Get ready for IEEE R8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010

ARE YOU ready for the biggest Region 8 student event of the year? You should be! From 4–8 August 2010, Leuven Student Branch will host the biannual Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in the historical town of Leuven, Belgium.

For more than a year, we have been preparing a fully stuffed agenda with a mix of technical, professional and social activities to make this an unforgettable event for students, GOLDies and IEEE volunteers.

As well as speeches by key IEEE officials and hands-on workshops, the Congress will host the ‘Elect the President’ debate, where you will be able to discuss IEEE’s future with the president candidates. You can already join the discussion on our website.

We will also host the Region 8 Student and Student Branch Awards at the event, and "mad scientist" John Cohn, IEEE and IBM Fellow, will share his enthusiastic passion for technology and engineering.

To make sure you remember your stay in Leuven for the rest of your life, we have also included a wide variety of visits and social activities. These include visits to the magnificent historical city centre of Leuven and Brussels, to one of the world’s largest breweries and to our campus. There is a gala dinner in the heart of the city and an open-air barbecue in the green surroundings of the campus. The social program ends with a multicultural evening in the art centre STUK, the finest cultural meeting place in Leuven.

Are you counting the days for the Congress to start as we do? We are working hard to make sure SBC2010 will be unforgettable. Check out the information section on our website (www.sbcleuven.org) to prepare your stay in Leuven and keep up to date with all SBC2010 news. We look forward to seeing you all in Leuven!

The SBC 2010 team
Student Branch Leuven

Region 8’s Martin Bastiaans wins award for his IEEE work

MARTIN BASTIAANS has received the 2009 IEEE MGA Larry K Wilson Transnational Award “for significant contributions to the IEEE volunteer experience and member engagement throughout the world.”

The Award was presented at the IEEE Member and Geographical Activities Board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on 13 February 2010, making the presentation at the ceremony, Joe Lillie, 2009 IEEE Vice President, MGAB, said: “This is a very prestigious award, and the MGAB Board is pleased to honor you for the outstanding contributions you have made to numerous IEEE activities and the example you set in carrying forward the goals and objectives of the IEEE MGAB.”

Among other things, Martin served as the Counselor of the IEEE Student Branch Eindhoven (1996–2007), the IEEE Benelux Section Chair (2007–2008) and the IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair, Student Activities (2007–2008). Martin is 2010 Chair of the IEEE MGA Student Activities Committee and a petition candidate for IEEE Region 8 Director-elect.
**Teach technology to young people in Africa**

CALLING ALL IEEE members in southern and eastern Africa! Are you interested in improving the exposure of young people in your part of the continent to engineering and technology? Would you be interested in helping teachers of primary, middle and high schools so that they be better prepared to introduce engineering and technology to their students?

Did you know that IEEE provides materials and tools that schools can use to educate kids? Register and attend IEEE’s Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Training Workshop on 24–25 September 2010. The workshop takes place at the Protea Hotel Lusaka in Lusaka, Zambia.

The purpose is to help IEEE members improve the teaching of engineering and engineering design in primary schools, middle schools and high schools. IEEE members will learn how to work with teachers of pre-university schools, and how to conduct hands-on sessions on engineering topics. The teachers will then use these sessions on a regular basis with their own students.

The expectation is that IEEE members who complete the workshop will contact local schools in months and years to come, and will work with their teachers on lesson plans that demonstrate engineering and engineering design. See examples at www.tryengineering.org/lesson.php.

The event is free of charge for all IEEE members and invited educators. Organized jointly by the IEEE Educational Activities Board, IEEE Region 8, and IEEE Zambia Section.

For more information on TISP, please contact Sau-rab Sinha, IEEE RB Education Activities Subcommittee (EASC) member, ssinha@ieee.org.

**Calling all IEEE members: let’s join forces to solve the world’s most pressing challenges**

EQUINOX, a student’s initiative at Imperial College London UK, was a winner of the opportunity. The Humanitarian Technology Challenge (HTC) was created by people like you, for people like you: technologists, humanitarians, nonprofit organizations, students, government employees – and citizens of the world – who are coming together to identify, and work to solve, some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

With a unique, open-source collaborative concept, HTC enables you to make a difference without making a major commitment of your time or resources.

The HTC is an innovative, collaborative endeavor that will develop and implement technological solutions to selected humanitarian challenges in developing countries. Our mission is to:

- Solve three global challenges based upon input from leading humanitarians for their potential impact on humanity and potential for success.
- Create solutions that are sustainable, scalable and adaptable to multiple environments so they can be implemented locally within the environmental, cultural, structural, political, and socio-economic conditions where they will be deployed.
- Support the work of United Nations and other humanitarian assistance groups worldwide.

The Humanitarian Technology Challenge comprises two distinct phases:

- Identifying, selecting and defining the challenges.
- Developing and deploying potential solutions (current focus)

Using our online collaborative platform, technologists, humanitarians and many others, will work together to create potential solution frameworks. The project has passed the selection stage and three challenges selected are:

- Reliable Electricity, which is fundamental to their economic development, education and medical care.
- Data Connectivity of Rural District Health Offices, enabling these remote locations to share vital patient care information with central health facilities.
- Individual ID and Tie to Health Records, providing potentially life-saving access to accurate health information for remote, mobile populations in underdeveloped nations.

With the three initial humanitarian challenges selected, the HTC is now working to create sustainable, scalable solutions that can be implemented locally, and within the environmental, cultural, structural, political and socio-economic conditions where they will be deployed.

