One IEEE? .... page **11**

MELECON flagship flies high in Malta

THE 15TH IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference was held at the Hotel Excelsior, Valletta, Malta on 26–28 Apri.

MELECON is one of the flagship conferences of the IEEE Region 8 with participants from all over the world. It is an international forum presenting design methodologies, techniques and experimental results in emerging electro-technologies.

There were four plenary sessions: Frede Blaabjerg from Aalborg University, Denmark; Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann from MIRALab-University of Geneva, Switzerland; Frank Ellinger from Dresden University of Technology, Germany; and Tadeusz Kaczorek from Warsaw University of Technology, Poland. From 60 different countries, 310 papers were accepted and presented at MELECON 2010.

On 26 April, a full day workshop on 'Demystifying IEEE 802 Standards' was delivered by the IEEE Standards Association.

The event was organized by the IEEE Malta Section in conjunction with the University of Malta.

The organizing committee (from left): Carl James Debono, Jozef Modelski, Ivan Grech, Paul Micallef, Marian Kazmierkowski, Edward Gatt and Keith Sacco.

Get ready to celebrate IEEE Day in October

IEEE DAY is a global event planned for 7 October, in recognition of IEEE members – past, present, and future – on the anniversary of the first time IEEE members gathered to share their technical ideas in 1884.

All of IEEE's organizational units (regions, sections, chapters, affinity groups, student branches, and so on) will be encouraged to participate by providing local events for their members [continued on page 2]

[continued on page 2]

2010 SPC finalists and members of the jury (from left): Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Ali El-Mousa, Riccardo Mazzon, Hariharsudan Radhakrishnan, George Paunovic, Micha Linde, Maxime Taquet, Daniel Louw, Eman AlQuraishi.

SPC finalists present papers in person at MELECON

THE IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest (SPC) has been a long-standing event in the Region.

Every year, each student branch can organize a local Student Paper Contest which should be announced publicly in advance. All submitted papers are to be locally reviewed by qualified specialists. Also, any IEEE co-organized conferences, which have student papers sessions included in their programs, could and should also be used to get additional proposals for SPC.

Student branches are the focal points for promotion of local contest organization and selection of student papers, but other IEEE members are also involved.

The IEEE Region 8 SPC 2010 was quite successful. 31 papers were submitted, 28 of which were accepted according to SPC rules. Contestants came from 19 Region 8 sections, representing 26 institutions and student branches.

The SPC 2010 Oral Finals were staged during the IEEE MELECON 2010 Conference in Malta, to which six finalists were invited. IEEE Region 8 Director Jozef Modelski and Director-elect Marko Delimar also participated in SPC session. During the break for jury discussion, there was a friendly party for SPC finalists.

First prize was awarded to Maxime Taquet from Catholique University of Louvain SB. Two second prizes were awarded: one to Daniel Johannes Louw, PR Botha and BT Maharaj from University of Pretoria Student Branch, and the other to Micha Linde from Karlsruhe University Student Branch. The official presentations were made during the MELECON gala dinner, the winners being announced by the SPC Coordinator, George Paunovic.

Next year's SPC campaign started recently and the deadline to send full papers is 15 December 2010. Six finalists will be invited and financially supported to present their papers at the IEEE EUROCON 2011 Conference on 25–27 April 2011 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The papers will also be published in EUROCON 2011 Conference Proceedings and included in the IEEE Xplore Digital Library. And three best finalists will receive prizes from the IEEE Life Member Fund.

George Paunovic
g.paunovic@ieee.org

Delivering the presentations...

... and receiving the awards.

Get ready to celebrate IEEE Day in October

and encouraging the use of social networking to share members' technological interests and successes.

IEEE Day is a project that grounds its roots in a simple concept: celebrate the achievements of IEEE everywhere around the world. The project aims at building up a platform and a network where all IEEE members, affinity groups, sections, regions, chapters, societies and technology-lovers in general can organize events in their home locations with the aim of celebrating the IEEE's technological advancements.

Any type of event counts as long as this event is connected to the IEEE Day network!

Nurturing the project

IEEE Day is a project firstly proposed by Salima Kaissi, R8 GOLD member, and further developed in a group of interested GOLD and Students volunteers.

This idea was, for the first time, compiled in a comprehensive project proposal submitted to the MGA Challenge 2010.

After some rounds of clarifications, the project was selected among more than 50 others to be awarded and it subsequently gained a primary focus from MGA's "big eye".

How to get involved

IEEE Day has defined three ways of networking and means of disseminating your participation on the yearly celebration:

■ 'Photo wall of the year': every member will be invited to share a picture showing himself/herself in real action (in a laboratory, at a desk, in class, with an oscilloscope...)
■ 'Let's wear an IEEE Day t-shirt': members can find the link on the IEEE Day website where they can order their t-shirts. They can also download and print the logo locally.

■ 'Upload your IEEE Facebook profile picture': taken during IEEE Day.

You can access the IEEE Day network on:
■ Web: ***www.ieeeday.org***
■ Facebook: ***www.facebook. com/IEEEDay***
■ Twitter: ***http://twitter.com/ IEEEDay***
■ LinkedIn: ***www.linkedin. com/groups?gid=3240378***

IEEE Day Goal

THE GOAL for IEEE Day is an ambitious target of 100,000 online actions between all the IEEE Day networking channels. Comments, pho-

tos, videos, page hits, friend invitations and so on will all be considered online actions.

Awards will be given to the 10 entities (e.g. section, chapter, affinity group) organizing the best activities.

In addition, awards will be given to the 10 individuals submitting the best pictures/ videos to our online activity 'Photo wall of the year'.

Help us reach our goal! Don't forget to put IEEE Day, 7 October, on your calendar and start thinking of creative ways to participate in the excitement. Use IEEE Day to tell us about yourself, share your work, and get to know your fellow members.

