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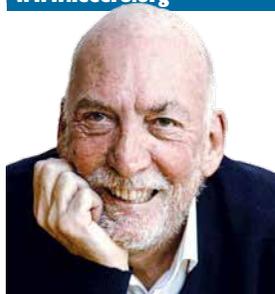
region8news

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'Father of compact disc' receives top IEEE honour

Netherlands' Immink leads roll-call of award recipients in Region 8

IEEE'S highest award, the Medal of Honor, was presented to Kees Schouhamer Immink at a ceremony during the IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit on 25 May at The Palace Hotel in San Francisco, California, USA.

Immink's pioneering work on information coding theory while working at Philips accelerated the development of the compact disc at the beginning of the 1980s. His subsequent work on optical storage extended into DVD and Blu-ray, and dramatically advanced the fields of digital video, audio and data recording technology.

Over the course of his career, Immink has also won an Emmy and been inducted into the Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame. He was knighted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 2000.

The Dutch engineer and researcher was also the subject of a cover feature in the May 2017 issue of *IEEE Spectrum* (<https://goo.gl/KAGAv3>).

Further recipients of IEEE medals in Region 8 include:

■ **Shlomo Shamai** (Israel) receives the Richard W Hamming Medal for fundamental contribu-

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Stockholm welcomes new faces to OpCom meeting



THE 108th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting was hosted by Swedish Section in Stockholm on 25-26 March. Sweden's capital saw more than 100 participants, including the newly appointed members of OpCom.

Incoming Region 8 director Margaretha Eriksson presented an overview of the region and shared her vision and plans for the future. The membership in the Region showed again a small decrease at the beginning of 2017, but it is slightly better than previous years. One of the goals in 2017 would

be to increase membership in Region 8 by 1%. As the director said, we all can invite one new member, can't we?

Beside the director's presentation, the meeting's very busy schedule included reports and presentations from all the OpCom members: director-elect Magdalena Salazar Palma, past-director Costas Stasopoulos, secretary Jan Verveckken, treasurer Ralph Kennel, and vice-chairs for Member Activities Antonio Luque, Student Activities

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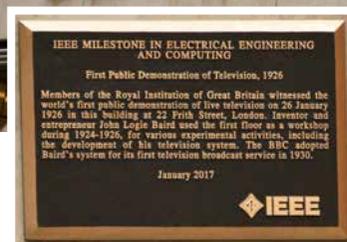
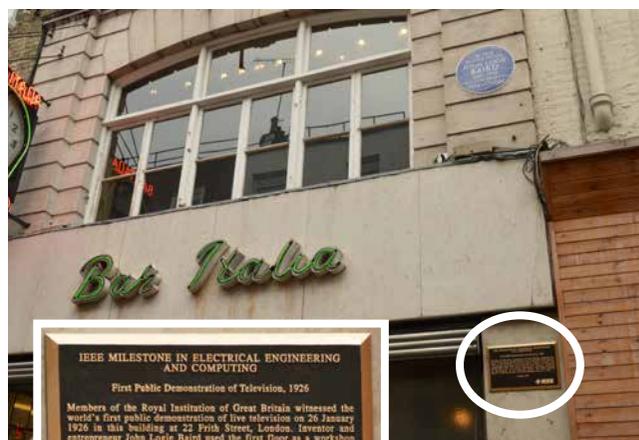
Milestone unveiled at TV's birthplace

BROADCAST professionals, technology historians, IEEE members, Italian dignitaries and intrigued members of the public gathered outside a café in central London on 26 January to witness the unveiling of an IEEE Milestone plaque to commemorate the first public demonstration of television.

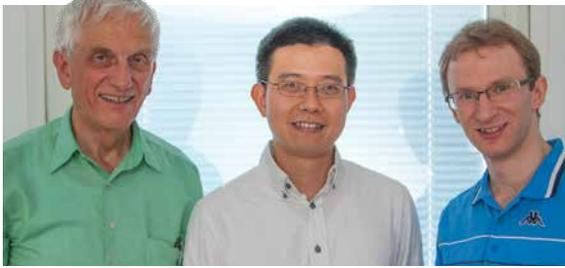
Precisely 91 years earlier, to the day, entrepreneurial inventor John Logie Baird had invited 40 members of the Royal Institution to his workshop above 22 Frith Street in the heart of the British capital to watch him demonstrate the live transmission of an image of a moving face "by radio".

