

**IEEE**

Vol 15 No 1

March 2012

region8news

www.ieee.org/r8

Published quarterly and distributed to more than 70,000 IEEE members across Region 8



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German Jordanian University, Amman, Jordan

Labs on Wheels puts science in kids' hands

INITIATED in 2010 by a group of 20 enthusiastic students and their dedicated mentor Mohammad Nazzal, Lab on Wheels is a project run by the German Jordanian University Student Branch that aims to give pupils at less equipped schools the rare chance of conducting lab experiments.

Stemming from personal experience, the Labs on Wheels founders felt that the educational system, both at school and university level, focuses on theoretical teaching and lacks hands-on experience. Eager to make a difference, they started a project to bridge the gap.

By reviewing the school curriculum and referring to psychological books to understand the development of the human brain at every stage, they chose 5th and 6th grade as the target groups. Next came a number of surveys, covering 1,000 school students (500 boys and 500 girls), to confirm their research and analysis. During the survey, the team chose not to refer to school teachers for

their input, preferring instead to reach a conclusion with bias from the existing educational system.

Having spent months on preparation, the team came up with seven experiments. The team had an even deeper objective in mind by choosing experiments that were specifically developed by Arab scientists. They wanted to expose students to their heritage and make them proud of their roots.

As a pilot project, one of these experiments was carried out in Irbid. To their delight, the responses were very positive and students were very interactive and welcomed such an initiative. They knew by then they were ready to



officially launch their project, and all that was missing was a sponsor.

Every school is a string in the fabric of the local society – a society that Lab on Wheels grew up in and belongs to. Keeping that in mind, the team sent out project proposals to a number of companies. Unfortunately, none responded with an offer. To reduce the budget, the team reduced

Experimentation ensures that young students satisfy their natural curiosity

...continued on page 2 ►



Discovering how cameras work by putting classroom theory into hands-on practice

Set up your own webinar using IEEE's contract with WebEx

IF you are interested in setting up a conference, why not do it quickly as a webinar with the IEEE WebEx service?

IEEE Member and Geographic Activities has contracted WebEx software to give Region 8 organisational units full benefits. Setup is easy: the officer of any IEEE organisational unit (Section, Chapter, Affinity Group or Student Branch) can do it by submitting a request online at the IEEE vTools page.

In 2011, we organised three such webinars, and some will be ongoing events:

- Continuing Education – the IEEE Technical English Programme
- IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Awards – the 'why' and 'how to'

■ The 'Best Way and the Best Place to Publish Your Work'

More are planned in 2012 from the Region 8 Technical Activities, Conference Coordination, Industrial Relations and Standards committees.

Webinars hosted by IEEE organisational units can also be marketed and reported ('L-31') as IEEE events, and this may also be done using IEEE vTools:

<https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/main/login>.

Saurabh Sinha

Vice-Chair

Technical Activities

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Smiley tees and website on IEEE Day

AFTER a great success in 2010, the IEEE Day team was ready to celebrate again!

Our idea for IEEE Day 2011 was simple: 'Empowering Members to Create the Future'. With this in mind, the team of students, GOLD members and IEEE staff, coordinated by Salima Kaissi, encouraged members worldwide to celebrate 6 October 2011 as IEEE Day.

Organizers encouraged members to organize their own events on that date. A new website with hints and examples how to get involved was quickly made. All organizers worldwide were able to advertise their events on the official IEEE Day website. Very soon, the worldwide map filled with pins representing local IEEE Day events.

Social networks were also used to spread the news. Even a video was prepared to encourage

members to be active and make a difference.

The IEEE Day 2011 logo was designed by team members. An incredible number of IEEE members worldwide printed the smiley logo on their T-shirts and wore them proudly during celebrations. The IEEE Day Team also organized a photo contest with the best ten group activity pictures awarded \$500 prizes.

We are proud of the effort made by every member involved.

Rafal Sliz

IEEE Day Team

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In memory of Roger Pollard – ‘dedicated and fully committed’

DR Roger Pollard died on 3 December 2011, age 65, after a brief illness.

Many of our readers remember him as the author of *ONE IEEE*, his regular *IEEE Region 8 News* column that investigated the role of IEEE and its members, which first appeared in these pages in 2010. In that year, Roger was IEEE VP of Technical Activities, and in 2011 was IEEE Secretary and member of the IEEE Board of Directors, and subsequently selected by them as a candidate for 2012 President-Elect.

Roger's career involved research and teaching electrical engineering (at Leeds University), microwave devices, circuits and measurements, and as a consultant to industry. He addressed our Region 8 Spring 2011 meeting and inspired many with his ability to communicate his forward-thinking about IEEE.

Moshe Kam summarized Roger's spirit well: "To his friends in IEEE, Roger Pollard

exemplified the dedicated and fully committed IEEE volunteer. He has given to the organization of his time and intellectual effort, generously and consistently, for more than 25 years. He was a well-read and broadly educated man, and very often raised the level of conversation with his wide knowledge of literature, language and the arts, and with his substantial understanding of law, political history and economics. He was a passionate advocate of the organizational units that he served, and of the ideas and causes he favoured.

"He was a highly eloquent and persuasive speaker, not shying away from expressing strong opinions and decisive plans that often flew in the face of conventional wisdom and challenged the existing order. Yet he was open to persuasion and to hearing and learning from individuals of different opinions, and was frequently the architect of compromises that resulted



in widely-supported decisions based on consensus. He was a strong proponent of globalization of IEEE, and supported structural reforms in the way IEEE is organized - to increase the organization's effectiveness and diversity."

I knew Roger personally in the late 1980s when I followed him as chairman of the IEEE UK&RI section. He became a good friend, knowledgeable and helpful about IEEE, a very effective communicator, and a warm person.

Roland Saam
January 2012



IEEE-HKN recognises excellence

IN September 2010, IEEE announced that Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) was to be IEEE's official honour society. IEEE-HKN will recognize scholarship and academic excellence in student leaders, young professionals and eminent scholars in IEEE's technical fields of interest.

Eta Kappa Nu is a non-profit public-service organization affiliated with the IEEE, with chapters at nearly 200 American universities and at the University of Hong Kong (formed on 13 January 2012). The merger creates the opportunity for IEEE entities, in

particular Student Branches, to create new IEEE-HKN chapters as part of a Student Branch or independently.

In November 2011, Marko Delimar (IEEE R8 director) and Saurabh Sinha (vice-chair for Technical Activities) were admitted to the IEEE-HKN Eta-Board of Governors Chapter. Earlier, in June 2011, Roger Pollard, Vincenzo Piuri and Elya Joffe became members.

See more information at www.hkn.org.

Fern Katronetsky
IEEE-HKN Executive Director
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Register now for EnergyCon2012

ENERGYCON2012 will be held during 9–12 September 2012 in Florence, Italy.