For more information and how to participate please visit www.ieeechangetheworld.org.

Shuxian Chen

**Students Win IEEE President’s Change the World Competition**

THE IEEE President’s Change the World Competition is a new initiative that encourages students to develop unique solutions to real-world problems, using engineering, science, computing and leadership skills to benefit their community or humanity as a whole. Over 200 students took advantage of the opportunity.

E.quisox, a students’ initiative started at Imperial College London UK, was a winner of $1,000 in the 2009 Outstanding Student Humanitarian category. E.quisox is a non-profit, humanitarian project that hopes to bring cost-effective renewable energy to developing countries.

It is often not possible to implement a full-scale national electric grid in developing countries, leaving the residents in rural areas without electricity. In order to solve this problem, E.quisox built an ‘Ener-gy Kiosk’ – a solar charging station in a village in Africa, where the local population can charge their batteries for a small fee. At home they can use the energy for lighting, phone charging and to power a radio. This is a cost-effective, robust solution. E.quisox believes bringing electricity to rural areas is a key for development: Education – lighting during evening hours; Health – water purification; power medical equipment; Communication – cell phone charging and Economy – prolong working hours.

The system can support a small village of 50 homes in Minazi, Rwanda. It can be scaled and adjusted to the community’s size and requirement. A comprehensive business plan has been developed; any income from the system will be reinvested in new systems or used for maintenance.

They also work closely with local institutions to raise awareness about electrification, promote renewable energy and ensure a knowledge transfer.

This project is strongly supported by the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure and the Belgian Technical Cooperation. The concept is being considered for nationwide implementation from 2010.

For more information about the 2010 Presidents’ “Change the World” Competition please visit: www.ieeechangetheworld.org.

Shuxian Chen

**Standards activities**

IEEE STANDARDS Association held joint workshops in Geneva on 28 May with the ITU-T on The Future of the Ethernet Transport. Topics included protection switching, time synchronization and ‘Beyond 100Gb/s’. Registration for workshops are free of charge.

IEEE’s 802.X groups are working on higher layer interface interworking tasks, data center bridging, audio/video bridging, and energy-efficient ethernet. IEEE P802.3.X task forces are working on ethernet MIBs, time synchronization, and 40Gb/s single-mode fibre.

More information about standards activities can be found at www.ietf.org and www.ieee802.org.
Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter meets at Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg

THE IEEE Germany Section joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter meeting took place at Volkswagen AG in Wolfsburg on 19–20 November 2009. The event started with a visit to the ‘Level Green’ exhibition in Autostadt which is dedicated to environmental sustainability.

A welcome by Chapter chairman Ingo Hahn was followed by a talk by Dr Böhm from VW Research: ‘Future concepts of drive train technologies’.

Dr Dröder explained the structure NFF (Automotive Research Centre Niedersachsen). He told us about an autonomous vehicle which will guide itself to a desired destination. He also reported on the KOLINE project which aims to optimize traffic flow through cities by exchanging data of each individual vehicle with the infrastructure especially traffic lights.

Prof B Ponick of Hannover University lectured on electric drive train systems which use different concepts of electric machines.

Prof W Schumacher of Braunschweig Technical University described hybrid car drives, the power split drive train and some opportunities to minimize the power flow through electric machines.

Another highlight was the company tour at Volkswagen AG, which builds three cars every minute in the Wolfsburg factory – 3,600 per day. The production line is nearly 150km in length!

See us online at www.e.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels.

Ingo Hahn
Chapter Chairman

ON 21 February, the IEEE Iran Section organized a one-day event at Shahid Beheshti University to celebrate its 40th anniversary. Around 500 IEEE members and students attended.

IEEE Region 8 director Jozef Modelski presented an anniversary plaque and the IEEE president’s letter on the occasion to Hamid Soltanian-Zadeh, the chairman. Six technical presentations were delivered explaining IEEE activities worldwide in industry and academia.

The afternoon session included awards to Mehrdad Abedi (Amirkabir University of Technology) for best teaching, and Caro Lucas (University of Tehran) for research. IEEE University Tehran student branch won ‘Most Active SB,’ ‘Best Thesis’ awards went to recent graduates Pedram Pad (BSc – Sharif University Technology), Nima Khademi Kalantari (MSc – Amirkabir University Technology) and Ehsan Adib (PhD – Isfahan University Technology).

500 attend ceremony for Iran Section’s 40th

Nikolay Kolchigin

Ukraine Section celebrates IEEE Life Fellow’s 90th birthday

IEEE AP/C/EMC/SP Kharkov Joint Chapter of Ukraine Section recently celebrated the 90th birthday of IEEE Life Fellow, Yakov Solomonovich Shifrin.

His 1970 monograph was translated in the USA as Statistical Antenna Theory by Golem Press, USA, 1971.

Born in the town Mstislawl (Belarus) on 23 April 1920, Shifrin graduated with honours in Physics in 1941 from the Leningrad State University. A remarkable man of unbending spirit and morality, he fought in World War II and became a commander of radar units.

From 1948–80 he worked at the Artillery Radio Engineering Academy in Kharkov, where he became Professor and head of department. After his retirement from the Armed Forces in 1980, he worked at the Kharkov National University of Radio Electronics.

Yakov Solomonovich was an active organizer of several international conferences and of the IEEE Ukraine Section, East-Ukraine and Kharkov Joint Chapters. He is regarded an outstanding educator and his scientific work was awarded the AS-Popov prize USSR.