As with cinema, various claims to have been the inventor of television abound, but all agree Baird was the first to have built a working prototype that was good enough to show off to his scientific peers. He used the first floor of the building as a workshop

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IEEE's street-level bronze plaque joins an existing blue memorial by the first-floor rooms where John Logie Baird conducted his demonstration of TV technology.



Your editors (from left): Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and Bojan Nikolich.

So much is happening in R8 it can be hard to keep up

MANY moons have waxed and waned since our last full print issue of *IEEE Region 8 News* so we're glad to be back with you at last. That's not to say little has been happening in our Region – far from it! Remember that updates on what's going on are frequently posted to our social media channels including Facebook and Twitter, as well as regular news reports at the main Region 8 website.

This issue brings you a round-up of main events that have been taking place since last time, plus several key stories that overlapped our schedule last year. Principal among these has been the installation of a fresh Region 8 Operating Committee for the next two years: you can find the contact names for each role in the panel to the right.

Our report on the new OpCom's first public outing at the Committee Meeting held in Stockholm begins on page 1.

We have also taken this opportunity to compile a comprehensive round-up of recent, current and forthcoming IEEE medal and award winners who live and work within Region 8. You can read about the winners on page 4.

Otherwise, this issue is packed as per usual with conference reports and news updates from Sections, Affinity Groups and Student Branches from all over the Region. Rest assured that so much is going on that we'll be back in your mailbox with yet another generous helping of news before the end of the year. Speak to you soon!

Zhijia, Roland and Bojan

'Father of compact disc' receives top IEEE honour

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tions to information theory and wireless communications.

■ **Martin Vetterli** (Switzerland) receives the Jack S Kilby Signal Processing Medal for fundamental contributions to advance sampling, signal representations and multi-rate and multi-resolution signal processing.

■ **Hugh Griffiths** (UK and Ireland) receives the Dennis J Picard Medal for Radar Technologies and Applications for technical leadership and exceptional contributions to multi-static radar.

■ **Marian P Kazmierkowski** (Poland) receives the Medal in Power Engineering for leadership in and pioneering contributions to the development of power electronic converters and electric drive control systems.

■ **Alberto Broggi** (Italy) receives

the Medal for Environmental and Safety Technologies for leadership in vehicular environmental perception, and for setting worldwide milestones in safe and reliable intelligent vehicles.

■ **Sir James Dyson** (UK and Ireland), inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner and other novel products, was awarded IEEE Honorary Membership for his achievements in industrial design, entrepreneurship and manufacturing technology, and for services to the profession.



Video clips from the 2017 IEEE Honors Ceremony can be viewed at ieeetv.org.

Engineers from Region 8 were also notable among those receiving IEEE's Technical Field Awards this year. Turn to page 4 in this issue to find out more.

IEEE region8news

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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 type '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 type '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 <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/r8news-newsletter/tips-for-contributors/>

Deadlines for upcoming issues

December 2017 issue.....*deadline: 1 October 2017*
March 2018 issue.....*deadline: 1 January 2018*



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Stockholm welcomes new faces to OpCom meeting



Above: focused discussion during interactive workshops. Top right: future, present and past Region 8 directors (from left) Magdalena Salazar Palma, Margaretha Eriksson and Costas Stasopoulos.



► continued from page 1...

Efthymia Arvaniti and Technical Activities Christopher James. Several interactive workshops were organized in a more intimate atmosphere. This was a great opportunity for the meeting's attendees to find out more details in their areas of interest.

Honorary guests who gave presentations included IEEE president Karen Bartleson, IEEE president-elect Jim Jefferies, and vice-president for Member and Geographic Activities Mary Ellen. They discussed IEEE directions and MGA activities.

IEEE in Africa is seen as a particularly good opportunity to attract new members. Several activities are being planned by African Sections as well as participation in UNESCO Africa Engineers Week.