EnergyCon is a flagship conference of IEEE Region 8, intended as an international forum for the exchange of ideas and innovative technologies on sustainable generation, distribution, conversion and utilization of electrical energy.

EnergyCon2012 is being organized by IEEE Region 8, IEEE Italy Section, and

EnSIEL, a consortium of Italian universities, with the technical sponsorship of many IEEE Societies.

The motto 'Towards User-centric Smart Systems' expresses the goal of four themes: Advances in Energy Conversion, Future Energy Grids and Systems, Sustainable Transportation Systems, and ICT for Energy.

www.energycon2012.org

Labs on Wheels puts science in kids' hands

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► the scope to the project to two experiments; the 'قرمقي' Camera' developed by Al Hassan bin Al Haitham, and the 'Dry Ice' chemical experiment which comes from the field of Jaber bin Hayyan. In addition, the setting of the experiments was changed, bringing them back inside the classrooms.

This led to a positive response from HRH Queen Rania's 'Madrastr' Initiative in February 2011. One month later, the first official experiment took place and the dream was finally coming true.

To maintain high standards, the Lab on Wheels team makes careful preparations before every visit with all the necessary equipment and trained speakers, and afterwards their performance is evaluated to help develop their presentation skills and work abilities.

What began as a small visionary group of 20 students has now grown into a force of 150. Since going live, Lab on Wheels has completed 16 trips at a rate of eight trips every semester, and the number is rising.

The effort, time and energy the team of Lab on wheels has put into their project are tremendous. If it were not to these students and their professor, this project would have never crossed the boundaries of paper and went to visit schools all over Jordan: from Irbid to Madaba and down to Al Karak.

Hard work and dedication over time create success. Passion, on the other hand, is what keeps it going. It is people like these we need in our society today, people who, with their small steps, will walk the entire length of difficulties, and open the doors of change and better future.

Nama'a Qudah



HISTELCON 2012 will be electrifying

THE third IEEE History of Electro-Technology Conference is being held on 5–7 September at the Museum of Electrical Technology in Pavia, Italy.

The museum is attached to the university where, just over 200 years ago, Alessandro Volta made the first battery and produced the first continuous electric current.

The conference theme is the origin and early development of electrical technologies. Volta's fundamental contribution will be mentioned, but the development of many electrical and telecommunications technologies since then will be under the spotlight.

Pavia, a small town with one of Europe's oldest universities, is easily reached by bus or rail from Milan.

The conference will include a visit to the lecture theatre where Volta taught, but since provision for students then was rather uncomfortable, most of the meetings will be elsewhere.

Everyone is welcome! To read the programme and find travel details, see www.histelcon2012.org

Brian Bowers
HISTELCON 2012
Tech Programme chairman

South Africa members receive EAB awards

THE Awards and Recognition Committee of the Educational Activities Board is pleased to announce that both the number of nominations and award recipients from Region 8 has continued to rise over the past 3 years. It is noteworthy to acknowledge that three EAB award recipients in 2011 were from Region 8, all from South Africa.

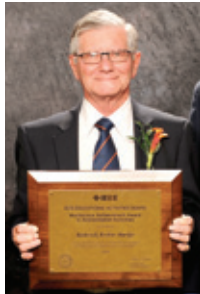
The award recipients included:

- IEEE South Africa Section, which won the Section Professional Development Award, accepted by Excellent Sithole, chair of Educational Activities at the South Africa Section
- Rod Harker, who was given the Meritorious Achievement Award in Accreditation Activities
- Don Duffield, who was presented the Pre-University Educator Award

To further promote the EAB Awards, a Region 8 webinar was held on 10 January. The webinar was facilitated by the region's Educational Activities Subcommittee and the EAB-ARC. The applications deadline is 30 April 2012.

For more information, go to the website:

www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/awards/calls.html
Carolyn Solimine
c.solimine@ieee.org



Top: Excellent Sithole
 Above left: Rod Harker
 Above: Don Duffield

Help us complete our Section histories for Region 8 Jubilee

THE year 2012–13 marks the 50th anniversary of IEEE Region 8. The mark the occasion, a 'Jubilee Book' is being prepared and this will include a history of the Sections. The objective is to capture the histories of all 56 Sections in Region 8.

So far, about 20 Sections have contributed their histories. These have been catalogued and can be viewed on the Global History Network website www.ieeeeghn.org under 'Sections'.

A further 25 Sections have not yet submitted any material, and 11

have an incomplete account that needs further work. The Jubilee Book project team asks that section chairs give urgent attention to this task and consider appointing a Section historian to do the work.

Kurt Richter has outlined how to access the GHN for entering Section history documents. For further help, please contact Nathan Brewer of the IEEE History Center at n.w.brewer@ieee.org.

Charles Turner
 Editor-in-Chief

Region 8 Jubilee Book Project

ComSoc gives recognition to young researchers in IEEE

THE IEEE Communications Society has established an award for the most outstanding IEEE member under 35 years of age.

This honours researchers who have been active in the IEEE through ComSoc publications and conference activities over the previous three years. The award seeks to give recognition to individuals based on the quality of their research, publications and service to the IEEE Communications Society, as judged by the EMEA Selection Committee.

The 2011 recipient of the award is Michail Matthaiou of Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. Also recognized were Zaher Dawy of American University of Beirut,



Presentation of the 2011 IEEE ComSoc Young Researcher Award (from left): Byeong LEE, president of IEEE Communications Society, with Michail Matthaiou, Tariq Durrani, Zaher Dawy and Sergio Benedetto, ComSoc's vice-president.

Lebanon, and Henk Wymeers of Chalmers University, Sweden.

Tariq S Durrani
 ComSoc EMEA Region Director

ChCSC webinar 1: delivering training to chapter chairs remotely via the internet

A WEBINAR dealing with the training of chapter chairs was organized on 3 November 2011 by the Region 8 Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC).

Saurabh Sinha welcomed the attendants and described the Region 8 technical activities structure. Daniel Pasquet gave the headlines of the ChCSC policy.

Cheryl Sinauskas, assisted by Eugene Khushid, presented the Center of Leadership Excellence. A special emphasis was put on using vTools for the webinar, focusing on the most important operations that chapter chairs need to know.

The webinar lasted one hour and was attended by 20 participants. It has been recorded and the content may be found at the following address:

<https://ieeemeetings.webex.com/ieeemeetings/lst.php?AT=pb&SP=EC&rID=65128097&rKey=1dbbf9fcc010943a>

This webinar was the first of a series that the ChCSC plans to organize (see below for a report on our second webinar). Other webinar topics to follow include 'SAMIEE For Chapter Chairs'.

Daniel Pasquet

Region 8 Chapter Coordination Subcommittee Chair

ChCSC webinar 2: the best way to get your work published

IN the framework of the webinar series organized by the Region 8 Chapter Coordination Subcommittee ChCSC, a webinar entitled 'The Best Way and the Best Place to Publish Your Best Work' was held on 10 January 2012.