João Figueiras
R8 GOLD Coordinator

WILGA January and May receive 200 researchers

The award ceremony for the best student paper presentation took place at the Faculty of Physics on 18 June 2010. The PhD student prize winners were: 1. Grzegorz Kasprowicz, 2. Piotr Makowski, 3. Katarzyna Ławniczuk and Konrad Futera. The MSc student prize winners were 1. Piotr Obroslak, 2. Piotr Florczyk, 3.Anna Manerowska, 4. Piotr Wieckowski, 5. Agnieszka Zagozdzinska.

THE IEEE-SPIE-PSP WILGA Symposium gathers every January and May. This advanced photonic and electronic systems event focuses on components and applications.

WILGA Symposium on Photonics and Web Engi-

neering is well known on the web for its devotion to "young research" promoted by international engineering associations SPIE and IEEE. WILGA is supported by national professional organizations KEiT PAN and PSP-Photonics

Society of Poland. Since its organisation in 1998 it has gathered over 40,00 young researchers and published over 2,000 papers.

WILGA 2010 took place on 29–30 January at the Faculty of Electronics and Infor-

mation Technologies of Warsaw University of Technology and on 24–30 May in Wilga Village near Warsaw. Both meetings gathered around 200 young researchers with 150 papers presented on current subjects of advanced

photonics and electronics issues. WILGA Symposium is always richly attended by students' mentors and tutors.

For more information please visit: ***http://wilga.ise. pw.edu.pl/wilga/index.jsf***.

Ryszard S Romaniuk

WILGA Symposium organizers express their appreciation to the hard-working WILGA Village WUT Resort staff – taking a brief rest!

Improving IEEE media coverage

The IEEE Public Visibility Initiative is a communications project that seeks to raise IEEE's visibility and create a global 'voice', increasing public understanding of how engineering, computing and technology benefit humanity, and positioning IEEE as the world's trusted source and forum.

This coverage tells the public about IEEE while simultaneously positioning the organization and

its members as industry experts and thought leaders. To learn more about this program, download the **PublicVisibilityAndTagline.pdf** document from the ***IEEE.org*** website.

The initiative is now seeking members with expertise in consumer electronics/gaming, education, sustainable energy/world, space, infrastructure, and healthcare to participate in media opportunities around the world.

Elena Smotrova receives Clementina Saduwa award

THE REGION 8 Women in Engineering Affinity group would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winner of 2009 Clementina Saduwa Award, Dr Elena Smotrova from Ukraine.

The objectives of the award are to recognize a women engineer in Region 8 who, through her engineering and career achievements, has demonstrated noteworthy support for women in the profession and have established a benchmark of engineering excellence.

Keep up the good work, Elena. We wish you all the success in your life and career.

Bashayer Al-Awwad
alawad@ieee.org

EDUCON focuses on global education for engineering

FROM 14–16 April, 300 scientists, engineers and educators from all over the world convened in Madrid and Ávila to attend the first IEEE EDUCON and discuss about the future of global learning in engineering education.

The conference was organized by the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, the Carinthia Tech Institute, and the IEEE Education Society. It has brought special attention to the current state of the Bologna's process and the global impact of engineering education in EMEA.

EDUCON 2010 qualified as the most relevant conference on higher education by the ANECA, gathering 250 contributions and 10 special sessions. Moreover, it counted upon three outstanding keynote speakers, namely Susan Lord (IEEE Education Society President), Patricia Manson (Head of Unit, Cultural Heritage and Technology Enhanced Learning in the Directorate General Information Society and Media of the European Commission), and Javier Uceda (Rector of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid).

Also in Madrid and running almost in parallel on 13–15th April, the IX Conference on Applied Technologies for Electronic Teaching (TAEE 2010), co-sponsored by the IEEE Education Society, took place, attracting 100 attendees who focused on new experiences and methods of teaching and learning electronic engineering.

Both conferences, EDUCON 2010 and TAEE 2010, were a great success and the attendees look forward to meeting again in the next edition.

Agustí Solanas

TEP workshop is held in Budapest

FOLLOWING THE successful TEP initiative in Russia last year, Óbuda University hosted IEEE Technical English Program Workshop in Budapest, Hungary, on 18 June.

Imre Rudas, chairman of IEEE Hungary Section, welcomed the participants to the event and vice chair Peter Kadar presented the benefits of IEEE.

Peter Farkas from Slovakia introduced the IEEE Czechoslovakia Section.

During the workshop, students became aware of the benefit of their English knowledge. Workshop exercises were organized into four groups. These included some mathematics, comprehension exercises and advanced algebra.

In the 'black box' exercise, the task was to imagine how a machine works with given input and output. Students designed the main modules of the 'box', explaining the operation of it with a block diagram.

In the 'business' exercise the students are divided in groups. The sellers proposed the defined service, while the potential buyers had to negotiate a good deal for the service. The pros and cons were presented in the form of a free conversation between the two groups.

Everyone found the workshop to be highly valuable.

Peter Kadar

Croatia gives awards at annual banquet

IEEE CROATIA Section held its Annual Award Banquet on 30 November 2009 in Hotel International Zagreb, with about 160 members attending. The recipients included: Danilo Feretic (Nikola Tesla Award for outstanding contribution in nuclear power); Sven Loncaric (2009 IEEE Croatia Section Distinguished Service Award) and Predrag Pale (Outstanding Engineer Award).

We received guests from IEEE Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina Sections. During the banquet, guests enjoyed a concert whose players are members of IEEE.

Igor Kuzle
Croatia Section Chair

2013 marks the 50th anniversary of Region 8

On 8 January 1963, IEEE Region 8 was formed geographically comprising Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Before this date, only seven Sections existed: in Israel (1954), Egypt (1955), Benelux (1959), Italy (1959), Switzerland (1960), France (1961) and the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland (1962). Since then Region 8 increased geographically as well as in number of Sections.

The 50th anniversary of Region 8 will be celebrated in 2013 and it was decided to prepare a Web-based 'Jubilee Book' containing the history of Region 8 and its Sections.