Getting closer to industry remains one of Region 8's key priorities, so further activities will be pursued in that direction. The Action for Industry (AFI) Committee, recipient of the 2016 MGA Award for its highly successful initiatives, is planning to expand its internship

program in more countries and to include more companies.

It was reported that a new IEEE office is in process of opening in Vienna, Austria. However, it is still unclear how Region 8 can utilise it. This is something that needs to be carefully considered and discussed in the months ahead.

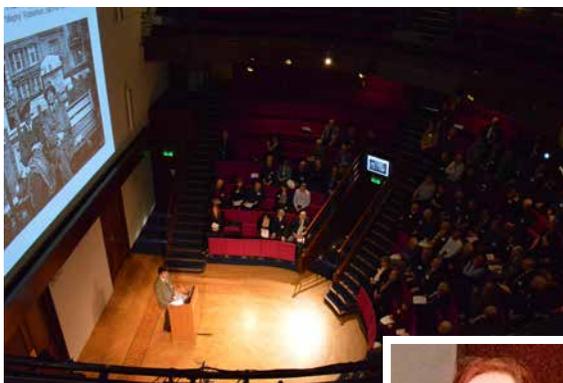
An award ceremony and gala dinner took place on the Saturday night in a former factory of Alfred Nobel, the noted Swedish chemist, engineer, inventor, businessman and philanthropist best known for his invention of dynamite.

Everyone praised the very good organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality by Sweden Section. The hosts' efforts were best seen when their own chair, Mats Edvinsson, took the microphone in his hands to entertain the guests during the gala dinner, after which a very good evening became truly unforgettable.



Reports and presentations are at www.ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2017-march-stockholm/

Bojan Nikolic



Top: Iain Logie Baird recounts his grandfather's life at the Royal Institution. Right: Region 8 director Margaretha Eriksson and UK and Ireland Section chair Ali Hessami. Above: Baird with IEEE president Karen Bartleson at the unveiling of the plaque.

Milestone at TV's birthplace

► continued from page 1...

during 1924-1926 for various experimental activities, including the development of his television system. The BBC adopted Baird's system for its first television broadcast service in 1930.

Since 1949, the building has been a family-run café, *Bar Italia*, which itself achieved a different kind of fame in the 1960s as one of the late-night meeting spots for rock stars hanging around Soho at the time. Hailing its link to the birth of television, Sky TV also held its official launch of its high-definition satellite service there in November 2005.

Unveiled by Baird's grandson Iain and IEEE president Karen Bartleson, the bronze Milestone plaque at street level joins an existing memorial already at the site, a classic 'historic London' blue plaque high up on the wall commemorating the same event. But as one IEEE member observed: "Ours is easier for passers-by to read."

The following morning, IEEE began a day of commemoration and technical lectures at the Royal Institution's own building in Piccadilly. Speakers included Iain Logie Baird and

a select line-up of broadcast professionals and historians, looking at Baird's legacy, how television has changed since its beginnings and how it might look in the future. A variety of television-related artefacts and product demonstrations were on show, from the internal circuitry of a CRT and an analogue satellite set-top box to the latest in ultra-high-definition display technology.

Credit for organising these high-profile events on consecutive days goes to the hard work of Tony Davies, the Life Members Affinity Group within UK and Ireland Section, and their veritable army of IEEE volunteers.

Details about Baird's achievement and its historic significance can be read at the Engineering and Technology History Wiki at <https://goo.gl/NJps1Q>. Plenty more photos taken during both days' events can be viewed on the UK and Ireland Section website at <https://goo.gl/ppjakJ>.

A documentary-style movie of the Milestone dedication ceremony can be viewed at https://youtu.be/jY-3AYJ_F_Q



Region 8 engineers reap Technical Field accolades

FIVE members and fellows from Region 8 were recipients of this year's IEEE Technical Field Awards. Endorsed by the institute's Technical Field Awards Council and approved by the Awards Board, these honours are presented to individuals for their contributions in specific technical fields of science and engineering, as well as in several areas of leadership.