He is President of the Ukrainian National Antenna Association and Academician of the International Academy of Sciences of Applied Radio Electronics.

Nikolay Kolchigin
Get involved in your Region with the help of IEEE incentives

Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

WE REALLY appreciate your contributions to this issue of Region 8 News. This time we have a good variety of articles with interesting and important information for IEEE members, especially motivated students and young engineers. The Region 8 Student Branch and GOLDCongress 2010 will be hosted by IEEE Leuven Student Branch. It is a biannual gathering of exceptional student and GOLD volunteers around our region, with training sessions and workshops to further inspire them. Please check with the R8 SAC and GOLD team for involvement.

Also in this issue, you can read how a team of students at AUB. tians received the 2009 IEEE MGA Larry K Wilson Transnational Award for his “significant volunteer contributions”. This issue also includes the second part of Roger Pollard’s series of articles on society membership — again, please get involved in the debate. Not least, we provide updates from IEEE Standards activities and information on a mini grant available for Student Application Papers with an industry standards component. Please continue to send in your news and developments to us at this email address: r8news@ieee.org.

Correction

We got some names mixed up in the March 2010 issue of Region 8 News in the story Lebanon Communications Workshop attracts around 230. Apologies to everyone concerned.

The text ought to have read as follows: Zaher Dawy is the Chair of the IEEE Communications Society Lebanon Chapter and Dean Ibrahim Haji is the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB.

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REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE
Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/R8

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Extra copies If you would like extra copies of Region 8 News for distribution at your IEEE events, please email a request to the editor before the deadlines below, specifying quantity and delivery address. Please put R8 News Extra Copies in your email subject line.

Submitting articles We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to r8news@ieee.org; remembering to put Region 8 News in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at www.ieee.org/go/R8News.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

September 2010 issue deadline: 1 July 2010
December 2010 issue deadline: 1 October 2010
March 2011 issue deadline: 1 January 2011
June 2011 issue deadline: 1 April 2011

IEEE prohibits discrimination, harassment, and bullying.

Keynote and handover feature at Greece’s annual meeting

GRECE SECTION held its annual meeting on 23 March 2010 in order to welcome the new members and award those members that exhibited exemplary research, volunteer activities and scholar excellence.

The meeting took place in Athens at the Main Hall of the National Technical University of Athens. This year’s meeting was highlighted by four events: the hand over of the Section’s leadership from N Hatziargyriou to A Skodras, the honour to the newly elevated Greece Section Fellow members, a keynote speech by T Sellis and the EMBS best thesis award.

The new Fellow Members of the Greece IEEE Section are T Sellis, Y Ioannidis and N Uzounoglou. The keynote talk was given by T Sellis on ‘Trends and Challenges in Data Management’.

The Meeting was closed with the speech of the newly elected Chairman of the Greece Section Board, Athanasios Skodras, who presented his vision for the development of the Section and referred to the strategic plan to achieve these goals. The meeting was well attended by approximately 100 IEEE members of all grades and closed with a light banquet.

Thanos Kakarountas

IEEE/SEE joint award presented to Catherine Douillard in Paris

THE ALAIN Glavieux Prize is sponsored jointly by IEEE France Section and the Société des Electriciens et Electroniciens (SEE). It is given every other year in the domain of information and communication sciences, system control, signal and image processing.

The 2009 prize was awarded to Catherine Douillard (shown accepting the award, above) “for pioneering work on turbo-equalization and exceptional contributions in the standardization of new coding and modulation techniques in prominent telecommunication systems”. Catherine Douillard is a professor at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications de Bretagne. She is responsible for the turbo-algorithms and circuits group.

At the ceremony in Paris, held at SEE’s headquarters on 2 December 2009, a €4,000 prize and certificate were presented by Paul Friedel (SEE president) and Daniel Pasquet (IEEE France Section chair).

Daniel Pasquet
France Section Chair

Spain Section elects a new committee for 2010

ON MONDAY 18 January, following a snowy week, the sun was shining gently in the sky of Madrid. This weather shift was welcomed at the faculty of telecommunications in the Technical University Madrid (UPM) where a new executive committee for the IEEE Spain section was announced. Once all members’ e-votes were counted, the result was:

- Chair: Manuel Castro
- Vice Chair: Pilar Molina
- Secretary: Andrés Santos
- Treasurer: Margarita Cabrera
- Women in Engineering: María Ángeles Martín
- History and life Members: Jose Antonio Delgado

Volunteers will concentrate on members, industry, communications, knowledge and relations. The new ExCom defined several strategies to be followed in each specific area. The meeting finished at 5.30pm with a visit to the office that the IEEE Spain Section has in the UPM.

Agustí Solanas

IEEE Fellow Prof T Sellis during the keynote lecture.
Joint VT & AES Greece Chapter creates educational network

THE IEEE Joint VT & AES Greece Chapter is creating a network of groups at each educational institution in Northern Greece.

You can visit the main International Hellenic University site at www.iu.edu.gr. Other institutions involved are: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (www.auth.gr), University of Macedonia (www.uom.gr), University of Western Macedonia (www.uowm.gr), Technical Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (www.teithe.gr), Technical Educational Institute of Northern Greece (www.teithe.gr), University of Macedonia (www.uom.gr), and National Hellenic University, Thessaloniki.