The IEEE R8 Past Directors Council set up an editorial board chaired by Kurt R Richter. Charles Turner is vice-chair and editor-in-chief. A techni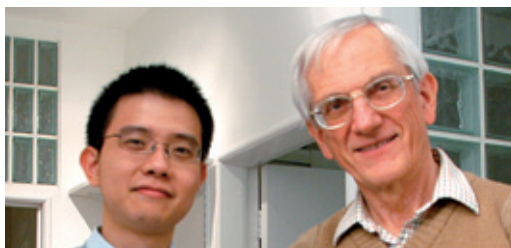cal team consisting of the R8 secretary, the Region 8 electronics-communication officer as well as a GOLD member and a student member will prepare the templates, indexing, finalizing and uploading the book to the Web.

In principle, the Jubilee Book shall consist of two parts whereby the statistical part should cover the facts and numbers, while the second part should highlight particular events within the last 50 years which might be interesting to be read.

It will also contain contributions from all Sections within the Region, as well as from all R8 Officers and Past Directors. However, any Region 8 members who believe they have interesting information to share concerning their history are encouraged to contact their Section.

Kurt R Richter
IEEE Life Fellow
Region 8 Director,
1991–1992

Explaining IEEE to the public: it's a challenge

Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

TRYING TO describe IEEE to a friend or neighbour usually begins with saying "Eye Tripoli" or "eye ee eee eeee" followed by "Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers". It happens all the time: much explanation follows but producing little understanding of what we do.

Why is it that the chief information officer of a big company has never heard of IEEE? He is in charge of spending hundreds of millions on network and computing infrastructure, all of which which hangs together thanks to IEEE standards. What's the connection?

Recently I was in a meeting with the IEEE public relations agency which has the job of spreading understanding about what we do to the general public. It's not easy to communicate. Nobody out there knows about us. We've got to change that.

So what can you do? Look at what we say about public visibility: read the item on page 2 about improving IEEE media coverage. Download the public relations toolkit for IEEE volunteers and learn a little about the IEEE 'brand'. Then speak to people about what IEEE does and why you are part of this wonderful organisation.

What's your opinion about the quality of information reported at IEEE's conferences? Read Roger Pollard's challenging thoughts on page 11. Write to Roger with your opinion and suggestions how this can be done.

You'll notice there's no quiz this issue. How about contributing something interesting from your experience or work or history? You'll find guidelines to writing and submitting articles to us at ***www. ieee.org/go/r8news***.

Roland Saam

ENERGYCON 2010
www.ieee-energycon.org
18–21 December 2010 • Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

ENERGYCON 2010 is the premier IEEE forum for the exchange of experience in the practical application of electronics, power and instrumentation in the Oil and Gas and Petrochemical Industries

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Athens lecture looks at role of comms in storage

THE GREECE IEEE Communications Society Chapter organized a lecture by distinguished lecturer JR Cruz, on 9 June at National Technical University of Athens premises in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The title of his talk was 'The Role of Communications Signal Processing in Storage Systems'. More than 50 undergraduate, PhD, Post-Doc students and professors attended the meeting.

The event ended with an in-depth discussion on future trends and research on communications.

Thanos Kakarountas

Wind power dominates first meeting of the year

THE FIRST meeting of the IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter in 2010 took place 12 March at the University of Bremen and at Lloyd Dynamowerke (LDW). The main topic was of wind power generation.

35 members and guests were welcomed by Ingo Hahn, and Bernd Orlik, head of the Institute of Drives and Power Electronics, where basic research is carried out in the fields of electrical drives, mechatronics and power electronics.

Nando Kaminski, gave a lively presentation on 'Semiconductors – in the heart of power electronics' about their reliability. With his years of industrial experience at ABB, he could report "about things between emitter and collector, which cannot be explained with a simple theory".

He showed us astonishing results such as the latch-up, thermal drift, and load cycle capability of the semiconductors. He explained why ESD is critical not only for the logical circuits but also for the power electronic components, and the influence of humidity as well as altitude and cosmic rays on the lifetime of the devices.

Bernd Orlik presented actual problems and solutions for wind power generation.

The system design starts with the wind itself and ends with the consumer power grid connection. The lifetime of generator's gears actually leads to a drop in the reliability of today's wind mills.

Gear loads can be reduced drastically by finding a compromise between the maximum power control, which is applied today, and a more gear friendly torque control. He showed how wind power can contribute to stabilize the grid and can deal with asymmetrical grid conditions.

A third presentation was on the large generator drives by Norbert Götschmann from Lloyd Dynamowerke. He spoke about actual prob-

lems, such as when generator torque is limited either by the available gears, or by the heavy weight of direct drives (where the transportation, stability of the towers and offshore installation is the major problem).

A possible solution was demonstrated in his research on transverse flux machines, which is a gearless concept that promises a 50 percent size and a 70 percent weight reduction. Götschmann showed his first results on a 50kW prototype.

At the Lloyd Dynamowerke (LDW), CEO Berthold Groeneveld welcomed the IEEE chapter to visit their production line, test field and service department.

The company was founded in 1906 to build drives for the ship building industry. It is now owned by Kirloskar Electric Company Ltd of India. LDW is a manufacturer of electrical machines for ship propulsion, industrial drives and wind power energy generation.

The main power range is between 50 and 50,000kW, where synchronous and asynchronous AC motors as well as DC motors are produced. LDW offers specialist services for rebuilding old motors from many other companies, among them AEG and Siemens.

The visit gave us an insight that theirs is much different from mass production,

and that know-how is very important for quality.

After lunch at LDW, we visited the Institute of Drives and Power Electronics and saw their newest scientific achievements: sensorless drive control, control of transvere flux machines, high voltage dc transmission and other topics.

The next meeting will take place at SMA Solar Technology enterprise in Kassel, which is the leading manufacturer of solar power inverters.

For more information, please visit our website at this address: *www.ewh.ieee. org/r8/germany/ias-pels*.

**Stephan Beineke
and Ingo Hahn**

Women In Engineering works to form closer ties at Cape Town

IN CONJUNCTION with the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), the South Africa Section's ComSoc Chapter hosted the International Conference on Communications (ICC 2010) in late May, Cape Town, South Africa.