■ **Sorin Cristoloveanu** (France) received the Andrew S Grove Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to solid-state devices and technology, for his contributions to silicon-on-insulator technology and thin body devices.



■ **Marcel JM Pelgrom** (Netherlands) received the Gustav Robert Kirchhoff Award, recognizing an outstanding contribution to the fundamentals of any aspect of electronic circuits and systems that has a long-term significance or impact, for his seminal contributions to systematic analysis of random offsets in semiconductor devices and their impact on circuits.



■ **Antonello Monti** (Germany) was recipient of the Innovation in Societal Infrastructure Award, recognising significant technological achievements and contributions to the establishment, development and proliferation of innovative societal infrastructure systems through the application of information technology with an emphasis on



Success at 2016 MGA Achievement Awards

OFFICIAL recognition of achievement has been rolling in for members around Region 8, including awards from IEEE's Member and Geographic Activities community.

Nasim Farahini (Sweden) was honoured for his outstanding contributions in promoting student activities, and for establishing and reinforcing the network of women engineers in the Sweden Section.

Another recipient of the MGA Achievement Award, for a group effort this time, was Region 8's Action for Industry Committee, comprising Nihal Sinnadurai, Marios Antoniou, Mohamed Amin, Toni Mattila and John Matogo. The citation for the award reads: "For planning and implementing the Action for Industry Initiative, which has successfully increased member engagement and strengthened the relationship with industry in Region 8."

distributed computing systems, for accelerating the innovation of energy, information and communication technologies for the urban environment.

■ **David John Law** (UK and Ireland) received the Charles Proteus Steinmetz Awards, recognizing exceptional contributions to the development and/or advancement of standards in electrical and electronics engineering, for his leadership of and contributions to the development of IEEE Standards with global impact, particularly 802.3 Ethernet Standards.



■ **Adel Razek** (France) was presented with the Nikola Tesla Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the generation and utilization of electric power, for his contributions to coupled multi-physics modelling and design of electromagnetic systems.



Davies receives Kozma medal on 80th birthday

FORMER Region 8 director Tony Davies was the 2016 recipient of the prestigious annual Ladislav Kozma medal.

The honour, presented last August by Krystóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky, the Hungarian Ambassador in London, was made in recognition of Professor Davies' 80th birthday, and for his contributions to various scientific and engineering events in Hungary, particularly connected with



the Department of Telecommunications and Media Informatics (Távközlési és Médiainformatikai Tanszék) of Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Budapesti Muszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem).

Daniela Danciu earns Saduwa distinction

REGION 8's Cementina Saduwa Award 2017 has been presented to Daniela Danciu from Romania section at a ceremony on 25 March during the 108th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting in Stockholm.

On accepting the honour, Dr Daniela said: "In memoriam of Clementina Saduwa, I would like to dedicate this prize to all the women from the IEEE community for their roles in professional environment as well as in society.



"I thank all the valuable people that I have met in my life and who shaped my personality and the will to become better. I would also like to thank to the IEEE Region 8 award committee for deciding to award this prize to me – it was my best ever present for the International Women's Day. Thank, you all! Let us be better!"

■ Clementina Saduwa was a dedicated student leader and volunteer in Nigeria Section, and went on to become Region 8's first Women in Engineering coordinator. She was killed ten years ago in a random act of violence at the age of 29. To honour her memory, this award recognises outstanding women engineers who demonstrate support for women in the engineering profession and have established a record of excellence.

Previous winners from our Region... and more for 2018

LAST year's IEEE medals and recognitions, presented at a ceremony in New York, USA, on 18 June 2016, saw two notable experts within the Region 8 territory receive honorary membership, elected by the Board of Directors for having rendered meritorious service to humanity in IEEE's designated fields of interest:

■ **Serge Haroche**, professor and chair of Quantum Physics at the Collège de France in Paris, France, for the development of cavity quantum electrodynamics, leading to fundamental quantum physics studies and to a wide range of applications.

■ **Rodolfo Zich**, president of Torino Wireless Foundation and of Istituto Superiore Mario Boella in Torino, Italy, for leadership in the global integration of electrical and electronics engineering education and research.

