14th/15th April 2007 Sofia/Bulgaria

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IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee Report Sofia, Bulgaria, 14–15 April 2007

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1. General

1.1. Region 8 Student Activities Committee

Until 31 December 2006

- Marko Delimar, Chair, m.delimar@ieee.org
- Pilar Molina Gaudó, Past Chair, pimolina@ieee.org
- Ricardo Varela, Student Representative, phobeo@ieee.org
- Michael Gloegl, Student Branch Coordinator, m.gloegl@ieee.org
- Başak Yüksel, Student News Editor, basak@ieee.org
- Martin J. Bastiaans, Student Paper Contest Coordinator, m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org

From 1 January 2007

- Martin J. Bastiaans, Chair, m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org
- Marko Delimar, Past Chair, m.delimar@ieee.org
- Michael Gloegl, Student Representative, m.gloegl@ieee.org
- Pablo Herrero, Student Branch Coordination, pablo.herrero@ieee.org
- Luka Lugarić, Electronic Communications, llugaric@ieee.org
- Thomas Watteyne, Awards and Contests, thomas.watteyne@ieee.org

R8 SAC web site http://www.ieee-r8sac.org/

1.2. Goals and objectives

- Create more student membership benefits at all IEEE levels
- Develop student activities (including contests, awards and promotion programs)
- Foster Student Members' awareness of IEEE activities and existing benefits
- Support students' initiatives and inform other IEEE organizational units about them
- Represent student interests and voice student concerns
- Help with the formation of new Student Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Help with communication between existing Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Increase student membership and develop retention strategies
- Bring more fun to IEEE!

1.3. Student Branch statistics 31 December 2006

- 258 Student Branches
- 18652 Student Members reduced to 13000+ after the action of the 'terminator'
- 10 772 Student Members in Student Branches (i.e. 58% of the total number of Student Members) reduced to 8 100+ after the action of the 'terminator'
- Number of Student Members in a Student Branch ranges from 0 (8 Branches) to 472.
- 99 Student Branches (with a total of 806 Student Members) have less than 20 members
- Average number of Student Members in a Student Branch: 41.8
- 172 Student Branches (with a total of 2924 Student Members) are below average
- 86 Student Branches (with a total of 7848 Student Members) are above average
- Median number of Student Members in a Student Branch: 72
- 41 Student Branches (with a total of 5 383 Student Members) are above median
- 25 Student Branches (with a total of 4019 Student Members) have more than 100 members

In 25 Sections (i.e. $\simeq 50\%$), the percentage of Student Members in Student Branches is less than average (58%); in 10 Sections, this percentage is even less than 25%. This includes some large Sections (with 11 702, 3 589, and 763 members) having a large number of Student Members (2 569, 636, and 488, respectively).

1.4. New Student Branches, Branch Chapters, and Branch Affinity Groups

New Student Branches in 2006

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, University of East Sarajevo
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, University of Tuzla
- Croatia, University of Rijeka



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- Denmark, Aalborg University
- Egypt, Alexandria Institute of Technology
- Egypt, Shoubra Faculty of Engineering at Benha University, Cairo
- France, École centrale d'électronique, Paris
- France, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne
- Germany, Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg
- Jordan, Yarmouk University
- Morocco, Mohammed V University, Rabat
- Nigeria, Babcock University, Ilishan–Remo
- Poland, Poznan University of Technology
- Qatar, Texas A&M University, Doha
- Romania, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași
- Saudi Arabia, King Khalid University, Abha
- South Africa, University of Witwatersrand
- Turkey, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul
- Turkey, Gazi University, Ankara
- Turkey, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon
- Turkey, Marmara University, Istanbul
- Turkey, Selçuk University, Konya
- Turkey, Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta
- Turkey, Sütçü Imam University, Kahramanmaraş
- Turkey, Tobb University of Economics and Technology, Ankara
- Turkey, Trakya University, Edirne
- United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi Men's College
- United Arab Emirates, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani Dubai Campus
- United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, Brunel University, London, UK
- United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

New Student Branches in 2007

- Austria, Upper Austria University of Applied Science, Wels
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Džemal Bijedić University of Mostar
- Egypt, Modern Sciences and Arts University, 6th of October City, Cairo
- Poland, Opole University of Technology
- Ukraine, Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics, Kharkov

New Student Branch Chapters in 2006

- Spain, Universidad de Sevilla Computer Society
- Greece, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Power Engineering Society