Many distinguished lecturers and IEEE staff attended this flagship conference. Amongst the international IEEE staff visitors, Keyana Tennant also had an exhibition desk at ICC 2010. Keyana serves as the programme

manager for IEEE WIE internationally, and her visit was welcomed by IEEE section volunteers in South Africa.

In addition to the WIE affinity group, which is active nationally or at section level in South Africa, there are two student branch affinity groups at the University of Pretoria and University of Cape Town (UCT). Keyana was able to visit the group at the UCT.

IEEE staff visits to South Africa have frequently led to

improvements in the quality of the activities and services to the local members. During the visit to UCT, Keyana was able to get a grass-roots level understanding of IEEE geo-unit operations, and how continuity can be effectively maintained by developing close interactions between student branch level units and section level units.

During ICC 2010, several women engineers and scientists partook, including Celia Desmond, the past President

of ComSoc. Celia also interacted with the WIE Affinity Group at UCT, and together with Keyana, looked to develop closer ties between the

Student Branch, the ComSoc Student Chapter and the WIE Affinity Group at UCT.

Joyce Mwangama

IEEE members, MIAS researchers and STAR learners.

STAR learners are made to shine with WIE involvement

HIGH SCHOOL learners had the opportunity to learn about robots and careers in science, engineering and technology at a 'Mentor and Involve' IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Star Day at Phateng Comprehensive School in Mamelodi, South Africa on 4 June 2010.

Some 18 STAR learn- ers participated in the day's events. Researchers from CSIR MIAS showed the STAR learners how MIAS robots are developed and equipped with high levels of intelligent autonomy in order to assist with dangerous tasks or to make life easier for humans within 'real-world' environments.

Learners were then split into groups for a mentoring session with MIAS research- ers and IEEE WIE members. During the session, they learned about how they too could embark on careers in science, engineering and technology.

A practical LEGO Mind-Storm building session then followed during which learn- ers were given the chance to build and programme their own mobile robots. This included programming the robots to avoid obstacles using ultrasonic sensors. Finally, the STAR learners gave presentations on what they had learnt from the day's activities.

The next phase of the STAR programme for 2010 will be two tutoring sessions in July that will focus on help- ing learners with difficult topics in Mathematics and Science.

Organized by the IEEE Women in Engineering South Africa Section, the Star Day followed on the success of the 2009 IEEE WIE STAR programme.

Mobile Intelligent Autono- mous Systems (MIAS) group of the South Africa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Modelling and Digital Sciences unit gave their support.

Chioniso Dube

IEEE recognizes WIE work in South Africa

THE IEEE South Africa Sec- tion is privileged to announce that its Women in Engineer- ing (WIE) Affinity Group was selected to receive an hon- orable mention for the year 2009.

This is an international WIE achievement, and re- flects the dedication of the IEEE members that are lead- ing WIE in South Africa. The IEEE South Africa Section wishes to congratulate all that led the group in 2009, but in particular Oladayo Bello, our immediate past WIE Chair.

Chioniso Dube
Chair (2010-2011), WiE AG, IEEE South Africa Section
chioniso@ieee.org

Power lecture at NTUA

THE GREEK Section Power and Energy Chapter organ- ized a major event on 28 May at the Library building of the National Technology University of Athens (NTUA).

The 'Chapter Outstanding Engineer' award was won by Ioannis Chatzivasiliou for his contribution to research and development of renewable energy sources.

He gave a lecture on the topic: 'The great challenge: Integrating Renewable En- ergy Sources and other Ef- ficient Production Technolo- gies with Great Penetration in Future Power-supply Net- works'.

The event attracted more than 100 attendees mainly from industry.

Thanos Kakarountas

Swiss members discover top-ten grammar horrors

ONE GOAL of the Switzerland Section is to provide extras for the members. To achieve this, we recently organized an English Technical-Writing Workshop, 'A Hit Parade of Common Grammatical and Stylistic Errors'.

English is a foreign lan- guage in Switzerland but many technical publications are in English. An important goal of scientific research is publication, which means that technical writing is an integral part of a scientist's profession. Poor writing can, and often does, prevent or delay the publication of good science.

Lilli-Marie Pavka, web- master at the IBM Zurich Research Laboratory, was the workshop instructor. She has many years of technical writing experience and based her course on common errors she has seen again and again over the years. Based on the top-ten most common er- rors, she asked participants to examine and improve typi- cal text excerpts from actual scientific manuscripts.

Harry Rudin
hrudin@smile.ch

IEEE Paper Contest winners at HCU with the Branch counselor Usamah Farrukh and interim chair Maya Osseiran.

Lebanon Section creates two new student branches

TWO NEW student branches have been established in the Lebanon Section.

The first at the Lebanese University, Roumieh, has 34 members with branch chair Elias Challita and counselor George Salloum. The sec- ond is at the Hariri Canadian University-Mechref (HCU) with 24 student members. Their interim chair is Maya Osseiran and the counselor is Usamah Farrukh.

These additions increase the total number of branches in Lebanon Section to seven with more than 500 student members.

Lebanon Section also established a Women in Engineering Affinity Group on 12 March and elected the folling officers: Mariette Awad (Chair), Sara Abou Chakra (Vice Chair), Nadeen Rishani (Secretary), and Car- ole Bassil (Treasurer).

region*8student* news

www.ieee.org/r8sac

At the SAC and GOLD Region 8 Committee Meeting in Riga, Latvia (from left): Muhammad Mustafa, Amélie Anglade, Eva Lang, Salima Kaissi, Jorge Soares, Pablo Herrero, Jef Beerten and Joao Figueiras.

Students around Region 8...

...listen up!

We have some great interactive and rewarding news for you! By the time you read this, half of the year 2010 has already passed. The Region 8 SAC team will have managed two of its big events, the Student Paper Contest and the Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC). Several web activities have taken place and are still ongoing, programming challenges, web site contests, Humanitarian Challenges and all the wonderful regular Student Branch activities. Interested in more? Keep on reading...

More improvements to our website!

First of all, you can now reach us at *www.r8sac.org*. Isn't that easy to remember? Now it's easier to keep up-to-date on student activities in your region! We encourage you to participate: if you have suggestions, please leave them in our discussion forum. If you have a really cool activity you want to feature, just send us a short article! Our Wiki is very close to launch also, and we'll need your help to turn it into a useful resource for R8 Student Branches.