Jon Rokne from Calgary University, past VP of the IEEE Publication Services and Product Board (PSPB), made a very interesting and useful

presentation on all the best practices to submit a paper for publication.

The webinar was publicized via IEEE e-notice and administered using IEEE vTools. It lasted one hour and it was followed by 35 people.

The webinar was recorded so that other members can watch it in their own time. It is available through the Region 8 website.

Daniel Pasquet

Resources available for helping you organize IEEE conferences

THE start of the year has brought about some important changes to the conference organization process. Some of them are outlined here, but anyone wishing to promote a conference should discuss this with the Region 8 conference coordinator.

The 7th Panel of Conference Organizers (POCO) will be hosted in Budapest between 19 and 21 July 2012. This conference will be useful to organizers planning their own IEEE conferences, providing details on latest developments and sharing of experiences. More information about POCO can be found at this website:

www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/organizers/poco/index.html

A webinar was organized with the help of IEEE Conferences Services on 3 November 2011 to train organizers to plan and execute

successful IEEE conferences. All organizers of conferences that take place in Region 8 and receive IEEE co-sponsorship, together with Region 8 Chapter and Section chairs, were invited to attend this Webinar. The subcommittee would like to thank Susan Root and Susan Hutton for their presentations and Eugene Khushid for the technical support.

For 2012 your committee is: Carl James Debono (chair), Karl Gudmundsson and Jan Haase.

I take this opportunity to thank Gerhard Hancke for his work during 2011.

Carl James Debono
 Region 8 Conference Coordination Subcommittee Chair





Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

Jubilee year is the perfect opportunity to volunteer

CELEBRATE Region 8's jubilee: 50 years ago, the Institute of Radio Engineers Region 9 incorporated Europe with some of Africa. In January 1963, the IEEE was formed by a merger of IRE with AIEE, and so Europe, Middle East and most of Africa became IEEE Region 8.

This is a big opportunity for us to tell the world what IEEE is and what our members do for the world. Youngsters need to learn that engineering is a good profession that can build better lives, bringing electricity, radio and products into the world.

The idea of a professional organisation still suggests scholars and publications for research, and we have that with IEEE Technical Activities. We also have a very strong Educational Activities board pushing quality and innovation for instruction and education.

But every member is also included in a social network that we call Member and Geographical Activities. This gives you the possibility of engaging with others who share some of your interests, not only technical but social.

You can volunteer. Reading these pages you can see the fun and learning that goes on through activities organised by fellow members who give some time to volunteer their skills and talents.

■ A long-time friend who I met through volunteering for IEEE, Roger Pollard, died recently, and his tribute can be read on page 2. He contributed many ideas to *IEEE Region 8 News* and discussed many issues. He was a strong candidate in the recent IEEE 2012 president-elect poll. We'll miss him.

Roland Saam

Region 8 officers hear about IEEE's continuing education

A webinar on the IEEE's Continuing Education was organized on 2 November by Saurabh Sinha (IEEE R8 Technical Activities vice-chair), Steve Welch (IEEE Director of Educational Activities), Niomi Pavlidou, and Alex Torres.

The seminar was offered to all officers within Region 8: Section chairs, Chapter chairs, Region 8 EA officers, and the Chapters Coordination Subcommittee, as well as several other interested members in the Region.

The duration of the webinar was one hour. Saurabh Sinha introduced technical and educational activities in Region 8. Niomi Pavlidou described the Continuing Education team in the Region.

Steve Welch, assisted by Alex Torres, told about the IEEE Education Provider's Programme, the IEEE Webinar Platform, and the IEEE eLearning Library.

The benefits of the webinar went beyond content. Everyone had the valuable experience of assessing the quality and friendliness of collaborating across dispersed cultures, time zones and mother languages.

The webinar was recorded and can be viewed at:

<http://iee-elearning.org/outreach/course/view.php?id=960>

Niomi Pavlidou

(IEEE Greece section)

Region 8 Lead Volunteer for

Continuing Education

IEEE region8news

Vol 15 No 1
March 2012

Region 8 News is published quarterly by the IEEE Region 8 committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and distributed free with IEEE Spectrum, to more than 73,000 IEEE members. Read past issues online at www.ieee.org/r8 → **Region8News**. Opinions expressed in *IEEE Region 8 News* are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent the policies of their employers or IEEE Board or Region 8 Committee.

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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 type '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.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/news/contributors.html.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

June 2012 issue.....deadline: 1 April 2012
September 2012 issue.....deadline: 1 July 2012
December 2012 issue.....deadline: 1 October 2012
March 2012 issue.....deadline: 1 January 2013



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UK university vice-chancellor is knighted in New Year Honours

ON December 30, 2011 Professor Christopher Snowden, vice-chancellor of the University of Surrey, was awarded a knighthood in the Queen's 2012 New Year Honours for services to engineering and higher education.

He has held the role since 2005, during which the Guildford university has retained its reputa-

tion in research and acquired the highest graduate employment rates of any English university. He is also a patron of the Daphne Jackson Trust, which helps students with a background in science, engineering and technology to return to education after a career break.

Teresa Schofield
tmschofield@theiet.org

Targeting student development for future IEEE leadership

FOR many members the beginning of their volunteer work was as a student or a graduate student member.

Students who volunteer tend to retain their membership. In this spirit, IEEE has always maintained the culture of technical societies and councils, leading several technical activities locally, but globally.

As we seek to increase student and member retention, the approach of developing student chapters is an analogous approach to developing technical society and council chapters at section level.

For instance, the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) partially sponsors the student chapter leader to attend one of their flagship events, and others contribute to chapter activity.

In 2011, the IEEE Chapters Coordination Subcommittee

(ChCSC) and the IEEE Student Activities Committee (SAC) of Region 8 held a joint appointment towards developing these student chapters. Muhammad Mustafa served in this position in 2011. When student chapter petitions were approved by IEEE MGA, they were contacted by Muhammad, who gave them a warm welcome, which also shaped the society-region-student branch relationship.

The process to form a student chapter can be accessed online: www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/students/branch_resources.html

We look forward to supporting your interest in developing student chapters, and towards an early start to IEEE technical activities.

Saurabh Sinha
Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
Elias Nassar
Vice-Chair, Student Activities

Lecture visit initiates desire for Iran and Iraq to work together

FOLLOWING an invitation, the chairman of the Iran Section, Hamid Soltanian-Zadeh, travelled to Iraq for an official visit from 14 to 21 November.

During this visit, he delivered two seminars at the University of Karbala and University of Kufa on the subjects of 'Novel Magnetic Resonance Imaging Techniques for Noninvasive Characterization of Anatomy, Physiology and Function' and 'Analysis of Medical Images for Epilepsy'.

