD and the Egyptian Stu-

dent Branches. The gathering was perfect for us to socialize, have fun and discuss joint activities. IEEE Egypt GOLD Chair, Ahmed Mikkawi,

also organized a cruise on the magnificent Nile River.

Mohamed A. Shahat

Mols.eg@ieee.org

Student Rep, Egypt Section



Farewell to prolific Boudenot

PROFESSOR JEAN-CLAUDE Boudenot passed away on 15 October 2008, aged only 52, after a long illness.

Jean-Claude had been very active in the creation of IEEE Chapters in France.

Prof Boudenot graduated from Ecole des Mines in Atomic Engineering. As professor of Physics, he taught at ISEP and EDITE and was a director in Thales Research



and Technology for nanotechnologies.

His vision for 'common technological platform' was realised at Ecole polytechnique and other academies.

Professor Boudenot was the author of more than 30 books, in two general domains: physics principle and its applications, and the history of physics and its applications.

GOLD news from the co-ordinator

LOOKING BACK at my time of office, this past year was wonderful thanks to all the great people on my team and way beyond Pilar Molina Gaudo, Joao Figueiras, Marko Delimar and many more.

The last weekend in August brought around 20 GOLD representatives to Queen Mary University of London for the 2008 Region 8 GOLD Congress. It was an excellent chance to network with peer GOLDieS, get ideas for cross-Section activities and share best practices. There was lively discussion including high-ranked IEEE officials about how to get active and stay involved within the IEEE showing ways of building a successful IEEE career. The GOLD-focused workshops dealt with bridging GOLD and student activities as well as balancing work and family life.

Just a few weeks later, on 18–19 September, the first global GOLD Summit was held in conjunction with the Sections Congress in Quebec City, Canada. Around 50 representatives from all over the globe met to exchange ideas and views on the past, the present and of course the future of IEEE GOLD. Region 8 demonstrated once again that we can be proud of being one of the most active Regions in the world.

One of the terms you should become familiar with is STEP. This acronym stands for the 'Student Transition and Elevation Programme' and was created in order to focus on the young members entering their professional life. Once a student member graduates and leaves the Student Branch, their every-day focus changes. The STEP programme is intended to ease this transition. It is supposed to show the GOLD members that their Section and their Region is there as their new home and anchor point in their ongoing careers. For more information please talk to your R8GOLD Committee (r8gold@ieee.org), your Section GOLD Officer, or have a look at www.ieee.org/web/membership/gold/STEP.

Please remember that GOLD activities are fun to join and organise, perfect to interact with your fellow peers in your professional field and a very valuable asset in your professional career.

Stay tuned into what is going on in your area by visiting www.ieee.org/r8gold or send an email to your Region 8 GOLD Team at r8gold@ieee.org.

Eva Lang

2008 Region 8 GOLD

Coordinator

eva.lang@ieee.org

On the lookout for a few good Fellows

IT'S NOT too early to nominate an IEEE senior member for the Fellow class of 2010. The deadline is 1 March 2009.

This prestigious group now numbers 6,000 out of IEEE's total of 375,000 members.

While many view Fellows as visionaries, pioneers, technology leaders, or influential business executives,

you probably know them as your friends or colleagues. So take the time to nominate someone you know in one of four Fellow categories: application engineer, educator, research engineer, or technical leader.

To submit a nomination or learn more about these categories and the Fellow Program, visit the Fellow Web site at www.ieee.org/fellows.

Photo call from Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008





MY TERM as Region 8 Vice Chair Student Activities has ended and my successor, Eva Lang, has started her work. It was an exciting period of two years, and one of the biggest event was definitely the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in London, UK, from 28 August until 1 September 2008.

SBC 2008 was attended by a total of 215 participants, among which 104 were graduate Student Members, representing 69 Branches from 31 Sections, and 15 Section GOLD coordinators. The entire R8 SAC was present (six members), as well as two members from the R8 GOLD Committee, nine members from the ISBIR (IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations) team, and the 15 members from the SBC Organising Committee, plus four others that helped this Committee. There were also Student Representatives from Regions 2, 3 and 6, as well as the Region 10 Student Activities Chair, Region 10 GINI (Global Integrated Network of IEEE Students) Coordinator, and two guests from EESTEC (Electrical Engineering Students' European Association). There were 11 members of Women in Engineering WiE, and the remaining 42 guests were mainly from Queen Mary University of London (4), sponsors (3), and different IEEE entities (both volunteers and staff).

The Organising Committee, chaired by Zhijia Huang, did an excellent job, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to him and his team.

As a satellite event to SBC 2008, a Jobs Fair was held on 1 September for student and GOLD members by the IEEE United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland Section, to help them in their career development and job-searching.