The workshop gathered an audience of 350 from universities and government. The Chair spoke to the audience (including about 30 members of the IEEE) on IEEE and its Chapter activities. She received a lot of questions especially on the benefits of joining IEEE community.

This workshop inspired the formation of an IEEE Student Branch at Dept. Informatics and Telecomm. Eng’g, at the Univ. of Western Macedonia, Kozani, Greece.

More events in various capital cities of Northern Greece are being planned by the Chapter.

For more information, visit us online at www.ieee.org/R8/greece/avtc.

George Papadopoulos

UAE, Ghana, Italy and Egypt win website contest

THE IEEE Region 8 announced the results of the IEEE Region 8 Section Website Contest in April 2010.

The goal of this Contest is to give a motive to all Sections to create or improve their own website that will serve as a reference point for all their members. This will help the Sections place their mark on the map and facilitate their future actions and activities.

The United Arab Emirates Section grabbed the first prize with $500 cash to the Section and a plaque to the webmaster that will be given in person at the next IEEE Region 8 meeting.

Ghana Section, Italy Section, and Egypt Section won the second, third and fourth prizes respectively.

The rest of the winning Sections of the Contest will receive the following prizes: Second place $500, third place $250, and fourth place $250. All get a plaque dedicated to the Section’s webmaster.

Energy conference focuses on efficiency


The conference focused on renewables and energy efficiency. Our representatives included Uwe Jungfer, the head of Standards and More, the IEEE’s sales entity in Germany, Paul Canning, IEEE HQ and members from IEEE Germany Section and IEEE Power Engineering Germany Chapter.

Chapter vice chair, Wilfried Fischer, moderated the Energy Efficiency Block which comprised introductions by US and EU officials, a panel on ‘How to Increase Efficiency Capabilities in Industry’, and a presentation on best practices: ‘The energy efficiency field is a real challenge for the future’.

IEEE’s information booth was set up by staff from Piscataway. Other notable organizations included the US Department of Energy, Bundesverband BioEnergie eV, and the Solar Energy Industries Association.

IEEE members contributed much expertise on technology, standardization and education. There was significant exchange of ideas regarding energy efficiency optimization and renewable energy expansion.

The two-day event was also a great opportunity for people to network within numerous energy relevant programmes and institutions. A wide spectrum of topics brought much discussion, including the following:

- Rainer Brüderle, Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, on ‘Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency – keys for a sustainable energy supply in the US and Germany’.
- Richard O’Neill, Chief Economic Adviser USA Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on ‘Integration of Renewables into National Grid – extension of power grids, storage and smart grids’.
- The German Energy Agency’s Chief Executive, Stephan Kohler, wrote in his welcome note to the conference’s attendees: ‘Energy efficiency and renewable energies are essential industries for the 21st century’. What we have heard during the event only proves him right.

More information is available on our website: www.gae-conference.com.
UKRI Section keeps its members in touch with new monthly e-letter

THE 11,000 members of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section have been receiving an electronic newsletter (an ‘e-letter’) on a monthly basis since December 2009.

The e-letter is sent as a brief email, with links and references to a dedicated website where more details are posted. This format is more acceptable to those members with a limited email service than a full-scale newsletter posted. This format is more acceptable to those members with limited email service than a full-scale newsletter and sent electronically.

The aim of sending the e-letter on a regular basis is to keep members informed of current developments in the Section and Chapters, and to announce meetings, lectures and conferences.

Organisers can be confident that their meeting notices will be posted in a timely manner. It is also hoped that members will provide feedback and other comments on their IEEE membership experience, and that the e-letter will help to keep members’ interest alive, therefore improving member retention.

The editorial team:
Anne Abeygunasekera, Bob Chew, Brian Harrington and Charles Turner (Editor)

WIE South Africa mentor STAR performers at Dinaledi school

THE IEEE Women In Engineering (WIE) – IEEE South Africa Section started the ‘Mentor and Involve’ phase of its STAR program with 23 STAR learners from Phateng Comprehensive school in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, on 23 September 2009.

Phateng is a Dinaledi school (for more information on Diniledi schools, visit www.thutong.doe.gov.za). The IEEE WIE STAR programme operates under permission and support from the Department of Education (Tshwane South District).

This phase is based on essays students had written on whether they would like to choose a career in science, engineering and technology and on how they think these fields contribute to development in South Africa.

The STAR day included a three-hour Experilab science workshop. Six hands-on experiments gave an understanding of various concepts. They also constructed a bottle jet drag racer (a vehicle powered by pressurised air) based on Newton’s laws of motion.

The next phase of the STAR program for 2010 will be a tutoring session to be held during the last school term. The focus will be on maths and physical science to prepare learners for their coming end of year exams. The session will involve IEEE volunteers as well as student volunteers from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The session will involve IEEE volunteers as well as student volunteers from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The IEEE WIE Affinity Group in South Africa is thankful to the global WIE committee for funding its IEEE STAR program.

Oladayo Bello
Chair (2008–2009), IEEE WIE, South Africa Section
oladayo@ieee.org

Merged Italy Section deals with complexity


The event was the first topical Conference organized by the Italy Section after the merging of the North and Central/South Sections in 2006.

More than 80 participants attended the nine sessions of the two-and-a-half day program. These were: Power Grids and Systems I, II, and III; Communication Networks I and II; Critical Infrastructures I and II; and Complex Systems Science I and II.