He also took the opportunity to meet with the chairman of the Iraq Section, Sattar B Sadkhan, and other IEEE members. Ways of collabora-



tions between the two Sections, with an emphasis on student activities, were discussed at the meeting.

Farzaneh Abdollahi
IEEE Iran Section Editor



Cape Town competition looks at home water filtering systems

ON 15 October 2011, the University of Cape Town IEEE Women In Engineering Student Affinity Group held a competition. Participating teams of one-to-three people received material to build a house structure, water filtering system and a heating and cooling system. Winners were to be selected based on creativity and design.

This event provided an opportunity for students to get together and also to attract non-engineering students. The challenge was to build a strong housing structure from plastic play toys, such that it would be able to hold a filtering system at the top of the household. Material used in this event are to be sent to a children's charity.

First prize went to Reabetswe Makofane and Lorraine Manka Situma. The second prize was won by Brian Kamanzi and James Cambrink, and third prize by Stephen Mugusi.

Robyn King, the regional marketing consultant for ABSA Bank, was pleased with the outcome of the event and indicated that the bank would be open to sponsoring similar events in the future.

Diresni Reddy and Holiday Kadada



Tunisia contest highlights best techniques in metaheuristics

THE Tunisia IEEE Council on Electronic Design Automation organized the second CEDA's ENG-OPTIM' Contest 'Engineering Applications of Optimization Techniques' 2 December.

The contest took place in Al-Hambra Thalasso Hotel, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia. During the ICM 2011 Conference, four proposals were presented and an international jury evaluated them. The following three awards were subsequently made:

1. Amin Sallem, from the National engineering school of Sfax, for 'Multi-Objective Simulation-Based Optimization for the Optimal Design of Analog Circuits'.
2. Manel Ammar, from the national engineering school of Sfax, for 'A Model Driven Based CAD



Winner Amin Sallem (left) with Dr Mourad Fakhfakh, IEEE CEDA Tunisia Chapter chair.

Tool for mppSoC Design'.

3. Jalel BenHadj Slama, from the national engineering school of Sousse, for 'Coupling PZMI, Neural Network and Genetic Algorithms to solve EMC problems'.

Mourad Fakhfakh
SM, CEDA TN Chapter Chair

In memory of Frank de Jager: innovator and IEEE contributor

FRANK de Jager passed away on 2 December 2011 in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Frank started his career in 1946 at Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven. He received the IEEE International Communication Award in 1972 and the Dutch Veder-Award

with J Greefkes. Frank held (with others) more than 45 patents and contributed to ten publications, including several IEEE journals. Frank was honorary member and vice president of Nederlands Electronica en Radiogenootschap NERG.

LE Zegers



Nigeria Section elects its new executive committee

ON 14 May, the IEEE Nigeria Section held an administrative meeting hosted by Okey Ugweje where a new executive committee was sworn in. The outgoing Section chair, Tunde Salihu, expressed his confidence for the new executives. Then Gloria Chukwudebe, the first female chair for Nigeria Section, expressed her joy in assuming office.

A technical session included three presentations and a Q&A session. Some new IEEE members and student members were recruited to join IEEE during the meeting as well. Chapter chairs in Nigeria also attended. Meet the new committee at: www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/nigeria.

John Funsoadebayo

TISP workshop in Tunisia develops engineering classroom teaching skills

THE 2nd Teacher in Service Program (TISP) in Tunisia was held on 19 December in Yasmine Hammamet.

The teaching material was generated from the TryEngineering website, which is a resource for students aged 8–18), their parents, their teachers and their school counselors about engineering and engineering careers. The TryEngineering web portal is offered in several languages, including French.



The multidisciplinary teachers' group.

The following topics were chosen according to their adequacy within the Tunisian curriculum: Lesson 1: Rotational Equilibrium; Lesson 2: Trebuchet Toss; Lesson 3: Robotic Arm.

Teachers were pleased to be totally involved in such activities and feel their motivation to achieve projects based on their curricula.

Riadh Besbes



A sample of the successful works.



10th meeting of TELSIS conference in Serbia

THE 10th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable and Broadcasting Services (TELSIS 2011) was held in October 2011 in Niš, Serbia.

TELSIS is a highly competent, scientific and professional meeting aimed at the efficient exchange of results in the area of telecommunications, through the presentation of current scientific results and development trends.

The conference was technically co-sponsored by the Microwave Theory and Technique Society (MTT-S) and Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S), and by IEEE Region 8. It was held with the co-operation of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro section with the MTT-S and Communications Chapters, the Telecommunications Society of Serbia, Society for ETRAN and Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia.

The conference was also supported by Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Serbian Ministry of Education and Science.

Bratislav Milovanovic

Magdalena Salazar Palma, president of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society, addresses participants during the opening session.

Passionate engineers can change developing world



ON 16 November, a seminar entitled 'How the engineering know-how of passionate engineers helps developing countries' was organized by IEEE Germany's Women in Engineering Affinity Group together with the Munich Section of Engineers Without Borders.

The first talk, by Sabine Mayer, described a civil engineering course she had given at the University Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan on the subject 'Design and Dimensioning of Hydraulic Structures for Multi-Purpose Requirements'. The goal was to teach Afghan students the basics of hydraulic construction so that they could be eligible to receive a grant to continue their studies in Germany.

Afterwards, Alexander Fiseni, representing Engineers without Borders (www.ingenieure-ohne-grenzen.org), presented a resumé of the organization's current projects. One such involved installing lamps and computers at a school in Sierra Leone so that students could continue to study at night and access the internet. The group also installed a photovoltaic array with redundancy to power electric appliances. Its aim is to set up projects that offer sustainable installation, exploitation, and maintenance electricity generation and consumption.

Eva Bernal Serra and Tiziana Bertonecchi

Visiting lecturer to South Africa delivers lecture on satellite communications

THE APS/MTTS/EMCS Chapter of the IEEE South Africa Section was pleased to host Arne Jacob from the Technical University of Hamburg. He delivered a talk on 'Integrated Millimeter-Wave (Sub-) Systems for Future Satellite Communications'.

The event was financially co-sponsored by Denel Dynamics and technically co-sponsored by Electronics & Microelectronics Research Group, University of Pretoria. The talk was attended by



25 delegates, which included 10 students. See: http://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting_view/list_meeting/9239

Tinus Stander

IEEE MTTS/APS/EMCS Chapter South Africa Section



Saint-Joseph University hosts Lebanon smart power seminar

THE PE/PEL/CAS joint Lebanon Chapter organized a seminar on Smart Power Distribution Systems on 5 October at Saint-Joseph University.

After a welcome speech from the Dean of the faculty Fadi Geara, the seminar started with two brief presentations on the activities of the section by Ghassan Chaaban, Lebanon Section chair. PE/PEL/CAS Lebanon Chapter chair Ahmad Adra also touched on the future of the power distribution network in Lebanon.