The advance list of recipients for next year's 2018 Technical Field Awards include five from Region 8:

■ **Siegfried Selberherr** (Austria), professor at the Vienna University of Technology Institute for Microelectronics in Vienna, will receive the Clelio Brunetti Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to miniaturization and nano-technology in the electronic arts, for his

pioneering contributions to technology computer aided design.

■ **Peter Stoica** (Sweden), professor of System Modelling in the Division of Systems and Control at Uppsala University in Uppsala, will receive the Fourier Award for Signal Processing, which recognizes an outstanding contribution to the advancement of signal processing, for his broad contributions to research and education in statistical signal processing and its applications.

■ **Rainer Marquardt** (Germany), professor of Power Electronics and Control at the Universität der Bundeswehr München in Neubiberg, will receive the William E Newell Power Electronics Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the advancement of power electronics, for his development of the modular multilevel converter application in medium drives and high-voltage DC transmission systems.

■ **Ursula Keller** (Switzerland), professor in the Physics Department at the Institute for Quantum Electronics in Zurich, will receive the Photonics Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in photonics, for seminal contributions to ultrafast laser technology enabling important industrial applications and novel scientific breakthroughs.

TECH FOCUS

Designing a robot to have morality



If robots are going to become a vital part of everyday life, it's important that they know the difference between right and wrong when it comes to decision making. *IEEE Spectrum's* Kristen Clark investigated why a team of researchers is attempting to model moral reasoning in a robot, and explains



the dilemma in a video at iee.tv. Watch it at this link: <https://goo.gl/bKfer8>

Are you addicted to your gadgets?



Medical experts say addiction to technology is a growing concern. Several doctors who specialise in addiction say an alarming number of people are becoming hooked on their digital devices. Some are calling high-tech gadgets "digital heroin" and "electronic cocaine".



Read more on this topic in *The Institute* at this link: <https://goo.gl/gd9gyo>

Breath test can find 17 diseases

Many of us associate Breathalysers with policing efforts to stop drunk drivers. But a team at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa are working on a nanoarray of volatile organic carbon detectors to spot diseases' unique chemical



patterns in a single exhalation. Read more online at <https://goo.gl/rQJw25>



Workshop in Tunis looks at ways to boost membership

MEMBERSHIP recruitment, membership retention, and the vital role and responsibilities of an IEEE Membership Development officer were the principal themes at the Region 8 Membership Development workshop held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 18-19 November last year. Section chairs and their MD officers came together under one roof with the Region 8 MD team, hosted by the Tunisia Section, to debate issues, share reports, plan ahead and network with their IEEE counterparts across the Region.

Early arrivals on the first day were invited to participate in discussions on the three themes mentioned above throughout the day, alongside breakout meetings on diverse topics from membership development to recruit-

ment strategies co-ordination and strategic planning. A formal welcome reception, dinner and city tour followed presentations by the Region's MD officers and Tunisia Section chair Habib Kammoun.

Saturday saw interactive sessions, brainstorming on the motivations of MD Officers and what they value, along with various exercises, Sections presentations and a round-table discussion.

The workshop was concluded with some beneficial remarks, a group photo and a group lunch. Volunteers and officers alike were satisfied with the positive impact of the workshop and eager to continue with great achievements on membership development.

Members' benefits: mentoring, journals and smart tech courses

ARE you an experienced professional in the field of engineering looking to share your knowledge and experience? Are you in need of advice, seeking guidance on starting your career, planning a career change, or building technical skills? The IEEE Mentoring Program is set up for you – to match mentors with 'mentees' – all IEEE members and affiliates.

To participate in the program, visit IEEE Collabratec. Mentors should select *Opportunities* from the menu and opt in from the *Settings* tab. If you would like to find a mentor, select *People* from the menu, and use the available filters to narrow your search.

Once a mentorship match is made, the pair should set goals for the relationship. The partners are encouraged to work together on a plan to accomplish these goals and develop a time-line. It is also important to agree at the start, how much time and commitment each should expect from the other. There is a Getting Started guide to help.