There was a very good participation, not only from Italy but also other European countries, US, Canada, Japan, Malaysia and China. The texts of the 48 papers presented at the Meeting have been collected on CD, edited by the Computer Society and available for sale by the Italy Section – contact R.Falciai (r.falciai@ifac.cnr.it).

As a follow-up, a European COST action has been submitted so that the small but very active community of the ‘complexans’ can meet regularly to report and discuss on advancements of the state of the art. Candidates for the next edition of the Conference, COMPENG II, planned for the end of 2011, are University of Florida and Aachen University.

Silvano Donati

ENERGYCON 2010

www.ieee-energycon.org
18–21 December 2010 • Dhahrnan, Saudi Arabia

ENERGYCON 2010 is the premier IEEE forum for the exchange of experience in the practical application of electronics, power and instrumentation in the Oil and Gas and Petrochemical Industries
THE SIXTH annual Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering, a live webcast and teleconference, took place in Europe on 11 March.

The Global Marathon was a free, 24-hour live webcast; Internet Chat and teleconference event themed ‘Launch Tomorrow’. It was managed by volunteer Chairs in each continent who arrange for four hours of live internet or telephone chat from their region as it followed the sun around the globe.

Sessions came from China, India, North America, South America, Africa and Europe/Middle East. They were sponsored by companies such as Rockwell Collins, IBM, Motorola, BP, Verizon, DuPont and others. But anyone anywhere can join any session to connect the world.

Topics included tips on heightening awareness of science, technology, engineering activities in schools and industry. Senior women in different sectors discussed their achievements and challenges and examining issues such as retaining women in engineering programs and the workplace.

The event in UK was hosted at the Big Bang Fair in Manchester which was attended by 15,000 school-children, parents and teachers and connected women everywhere. See www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/viewitem.cfm?cit_id=383735. The event archive is available at www.globalmarathon.net and www.eeweek.org/media/video/0210_marathon.wmv.

New workshops target computer graphics

IN SEPTEMBER 2009, a new series of GraVisMa (Computer Graphics, Vision and Mathematics) workshops began at the University of West Bohemia, Plzen, Czech Republic.

The first GraVisMa workshop was specially targeted at the application of geometric algebra.

Four keynote were delivered: ‘Fourier and Wavelet Transformations in Geometric Algebra’ (Eckhard Hitzer), ‘Using Geometric Algebra for Navigation in Riemannian and Hard Disc Space’ (Werner Benger et al), ‘Rigid Body Motion and Conformal Geometric Algebra’ (Anthony Lasenby), and ‘Conformal Geometric Algebra by Extended Vahlen Matrices’ (Leo Dorst).

More than 60 participants had a great opportunity to discuss mutual influence of the latest mathematical developments which are used in computer graphics and computer vision.

The next GraVisMa workshop will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2010. For more details on this and other future events, please visit our website at http://GraVisMa.zcu.cz. VACLAV SKALA

Improved Region 8 SAC webpage

Every time you check back at www.ieee.org/r8sac, it becomes even more interactive. Make sure to register there to get in contact with us on our forum, follow us on our Twitter feeds or Facebook pages or chat with us and meet in advance the other attendants of the SBC using our chat component. You miss some web 2.0 apps on the page? Shoot us an email to r8sac@ieee.org or post a note on the wish list in the forum.

Help us keep the website alive and dynamic by submitting your articles along with some pictures for publication on the webpage. Send us your Student Branch RSS feeds so that the whole region knows about your latest IEEE activities as you post them on your own Student Branch website. Or just shoot us an email. We’re happy to hear from you!

Get ready, get multi-cultural!

If you are planning on attending the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in early August, we would like to give you a few things for planning your stay and making the best out of it.

Besides many opportunities for leadership training, the ‘Elect the President’ show as well as industry and historic visits, one of the core parts is the multi-cultural evening (MCE) to be held on 7 August. On that special night, every Section equips a stand to show highlights of their cultural, spiritual and historic heritage.

Make sure to get in contact with your Section Student Representative to coordinate your stand and check with the local organising team in Leuven for space and setup requirements. You can bring your favourite music, wear traditional dresses, and present historical dances, food and customs to introduce your cultural background to your fellow students at the SBC.

Keep your SB reports up to date

IEEE pays your branch for being active. All you have to do is report! Use the online reporting system after every election of new officers that you conducted. Tell us what happened in your last academic year by filling out the Annual Report form available on our web page in the branch operations section. Tell us what your branch is up to in the next academic year by completing the Annual Plan.

Even easier, you can now use the new online reporting system for doing both reports at the same time: check www.ieee.org/r8sac for further details. If Plan and Report are received before November 1, the annual Student Branch rebates will be sent out by the end of the calendar year. Don’t miss out on that money!

Your Student Activities Team,
Eva, Amélie, George, Jorge, Muhammad and Pablo
r8sac@ieee.org

Make sure to get in contact with your Regional Student Congress (see the front page of this issue).

Improved Region 8 SAC webpage

AnyRegion 8 News, the global IEEE website will have been significantly improved. The Region 8 SAC page has added some new interactive features and the timing is just right for last-minute preparations for the biennial Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (see the front page of this issue).

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Your Student Activities Team,
Eva, Amélie, George, Jorge, Muhammad and Pablo
r8sac@ieee.org

Graduate Student Member of the Region 8.

Selected videos are to be chosen there by the SBC attendants.

In a plenary session of our Regional Student Congress (see the front page of this issue).