A brief introduction on Schneider Electric was then given by Marwan Adam. Technical

presentations followed: 'The Transition from Conventional Power Delivery Systems to Intelligent Networks and Advanced Substation Automation for Smart Grid Applications' by Francois Lhomme, 'Connectivity of Photovoltaic Sources to The Grid' by Imad Mougharbel and Energy Monitoring Systems in Electric Utilities' by Zaher El-Tawil.

The event was attended by more than 50 professionals and engineers from the electrical sector, as well 30 graduate students.

Walid Kamali

Secretary

PE31/CAS04/PEL35 Lebanon Chapter

Electromagnetics education workshop at Notre Dame

THE joint Antennas and Propagation/Microwave Theory and Techniques/Magnetics Society Chapter of Lebanon Section organized the First Workshop on Electromagnetics Education at Notre Dame University, Lebanon.

Elias Nassar introduced the workshop to develop new techniques for teaching this challenging subject. It was moderated by Walid Kamali, and featured speakers from eight universities in Lebanon who discussed their curricula and their teaching approaches. More than 50 attended.

The opening speech was given by the director general of Higher Education in Lebanon and the keynote speaker, Said El Khamy, from Alexandria University, Egypt, presented the latest techniques in teaching the topic of antenna arrays. A presentation was given on software for electromagnetics education and research.

Elias Nassar

gold news



Celebrating IEEE Day with GOLD in Cape Town



ON 6 October, IEEE GOLD AG of Cape Town hosted a social event at the university. It attracted IEEE members and other electrical engineering students from the University of Cape Town, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of Stellenbosch.

The first keynote speaker was Irshad Khan, who spoke on his experiences as an electrical engineering entrepreneur. Irshad is co-founder of a company which is focused on an innovative induction method for the processing and analysis of base and precious metals.

The second speaker was David Hislop, who spoke on engineering professionalism, the importance of networking and the IEEE. David is the founder of Korwe Software, which produces software solutions in mobile spaces for businesses.

The rest of the evening was dedicated to the student mem-



Students enjoying interaction with industry representatives.

bers networking with representatives from invited organisations: Peralex, Communicate, Engineers Without Borders, Eaton, City of Cape Town, Jembi Health Systems and Grintek Ewation.

At the end of the function, a lucky draw saw one of the students win an Android tablet, and during the closing, students were encouraged to continue with IEEE membership and activities once they had graduated.

Joyce Mwangama

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Student Branch attends Region 8 MTT-S Chapter chairs' meeting



In the meeting room (from left): Jan Machac, Region 8 MTT-S coordinator; Daniel Pasquet, IEEE Region 8 coordinator and MTT-S AdCom member; Mike Gollo, MTT-S MGA administrator; and Bela Szendrenyi, MTT-S MGA Membership vice-chair.

THE annual MTT-S Chapters and Joint Chapters meeting took place in conjunction with the European Microwave Week (EuMW) in Manchester, UK, on 9–14 October.

This friendly meeting provided an opportunity to exchange experience, share best practices and clarify officer's roles. Representatives of all chapters worldwide were also invited: 40 participants from 14 chapters in Region 8. President of the sister society Antennas and Propagation, Magdalena Salazar Palma, was invited and represented AP-S.

The chapter chairs' meeting was attended by 21 students from the IEEE Student Branch at the University of Manchester.

A lecture by the current editor-in-chief of MTT Transactions, George Ponchak, on 'Understanding the process of writing papers for MTT-S publications', was presented by MTT President Richard Snyder.

Jan Machac, Daniel Pasquet and Bela Szendrenyi



George Michael presented vTools.



Richard Snyder presented the lecture by GE Ponchak on 'Understanding the process of writing papers for MTT-S publications'.

R8 GOLD report for 2011

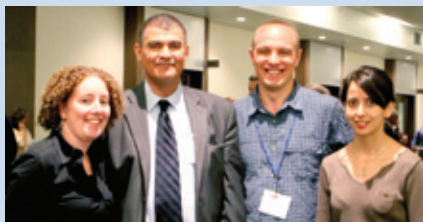
GRADUATES of the Last Decade: one year of hard work is behind us now and here is a review of IEEE R8 GOLD in 2011.

Planning and organization issues happened with several Skype meetings when the new committee was introduced to all GOLD chairs. We met face-to-face for the very first time at the Region 8 Meeting in London. Since then, all the projects, small and large, acquired an incredible momentum.

Freshly established social networks – Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter – attracted a lot of interest, especially among young professionals. The GOLD-Book was the highest priority project, which was introduced with great success in August. After Sections Congress in San Francisco, the GOLD team needed a short break to recover and to be able to strike with a double strength during IEEE Day celebrations in October.

This worldwide event was coordinated by the IEEE Day Team, was one of our greatest achievements of 2011.

Also noteworthy, R8 GOLD coordinator, Salima Kaissi, proudly represented GOLD at the UK&RI Student Branch Congress in London and at the Egyptian



Engineering Day, the biggest GOLD event in the Region.

Among all these successful stories there is one missing: the new R8 GOLD website was not established. We are aware of the importance of the internet for our communication and the website project will be prioritized in 2012. Moreover, tight interaction with SAC and PA Committees will be essential to achieve high level of cooperation within Region 8.

Finally, in the summer of 2012 all the joy, happiness, creativity, silliness and craziness will gather in Madrid, Spain, to participate and celebrate the IEEE R8 Student and GOLD Congress.

It is too early to predict how innovative and creative the R8 GOLD team will be, so good luck to all R8 GOLDies!

Rafal Sliz
R8 GOLD Committee



IEEE DAY celebrations in Croatia focus on business opportunities



TWO consecutive events were organized for IEEE DAY in 2011 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing the University of Zagreb by Croatia GOLD AG and IEEE Zagreb Student Branch, and supported by Student Branches Osijek, Rijeka and Split.

The STEP event took place on 6 October, opening with a talk about MBAs and social networking by Ana Jergovic and Lana Dojcinovic from Cotrugli Business School. It focused on the opportunities for an engineer in business oriented formal education, emphasizing the importance of social networking, business contacts and social skills.

Afterwards, there was a video simulation of a job interview. A

volunteer from the audience was put in an interview which was filmed and later on played back to the audience and commented. It was concluded with a panel discussion, where five active members of GOLD/PA team answered all questions raised, shared their own professional experience, and pointed out also benefits of IEEE volunteering.

Two days later, 22 GOLD and Student members gathered for the first GOLD and Student Branch Congress in Croatia. The full day event started with a lecture on writing scientific papers by Iva Bojic, Ana Petric and Vedran Podobnik. It was followed by a talk on a very interesting scientific project

given by one of our GOLDies, Igor Brkic. Later, there was a quite fruitful discussion session about past and planned IEEE activities.

The most valuable part of this event is the fact that it enhanced cooperation between Student Branches and GOLD in different parts of Croatia.