Take advantage of special member pricing on *Proceedings of the IEEE*. This journal began

in 1913 and has grown into the leading journal for in-depth tutorials and reviews of technical developments that shape the world. It continues to offer articles of broad significance and long-range interest in all areas of electrical,

electronics and computer engineering. IEEE members can subscribe for as little as US\$41. For details, see <https://goo.gl/gzjePn>

On-demand courses are available to IEEE members on a host of technical topics. The Smart Tech Metro Area Workshop series offers participants a unique learning experience with topics on the cutting edge of technical innovation. This seminar series is focused on providing an opportunity for participants to learn first-hand from field experts. Each workshop is a springboard to a deeper understanding of technology and its myriad applications and potential for innovation.

Watch iee.tv at <https://goo.gl/HWtLHh> for details.

{ IN BRIEF }

Get the recognition that comes with experience in your professional work with Senior Membership.

A level of membership above basic Member, the grade of Senior Member is the highest for which you can make a personal application. It requires experience reflecting superior technical competence and projects the applicant's professionalism to the industry and the public. For elevation to Senior Member grade, a candidate must be an engineer, scientist, educator, technical executive, or originator in IEEE-designated fields. 'Senior' refers to professional experience, not age

Apply to become a Senior Member by completing the online process at <https://goo.gl/dNfKw>

In 2016, its inaugural year, the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee developed a strategy and launched several projects including 'Implementing Technology-Enhanced Community Healthcare Delivery' in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa

In Region 8, the committee has supported events in Spain and Zambia.

'SIGHT' is the acronym for Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology. Visit Region 8's SIGHT home online



at <https://goo.gl/CGjUxu>

To get involved, contact your local SIGHT organizer and let them know your interests:

Alexandros Osana

(Greece) – Chair

Lebogang Madise

(South Africa)

Dino Jakovljevic (Croatia)

John Funso-Abeday

(Nigeria)

Lee Crudgington

(UK and Ireland)

Javier Sanchez Medina

(Spain)

Amith Khandakar (Oman)

Sana Khalfa (Tunisia)

Mona Ghassemian

(UK and Ireland)

How it works: IEEE's European Public Policy Initiative

THE IEEE European Public Policy Initiative (EPPI) exists to offer practical recommendations for public policy to European Union institutions on subjects within IEEE's fields of expertise.

Since its creation in 2012, this initiative has grown steadily. In 2014, working groups were established to develop position statements and to produce educational materials for certain technical areas, such as Energy and ICT. They give members a unique opportunity to influence European policy on issues central to IEEE and other technical professions.

Highlights from EPPI last year include:

- Drafting of public policy position statements in the Energy and ICT domains.
- Engaging with policy makers and authorities at working group meetings and events, including Jos Delbeke, director general for Climate Action, DG CLIMA at the European Commission, and assistant European Data Protection supervisor Wojciech Wiewiórowski.
- Hosting a session focused on European public policy issues at the IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting.
- Organizing a third successful policy summit in Brussels, this time on the topic of Artificial Intelligence and Ethics.
- Identifying speakers for IEEE conferences,

including IEEE Smart Grid for Smart Cities and IEEE Region 8 EnergyCon.

For 2018, the IEEE Board of Directors approved a USD\$5 assessment for members who are in countries of the EU or EFTA, excepting students. This is intended to support the policy position statement portion of the initiative: good policy in Europe is not necessarily good policy in other parts of the world.

Financial support by represented members assures European working group volunteers they can develop policies appropriate for Europe, and assures EU officials that the advice they receive has been developed by European technologists. Working groups can solicit feedback from the relevant communities on draft policy positions, but in the end, the working groups and EPPI can make their recommendations based on what they determine is best for Europe.

EPPI is working to enable IEEE members in EU and EFTA countries to engage more directly through opt-in emails, helping represented members receive draft papers for review as well as receive a monthly newsletter on relevant policy activities in the fields of Energy and ICT.

For more details on EPPI and its working groups, contact Patrick Russoniello, IEEE Corporate Activities Manager, at p.russoniello@ieee.org

Take advantage of mentoring and industry internships



The Region 8 Action for Industry team during their meeting at Regensburg (from left): Marios Antoniou, Mohamed Amin, Nihal Sinnadurai, John Matogo and Toni Mattila.