New workshop will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2010. For more details on this and other future events, please visit our website at http://GraVisMa.zcu.cz.

VACLAV SKALA

Eva and Amélie at SBC, London.
Seminars on ensuring anonymity online and emotional intelligence

ON 24 December 2009, the IEEE PSUT Open Source Affinity Group And Jordan Open Source Association invited Jacob Appelbaum to talk about the TOR Project, the open-source program that provides anonymity online. Appelbaum is an independent computer security hacker currently employed by the project. He is known for his research on the cold boot attack amongst other things. During the speech, he highlighted the capabilities of the TOR project, how it can be used to protect the world, and yet face abuse of use. For details on the speech, please go to our branch’s YouTube page.

In other events, PSUT Student Branch hosted an Emotional Intelligence seminar, continuing the series of seminars this year. The one-hour seminar was given by Jeries Shahin, which attracted around 80 attendees. During the seminar, Jeries defined emotional intelligence, the method by which emotions can be utilized, regulated in oneself and others. He also outlined the four branch model factors affecting emotional intelligence; the connection of IQ with EQ; Gardener’s intelligence classifications; Thorndike’s classifications of EI; and last but not least the importance of emotional intelligence.

PSUT Student Branch has many upcoming events and you will read about them in the future issues. Bassam Ali

Claim a $500 mini-grant for work on standards

THE IEEE, through the IEEE Standards Education Committee, is offering $500 mini-grants to students and for faculty mentors, to help with student design projects with an industry standards component. The IEEE will publish the results as Student Application Papers.

To apply for the grant, students beginning a design or development project need to submit an application form that can be found at www.ieee.org/web/education/standards/applications.html.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Deadline for summer 2010 funding is 15 June. For autumn 2010, the deadline is 15 October.

The IEEE Standards Education website serves as the focal point for all information on education about standards. You can find tutorials, case illustrations and student application papers there. David Law

University of Malta

SPAC attendees told: form your own destiny

IEEE Malta Branch, followed by Mr Dylan Seychell, Chair of the IEEE Malta Student Branch, and a sequence of 10 minutes speeches. After this, students had the chance to ask questions of company representatives and request relevant information.

Six professional speakers were invited to give a presentation on four professional awareness issues of concern: Entrepreneurship, Presentation Skills, Importance of IEEE Professional Society to You and Career Growth.

The conference was organized by the IEEE Student Branch as one of a series of regular activities for students following technical and engineering degrees aimed at enhancing relations between students and industry.

Luana Chetcuti Zammit
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Committee ‘writes the book’ on Region 8 GOLD activities

DURING 2010, IEEE R8 GOLD has been aiming at continuously increasing the visibility of GOLD around Region 8 members.

The committee started the year by making a GOLD handbook. The idea of this book is to gather all the activities successful or not that are organized by each AG in our region from previous years.

After that, we launched the first Region 8 GOLD Outstanding Activity Award to recognize the outstanding GOLD members for their great efforts towards the GOLD vision.

Currently we are in the phase to select the best activity. Apart from this, several ideas have been brainstormed and a few start to get shape. For instance, the IEEE Day is an idea that was born recently and aims at defining a date in the year to celebrate the achievements of IEEE all around the world together. The details are being worked out and proper deliverables will be available by the end of the year.

The R8 GOLD committee also continues to be engaged in supporting as much as possible all the activities running in the several Affinity Groups. The focus has been given to the setup of new such groups. It is the major role of the GOLD Affinity Group which is to retain students members and help them to continuously use IEEE advantages after graduation.

So far Portugal and Kenya GOLD AG were setup this year and other AGs establishment are under process. We also encourage GOLD members to disseminate and support the STEP (Student Transition & Elevation Partnership) program and humanitarian activities.

Last but not least, our committee is involved in the organization of the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010, which will be held on 4–8 August 2010 in Leuven, Belgium (see front page of this issue). This Congress is the opportunity for us to meet exceptional GOLD delegates in each section and help them in leading their mission by proposing a rich program of workshops and presentations.

Region 8 GOLD Committee
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http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/gold
Albalqa’ Applied University, Jordan

Membership boost makes a perfect year for busy BAU-SB

LAST YEAR was one of the most successful that the Student Branch at Albalqa’ Applied University (BAU) has witnessed.

With an influx of new members, a new spirit was added to the team, so some reorganisation was needed to take advantage of the branch’s new abilities.

A Techno Group was established to run courses for both IEEE and non-IEEE members, including practical electronics course, time management, computer simulation and CAD/CAM. Further, a ‘Graduation Project Optimal Selection’ seminar was arranged, introduced by Imad Yarid.

New scheduled trips were added to our calendar, such as field trips to some industrial constructions in Jordan – including PETRA, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of internationally recognized high quality HVAC equipments – and Ad-Dustor Press, one of the leading newspapers in Jordan. These trips included a demonstration on the industrial process of design, manufacturing and troubleshooting.

Further, an IEEE SB-BAU Fan Club has been established by our WIE committee, which aims to spread the idea of IEEE and WIE in the university’s campus.

As part of WIE’s activities, weekly seminars were held on subjects such as NLP, foreign languages improvement (speaking and translation) and a series of lectures focusing on inspecting a general approach of how things work.

We were so glad to introduce the activities to the non-member students, and keep on that by preparing new activities for 2010, such as our Weekend Project and ‘I Did It Easily’ competitions, and lectures on designing and building small robots. A new collection of events has been scheduled for 2010, and we hope to keep on our activities and enthusiasm as always.