Ana Katalinic
IEEE Croatia Section GOLD
akatalinic@gmail.com



The job interview.

GOLD Chapter attends its first meeting in the Iraq Section

THE first IEEE Iraq GOLD Chapter was established in September last year and chose its new chairman Mohammed Hamed Yassen. The members of the Chapter had their first event in the Iraq Section. It was the inauguration of the chapter in

December 2011 at the University of Kirkuk. Several international companies in the communications and a number of academics and students attended the event.

Mohammed Hamed Yassen
GOLD Chapter, Iraq Section

GOLD Finland debates the future under nuclear cloud

THE government of Finland decided to build a seventh nuclear plant with construction scheduled to begin in 2012. In the wake of the Fukushima catastrophe in Japan, many countries, particularly in Europe, have opened discussions about the safety of nuclear power and the associated risks related to the benefits.

But then, who wouldn't want to advance technology for humanity, especially young professionals?

This difficult question was the subject of IEEE GOLD Finland's debate on 'Nuclear in Oulu'.

Nuclear energy is a very controversial topic. To cover the whole spectrum of opinions, representatives of Greenpeace, Fennovoima



The event logo was controversial too.

(Nuclear Power Company), City of Oulu and University of Oulu were invited to take part in the event.

The GOLD Team designed a special website where all concerned persons could get familiar with the content and speakers for the debate, and submit their questions in advance.

As a result of good advertising, many journalists from regional and national TV, radio and newspapers were present. However, what would normally be the dream of every event organizer – lots of interest – turned into a bit of a nightmare in this case, as the number of participants overwhelmed all estimates.

After the event, the organizing committee, speakers and invited guests went for a dinner where debate continued in a more informal atmosphere.

Rafal Sliz
IEEE GOLD Finland

German Jordanian University, Amman, Jordan

Sport and barbecue event for New Year



ON 1 January, IEEE GJU Students' branch held its first social event at the International Independent School. The event focused on bringing the members together and also giving the chance to GJU students to take part.

Attendees enjoyed playing soccer, basketball, and different Tele-match games. The barbecue buffet was opened later and students all enjoyed the fresh food. Abdelrahman Amr later took the stage and entertained the audience with a witty and funny stand-up comedy show.

Mohammad Nazzal, the counsellor, was present and took part in all the activities, while members of the SB worked together to turn the GJU Family Day a happy start to 2012.

Fatema Hussein

gold news

Last GOLD event of the year is held in Lapland



Santa is something of an engineer too

THE Lapin GOLD event was the last in 2011 for the Finland GOLD AG under the leadership of Rafal Sliz. It was held in a small village – Pyhä, almost 200km from the Arctic Circle – where GOLD and Student Branch members gathered to summarize all the very successful achievements of the past two years.

The event also tried to motivate young professionals to stay/join the IEEE after graduation. Our industry representative gave a presentation about benefits of maintaining IEEE membership in industry. We enjoyed lectures, brainstorming sessions, planning meetings and member development.

Participants also had a chance to enjoy the real winter at latitude 67,01 N. Visit www.pyha.fi (editor's note: temperature mid-January is -29°C!)

On the way back, some tried to visit Santa Claus, but had no advanced reservation! Nevertheless, Santa promised to call IEEE when the light in Santa Clause village gets better.

With this event, GOLD Finland would like to start a little competition for the most northern/southern GOLD event in IEEE history.

Rafal Sliz
IEEE GOLD Finland

Latest news from your Region 8 Student Activities team

THIS will be a great year for student activities with our excellent team.

Your 2012 IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee includes Elias Nassar (chair, Lebanon), Jorge Soares (student representative, Portugal), Eva Lang (past chair, Germany), George Paunovic (student paper contest coordinator, Serbia), Hossam Fahmy (web activities coordinator, Egypt), Jef Beerten (awards and contests coordinator, Belgium). Joining us this year will be Simay Akar (Turkey), as student branch coordinator, and Sohaib Qamar Sheikh (UKRI), as electronic communications coordinator.

And after two excellent years of service at SAC, Muhammad Mustafa is now leaving to pursue new adventures, for which we wish him all the best! As always, we're here for you and want to hear from you. If you have ideas, suggestions or comments on how we can improve, we're all eyes and ears!

Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2012 Update



You know what happens on even years in IEEE Region 8? You're right, the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress. The 2012 edition of this celebrated event will take place in Madrid, Spain, during the week of July 25–29.

You'll have the chance to learn a lot about the IEEE, exchange ideas and experiences with your fellow student volunteers from all corners of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and have an incredible amount of fun! Grab your traditional outfit and food, all your energy and eagerness to learn, and come join us in Madrid.

Funded registration is available for one student from each branch in good standing. So make sure you have all your activity and officer reporting up-to-date, as well as a working website. In case you don't, work on it now! More information will be available through SAC and at: www.sbcmadrid.es

Caledonian Engineering College, Oman Guest lecturer speaks on green energies

CCE-IEEE Student Chapter organized a guest lecture on 17 December, attracting nearly 60 participants. The program started with a welcome address from Dr Dharmasa, the branch counsellor, and an introduction by Noof Mubarak Al Balushi, vice-chair of the Student Chapter. Guest speaker Prof Adel Gastli of Sultan Qaboos University delivered a lecture on the topic 'Engineering Applications of Green Energies'.

He talked about the various types of green energy sources and their principles of generation. Afterwards, he mentioned the potential of solar and wind green energies in Oman. He also elaborated on studies on

Awards and Contests Deadlines 2012

Thinking of nominating your student branch, counsellor or one of your branch members for an award? With DEADLINE DAY (15 April 2012) coming up, don't miss this chance and send in your nominations for the website contest, Larry K Wilson Regional Student Activities award, Exemplary Student Branch award and the Outstanding Branch Counsellor and Advisor award.

More information on the different awards can be found on the IEEE website. Just search for 'student branch awards'.

How to Plan Student Professional Activities

In 2012, we are going to boost the student professional activities around our region! Are you thinking of organizing a branch activity to develop your non-technical skills such as leadership, coaching, project management or job interviews? You can benefit from the SPAA (Student Professional Awareness Activities) funding available for Student Branches. Check out our website and don't hesitate to get in touch with your SAC team to learn more!

EPICS

You want to start up a community service-related engineering project with high school students? Check out the Educational Activities' Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program! It gives you the possibility to work with high-school students on engineering-related projects for local humanitarian organizations.

Check out the website for more info: www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/preuniversity/epics_high.html

As always, do not forget to visit us at www.r8sac.org and email us at r8sac@ieee.org. Thanks for being a member of the IEEE family!