R8SAC Chat Sessions

We recently started what we hope will become a SAC tradition, and that's our monthly chat session. For now, it takes place on the first Wednesday of each month. The first two editions we had the SBC organisers as our guests, who answered many questions you had about the event.

We are still testing this idea, so its details may change: stay tuned to our website (you can do it via RSS or subscribe to our posts by email) or our Facebook events.

Online Reporting – SB Officers listen up!

Starting this May Student Branch reporting became easier and more convenient for SB officers. There is only one report to fill replacing the old Annual Report (things that happened in the past school year) as well as the Annual Plan (things that will happen in the next school year). In order to secure the funds attached to reporting, make sure your branch completes the report before November 30!

Spring MGA SAC Meeting

This Spring's global SAC meeting took place in New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA in May, and Region8 was represented by Amélie and Jorge. Martin Bastiaans, the previous R8 SAC chairman, was also there in his current position of MGA SAC chairman. Over two days, we went over the issues faced by students and student volunteers all over the world, but also found some time to visit the IEEE Headquarters in Pitscataway – a cool sight!

Challenging and catching events for students around the globe!

There are gazillions of different projects and opportunities offered by IEEE. This October will face a new edition of the IEEEXtreme 24-hour programming challenge, where you can compete against teams from all over the globe. Are you ready to take the first steps into publishing your first paper in an IEEE conference and have not yet started your PhD program? December 15 is the annual deadline for participating in the Region 8 Student Paper Contest *(see the report on page 1 from the SPC Coordinator, George Paunovic)*. Make sure to host the first round of SPC at your local branch in order to get the chance to participate in the regional finals.

Are you involved or willing to become involved in Humanitarian Activities? Do you have project proposals? Check out the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program offered by IEEE Educational Activities Board. Want to take part or get funding for further activities and challenges? Check out *www.ieee.org/students* as well as the Region 8 Student Activities web page at *www.r8sac.org.*

Last but not least: We're always happy and open for your remarks, feedback, suggestions, opinions – shoot us an email at *r8sac@ieee.org*, visit our webpage at *www.r8sac.org*, join or chat sessions, help us improve our wiki and forum or follow us on facebook or twitter. Don't forget your SAC team is there to serve you.

All the best,

Eva, Amélie, Jorge, Muhammad, Pablo and George

Amélie, Joao and Jorge in Piscataway.

Report from R8 GOLD Committee

THE COMMITTEE started the year by creating a GOLD Book, which will be distributed on the R8 GOLD website. The idea is to gather all the activities organized by each AG in our region during the previous year, both failed and successful stories.

In other news, the R8 GOLD Outstanding Activity Award has been established to recognize GOLD members for their efforts towards the GOLD vision.

IEEE Day *(see page 1)* is an idea that was recently born and aims at defining a date in the year to celebrate all together around the world, the achievements of IEEE.

The R8 GOLD committee also continues to engage in supporting affinity groups. The focus was given to creation of new groups, owing to their major role in supporting and retaining student members. One such example is the Portugal GOLD Affinity Group chaired by Joao Canas (*joaoluiscanas@hotmail.com*).

We also continue committments to help organize the STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership) program (*www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/gold/step.html*) and humanitarian activities (*www.ieeehtn.org/htn/index.php/IEEE_Humanitarian_Workshop*). STEP aims at delivering a message to students tailored in a framework that helps elevation to member. The humanitarian workshops direct the energy from young engineers for the benefit of humanity.

Finally, we helped organize the Student Branch and GOLD Congress which was held on 4–8 August in Leuven Belgium. This Congress was an opportunity for us to meet GOLD delegates in each section and help them in leading their mission by proposing a rich program of sessions and workshops.

R8 GOLD Committee

Invited guests at the IEEE Awards Night.

Malta Student Branch
Members honoured at ceremony

MALTA'S IEEE Awards Night ceremony was held on 26 April at the National Museum of Fine Arts. It was organised by the Malta Student Branch with the IEEE Malta Section, the Malta Council for Science and Technology and the Val-

letta Local Council.

Simon Fabri was named 'IEEE Outstanding Branch Counsellor and Advisor' for 2009. Also, 'Robot Wars – The Revenge' awards were presented to all competitors who participated in the sec-

ond Robot Wars competition held last November.

Vice Chair of the student branch Minette Vella opened the ceremony by welcoming Region 8 director Jozef Modelski and thanking all participants. A presentation followed, showing all the activities organized by the branch during the past year.

Branch counsellor Tracey Cassar introduced Simon Fabri. Thanks to his constant efforts and encouragement, the Student Branch is well on its feet today and is very active in organizing activities. He served as the IEEE Student Branch counsellor between 2003 and 2008.

Luana Chetcuti Zammit
Secretary, Malta SB
luana.chetcuti@ieeesb.com

Jozef Modelski (left) presenting the 'Outstanding Student Branch Counsellor and Advisor' Award to Simon Fabri.

'Outstanding Activity' award given to highly productive GOLD chair

PRINCE IBE has been awarded the 'IEEE Region 8 GOLD Outstanding Activity Award'.

Prince became an IEEE member back in 2002 and now he is Nigeria GOLD Affinity Group Chairman. His IEEE volunteer activities started in 2004 with the establishment of the IEEE Nigeria Section Computer Society Chapter Forum. He wanted to create an opportunity for IEEE student members to

have a common arena to exchange information, acquire new ideas and network with other members.

In 2007, Prince identified potential GOLD members and helped their transition from student membership to higher grades.

He has worked on the Students' Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC), membership drive events, the National Student

Branch and GOLD conference held jointly with the Younger members of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (STEP), and Nigeria Section's 125th Anniversary celebration activities.

With the recent hosting of NIGERCON 2010 by the Nigeria Section in June 2010, there is an increased awareness of the activities of IEEE.