Abdulmunem N Jamal
Chair, ABU SB

Tarbiat Modares University, Iran

TMU Student Branch hosts Iran’s 40th anniversary

ON 21 February, the 40th Jubilee of IEEE Iran Section was celebrated by the Student Branch at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.

During the ceremony, Region 8 Director Jozef Modelski delivered a lecture introducing our region and elaborated on the accomplishments of its members. He also presented a certificate of honor to Iran Section Chair, Hamid Soltanianzadeh, to thank him for his services in the section.

Other important scientific figures from Iran and abroad also took part in this event and delivered lectures.

As hosts for the event, the Tarbiat Modares University Student Branch set up a fair to present the branch’s activities, introduce IEEE to the visitors, and enroll new IEEE members. For more information, please visit us at www.modares.ac.ir/~ieee.

Iman Kiaei
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École Nationale d’Ingénieurs (National School of Engineers), University of Sfax, Tunisia

ENIS sees launch of eight Student Chapters

AFTER THE establishment of the National School of Engineers of Sfax Student Branch in April 2009, efforts were dedicated to the establishment of technical student chapters. Thanks to the support from Adel Alimi, our branch counsellor and eight volunteers, the SMCS Student Chapter was established in July 2009.

This was the first SMCS Student Chapter in Region 8. Seven more student chapters were later approved between January and March 2010: AESS, CIS, CS, EMBS, ES, RAS and SPS.

Furthermore, a WIE student affinity group was established in February 2010, by Fatma Elleuch, a student member from our school.

We do wish great success for these new units!

In January 2010, the Student Branch comprised 198 members (156 graduate students and 42 students). A new executive committee was elected.

Our scheduled activities in 2010 include: a visit to the children’s village of Mahres, a robotics competition, a strategy games contest, a Linux day, a quality and certification day, a culture industrial day, a student paper contest and various technical lecturers and courses.

For more details, visit our website at http://ewh.ieee.org/sb/tunisia/enis.

Habib M Kammoun
Chair, ENIS SB
sb.enis@ieee.org

The newly elected SB executive committee at ENIS.
**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium**

### Need technical info? Go attend a ‘Soirée’!

**IEEE Fellow and chairman of the SmartGrids European Technology Platform**, amongst others shared his view on the topic.

The second ‘Soirée’ dealt with cloud and supercomputing, with academic and industrial speakers explaining how these concepts are put into practice.

With 169 participants, the third edition, on electric vehicles, was the most successful so far. Toyota explained about the design of the Toyota Prius and its hybrid drive train, and Umicore gave a lecture about state-of-the-art battery recycling for battery-powered vehicles.

**Jef Beerten (Chair)**

**Jan Verbeekman (Secretary)**

**www.ieee-sb-leuven.be**

*Discussing hot topics in Belgium.*

### Why is society membership in decline?

**Roger D Pollard**

2010 IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities

In this second part of a series for Region 8 News, Roger Pollard looks at ways of encouraging more IEEE members to join your technical societies.

In an IEEE Forum last month, I asked why fewer IEEE members are joining Societies. I hope that you will join in the debate.

Membership in IEEE technical societies seems to be static or in decline. Not long ago, the majority of IEEE members used to join one or more Societies. Now 50% of IEEE members do not join any IEEE technical society at all.

Is this simply because it’s no longer necessary to be a member to get a monthly copy of the journal that you regard as essential reading? What is the value proposition for Society membership? Does it, perhaps, need to change to reflect a changing social/digital environment?

There are many reasons that members give for joining technical Societies: keeping informed of advancements; obtaining Society publications, technical information and resources; professional networking; contributing to the profession; continuing education opportunities; serving as a volunteer; attending local chapter activities; and saving money on Society conference fees.

Subscribing to Society Transactions was also important. But now many employers subscribe to IEEE Electronic Library provides access to the full range of IEEE publications at work, making it unnecessary to join Societies as individuals.

There is also a perception that Societies cater for academics or researchers and do not offer enough practical application. Some observe that Society Transactions are filled with heavyweight articles full of mathematics which many practicing engineers find of little interest. They may feel too intimidated to join a Society or to participate on Committees and Working Groups, get involved with conference organization, etc. or there may just be no local chapter.

Some suggestions that are being discussed include:

- Give one year free (or reduced rate) Society membership to all who join IEEE. However, evidence shows that when it is free, members join, but when charged, they leave.
- Provide a basic (electronic only) Society membership at much lower cost.
- Develop more Society products for people who don’t need or want the Transactions. Online virtual conferences; Networking, Virtual communities, discussions; Self-help forums to help resolve technical questions; Continuing education; etc.

Please join in the discussion and contribute your opinions and suggestions on this vital issue. Visit [http://discussions.rogerpollard.org](http://discussions.rogerpollard.org). You can read the discussions, but you will need to register (please use your real name) before you can contribute.

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**Anadolu University, Turkey**

### Invitation to attend meeting in Eskisehir

THE 8TH IEEE Turkey Student Branches and GOLD Congress and Region 8 Meeting will be hosted by Anadolu University’s Student Branch between 2–7 July 2010 in Eskisehir.

In addition to 250 Turkish participants, we are eager to meet 150 participants from Region 8 and fellow groups. The main purpose of this event is to create a common network among IEEE Student Branches.