Your Student Activities Team,
**Elias, Jorge, Eva,
George, Hossam, Jef,
Simay and Sohaib**



Prof Adel of SQU is presented with a memento by Mansoor Ali of AHOD.

differences of green energies based on the geographical area of Oman and other parts of the world. Finally, the talk was concluded with location based cost-benefit analysis of renewable energies. The talk was highly informative, very interesting and was appreciated by the participants. CCE-IEEE student chapter will continue to hold such talks by experts from academia and industry for the benefit of the CCE student community.

Dr Dharmasa



Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Winner of TV's *Science Stars* talks about his inventions

IN an event organized by IEEE Alexandria Student Branch on 22 December, Bibliotheca Alexandrina hosted Hytham Desouki, the first-place winner of *Science Stars*, an Arab TV program, with his invention, 'touch stickers'.

Hytham El Desouki, is a specialist in Electronics and Communication Engineering. His first invention was at the age of 12, when he devised an alarm for people whose heart rate falls under 60 pulses per minute. He is now a graduate student at Al Azhar University and a researcher at Nile University.

Hytham explained how his idea first started while he was working on a ring-shaped mouse equipped with the touch technologies. He decided to take it to the next stage and invent the 'touch stickers'.

A Q&A session was filled with questions from attendees about the invention and the innovative way of thinking.

Finally he talked about his future business with 'touch stickers', potential customers and pricing.

Rana Aly Mohamed.

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IEEE Alexandria Student Branch



Opole University of Technology, Poland

Opole hosts conference on electrodynamics

ON 6–8 October, the IEEE Opole University of Technology Student Branch, together with IEEE Poland Section, MAG Chapter and the student research group ELEDYN, organized the 3rd IEEE International Students Conference on Electrodynamics and Mechatronics (SCE).

The goal was to present the very latest research and results of young scientists in three main subjects: 'Materials in Electrical Engineering', 'Electrodynamics' and 'Mechatronics'. Conference proceedings have been published and included in the IEEE Xplore online digital library.

This year's conference, connected with IEEE Day 2011 celebrations, brought together about 50 participants from different countries, including Austria, Brazil, Hungary, Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine. The papers were printed in the book, *Electrodynamics and Mechatronic Systems*.

In addition, the conference organizers provided a three-day tour in which participants visited historical places such as Krakow City and Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Jan Zimon and Piotr Graca

IEEE Opole Student Branch

www.ssne.po.opole.pl

Yarmouk University, Jordan

American students get a taste of Arabic with the help of YU Student Branch



IEEE YU Student Branch invited some American students to join them and learn some Arabic. The visiting students, who study Political Science and International Relations, arrived on 1 September.

After briefly introducing themselves, the visitors shared their experience and opinion

about their trip in Middle East, especially in Jordan, and how they fared with the Jordanian local Arabic language.

The Student Branch also organised a tour of famous sites for the visitors: Petra, Wadi Ram and Karak Castle.

Nadeem Khalaf



German Jordanian University, Amman, Jordan

Orientation meeting sets the standard for GJU's year ahead

AT German Jordanian University on 25 October, the orientation meeting for the Student Branch was held. It was to introduce to the club's vision, mission and strategy to be accomplished.

Mohammad Nazzal, counselor of the branch, opened the meeting by introducing the new executive committee. He also reported on the 'Lab on Wheels' projects that gained good public attention (see page 1).

Fatima Hussein then took the stage and introduced Women in Engineering (WIE), aiming to empower and motivate women in engineering.

Ahmad Luay and Hani Abu Huwajj enthusiastically announced the launching of a new project, Chess XL, and encouraged architecture and design students to participate. Fahed Qaramseh addressed the business students and explained to them the club's marketing plan.

The next day, the Orientation Booth was set up and Student Branch members spread out to attract and answer curious students and passers-by. The first response to the IEEE public appearance this year was very positive, and proved to be successful.

Nama'a Abdullah Qudah

Imagination + Innovation = Realization

ASIDE from its high-profile projects, the Student Branch at GJU has been working on a Toothpick Bridge Competition. Whether contestants came from a background in logistics or architecture, they were challenged to build a toothpick structure strong enough to support more weight than their competitors.

After the weighing and the measuring to ensure the compliance of the bridges to the set rules, all 18 were laid before the judges and public and, one by one, they were put to the test. By the end, each was left shattered and broken. However, the winner broke last year's record of carrying 25kg with a bridge that proudly withstood the pressure of 35kg before giving way. The Balqa University student still guards the remains of his bridge with pride.

Fatema Hussein



University of Patras, Greece

EMB Chapter launches at Patras with fascinating biomedical seminar series



THE strong interest of students in Engineering in Medicine and Biology has led to the establishment of the IEEE EMB Chapter of the University of Patras, Greece.

The Chapter began activities by organizing a series of seminars on Biomedical Engineering.

The first seminar, 'Bioinformatics and

Genomics' on 28 November was delivered by Dr Zoi Lygerou, from the Biology department at the Medical School. The event attracted 80 students from different scientific fields. Further information visit: <http://emb.ieee-upatras.gr>

George Papadopoulos

IEEE Patras EMB Student Chapter Chair



Investigating the use of advanced robotics in surgery

THE second seminar organized by the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Chapter at the University of Patras was 'Robotics in Surgery', held with great success on 16 December.

More than 220 students and professors from different scientific fields attended the seminar. Dr Tzes, Head of Electrical & Computer Engineering, gave a very interesting

presentation on medical robotics. Dr Konstantinidis, chief of the General Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgical Clinic of Athens Medical Center, presented the Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System, using video material of operations from his personal archive.

Eirini Kaisari

Vice-chair, IEEE Patras EMB Chapter

University of Niš, Serbia

Student project conference attracts 200 participants and plenty of support

IEEEESTEC, the 4th International Student's Projects Conference, was held on 30 November at the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš, Serbia. Hosted by EESTEC LC Niš, the IEEE Student Branch at Niš offered a platform for students to discuss and exchange research ideas and projects.

IEEE Electron Devices/Solid-State Circuits Chapter and IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Chapter, also supported the event.

The opening speeches were delivered by Danijel Danković, chairman of the conference; Vera Marković, secretary of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section; and Zoran Perić, the vice-dean of the Faculty of Electronic Engineering at Niš.

The conference was very successful, gathering an audience of about 200 students and academic staff with 34 papers. The member reviewers selected the best projects for the three top prizes.

Read more at: <http://ieee.elfak.ni.ac.rs>.

Danijel Danković



Isfahan University of Technology, Iran

Workshop explains benefits of joining IEEE

A workshop entitled 'IEEE Introduction and its Benefits' was held at Isfahan University of Technology Student Branch on 21 October.

Prof Moallem talked about the benefits of joining IEEE and gave an impressive lecture on 'The Ways to Achieve Career

Success' as our special guest. The chair, Ms Eftekhari, reported past activities and the future plans of the IUT Student Branch to its members.

Farzaneh Abdollahi

IEEE Iran Section Editor



University College Cork, Ireland

University College Cork sets up Student Branch

HISTORY was made on 30 November, when an IEEE Student Branch was established at University College Cork, Ireland.

