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 in formation of new student branches, chapters and affinity groups
- Help with communication between existing branches, chapters and groups
- Increase student membership and develop retention strategies
- Make IEEE more fun!

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress
Paris, France, August 31- September 3, 2006, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 6
- 320+ participants from all IEEE Regions: 4 Region 8 Directors (past, present and future) and 3 IEEE Presidents (including both candidates for the 2008 President)
- 2 tracks, over 50 speakers, 11 parallel workshops, panel discussions, awards ceremony
- Multicultural Evening, Paris tour, Garden Party, “Elect the President” Game Show
- 4 unforgettable days

The first ever IEEE Region 8 Student Robotics Contest
May 25-29, 2006, Twente University
- Turkey won the competition (closely followed by the Dutch team), Italy won the best robot design, wining teams received a SRC2006 trophy and a programmable robot
- Organizers nominated by Region 8 for the Darrel Chong Exemplary Student Activity Award, which is a first ever nomination for that award

IEEE Xtreme - Global Programming Contest
December 2006
- R8 initiative, adopted by RAB and funded by NIC
- A day long global programming contest everywhere on the globe simultaneously

2006 IEEE Elections
- 7000+ Region 8 Graduate Student Members received voting ballots in early September
REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Autumn Membership Campaign
September/October 2006
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{As this is the best time of the year to join the IEEE, R8 SAC and participating Student Branches have launched a massive membership campaign} \\
&\text{In December/January our focus will change to retention} 
\end{align*} \]

Membership development
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{We expect 17000+ student members in R8 in December 2006} \\
&\text{260+ Student Branches in Region (Turkey 36, UKRI 18, Spain 16, \ldots)} \\
&\text{30+ Student Branches with over 100 members} \\
&\text{40+ new Branches, 10+ new Branch Chapters, 10+ new Branch Affinity Groups} \\
&\text{Over 25 reactivated dormant Student Branches} 
\end{align*} \]

Student Branch Support
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{R8 supports its Student Branches with seed money for the major activities} \\
&\text{A successful ongoing program} \\
&\text{More requests than we can handle} 
\end{align*} \]

Launch a New Student Branch Initiative
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{2005 pilot project, continued in 2006, extremely successful, no budget} \\
&\text{In cooperation with Section Student Representatives and Section Student Activities Chairs} 
\end{align*} \]

Waking up dormant student branches project
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{A slow, but successful project of contacting last know branch officers and counsellors (or other IEEE members) at the branch location in an effort to reactivate inactive branches} \\
&\text{On R8 initiative, RAB SAC passed an action item to develop a knowledge tool for helping SAC and the branches keep continuity of previous activities} \\
&\text{A "wake up kit" is being prepared to be sent to Section Chairs, Student Branch Officers and Counsellors (also to be included in Student CD RAB SAC initiative)} 
\end{align*} \]

Help-needy-volunteers project
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{R8 runs a project for subsidizing 50\% of the IEEE student membership dues for needy volunteers. This program is very successful and has a low financial impact.} \\
&\text{We are currently developing new ideas for subsidizing IEEE student dues for needy members at the global IEEE level.} 
\end{align*} \]

Region 8 Student News
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{Almost one half of the Region 8 News (our regional newspaper, distributed to all members)} \\
&\text{SAC articles, Student Branch articles, awards, contests, major events in every issue} \\
&\text{News of a more urgent nature are published at the R8 SAC web site and in the Region 8 Student Forum Virtual Community} 
\end{align*} \]

Communications
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{R8 SAC just launched a new web site (which includes a discussion forum) with even more news about student issues and activities} \\
&\text{R8 students receive SAC announcements and notifications via e-Notice and email lists} \\
&\text{R8 Student Forum Virtual Community with member postings and discussions} 
\end{align*} \]

Counsellor support program
\[ \begin{align*} 
&\text{This program has been pending for some years now and will be restructured in 2007} 
\end{align*} \]
Graduating student members section’s welcome
- Section Chairs are invited to welcome these recent graduates into the Section as voting members and possible new volunteers.
- We strongly believe this personal contact at a section level is very important for retention!!!
- Not very successful up to now, we will insist in our next regional meeting

Student Professional Activities
- SPAC/SPAVE support funds available
- Region 8 Workshops (Leadership skills, Project management) successfully organised throughout the Region, attended by many IEEE students.