Now that my term has ended, I want to thank the members of my team, Pablo Herero, the official R8 Student Representative; Emine Aydal, Student Branch Coordinator and liaison to SBC 2008; Luka Lugaric, Electronic Communications Coordinator; Thomas Watterney, Awards and Contests Coordinator; and Marko Delimar, past R8 SAC Chair and always a great advisor. Thank you, guys! You did a good job!

Reminder: please nominate candidates for IEEE Awards. Some forthcoming deadlines are: 31 January for the IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award, 28 February for the Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Programme, and 31 March for the IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award.

Martin Bastiaans

R8 Vice Chair Student Activities 2007–08

UAE University:

3rd IEEE UAE Student Day

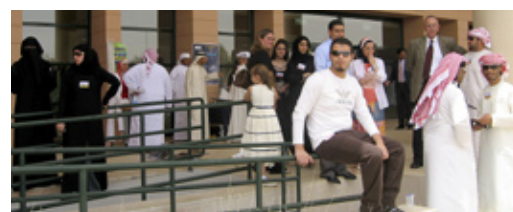


IEEE UAE section organised its 3rd IEEE student day at UAE University on 3 May 2008.

The culture of competition among engineering students was sparked by:

- Common Design and Senior Design
- Software Engineering Design
- Engineering Design
- Community Service
- Workshop on Renewable Energy
- Made in UAE

All UAE universities joined



this event: UAE University, University of Sharjah, American University of Sharjah, American University of Dubai, Petroleum Institute, Ajman University of Science and Technology, Khalifa University, and BITS Pilani

Dubai. It was a joyful day, where all IEEE students had fun and get the chance to meet IEEE students all over the UAE.

Soha Jawabreh

WIE Secretary in Sharjah

soha@ieee.org



Cukurova Student Branch, Turkey:

Event attracts 150+

IEEE TURKEY Student Branch and Gold Congress was organised by Cukurova IEEE Student Branch on 22–26 August 2008. More than 150 students from 35 different universities and 15 GOLD members attended this event.

Sponsors included Turkcell Networking Company, Temsa Global, Mikrobilim

Technology Holding and other local companies.

Gold and Student Branch activities, problems, branch co-operation and new technologies were discussed and new season activities were planned.

The organising team was led by Levent Kurtoglu, chairman of IEEE Cukurova Student Branch.

Report from Student Awards Co-ordinator

BEING PART of an organization as large as the IEEE has been an incredible experience for me. I believe it is the diversity of the cultures and the people which makes the world such a wonderful place, and the IEEE plays a major role in generating interaction. Not only does the IEEE open you to the rest of the world, it brings the rest of the world to you.

Within the IEEE, Region 8 is perhaps the most diverse among all regions. We should all be aware of the immense opportunities this creates! Many of the problems faced by the people living in our region can be solved by engineering. And who is better at engineering than IEEE members?

2009 IEEE President John Vig has launched the IEEE President's Change the World Competition. It recognises IEEE student members who identify a real-world problem and apply engineering, science, com-

puting and leadership skills to solve it. The top prize is US\$10,000 and the distinction of being named 'IEEE Student Humanitarian Supreme'. Submissions are accepted from 1 September 2008 through 28 February 2009. Visit www.ieee.org/students for details.

The Region 8 student members are extremely active, and this has been shown once again during the 2008 IEEE Student Website Contest. 39 student branches participated this year, which is a 70% increase of participants compared to last year!

The Region Student Activities Committee (SAC) is there to support all your student activities. We can be reached at r8sac@ieee.org or at www.ieee.org/r8sac. We are there for you 24/7/365. Don't hesitate to contact us!

Thomas Watteyne
IEEE R8 SAC Awards & Contests Coordinator

University of Magdeburg, Germany:

Students take virtual tour

INTERNATIONAL IEEE Student Branch meeting was held at University of Magdeburg on 5–6 June 2008.

Highlights included a presentation of the Virtual Development and Training Centre where we experienced a virtual tour through factories and working processes inside a 360°, 18m diameter laser projection system.

Pablo Herrero, Region 8 Students Representative, presented good ideas for funding student projects. Dominik Ertl, chair of Vienna Technical University's SB, outlined its programme and electronics lab project. Ste-

fan Wagner from University Bonn told us about a common German IEEE SB communication platform.

The evening finale was organised in the 'Lukasklausur', a restaurant near the river Elbe. IEEE SB members met the members of the Joint Chapter Meeting of the IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter and PES German Chapter for a joint buffet. We listened to an exciting presentation by students from RWTH Aachen and FH Köln in the Future Energy Challenge. By developing and building a universal battery charger the team got the chance to take part in

the final in the USA. Herbert Gambach, as a guest from Siemens AG, introduced the audience to the techniques of a multi level converter for use in HVDC transmission.