The UCC Student Branch is the second in Ireland, with 25 student members. The elected officers are: chair Kilian O'Donoghue, vice-chair Cian Cassidy and treasurer Philip Marraccini. Nabeel Riza is the branch counselor. Domenico

Zito has played an active role in developing the SB.

At its first event on 14 December, the branch co-sponsored a short course on power electronic devices by Ettore Napoli of the University of Naples. The SB looks forward to an active program of activities at UCC and engaging with the global IEEE network.

Nabeel A Riza



Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece

HOU is the place to learn about microcontrollers

ON 17 December, the final examination was held for the first 'Blended Learning' course on microcontrollers. The Digital Systems and Media Computing laboratory (dsmc2.eap.gr) of the Hellenic Open University in Patras provided the venue.

The five-week course had 20 participants working remotely on modern microcontrollers, sponsored by IEEE's Circuits and Systems Society and the Hellenic Open University.

Students were able to access and to program a number of Arduino systems equipped with sensors, LEDs, LCD and servos. They were available 24/7 to stu-

dents and monitored through a web camera.

A learning management system at www.edu20.org was set up and each week an electronic lecture was delivered as well as the homework.

All students travelled to Patras for the final examination and also conducted a number of original experiments, thus gaining hands-on experience. Certificates were awarded. The follow up course comes soon. Until then, participants can practice with the system installed on the servers at 194.24.226.108, freely accessible for the CAS engineering community.

Vassilis Fotopoulos

National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia

ENIS enhances second robotics competition with plenary talks

ROBOCOMP'2011, the 2nd International Robotics Competition, was organised by the IEEE Student Branch of Tunisia National School of Engineers of Sfax (ENIS), IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Tunisia Chapter and IEEE Women In Engineering Tunisia, on 18–20 December.

There were four tracks: innovation in construction; wheeled robot for line tracking; obstacle avoidance; and a biped robot race. Teams of one to six members demonstrated their skills to conceive, construct, program and control robots.

More than 160 attended to form 68 registered teams from different universities



and secondary schools in Tunisia. Three winners in each track received certificates and RoboComp medals.

Jean-Paul Laumond, research director from CNRS, Toulouse, France, gave a plenary on the 'Mathematical Bases of Robot Motion', and Jorge Dias, from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, gave a plenary entitled 'Multi-Sensing Artificial Perception: A Probabilistic Approaches for Robotic Perception'.

We set up an IEEE booth to attract new members and hosted talks on student and GOLD activities with R8 GOLD coordinator Salima Kaissi; IEEE Robotics and Automation Society with chapter chair Hala Bezine; and Women in Engineering with WIE Tunisia AG chair, Ilhem Kallel.

During the last day, a bunch of 'robot crafts for kids' contests was organized, in which children aged 3 to 7 years old drew their idea of a robot of the future. For details, see: <http://robocomp.ieee-enis.org/>

Ilhem Kallel and Habib Kammoun

University of Saint-Joseph, Lebanon

Understanding hacking and security

AS part of its recruitment campaign, the IEEE Student Branch at USJ hosted a Cyber Security Conference on 25 October at the Faculty of Engineering Amphitheatre.

The conference was divided into two parts. The first was an overview on cyber security presented by Antoine Feghali, co-founder of Potech Consulting. The second part was a technical session given by Ma-

roun Habib that illustrated some hacking techniques.

Following this, an Ethical Hacking competition was organized on 17 November, in which students were to try to gain access to a server set for that purpose. At the end, the winner of the competition won an iPad.

Elie Gaby El Khoury

President, IEEE Student Branch – ESIB

Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund

VISHAL Bhana (pictured), a postgraduate student of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, recently had the privilege of attending an international IEEE conference – the International Semiconductor Conference (CAS 2011) – which was held on 17–19 October at Sinaia, Romania.

Vishal Bhana's trip was partially sponsored by the IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF). Through the VCF, several IEEE students are financially supported to attend conferences within our Region, and this can only happen if members continue to show their support by contributing to the VCF. Members can do this when they renew their IEEE membership, or any time. Ask me how!

Joyce Mwangama

IEEE South Africa Section

joyce.mwangama@ieee.org



Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal

Creating your own movies

THE IEEE Student Branch of Instituto Superior Técnico organized a Video Capture and Editing Workshop on 5 November. The objective was to teach how to film and edit a high-quality movie at home and to explore concepts used in professional film making.

32 students came for the lecture by Rui Costa, coordinator of IEEE-IST TV and vice-chair for Technical Activities of the Student Branch. Samuel André, a Portuguese director and film-maker, was invited to share his knowledge too.

David Dias

Chair of IEEE-IST Student Branch

www.ieee-ist.org/iv



Hashemite University, Jordan

Student Branch launches with a day of information

20 October was a successful day in Hashemite University IEEE Student Branch, where the Western Engineering Auditorium hosted the IEEE HU Launch. This event attracted 250 Students from 14 different majors, which was big boost for our Student Branch.

The day started with an introduction of IEEE by Gheith Abandah, Jordan Section chair.

Then Mohammad Khawaja talked about how IEEE benefits students in learning and improving their career. He said that IEEE helped him start his own company before he graduated. He added that IEEE helped him to create a huge network of contacts with professionals. Afterwards, Mahmoud Shattel

shared his experience as an executive committee member in 2008, remembering the activities of the branch and the courses and seminars they organized.

Student Branch chair Abdelrahman Saifi gave his definition of education for success, and explained how IEEE can help us exploit our capabilities.

Finally, IEEE Women in Engineering chair Farah Mansour talked about WIE and the difficulties female engineers face in the Middle East and elsewhere. She pointed out that WIE is Inspiring, Engaging, Encouraging and Empowering.

Abdelrahman Saifi

Chair, IEEE Hashemite University Student Branch

National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia

ENIS organises five days of leadership training



ON 18–22 December, a Leadership Winter School was organized by IEEE GOLD Tunisia and the Student Branch of the National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), in Yasmine Hammamet.

50 young professionals, academics and students participated, including four IEEE members from each Student Branch in Tunisia.

The goal is hands-on practice on how to improve leadership skills. Nine invited professional speakers talked to us about soft skills, how to develop innovative solutions, how to solve problems on decision making, conflict management, time management, communication skills,

and professional awareness.

During the event, Tunisian Student Branch members enjoyed exchanging ideas, experiences and thoughts. The program combined theory, practical sessions of leadership, and some success stories. The main sessions regarding IEEE were delivered by Salima Kaissi (R8 GOLD coordinator), speaking about IEEE and the Center for Leadership Excellence. For more details, see: <http://lws2011.ieee-enis.org/>

Habib Kammoun

Chair, GOLD Tunisia and

ENIS Student Branch

<http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/tunisia/gold>