R8 Students at IEEE technical conferences
- R8 Voluntary Contribution Fund. Not intended just for students, but helps needy students attend technical conferences (limit $1000 per person in a lifetime).
- The Voucher Program. An IEEE membership voucher to student members attending an IEEE technical conference in a previous year. The number of requests increases from year to year.
- Organization of IEEE Student Events at technical conferences. Students organizing such events may receive a travel grant to the conference.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award
- Awarded annually for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with IEEE student activities
- Pablo Herrero, Spain - for excellence in fostering Student Branch activity in the Section as Section Student Representative

The Darrel Chong Exemplary Student Activity Award
- The latest and newest of Student Activities Awards, named after former R10 Student Representative, the awards is designed to recognise an extraordinary student activity
- Region 8 made the first ever Chong nomination - Twente Uni SB (see events)

Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award
- IEEE Student Branch Leuven - for a very long list of extraordinary student branch accomplishments

2005-2006 Outstanding Branch Counsellor and Advisor Award
- Daniel Van Dommelen, IEEE Student Branch Leuven

Information on awards and recognition programmes for students and student branches available on R8 SAC site as well as IEEE student concourse.

REVIEW OF RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest
- 2006 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 16 papers from 16 Student Branches in 12 countries. Oral finals held in Benalmádena (Málaga), Spain, as part of IEEE MELECON 2006, the 13th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (16-19 May 2006).
- Six papers were printed in the Conference proceedings and forwarded to IEEE Potentials
The first ever IEEE Region 8 Student Robotics Contest
- For more details and photos go to http://www.ieee.utwente.nl/robotics/
- May 25-29, 2006 hosted by the University of Twente Student Branch.
- Robots detecting and extinguishing fires
- Five national teams participated: Egypt, Serbia, Italy, Turkey, Netherlands
- Turkey won, closely followed by the Dutch team. Italy won the best robot design. All winning teams received a SRC2006 trophy and a programmable robot sponsored by RBZ robotdesign. Everyone received a certificate of participation. The contest was followed by a trip to Amsterdam and a visit to Vanderlande Industries
- Organizers were nominated by Region 8 for the Darrel Chong Exemplary Student Activity Award, which is a first ever nomination for that award

Student Branch Web Contest
- 24 entries in 2006
- 3 runner ups: Politechnical Valencia, University of Jordan, Istabul Technical University
- Valencia placed second in the global competition

Student Promotional Multimedia Contest
- Currently postponed to 2007

Ethics competition
- Currently postponed to 2007

Careers in Europe Forum 2006
- Part 1: May 4-5, 2006, Berlin
- Part 2: December 12-13, 2006, Brussels
- A continuation of an joint venture with Careers In Europe, the Forum is a unique pan-European recruitment event that offers internationally minded candidates superb career opportunities throughout Europe with a number of blue-chip companies

Numerous activities organized by our branches
- You can’t beat our students… we would need 10 more pages to report on all of these
- For more info log onto our website and follow the R8 News

MODELS, ISSUES, PROBLEMS

Difficulties with financial issues.
- Payment of dues – credit card problems, high fees for money transfer and cheques
- Rebate checks from Piscataway – expensive and sometimes impossible to cash

Delays in some areas with receiving IEEE magazines.

Thanks
Amine, Mark, Thomas – for all you’ve done for the SBC
Laura, Chris, Barbara – for your continuous help and support
Figure 1. “Understanding” IEEE Membership

Figure 2. IEEE Student units and their relation to the rest of the IEEE

Figure 3. IEEE Student Activities Committees