

REGION 8

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE REPORT

zagreb, croatia, October 2003



R8 SAC: Pilar Molina Gaudó pimolina@ieee.org
R8 SR: Basak Yuksel basak@ieee.org

R8 SA Committee is formed also by:

Christian Borgert	c.borgert@ieee.org	Past Chair and Awards Coordinator
Martin Bastiaans	m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org	Student Paper Contest Coordinator
Mischa Doehler	mischa@ieee.org	Innovation Coordinator

INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

R8 has currently 10,739 a slight increase compared to the 10,690 student members in April. Compared to the same figures the year before it means a 4.5% decrease.

The number of Student Branches has increased from 197 at the end of May 2003 to 201 at the end of August.

1 Student Branch Women in Engineering Affinity Groups has been formed since June.

ACTIVITIES PURSUED AND ONGOING

It is important to remark that a very short period of time has elapsed since the previous R8 Committee meeting and coinciding with summer holidays period in the Northern Hemisphere, nonetheless the level of activity has been very high.

Activities related to the organization of Student Branch Congress 2004:

- An organization meeting has taken place in Passau, 25th September 2003 with Student Branch organizers and Pilar Molina Gaudó.
- Budget is complete and a request for support to the R8 Committee will be presented in Zagreb.
- Location, lodging, meeting facilities, catering, etc. are organized already
- A tentative program is also ready
- Logo and motto are worked out.
- Congress will be in conjunction with GOLD congress.
- A sponsorship file has been prepared in order to obtain industrial support. So far several companies have been contacted.
- Germany Section will also provide some financial support.
- To come soon: Announcement and web page (currently under construction)
- Criteria of acceptance and sponsorship has been prepared and the deadlines for registration are set.

Activities related to Student Branches:

- Presence of SAC members in Sectional SB meetings and SB Congresses:
 - a. Basak Yuksel attended the "Education in the 21st Century" Congress held in Sarajewo at the beginning of July 2003.
 - b. Pilar Molina Gaudó attended the GOLD workshop held in Caltefeldefels, Barcelona, September 13-14.
 - c. Basak Yuksel attended a Leadership Training Seminar during EUROCON'03.
 - d. Pilar Molina Gaudó attended the National Branch Congress in Spain held at Almagro, September 22-25, 2003. More information can be seen in:
<http://arco.inf-cr.uclm.es/ieeesb/cnr2003presentaciones.html#presentaciones>
- Project support to branch activities by R8 up to 500\$ (since October 4 projects have been funded). Branches are encouraged to ask for funding:
 - i. Eindhoven Congress 500\$
 - ii. Sarajewo Student Branch 500\$ for organization of the above mentioned Congress.
 - iii. Organization of Chess Contest 125\$ (pending materials to be received)
- Contacts to the Student Branches by means of e-mail lists.
- Continuation of the encouragement to SB counselors. A new project will be proposed to R8 Committee to send all the counselors a Certificate and a pin. The Outstanding Branch Counselor will be awarded a sponsored trip to SBC'04 where he/she will be encouraged to hold a small working session on the importance of the Counselor and how to encourage participation.
- The next Buran magazine call for papers will include a version in English and the resulting publication will be sent to all the Student Branches as an example to start their own. UKRI Section is starting one.
- Two Sections, Spain and Czechoslovakia Section have received 600\$ and 1000\$ respectively as support for organization of Sectional Student Branch Congresses. The Spain one has been mentioned above and the CS will be held October 9-12.

Activities related to Electronic Communications:

- Renewal and reorganisation of the R8 web site: www.ieee.org/r8sac New format and new contents. We have had the valuable contribution of additional volunteers.
- Virtual Community is alive available at: www.ieeecommunities.org. Currently there are 39 members. New efforts have to be done to increase the overall number and the participation.

Activities related to Awards and Contests:

- Student Paper Contest 2003 has taken place during EUROCON 2003 in Ljubljana in Slovenia. The winner is from the University of Karlsruhe Student Branch and there are two more finalist. The Student Branch receives the Dirk Poorvliet Award. All the Jury members have considered that the level of the presented papers was very high and have reported that for future editions it is made more clear that the final oral sessions are open to the general public.
The winners are:
 - 1. 1st prize - \$ 800: Ulrich Stein and Marwan Younis (Universitaet Karlsruhe, Germany) Suppression of range ambiguities in synthetic aperture radar systems

2. 2nd prize - \$ 500: Els Kok (Universiteit Twente, Enschede, Netherlands) Completely multimode arrayed waveguide grating-based wavelength demultiplexer
 3. 3rd prize - \$ 200: Noha A. El-Yamany (Alexandria University, Egypt) A new fuzzy gradient-adaptive lossy predictive coding system for still image compression
- The SPC'04 will be held during MELECON'04 in Dubrovnik. Deadline for Student Paper Contest 2004 is the 15th of December. A first announcement has been made in the Region 8 News and an e-mail reminder sent to all the Student Branches. The coordinator inside MELECON will be Marko Delimar.
 - The 2002 Student Branch Membership Growth Awards (300\$) have been issued to the winners. So far only two out of the three Student Branches have received the money. We are in contact with one of the remaining ones but other two have not provided any response at all. Several calls have been made to those including a last call.

Other activities:

- Increased presence in the R8 News (almost 7 pages in the last issue).
- Pilar and Basak will attend the next SAC meeting in Puerto Rico, October 17-19, 2003.
- There have been no applications for the Travel Grant for Conferences for Students willing to organize and IEEE Student Gathering at the venue. More publicity efforts are to be invested.
- Vouchers Program is alive and we have received two applications that meet the criteria.
- The first R8 Photo Contest has been organized and it is ongoing. More information on the web.
- At the next SAC meeting a project named "Student-Help-A-Student" program is going to be proposed by Region 8 as a means to help needy students be members.

THANKS TO...

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Tara Gallus, staff members for Virtual Community development

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