Notre Dame University, Lebanon
Lebanon engineers aim for global markets

FOR THE purpose of encouraging local innovation and trying to compete globally in the semiconductor industry, the NDU Student Branch organized a conference entitled 'Innovate Locally, Compete Globally: Semiconductor Applications in Lebanon'.

This took place on 15 May at Notre Dame University, Lebanon. It gathered professors and students from different universities together with leading companies from our part of the world.

Opening remarks from the Lebanon Section chairman, Elias Nassar, spoke about the benefits of IEEE membership. Mariette Awad, professor at AUB, introduced

Joan Farjo, NDU IEEE Student Branch Secretary.

Elias Nassar, IEEE Lebanon Section Chair.

the IEEE Women In Engineering Affinity Group.

Aurore Feghali, chief of Network Design Department at Ministry of Telecommunication, gave a talk about the optical fiber link project that is currently being worked on in Lebanon.

Fadi Daou, president and CEO of MultiLane, SAL gave a preview of the semiconductor industry in Lebanon, and his company's leading role in developing instrumentation

for the global semiconductor and communication market.

David Culley, principal engineer at ATC (Advanced Technology Center) explained chip development and design flow.

Hesham Ragab, managing director of Mentronix Egypt, specialist in electronic design, told about Mentor Graphics electronic design automation solutions.

Nader Hammoud, head of the Biomedical Engineering Division at Rafik Hariri University Hospital, outlined for us semiconductor nanotechnology in medicine.

Imad Maalouf, chief engineer in the Automation and Drive division at Phoenix Machinery, addressed the automation and industrial application of semiconductors.

The conference successfully ignited the spirit of 'innovating locally and competing globally' for local innovative projects in the semiconductor industry.

Joan Farjo
Secretary, Lebanon Section

INTERCONNECTION TECH-NIQUES in Electronics, or 'TIE' (*www.tie.ro*), is a major regional event involving IEEE-CPMT Hungarian and Romanian Joint Chapter every year.

TIE tries to show young engineers the requirements of industry through computer aided design of electronic modules. All topics of CAD are covered from parts and footprint creation, to designing schematic projects and

Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania
TIE shows the way forward using CAD techiques for electronics

developing optimal layouts according to various industrial restrictions, ending with post-processing output files.

The Technical Committee develops up-to-date topics and assures, with the help of the Organizing Committee, that the contest takes place in a climate of fair play.

The winners of the contest receive a 10-month scholarship. The overall winner of the TIE contest is also given full membership of IEEE CPMT for a year. Along with the prizes, two winners' trophies are handed out: the first for the winner to keep, the second being a permanent cup held each year by the winner's university.

At the TIE 2010 workshops, there are also presentations for promoting education and training in electronic packaging. An 'International Workshop on Electronics Technology' lecture was delivered by Nihal Sinnadurai, IEEE Distinguished Lecturer, especially for the participating students. This focused on the relevance of reliability and quality control in the flow of manufacturing and about the importance for students

to join IEEE to be familiar with standards.

Patrick Haspel of CADENCE spoke on microelectronics education. A presentation on leading CAD software and state-of-the-art technological processes was designed to encourage students to get involved in 'Entrepreneurship in the electronics industry'.

We are eagerly anticipating next year's TIE – its 20th edition – and welcome participants from all universities wishing to join the event in Bucharest, Romania, on 13–16 April 2011.

Andreea Bonea
Press Officer of IEEE CPMT Student Branch Chapter

University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Sharing knowledge on technical papers

ON 23 April, University of Ibadan Student Branch organised a lecture to show students how to write a technical paper and to explain the benefits to be derived.

The event began with a personal experience briefing by Williams Adeyemi, the 3rd Place Winner in the 2009 SPE International Student Paper Contest.

Then guest lecturer Ayo Ogunjuyigbe went into the detail of the topic. He said that technical paper writing is about sharing knowledge with an academic community. He discussed the

steps necessary to writing a paper, including defining a topic, identifying a problem, researching and literature gathering and writing.

A writer must carefully observe the requirements and guidelines provided by the conference or contest organisers. In addition, he highlighted the benefits and opportunities which technical paper writing presents to a student.

He ended his lecture by emphasizing that proper references should be shown and plagiarism must be avoided.

Mary-Theresa Nwankwo

University of Cape Town, South Africa
Energy focus for EPICS-High

BASED ON its successful run of the EPICS-High pilot in 2009, University of Cape Town Student Branch received US$3,500 further funds to continue the EPICS-High initiative in 2010.

Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS)-High is a pre-university initiative of the IEEE Educational Activities Board, enabling vertical integration between high/secondary school learners and university students. This year's initiative at UCT is led by postgraduate students who are part of the Student Branch project committee. Two high-schools in the Western Cape – Oaklands and Oude Molen Technical – have been engaged.

The UCT Student Branch project committee.

The aims of the project for 2010 are to perform a computer lab renewable energy audit and exposure to alternative energy or "green energy" installation. As part of the initiative, high school learners will be engaged at a conceptual level and also will build and test prototypes, enabling for a 'real feel' of

electrical quantities, such as power and energy.

The EPICS-High initiative is being led by Kapil Dandekar (Philadelphia Section) and Saurabh Sinha (South Africa Section) on a global level. At UCT, the leader is Nana-Ampofo Ampofo-Anti.

Excellent Sithole
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Cairo University, Egypt
Contest winners show advancement for CUSB

CAIRO UNIVERSITY Student Branch (CUSB) organized an event in the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University to honour 37 students who have won different contests for the SB over the past two years. The event was also attended by Egypt Section members: Chairman Samir Shahin, SAC Chairman Nevin Darwish, Treasurer Mohamed Khairy and our Branch Counselor.

IEEE CUSB chairman Hossam Ali started the event with a talk on the Branch's achievements through previous two years. Samir Shahin spoke about IEEE's role in community service and IEEE Egypt Section goals and the plans for more promising engineering future.

Nevin Darwish then outlined the importance of volunteer work for society and how important is it to keep going. Mohamed Khairy introduced the Branch's work after it was reactivated last year and the dedication of previous and current Branch officers. Finally, the winning students were presented with their certificates.

