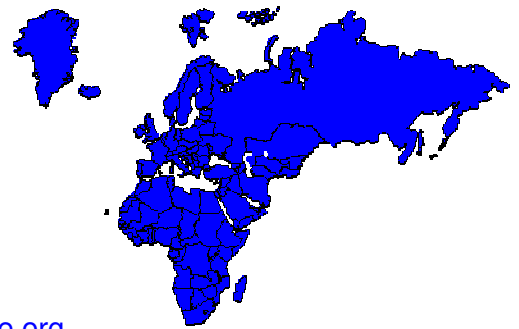


# REGION 8 STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT April 2005 – Paris, France



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## NEWS

- **GSMs** (Graduate Student Members) get voting privileges (roughly 7000 new voting members for R8) and can hold any IEEE office same as Members
- **SSRs** (Section Student Representatives) - in the RAB Operations Manual
- **Potentials** magazine – free electronic access for all IEEE members

### Recent Changes to IEEE Bylaws

#### I-104. Qualifications

A **Graduate Student Member** must qualify for Member grade and carry at least 50% of a normal full-time academic program as a registered graduate student in a regular course of study in IEEE designated fields.

A **Student Member** must satisfy the following conditions:

- carry at least 50% of a normal full-time academic program as a registered undergraduate or graduate student in a regular course of study in IEEE designated fields, and
- not yet qualify for Member grade.

The total cumulative period for a member to hold the Student Member grade and/or the Graduate Student Member grade shall be limited to 8 years.

#### I-105. Privileges

**Graduate Student Members** shall have the rights and privileges of Members.

**Student Members** shall have the rights and privileges of the Member grade, except the right to vote. Additional rights and privileges or limitations thereof, if any, shall be specified by the Regional Activities Board.

#### I-108. Dues, Assessments, and Fees

The IEEE dues for the **Student Member** and **Graduate Student Member** Grades shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year in Regions 1-7 and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) in Regions 8-10.

## 1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Create more local IEEE student benefits at Branch, Section and Region level
- Foster student members' awareness of IEEE activities and existing benefits
- Help in formation of new student branches, chapters and affinity groups
- Help with communication between existing branches, chapters and groups
- Increase membership + keep members in IEEE after graduation
- SSAC and SSR at every Section
- Introduce R8 Student Portal – a powerful communication tool

## 2. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Membership development

- Region 8 student membership has been increasing at an incredible rate throughout 2004. In December 2004 there were over 17% more members than the year before. In 2005 Region 8 continues to be the region with the highest increase in student membership. Among other things, this has been the result of the numerous membership development projects by the R8 SAC.
- The February Membership Development Report showed that “The Impact of the Terminator” was not as bad as expected.
- In late 2004 and early 2005 we have focused our attention to retention. The results of our retention projects are excellent, but we need to do even more.
- In coordination with Piscataway (Membership and Student services) we are reaching out to students who stopped their membership in 2004.
- We have an ongoing project for the creation of IEEE promotional materials. A limited amount has been distributed to Student Branches. Chairs are aware of possibilities on how to produce promotional materials locally for the branch.
- Annual event: Student Branch Highest Membership Increase campaign: prize up to 5 branches with 400\$ each for the highest membership increase in the previous year, and one branch with 800\$ for the highest continuing growth over a period of 3 years.

### 2.2. Help-needy-volunteers project

- 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.
- We are currently developing new ideas for subsidizing IEEE student dues for needy members at the global IEEE level.

### 2.3. Region 8 News contributions from Student Branches throughout the Region are received and printed in every issue. This is a very successful activity. News of a more urgent nature are published at the R8 SAC web site and in the Region 8 Student Forum Virtual Community.

### 2.4. R8 supports its Student Branches with some seed money for the major activities. This is a successful ongoing program, and the number of requests is now reaching very high levels. We will shortly need to develop a fund raising plan for these supports.