New Student Branch Chapters in 2007

- Croatia, University of Zagreb Communications Society
- Croatia, University of Zagreb Computer Society

New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2006

- Croatia, University of Zagreb
- Jordan, Al-Balqa' Applied University, Al-Salt
- Lebanon, Beirut Arab University
- Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife
- Spain, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
- Turkey, Erciyes University, Kayseri
- Ukraine, Lviv Polytechnic National University
- United Arab Emirates, Ajman University of Science and Technology
- United Arab Emirates, United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain

New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2007

- Benelux, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands
- Jordan, University of Jordan, Amman



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- Spain, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
- Turkey, Bilkent University, Ankara

2. Awards and Recognition on Region Level and Above

2.1. General awards for active IEEE Student Members

IEEE Student Enterprise Award

The IEEE Student Enterprise Award, with funding from corporate partners and individuals, was created by the IEEE to support Student Branch projects. Beginning 2006, a generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is providing \$ 9 000 annually to fund the award for the next five years. Up to \$ 1 500 in funding is available for project proposals developed by teams of IEEE Student Members from Student Branches established at over 1 400 universities and colleges around the world.

- 25 January 2007: Student Branch University of Jordan, Amman, received an amount of \$ 1500 for the proposal entitled "Method and System for Imaging Display and Interface."
- ▶ Deadline for the 2007 award: 15 November 2007

IEEE RAB Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize annually, in each Region of the IEEE, the student most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with IEEE student activities. The value of a pattern of dedicated, ongoing service to a branch is certainly recognized. This award is designed to reward a particular event or product of IEEE activities.

- 2006: Pablo Herrero Tomás, Spain
- 8 nominations [Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Oman, Serbia and Montenegro, United Arab Emirates (2), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award.
- ▶ Deadline for the 2008 award: 31 March 2008

2.2. Student Branch awards

IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

- 8 November 2006: Student Branch Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium This branch has been nominated for the 2006 IEEE Outstanding Student Branch Award.
- 3 nominations [Denmark, Turkey, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award.
- ▶ Deadline for the 2008 award: 31 January 2008

Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Program

- 15 September 2006: Daniel Van Dommelen, Branch Counselor, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- No nominations have been received for the 2007 program.
- ▶ Deadline for the 2008 program: 28 February 2008

IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award

The purpose of this new recognition system serves to change the mind set of our student groups from being number-driven to become value-driven and acknowledge exemplary student activities around the world. The eventual goal is to improve the quality of the activities and foster knowledge sharing among students. Ultimately, the initiative is targeted at improving student membership growth. This will encourage and motivate students to continue to innovate and implement meaningful ideas.

- Student Branch Twente, Enschede, Netherlands: Silver Award for organizing the Region 8 Student Robotics Contest, 27 May 2006, Enschede
- Student Branch Boğaziçi University, Istanbul / Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey: Silver Award for organizing the 3rd Science Parks Summit, 3–4 November 2006, Istanbul
- ▶ Submissions are welcome throughout the entire year; decisions are made once a year during the October SAC meeting. Activities submitted after 30 September will be judged the following year.



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RAB Student Branch Growth Award

• The 2006 winners of each Region will be announced shortly.

Branch Centers of Excellence Program

Student Branches can submit proposals to establish Branch Centers of Excellence. Funding from the IEEE Life Members Committee (up to \$ 20000 annually) is available for grants up to \$ 5000. The following proposals have been granted in 2006:

- Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Egypt
- Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey
- ▶ Deadlines 1 April and 1 December

Information on these and other awards and recognition programmes for Students and Student Branches is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

3. Contests on Region Level and Above

3.1. IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest

The 2007 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 16 papers from 14 Student Branches in 11 countries: Belgium (2 papers from 1 Branch), Denmark (2 Branches), Egypt, Germany, Greece (2 papers from 1 Branch), Israel, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa (3 Branches), Turkey. The oral finals will take place in Warsaw, Poland, as part of IEEE Region 8 EUROCON 2007, the International Conference on "Computer as a Tool," 9–12 September 2007.