Seminar series
CUSB continued to give students interactive sessions after final exams. The Branch set up a booth inside the faculty which advertised a new series of events sponsored by ABB Group, Embedded System Committee (ESC) in Egypt, and Red Hat Inc.

The ABB seminar started on 6 March with 250 attendees. It was divided into three main topics: Motors, Drives and PLC; Industrial Automation; and Home automation.

ESC instructors also gave the 200 attendees introductions to the field of embedded systems and its future in the Egyptian market. These introductory sessions were: Discover Embedded Systems World, Embedded Software Engineering, Real Time Operating Systems (RTOS), and Embedded C Programming vs C Programming.

Tarbiat Modares University, Iran
Celebrating National Teachers' Day

2 MAY was National Teachers' Day in Iran. Every year, students organize gatherings in schools and universities throughout Iran to appreciate the invaluable efforts of their educators.

Two separate appreciation ceremonies took place at Tarbiat Modares University.

Power engineering graduate students of the Student Branch gathered with guests Hossein Seifi and Mohammad Sheikholeslami from the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering. This friendly gathering gave students and professors of TMU an opportunity to communicate outside the classroom.

Another Teachers' Day ceremony was held across campus at the Department of Communications, where Hakkak was the guest.

The ceremonies ended with IEEE student representatives presenting their teachers with Iranian handicrafts and personal 'thank you' notes.

Sarvenaz Jenabi, Iman Kiaei
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University of Tehran, Iran
Activity fair brings together Student Branches of Tehran

IEEE STUDENT Branches Activity Fair was held alongside the 40th Anniversary of the IEEE Iran Section.

At this fair, six Student Branches from Tehran universities presented their various achievements in national as well as international Robocop and ACM competitions.

Schedules for each Student Branch in the coming year, including workshops and short courses, was announced and distributed in pamphlets and calendars.

At the end of the fair, the University of Tehran Student Branch won the award for being the most active.

National School of Engineers of Sfax, Tunisia
150 take part in robotics competition

THE STUDENT Branch of the National School of Engineers of Sfax (ENIS) successfully held its first International Robotics Competition, RoboComp 2010, on 23–25 April.

The event took place at the University Center of Innovation and Technology Transfer at ENIS, with the Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Tunisia Chapter. The competition was backed by the Secretary of State to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The aim of the event was to bring together researchers and specialists on mobile robotics and biped robots, and to evaluate contributions in robotics control for classical and widespread problems.

The competition had four tracks in which each team could demonstrate its skills in building, programming and conceiving robots:
- Innovation in robotics building
- Wheeled robots for line following
- Wheeled robots for obstacle avoidance
- Biped robots for a walking race.

With over 150 attendees of 35 registered teams from different universities, three awards were attributed to the winners of each track.

A workshop on LabVIEW was presented by Ralph Saab from National Instruments. A drawing contest for primary school pupils also took place, in which they were asked to draw a robot of the future.

Adel Alimi, Nesrine Baklouti and Habib Kammoun
http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/tunisia/ras/robocomp

The Secretary of State visits the Student Branch stand.

Doğuş University, Turkey

Electronic life control wins PROJISTOR 2010

PROJISTOR IS a project contest hosted by Doğuş University Student Branch. Our purpose in organizing this competition is to give university students in Turkey the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience.

The 5th PROJISTOR contest took place on 20 May at Doğuş University with the cooperation of IEEE Turkey's Circuits and Systems Chapter and ECED.

Attracting more and more projects, PROJISTOR offers a platform for electronic engineering students to exhibit their innovative ideas along with implementation.

Among numerous proposals, 11 finalists were selected and the prizes selected by a jury that included members from academia and industry.

The winning project was 'Electronic Life Control System' by Kaan Alper and Yosi Benzesin from Bahçesehir University. Second place was won by M Cihan Kara for 'Sun Tracking System (3D)', and third place went to Cengiz Karaçizmeli and Hamdi A Ogul for 'Control with Microwave'. Both the latter two were entries from Doğuş University.

The event was attended by more than 400 students and they were already discussing new prospects about PROJISTOR 2011.

I Cem Göknar
CASS-TR Chapter Chair
Ezgi Bilgiç
DU Student Branch Chair

'One IEEE': how we sustain the success of IEEE's conferences

Roger D Pollard
2010 IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities

I AM writing this on my return from the 2010 IEEE Panel of Conference Organizers (POCO) in Washington DC. It was an invigorating experience with good discussions and shared experiences of conference organization in the IEEE family. I feel part of a global community of peers dedicated to creating and organizing world-class conferences.

I want to share some of the concerns about some of the conferences that carry the IEEE name. Conference sponsorship in IEEE can take three forms:

■ An IEEE entity (Region, Section, Society, etc) wholly sponsors a conference and takes full financial responsibility.

■ An entity co-sponsors an event and shares the financial responsibility with other partners.

■ Technical co-sponsorship (TCS) where some organisation within IEEE lends its name to a conference (not necessarily an IEEE event) and has no financial involvement.

Over the last few years, almost all the growth in IEEE conferences has been in TCS. This form of co-sponsorship gives to the conference all the benefits of the IEEE brand and publication of the conference output in IEEE-Xplore but gives little or no reward to IEEE.

University of Central Greece

Telemedical event wins media attention

THE UNIVERSITY of Central Greece Student Branch organized its second annual event on 22 April. The branch was founded by students in the Department of Computer Science and Biomedical Informatics four years ago and now has 30 members.

The theme 'Telemedicine and New Perspectives' was organised in two sessions. Speakers were invited from academia and the IT industry, while the Greece Section and IEEE EMBS Greece Chapter gave keynote speeches.

The meeting was supported by local and regional authorities and attracted more than 220 participants: students from other educational institutes, electrical and computer engineers, hospital managers, doctors and local authorities' representatives.

It was a major event for the City of Lamia, covered by local TV stations. The Student Branch managed to put engineering, medicine and technology in the public eye, and strengthen the bonds of the University with the local and regional authorities.

Thanos Kakarountas

ON 19 April, the University of Piraeus Student Branch organised a technical lecture, 'Masked OFDM Dirty Paper Encryption'.