At the end of the presentations all participants set out for the ENERCON factory in Magdeburg Rothensee where production of wind generators could be viewed.

Of special interest was a stator of a generator with a diameter of 10m and a wing made from two separate parts.

André Naumann
& Manuel Kennel
IEEE Germany Section



Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria:

OAU organises congress for professional awareness

FOLLOWING A veritable avalanche of programs, IEEE OAU Student Branch organised a Student Professional Awareness Congress (SPAC) held on Thursday 28 August 2008.

The theme for this year SPAC was 'Project Management in Fields of Engineering'. The principal topics discussed were Project Management: the 21st cen-

tury goldmine, converting your knowledge to wealth, and striving in a competitive world respectively.

IEEE OAU Student Branch also recently organised a technical visit to West Africa's largest power generating station, Egbin thermal station, Lagos Nigeria.

The students were given an extensive tutorial on the multiplicity of processes that

goes on in a Power Plant and taken through a tour of the different sections of the power Plant.

The power plant situated in the outskirts of Lagos state and generates a total of 1320MW which is fed to the country's national grid network.

Olabode Olakanmi
IEEE OAU SB Chair
olakanmi@ieee.org

Malta Student Branch:

Robots find way out of the maze



IEEE SUMMER Challenge 2008 was the first event of its kind organised by the IEEE Malta student branch with the intention of giving engineering, ICT and science students the opportunity to challenge their skills and capabilities.

Students could participate in either of two different competitions:

■ Website design competition with the goal of re-vamping the current student branch website.

■ Smart robot design competition involving the design of a smart robot which can find its way out of a maze in which the shortest distance is marked by a silver strip.

Participants could work on their projects during the three months of summer holidays. On the day of the competition, which was held on 22 October 2008 in the Engineering Lecture Theatre, participants had to give a short presentation to describe their work.

The climax of the event was the robot race competition where each robot was given three runs through the maze with the winner being that robot that made it in

the shortest amount of time. Three teams successfully reached the final, the participants being Marc Tanti for Team 1, Lukas Galea and Malcolm Micallef for Team 2, and Nicholas Aquilina for Team 3. The winning robot was that designed by 4th year engineering student Nicholas Aquilina who made it unattended from start to finish in 27.65 seconds.

Thanks to our sponsors, Hetronic, Toly Products, 2x, Tekconsult and Engineering Services, Roderick Bartolo (winner of the website design competition) and Nicholas Aquilina (winner of the robot design competition) were presented with a €200 and €500 cash prize. Each participant was also given a a laptop case donated by the IEEE Malta section.

This event raised enthusiasm in students and staff alike. It also served as a good exposure of IEEE and a good opportunity to bring together students from different backgrounds to compete with each other. Through this event several IEEE student members were encouraged to become members of the new student branch committee. As a result of this positive feedback the Malta student branch aims at making this Summer Challenge an annual event in its calendar.

We would like to thank our counsellor Simon Fabri for his constant support and all those who in some way or other participated.



The winning robot



cartoon © Tolyan Aygül

IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest results



Martin Bastiaans (centre), along with jury members and finalists.

THE 2008 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 12 papers from 10 Student Branches in eight countries: Austria, Belgium (two papers from one Branch), Egypt (two Branches), Germany, Malta, Slovenia, Qatar, South Africa (two papers from one Branch, one paper from another).

The oral finals took place in Ajaccio, Corsica, France, on 6 May 2008, as part of MELECON 2008, the 14th IEEE Mediterranean Electro-technical Conference (5–7 May 2008).

The three winners were:

1. Geert Helligs (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) AIGaN Schottky diodes for detector applications in the UV wavelength range,
2. William Vandenberghe (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Analytical model for a tunnel field-effect transistor.

3. Herman Myburgh (University of Pretoria, South Africa) Near-optimal low complexity MLSE equalization.

The other two papers selected for the oral finals were:

- Mohamed Bahgat (Cairo University, Egypt) A simple implementation for unmarked road tracking
- Vukosi N. Marivate (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) An intelligent multi-agent recommender system for human capacity building

The four jury members for the 2008 SPC were Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos López-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

All IEEE Region 8 Student Branches have been encouraged to hold a local Paper Contest and to sub-

mit the winning paper(s) to the annual IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest before the deadline of 15 December. A Branch may submit one paper for every 100 branch members or part thereof, with a maximum of three papers. An international jury will grade the written papers without knowledge of the identity of the author and of his school, and will decide which papers will be accepted for presentation at the oral finals.

