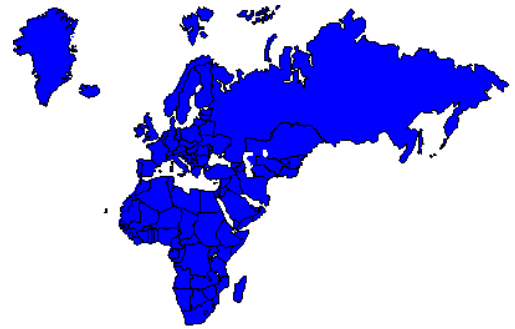


REGION 8 STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT October 2005 – Tampa, FL



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Breaking News

IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress 2006 August 31 – September 3, 2006, Paris, France

In conjunction with:

- IEEE Region 8 GOLD Congress
- IEEE Region 8 Student Ethics Competition
- ...

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP GRADES:

- **STM** – Student Member
- **GSM** – Graduate Student Member (with rights and privileges of “full” Members)
(roughly 7000 new voting members for R8 and a large pool of potential volunteers)

REMINDER

- R8 IEEE Student dues remain \$25.00
- Every Section should appoint:
 - **SSAC** – Section Student Activities Chair (F, SM, M)
 - **SSR** – Section Student Representative (STM, GSM)
- **Potentials** magazine – free electronic access for **all** IEEE members

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

2. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

2.1. Membership development

- Region 8 student membership has been increasing at an incredible rate throughout 2004 and 2005. We now have over 15000+ student members, more than ever.
- We have over 30 new Student Branches, branch Chapters and Affinity Groups.
- R8 SAC organised numerous membership development projects.
- Retention is increasing.
- Cooperation with GOLD to keep recent graduates in IEEE.
- We have an ongoing project for the creation of IEEE promotional materials. A significant 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: prizing 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 seed money for the major activities. The amount of this support has increased significantly in 2005. This is a very successful ongoing program. We have a large number of support requests and we are very happy to report that we are able to support all major student events in the Region. Student Branch support has currently several focuses:

- Section Branch Congresses
- Transnational student events
- Joint Student/GOLD projects
- Contests/competitions

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.

2.6. Electronic communications

- New R8 SAC website launched in January 2005. This is a highly functional web site with day to day updates, including student news and SAC activities. A new SAC website is currently being developed.
- R8 Student Forum Virtual Community continues developing and has again doubled its size since our last report. Content updated daily by students , R8 SAC and IEEE staff.

2.7. Contests, awards and recognitions

- Student Paper Contest
 - SBC 2005: finals in Belgrade in November
 - SBC 2006: deadline is December 15, 2005
- Robotics Contest
 - delayed, new date expected in 2006
- Ethics competition
 - pilot expected in Paris, September 2006
- Student Branch Web Contest
 - annual event
- Online Chess Tournament
 - annual event
- IEEEEXTREME Programming Contest
 - in development
- Promotional Multimedia Contest
 - in development
- 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 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 handling this on a brach-by-brach basis. Slow, but rather successful.

2.9. Graduating student members section's welcome

- Started as a Student Activities project, now a joint program with GOLD.
- This program was conceived before the separation of students into two membership grades and is now 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 the section level is very important for retention!
- Section Chairs: please report back to us on your success stories!

2.10. Student Professional Activities

- SPAC/SPAVE support funds still available. Successful event organized by the several Student Branches.
- Region 8 Workshops (Leadership skills, Project management) successfully organised throughout the Region, attended by many IEEE students.
- We are currently developing several ideas for new PA projects in Region 8.

2.11. Launch a New Student Branch Initiative

- Reported in Paris, very successful.
- Student Branches encouraged to help start a new student branch at a neighbouring University.
- All individual student members informed about advantages of having a student branch.

3. MODELS, ISSUES, PROBLEMS

3.1. 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?

3.2. Still strong delays in some areas with receiving IEEE magazines.

3.3. 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.

3.4. 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”).

Acknowledgements

Cecelia, Laura, Christine, Barbara: Thank you for all your help and support!