### 2.5. Active presence of 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.
- 2.6. Electronic communications
- New R8 SAC website launched in January. This is a temporary web site until a full R8 student portal is in operation. However, this site is quite dynamic and frequently updated. Apart from SAC news, student branches also post their news there.
  - R8 Student Forum Virtual Community continues developing and has doubled its size since our last report. Content updated daily.
  - R8 Student Portal is under development. Project leader is Ricardo Varela. Project outlines are ready, but several problems occurred in selecting a sponsor.
- 2.7. Contests, awards and recognitions
- 3 running contests, 4 more in development (see events).
  - Information on awards and recognition programmes for students and student branches available on R8 SAC site.
- 2.8. Waking up dormant student branches project
- Several branches in the Region appear to be very inactive. We are contacting the last known branch officers and counsellors and other IEEE members at the branch location in an effort to reactivate the branch.
  - We are also preparing a “wake up kit” to be sent to Section Chairs, Section Student Activities Chairs, Section Student Representatives, Student Branch Officers and Counsellors.
- 2.9. Graduating student members section’s welcome
- This program was conceived before the separation of students into two membership grades and now needs to be modified and targeted at students who are receiving their first diploma in an IEEE designated field.
  - 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!!!
- 2.10. Counsellor support program. Still under development, funds available. This program has been pending for some years now. New ideas needed.
- 2.11. Support for branches willing to organize region-wide contests. Successful examples:
- Region 8 Student Branch Chess Tournament (very successful). The winners recently announced.
  - R8 Student Branch Promotional Multimedia contest. Currently under development by the Princess Sumaya University in Jordan (see upcoming events).
- 2.12. Pre-university program under development with pilot in South Africa focusing on Science Expo fairs. Software (developed by the University of Pretoria students) and documentation available online. Project leader is Saurabh Sinha.
- 2.13. Student Professional Activities
- SPAC/SPAVE support funds available. Successful event organized by the Nigerian Student Branch at the University of Ibadan (December 2004), with a two day event comprising a professional seminar day and a technical tour.
  - Region 8 Workshops (Leadership skills, Project management) successfully organised throughout the Region, attended by many IEEE students.

### **3. REVIEW OF RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 3.1. R8 STUDENT BRANCH CONGRESS 2006
  - Looking for a host Student Branch
- 3.2. The 2005 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest
  - 25 papers from 24 Student Branches in 14 countries. A five member jury selected five papers for the oral finals which will take place in Belgrade in November 2005 at the IEEE EUROCON 2005. Winners will be announced at the conference banquet. The finalist's papers will be printed in the Conference Proceedings and the winning paper will be printed in the Potentials Magazine.
- 3.3. Regional Robotics Competition (late 2005)
  - Organized by Twente University of Technology, Netherlands. A joint SAC/GOLD and possibly RAS event. The champion for this project is Basak Yuksel.
- 3.4. Regional Student Branch Web Contest 2005 in progress. World finals soon.
- 3.5. Online Chess Tournament (April 2005). Very successful event, the deadline for the 2005 Chess tournament is April 10.
- 3.6. IEEE SAC is considering a development of the IEEEEXTREME Programming Contest to take place all over the world simultaneously. The champion for this project is Ricardo Varela.
- 3.7. Student Branches Multimedia Promotional Contest
  - A contest in which student branches submit promotional materials, like videos or flash animations, advertising branch membership and IEEE.
- 3.8. Ethics competition (most likely in conjunction with the SBC 2006)
  - Ever since the Ethics competition was announced in The Institute, many R8 Student Branches and volunteers have expressed their willingness to help in organizing and/or hosting the event.
- 3.9. Turkish Student Branches Congress (Feb 2005)
  - Turkey is the R8 Section with the highest number of student branches. Over 200 participants met at this big event.
- 3.10. German Student Branches Congress (July 2005)
  - A Student Branches Congress in Germany is currently being organized by the SB Duisburg, scheduled for July 2005
- 3.11. Spanish Student Branches Congress (October 2005)
  - After a very successful Spanish branch Congress in Seville in November 2004, the next one will take place in Valencia in October 2005.
- 3.12. "Future of the IEEE Student Membership" Roundtable (March 2005, Zagreb). 24 delegates representing 7 student branches from 6 countries met in Zagreb discussing current developments and the future of the IEEE student membership.

#### **4. MODELS, ISSUES, PROBLEMS**

- 4.1. Difficulties with financial issues.
  - Payment of dues – credit card problems, high fees for money transfer
  - Rebate checks from Piscataway – expensive to cash
  - News: Student Branch Rebate and Allotment will go as a single payment to the Student Branches – single payment, less losses
  - Ideas: SB accounts with the section? Student Branch Custody Accounts?
- 4.2. Still strong delays in some areas with receiving IEEE magazines.
- 4.3. With the separation of student membership in two membership grades, Region 8 students have been voicing out their concerns for the future increases in dues of one (or both) of these groups. Some were also concerned that in the long run this might cause two different student fees at IEEE technical conferences. Region 8 is highly sensitive to financial issues.
- 4.4. R8 SAC noticed that several technical conference organizers are now asking for at least one full registration payment to include a technical paper in the conference proceedings. R8 SAC considers this to be a bad practice. We feel a “student fee” should be a “reduced fee” – a lower fee for the same service. (Additional comment: conference organizers also often ignore Life members, and TAB operational and policy manuals clearly state that “The individual registration fee for Life Members must be no more than that for Students”).

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