Before submitting a paper to the Contest, please consult the Contest rules! They can be found – along with some other useful information – at the Contest-devoted part of the Student Paper Contest coordinator's website: www.sps.ele.tue.nl/members/m.j.bastiaans/spc

Martin Bastiaans

M.J.Bastiaans@tue.nl

Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria:

Linz announces Student Branch

WE ARE pleased to announce the formation of IEEE Student Branch Linz at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria.

The inauguration meeting was held on 6 May 2008 at the campus in the presence of university officials and representatives of IEEE Student Branches Passau (Germany) and Wels (Austria).

The specific goals of this Student Branch are to improve the scientific exchange



between students and lecturers, as well as between different research groups. We also plan to initiate and maintain international contacts to edu-

cational and research institutions, and companies.

For more information, please visit: <http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/austria/jkul>

Graz Student Branch, Austria:

Workshop boils an egg

THE IEEE Student Branch Graz took the initiative to organise a two-day business engineering workshop on 9–10 May 2008, with the aim of providing professional insight into the topics of project and process management and bring engineering students and professionals closer together.

The workshop attracted more than 35 students and professionals from all over

Europe. By the end of the event, participants understood the basic principals of project and process management by analysing the process of “boiling an egg”. Furthermore, the participants gained a valuable overview of the way of working in the professional engineering community.

This well-planned and workshop gave participants a chance to focus on the

topics being presented, to exchange experiences, and to network. Project management, process management and networking are hot topics in today's economy, and the participants were provided a perfect opportunity to broaden their perspectives and global outreach.

We would like to thank the international experts from industry and university for their indispensable contribution to the success of this workshop, especially Marko Delimar from University Zagreb (IEEE Region 8 Director candidate). The sustained success of this programme requires time and energy of both student and professional IEEE members.

Manfred Sampl

Student Branch Graz, Chair

<http://ieee.tugraz.at>

manfred.sampl@ieee.org



Lebanon Student Branch formed

ESIB IEEE student branch was formed at Saint Joseph University, Lebanon.

The 2008-2009 Executive committee was elected as follows: Marc-Joe Chedid (Chairman), Charbel Naddaf (Vice chair), Lama Asmar (Treasurer), Eliane Maalouf (Secretary).

The branch counsellor is Hadi Youssef Kanaan.

University of Picardie Jules Verne, France:

JV chooses best articles

IN JUNE 2008, Jules Verne student branch organised a contest entitled ‘Best Articles of Young Researchers’ for Master or first year PhD students in Robotics and Automation at University of Picardie Jules Verne.

It was aimed at demonstrating research to younger students, introducing IEEE

and also selecting the representative of our Student Branch to attend the Region 8 Student Paper Contest.

The three winners of this contest were Sinda Aloui, Dieu Sang Ly and Hamdi Gassara. More details and photos of the contest can be found on our website: www.jvsb.free.fr

Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

MARCH

SETIT 2009

5th International Conference on Sciences of Electronic, Technologies of Information and Telecommunications
22–26 March 2009
Hammamet, Tunisia
www.setit.rnu.tn

APRIL

WWW2009

18th International World Wide Web Conference
IW3C2
20–24 April 2009
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
www.2009.org

MAY

3DTV-CON 2009

3rd 3DTV Conference
4–6 May 2009
Potsdam, Germany
www.3dtv-con2009.org

VITAE 2009

First International Conference on Wireless
17–20 May 2009
Aalborg, Denmark
kloch@mail.dk

EUROCON 2009

IEEE Region 8 Conference
18–23 May 2009
St Petersburg, Russia
eurocon2009@ieee.org

HSI'09

2nd International Conference on Human System Interaction
21–23 May 2009
Catania, Italy
www3.unict.it/hsi09

IEEE-SPIE-WILGA

24th Symposium Photonics and Web Engineering
Advanced Applications of Photonic/Electronic Systems
25–31 May 2009
WILGA, Warsaw University Resort, Poland
<http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl>

JUNE

ConTEL 2009

10th International Conference on Telecommunications
8–10 June 2009
Zagreb, Croatia
www.contel.hr

JULY

IEEE PRIME 2009

5th Conference on PhD Research in Microelectronics and Electronics
12–17 July 2009
Cork, Ireland
www.prime2009.org

SEPTEMBER

AFRICON 2009

9th IEEE Region 8 Conference in Africa
23–25 September 2009
Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa
www.africon2009.org

OCTOBER

TELSIKS 2009

9th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable & Broadcasting Services
7–9 October 2009
Nis, Serbia
www.telsiks.org.rs

Note to Organisers

Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to r8news@ieee.org, putting R8 News Calendar in your subject line. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.