The jury has selected the following five papers (in alphabetical order of the author) for presentation at the oral finals:

- Emre Ayranci (Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark) Enhancement of VCO linearity and phase noise by implementing frequency locked loop
- Wilm Decré (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Application of a generic constraint-based programming approach to an industrially relevant robot task with geometric uncertainties
- Michael Rapson (University of Cape Town, South Africa) Pareto analysis of controller design methodologies for integrator plus dead time processes
- Jan Verveckken (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Design of inverse controller with crosscoupling suppression for UPFC series converter
- Aleš Zamuda (University of Maribor, Slovenia) Modelling, simulation, and visualization of forest ecosystems

The five jury members for the 2007 SPC are Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; Ryszard Romaniuk, Warsaw, Poland; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

 $\blacktriangleright\,$ Deadline for the 2008 Contest: 15 December 2007

3.2. IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

The Challenge took place on 2 December 2006, with 47 teams; 28 teams from Region 8. Results will be announced soon.

▶ The 2007 Challenge will probably take place on 1 December 2007.

3.3. IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

• 2006: Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain, reached the second place.

23 submissions [Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Nigeria (2), Russia (Siberia) (2), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Spain (5), Turkey (7), United Arab Emirates] have been received for the 2007 contest.

▶ Deadline for the 2008 contest: 15 March 2008



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3.4. IEEE Region 8 Student Promotional Multimedia Contest

A call for papers is to be sent to all Region 8 students and Student Branches. Participating branches will need to create promotional multimedia for advertising IEEE to students, outlining basic benefits. There will be no defined technology, and participants will be allowed to use any software for desktop publishing such as Corel or Photoshop to produce images, any kind of video editing software to produce short movies, possibilities on producing Flash animations, PowerPoint presentations, leaflets and flyers. The content of the promotional item must be constructed such that it will be applicable to most or all Student Branches in Region 8, and not just locally. All received promotional items will be displayed on the R8 SAC web site. The winning branch will be awarded \$ 500, second best \$ 300, and third best \$ 200. The action will be coordinated by members of R8 SAC. Results will be made a part of an electronic promotional package, which will be put on the R8 SAC web site for all branches to use.

► Scheduled for 2007; possible deadline 1 July

3.5. IEEE Region 8 Ethics Competition

The IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC) wants to raise the ethics awareness of IEEE members while they are still in school. To this end, the committee is launching the IEEE Student Ethics Competition, which is designed to provide student members with experience in applying ethical concepts to situations that might arise in the workplace. The competition also wants to increase the visibility of the IEEE Code of Ethics, according to EMCC member Gerald Peterson, chair of the ad hoc committee that developed the competition program.

▶ Scheduled for the next Region 8 Student Branch Congress in 2008

Information on these and other contests is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

4. Student Branch Congresses on Section Level

4.1. Nigeria, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, 1-6 May 2006

The Student Professional Awareness Conference during this 'Student Branch Week' attracted about 500 students.

4.2. United Arab Emirates, American University of Sharjah, 4 May 2006

Attendance: all 9 UAE Student Branches with about 170 participants

4.3. Turkey, Ankara University, 25–27 August 2006

Attendance: nearly 40 Student Branches from Turkey, with about 200 participating Student Members

4.4. Spain, Universidad de Zaragoza, 16-19 November 2006

Attendance: 14 Student Branches from Spain, with about 45 participants, plus 15 people connected by teleconference via Internet. The Congress was also attended by Spain Section officers and by the Region 8 Student Representative.

4.5. Egypt, Shoubra Faculty of Engineering, Cairo, 6-7 December 2006

Attendance: 13 Student Branches from Egypt. The number of participants of this 'Egypt Student Branches Meeting' was about 45, including Shoubra Faculty members and Egypt Section officers.

4.6. Serbia and Montenegro, Novi Sad University, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007

This was a joint IEEE/EESTEC event with IEEE and EESTEC tracks and some joint events. Attendance: 7 Student Branches, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Sarajevo), Bulgaria (Sofia), Croatia (Zagreb), Macedonia (Skopje), and Serbia (Beograd, Novi Sad).

4.7. Portugal, Universidade de Coimbra, 2-5 April 2007

Attendance: expected number of participants about 300. Not only Student Branches from Portugal Section are invited to the 'I° Encontro Nacional de Estudantes de Engenharia Electrotécnica (I°ENE³),' but also from Spain Section.



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4.8. Benelux, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, 10 April 2007

This one-day Student Branch gathering is built around the visit to the Benelux Section by president-elect candidate Marc Apter.