We are planning to organize the session days into three main categories: today and tomorrow’s game industry, information technologies and, of course, the IEEE. Moreover, there will be plenty of workshops about management, leadership, self-improvement and so on.

We invite you to attend this important event and look forward to welcoming you to our student paradise city Eskisehir. You can find the information about accommodation, transportation, and schedule on our web site: [www.sbcanadolu.org](http://www.sbcanadolu.org).

Caner Pinarbasi
Increasing student awareness by contest

THE EGYPTIAN Student Branches have launched the Regional IEEE Student Engineers Contest (RISEC), aimed at developing students by increasing their awareness with market needs and professionalism. The idea is to encourage every team to act as an entrepreneur, dealing with real world’s needs and its dynamic demand.

The competition was divided into two levels – Basic and Advanced – in which students form teams to implement projects that satisfy a market need or solve a technical problem for a particular industry.

The Basic Level is for first and second year students. Their projects are assigned by professors in their universities which aim to help them to learn team work, how to do research, and finally make a real project.

The Advanced Level is for the next two consecutive years, in which teams do research on their projects by themselves.

RISEC’s mission is to encourage students to work in a team to solve a business problem or provide new solutions to the market, while increasing their technical and soft skills, and their awareness of the market.

RISEC committee hopes to increase the number of student members in Egypt for the next competition by inviting three more Student Branches, bringing the total involvement to nine. It is hoped that RISEC becomes an international competition among other IEEE Sections.

For more information about the competition, please visit the RISEC website www.risec-egypt.org or email info@risec-egypt.org.

Noha Moustafa
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Conference calendar
Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8
See also www.ieee.org/web/conferences/home

**JULY**

**IEEE HealthCom 2010**
Ambient Assistive Living for Better Health
01–03 July 2010
Lyon, France
www.ieee-healthcom.org

**ISIE 2010**
IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics
04–07 July 2010
Bari, Italy
www.isie2010.it

**ISVLSI 2010**
IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics
05–07 July 2010
Luxor, Kefalonia, Greece
http://isvlsis2010.org

**ICALT 2010**
IEEE 10th International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies
05–07 July 2010
El Mouradi Palace Hotel, Sousse, Tunisia
www.ask4research.info/icalt/2010/others

**IPCC 2010**
IEEE International Professional Communication Conference
07–09 July 2010
University of Twente Enschede, Netherlands
http://ewh.ieee.org/soc/jpcs

**SIBIRCON**
IEEE International Conference on Computational Technologies
11–15 July 2010
Irkutsk, Russia
http://sibicon2010.sibutsis.ru

**WCCI 2010**
IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence
18–23 July 2010
Centre Conventions Internacionals Barcelona, Spain
www.wcci2010.org

**MEMOCODE 2010**
8th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Formal Methods and Models for Codesign
26–28 July 2010
University Joseph Fourier Grenoble, France

**SSR 2010**
IEEE International Workshop on Safety, Security & Rescue Robotics
26–30 July 2010
Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany
http://robotics.jacobs-university.de/SSR2010

**SEPTEMBER**

**INOWO 2010**
15th International OFDM-Workshop
01–02 September 2010
Hamburg, Germany
http://ofdm.tu-harburg.de

**ASE 2010**
25th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering
20–24 September 2010
University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
http://25soft.vub.ac.be/ase2010

**EuRAD 2010**
European Radar Conference
30 Sep – 1 Oct 2010
CNIT, Paris, France

**OCTOBER**

**SM2ACD 2010**
11th International Workshop on Symbolic and Numerical Methods, Modeling and Applications to Circuit Design
5–6 October 2010
Gammath, Tunisia
www.sm2acd-2010.org

**ICABB 2010**
International Conference on Applied Bionics and Biomechanics
14–16 October 2010
Venice, Italy
www.icabb-iss.org

**IIEI 2010**
26th Convention of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Israel
17–20 November 2010
Hilton Hotel, Eilat, Israel
www.eng.tau.ac.il/~iiee/Convention

**NOVEMBER**

**Histelcon 2010**
2nd IEEE Region 8 Conference on the History of Telecommunications
03–05 November 2010
Madrid, Spain
www.aei.it/histelcon2010

**ISABEL 2010**
3rd International Symposium on Applied Sciences in Biomedical and Communication Technologies
07–10 November 2010
Rome, Italy
www.isabel2010.it

**DECEMBER**

**ICCECS 2010**
IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Circuits and Systems
12–15 December 2010
Athens, Greece
www.iccecs2010.org

**EnergyCon 2010**
Towards Sustainable Energy
18–21 December 2010
Manama, Bahrain
www.ieee-energycon.org

Photo Quiz revisited: more on magnetrons

FURTHER TO the answer given in the March issue of Region 8 News to December 2009’s Photo Quiz, Tony Davies writes to pass on some information about magnetrons from Prof Tosiro Koga in Japan.

The water cooled magnetron M312 designed and made by S Nakajima (of which one was on display at Bournemouth in the collection of Rod Burman) is called ‘Tachibana’ (りんご, たえばな), the name of a flower of an inedible citrus fruit native to Japan.

Other Japanese magnetrons are called ‘Kiku’, which is the Japanese name for Chrysanthemum.

The photo on the right shows a magnetron on display in Bournemouth; the photo on the left was taken from an out-of-print book in Japanese owned by Prof Koga. The similarity is very clear.

Note to Organizers
Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to r8news@ieee.org, putting R8 News Calendar in your subject line. Remember to state the event’s full title, location, date and URL.