It was delivered by Ersi Chorti, senior lecturer at the

University of Piraeus, Greece

Chorti talk on encryption

UK's Middlesex University, in the Conference Hall of the University's Central Building.

More than 40 people attended the lecture, which mainly attracted post-graduate students and researchers.

Thanos Kakarountas

GREECE SECTION has introduced a new initiative called 'i-MSL: Meet a Successful Leader'. This initiative intends to bring students and young engineers closer to professionals from around the world. They can motivate young people to become the future entrepreneurs and/or researchers.

The first event organized in the scope of i-MSL took place on 3 June at the Amphitheater of the Science & Technology Museum, University of Patras, with the

University of Patras, Greece

Successful leader initiative

support of the IEEE University of Patras Student Branch. The event attracted more than 50 people, mainly students from the local Branch. It was broadcast over the internet.

Constantine Polychronopoulos from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was invited to be the first keynote speaker, as the founder and CEO of Byte-mobile. His talk, "The importance of Wireless Network Optimization and Bytemobile's Position in the Industry', told how to identify an opportunity and establish an innovative enterprise.

The event ended with an insightful discussion between Polychronopoulos and the students.

'One IEEE': how we sustain the success of IEEE's conferences

[continued from page 11]

There is also evidence that some papers of very low quality are deposited in IEEE-Xplore. Conferences are encouraged to have a review process that is consistent with the policy. But we have allowed some papers into our archives without this.

It is very important that IEEE's quality control procedures should apply equally to technically co-sponsored conferences. If their proceedings are to be published in IEEE-Xplore, they must have a review policy consistent with normal IEEE practice.

The memorandum of agreement between the sponsoring IEEE organizational unit and the non-IEEE entity should include this requirement.

IEEE's priority is to address the professional needs of our members, our volunteers, and our partners. Conferences are opportunities for professional engagement with others – members and potential members. Conferences are a vital catalyst for technical exchange between researchers and practitioners from different technology areas.

We need to build stronger relationships between geographic units, chapters and societies. There are increased benefits from using more volunteers and a wider pool of authors and bigger attendance.

Problems often stem from a lack of communication. Sponsors often view a conference only as a revenue-generating venture.

Organizers want to do what is best: they are not usually concerned about making a surplus. They want high technical quality that meet the needs of the authors, the attendees and the technical community. 'One IEEE' is the crucially important message.

R.D.Pollard@leeds.ac.uk

Conference calendar
Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8
See also *www.ieee.org/web/conferences/home*

SEPTEMBER

PIMRC 2010
21st Annual IEEE International Symposium on Personal, Indoor and Mobile Radio Communications
26–29 September 2010
Istanbul, Turkey
www.ieee-pimrc.org/2010

OCTOBER

SM2ACD 2010
11th International Workshop on Symbolic and Numerical Methods, Modeling and Applications to Circuit Design
5–6 October 2010
Gammarth, Tunisia
www.sm2acd-2010.org

ICIN 2010
14th International Conference on Intelligence in Next Generation Networks: Weaving Applications into the Network Fabric: The Transformational Challenge
11–14 October 2010
Berlin, Germany
www.icin.biz

IIH-MSP 2010
6th International Conference on Intelligent Information Hiding and Multimedia Signal Processing
15–17 October 2010
Darmstadt, Germany
www.igd.fraunhofer.de/igd-a8/iihmsp10/
http://bit.kuas.edu.tw/~iihmsp10/

IMCSIT 2010
International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology
18–20 October 2010
Hotel Golebiewski, Wisla, Poland
www.imcsit.org

NOVEMBER

HISTELCON 2010
Second Region 8 IEEE Conference on the History of Telecommunications
3–5 November 2010
Madrid, Spain
www.aeit.es/histelcon2010

IEEEI 2010
2010 IEEE 26th Convention of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Israel
17–20 November 2010
Hilton Hotel, Eilat, Israel
www.eng.tau.ac.il/~ieee/Convention

ECCSC'10
5th European Conference on Circuits and Systems for Communications
23–25 November 2010,
Sava Center, Belgrade, Serbia
http://eccsc10.etf.rs

DECEMBER

ICECS 2010
IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits, and Systems
12–15 December 2010
Athens, Greece
www.icecs2010.org

EnergyCon 2010
IEEE International Energy Conference
18–21 December 2010
Kingdom of Bahrain
http://ieee-energycon.org/2010

FEB 2011

GCC 2011
6th IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition: For Sustainable Ubiquitous Technology
19–22 February 2011
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
www.ieeegcc.org

MECBME'11
1st Middle East Conference on Biomedical Engineering,
22–25 February 2011;
American University of Sharjah, UAE
www.mecbme.org

MAR 2011

HRI 2011
6th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction
08–11 March 2011
EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland
www.hri2011.net

WIT-2011
8th International Workshop on Intelligent Transportation
22–23 March 2011
Hamburg, Germany
http://wit.tu-harburg.de

APR 2011

ISPLC 2011
IEEE International Symposium on Power Line Communications and Its Applications
03–06 April 2011
University of Udine, Udine, Italy
www.ieee-isplc.org

CFP: IEEE SSCI
IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence
11–15 April 2011
Paris, France
www.ieee-ssci.org

ICM
IEEE International Conference on Mechatronics
13–15 April 2011
Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
www.icm2011.itu.edu.tr

EUROCON 2011 and CONFTELE 2011
27–29 April 2011
IST Congress Center, Lisbon, Portugal
www.eurocon2011.it.pt

MAY 2011

ICASSP 2011
IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing
22–27 May 2011
Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic
www.icassp2011.com

SEP 2011

IDAACS'2011
IEEE 6th International Conference on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications
12–14 September 2011
Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic
www.idaacs.net

ENERGYCON 2010
www.ieee-energycon.org
18–21 December 2010 • Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

ENERGYCON 2010 is the premier IEEE forum for the exchange of experience in the practical application of electronics, power and instrumentation in the Oil and Gas and Petrochemical Industries

Note to Organizers
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.