4.9. United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, University of York, UK, 1–3 June 2007 Attendance: expected number of participants 125–150

4.10. Turkey, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, 30 August – 3 September 2007

Attendance: nearly 50 student branches from Turkey with IEEE student and GOLD members. ISBIR Workshops and Company Representatives are to be expected for this congress.

5. Recent and Upcoming Major Events

5.1. IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) program

The IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) Program has recently been approved with high priority as 2007 IEEE New Initiative by the IEEE Board of Directors. Being the first and only initiative proposed by IEEE student volunteers, ISBIR will combine all industry related activities of student branches in one program and establish a platform where IEEE volunteers can share their best practices and experience about industry relations. Student branches can benefit from the ISBIR Program by implementing their local industry related activities and making permanent collaborations with companies. For more information see http://www.isbir.org/.

5.2. Careers in Europe Forum

- Brussels, Belgium, 12–13 December 2006
- Berlin, Germany, 3–4 May 2007 applications open
- Brussels, Belgium, 13–14 December 2007 applications open from 1 June 2007
- Berlin, Germany, 6–7 May 2008 applications open from 1 January 2008

Twice a year (Berlin in May and Brussels in December), Careers in Europe holds a unique, invitation-only event at which top international employers meet and interview the very best graduates and early-career professionals for a wide variety of positions throughout Europe. This is a unique opportunity to meet the people that can build our GOLD Members' international careers – at no charge for them. For more information see http://www.careersineurope.com/.

 In the beginning of March 2007, 19 868 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Student Members.

5.3. Knowledge Fest 2007 - Mobile and Wireless Communications in Nigeria

• Lagos State University, Epe, Nigeria, August 2007 (Thursday–Saturday)

Attendance: expected number of participants over 500

5.4. Meeting the Growing Demand for Engineers and their Educators

• Munich, Germany, 9–11 November 2007

The aim of this IEEE conference is to bring together representatives from industry, government, preuniversity education, and academia, directly involved in planning and shaping the education and formation of engineers and their teachers in North America and the European Union over the next decade. The conference will focus on the key problems of attracting able young people into engineering and science teaching.

5.5. Numerous activities organized by our Student Branches

For more information, log onto our web site and follow the Region 8 News.



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6. Meetings and Visits

- Marko attended the Student Branch Congress in Novi Sad, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Nice, France, 24 February 2007
- Marko, Martin, and Michael attended the RAB SAC Meeting in Boston, MA, 16–18 March 2007
- Pablo attended the EESTEC International Annual Congress, Budapest, Hungary, 24 March 1 April 2007
- Martin attended the Student Branch gathering in Eindhoven, Netherlands, 10 April 2007
- Luka, Marko, Martin, Michael, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14–15 April 2007. R8 SAC had its meeting on 13 April.

7. Ongoing Programs and Activities

7.1. Membership campaigns

Since September/October (which is also the start of the academic year) is the best time of the year to join the IEEE, R8 SAC and participating Student Branches continue to organize membership campaigns in these months. In December/January our focus changes to retention. In April/June, joining as a Student Member for the second half of the year is beneficial, which is something that Student Branches can use in their membership campaigns.

 In the beginning of March 2007, 5 948 personalized email messages were sent to students who did not renew for 2007.

7.2. Launch a new Student Branch initiative

A pilot project in 2005, it appeared extremely successful and was continued in 2006. The project, which needs the cooperation with Section Student Representatives and Section Student Activities Chairs, will be continued in 2007. A branch (or group of branches) that helps a new branch to be established, will receive an amount of \$ 200: \$ 100 when the new Branch has been established, and the additional \$ 100 when the new Branch has completed its first year of operation.

7.3. Waking up dormant Student Branches project

This is a slow, but successful project of contacting last–known Branch officers and Counselors (or other IEEE Members) at the Branch location in an effort to reactivate inactive Branches. On Region 8 initiative, RAB SAC passed an action item to develop a knowledge tool for helping SAC and the Branches keep continuity of previous activities. A 'wake up kit' is being prepared to be sent to Section Chairs, Section Student Activities Chairs, Student Branch officers and Counselors (also to be included in Student CD RAB SAC initiative).

7.4. Student Branch support

R8 SAC supports its Student Branches with seed money for their major activities. This is a successful program with increasingly more requests than we can handle. Only those activities may qualify for financial support, in which more than one Student Branch is involved and/or from which more than one Student Branch will benefit. R8 SAC expects the Section to support the activity with at least the same amount of money.

7.5. Section's welcome to graduating Student Members

Section Chairs are invited to welcome recent graduates into the Section as voting members and possible new volunteers. We strongly believe that such a personal contact at the Section level is very important for retention. Not very successful up to now, we keep insisting on it in our Region Meetings.

7.6. Region 8 Student News

Almost half of the Region 8 News (our regional newspaper, distributed to all Members) is based on SAC articles, Student Branch articles, awards, contests, major events, . . . in every issue. News of a more urgent nature is published at the R8 SAC web site and in the Region 8 Student Forum Virtual Community.



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7.7. Communications

- R8 SAC web site http://www.ieee-r8sac.org/. R8 SAC maintains a web site (which includes a discussion forum) with news about student activities and a knowledge database about student issues.
- E-notice and email lists. Region 8 students receive SAC announcements and notifications via E-notice and email lists.
 - R8 SAC is presently conducting a small project with the ultimate aim of compiling a true and current list of active student branches and their leaders. This will include contacting people from lists currently available on-line, like Chairs, Student Activities Officers, and Student Representatives of the different Sections in the Region.
- Virtual Community. R8 SAC operates a Student Forum Virtual Community with member postings and discussions.

7.8. Student professional activities

- SPAC/SPAV support. Student Professional Awareness Conference/Venture support funds are available.
- Region 8 Workshops. Workshops on Leadership skills and Project management are successfully organized throughout the Region, and are attended by many IEEE Student Members.

7.9. Students at IEEE technical conferences

- Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund. Not just intended for students, the fund helps also needy students to attend technical conferences (limit \$ 1000 per person in a lifetime).
- R8 SAC Voucher Program. Student Members attending an IEEE technical conference in any year, may receive a voucher to be used for their IEEE membership dues in the subsequent year. The number of requests increases from year to year. We may have to end this program because of decreasing budgets.
- Organization of IEEE student events at technical conferences. Students organizing such events may receive a travel grant to the conference.

7.10. Help needy volunteers project

R8 SAC runs a project for subsidizing 50% of the IEEE student membership dues for needy volunteers. This program is very successful and has a low financial impact. We are currently developing new ideas for subsidizing IEEE student dues for needy Members at the global IEEE level.

7.11. Counselor support program

This program has been pending for some years now and may be restructured in 2007.

7.12. Region 8 Student Branch Events and Activities Information Warehouse

R8 SAC is in the process of creating a web-based, information-sharing platform for Student Branch projects. This 'information warehouse' would consist of documents created during the course of planning, executing, and closing of events and activities in Student Branches throughout Region 8. The proposed solution is planned to include data as, for example, project charters, project plans, promotional material templates, funding requests, budget plans, advertising material, . . . – any and all documentation produced within projects established during all phases of past events and activities.

8. Partner Organizations

We are exploring the possibility to enhance cooperation with our partner organisations like

• EESTEC. The Electrical Engineering Students' European Association is an organization of and for electrical engineering students from universities, institutes or schools of technology in Europe that award an engineering degree. The primary aim is to promote and develop international contacts and exchange ideas, as well as improve the technical knowledge of electrical engineering students. The association also aims to introducing students to the industry and the educational system of other countries. For more information see http://www.eestec.org/.

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• BEST. The Board of European Students of Technology is a non profit student organization, run by students, working for students. Its purpose is to promote Europe among Europeans. BEST strives to help European students of technology to become more internationally minded, by reaching a better understanding of European cultures and developing capacities to work on an international basis. Therefore it creates opportunities for the students to meet and learn from one another through its academic and non-academic courses and educational symposia. "Learning makes the master," but the final goal is a good working place, therefore it offers services like an international career center to broaden the horizons for the choice on the job market. For more information see http://best.eu.org/.

9. Region 8 Specific Problems

- Some Region 8 areas experience severe delays with receiving IEEE publications.
- Some Region 8 areas experience credit card problems and high fees for money transfer and cheques (payment of dues).
- Cashing Rebate checks from Piscataway is expensive and sometimes impossible.
- Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power Parity per capita vary significantly within Region 8, with a ratio in the order of 1:100 between the lowest—and the highest—income country. In the US, this ratio is less than 1:2 between the different states. In several Region 8 countries, the US—based prices for IEEE products and services are extremely high.



Region 8 student leaders **ROCK!**

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Martin Bastiaans, April 1, 2007