REGION 8's Action for Industry group was set up with the specific objective of bringing IEEE closer to industry by adopting initiatives that would be of value to industry and which can be measured at each stage. The challenge is to persuade people employed in industries to co-operate and join with IEEE.

The group has appointed a number of Industry Ambassadors to contact companies across Region 8. Their approach and achievements are intended to show the value of IEEE to companies, whether national or global.

To help move towards this goal, Senior and Fellow members have been volunteering to act as mentors to younger engineers. This is

being done in the knowledge that companies go out of their way to look for students who show commitment, can communicate well and have good interpersonal skills.

Informative briefings on mentoring are now on the Region 8 website, along with a list of available internships and mentors: www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for-industry

To date, more than 100 IEEE Student Members have been placed in internships throughout Region 8. Many have sought mentoring.

For more information on what Action for Industry group can offer to students, turn to page 12 in this issue.



Photo: Hans Poldos

Flagship R8 conference adds themes and panels

EUROCON 2017, one of Region 8's flagship conferences, took place on 6-8 July in the magnificent city of Ohrid in the Republic of Macedonia. Its plenary speakers tackled a variety of intriguing issues surrounding emerging research challenges such as 'Will 5G Replace Previous Mobile Technologies?' and 'Does DC Distribution Make Sense?'

The program focused on smart technology research and its applications in all areas of information and communication technologies; circuits, systems and signal processing; power engineering and energy; as well as industrial and consumer applications. The conference also hosted Region 8's student competition and best student paper award.

New to this year's conference were special thematic areas and panel discussions.

The former included Disruptive Technology Directions for 5G; IoT – The Future of Smart Technologies and Intelligent Infrastructures; Bioelectromagnetic Medicine and Bioinformatics; Nanoelectronics and Nanophotonics; Complex Networks and Systems; Ultra High

Speed Wireless and Optical Technologies for 5G Mobile Communications; Hybrid Intelligent Systems; Advanced Switching Based Systems; Smart Technologies in Drives and Control; Role and Challenges of Energy Storage in Future Electrical Grids; Smart Technologies in Electrical Machines; Cloud-based Infrastructure and Platforms for Big Data; and INDUSTRIE 4.0.

The panel discussion sessions were intended to serve as a forum in which researchers, practitioners, innovators and entrepreneurs could interact and exchange their views, ideas and expertise. They covered such topics as 'Do we need 2G when there will be 5G soon?'; Prospective of Nuclear Energy in Europe; Systems-of-Systems; Smart Things or Complex Systems?; Energy Market and Regulatory Framework in Europe; and 'Can Free, and Open Source Software Replace Commercial Electrical Engineering Tools?'

For more information, please visit www.eurocon2017.org

Ljupco Karadzinov
General chair,
IEEE EUROCON 2017

Circuits and Systems Society is Spain's Best Chapter of 2016

THE Spain Chapter of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, chaired by Jose M de la Rosa, from the Institute of Microelectronics of Seville, IMSE-CNM (CSIC/University of Seville), received the Best Chapter Award of the IEEE-Spain Section in 2016.

The Awards ceremony took place on 7 October last year in Barcelona during Spain's IEEE Day celebrations.



IEEE Spain Chapters chair Jaime Lloret presents the award to Professor de la Rosa.

World congress on cybernetics is dedicated to von Neumann

AFTER San Diego in 2014 and Hong Kong in 2015, IEEE's annual international conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC) came to Budapest, Hungary, in October last year. The event was organized by Taiwan Tech, Hungary Section and Óbuda University, and was attended by 1,049 registered scientists from 59 countries.

Some 1,506 papers had been submitted, honed down for the final conference to 637 oral and 196 e-poster papers.



SMC2016 provided an international forum for researchers and participants to report cutting edge innovation and exchange ideas in all aspects of systems science and engineering, human-machine systems and cybernetics. The conference was dedicated to the Hungarian-born John von Neumann, a pioneer of modern computer science, with the theme "A theory that transformed the world to a Cyberspace".

The event was opened by IEEE president Barry L. Shoop, SMC Society president Dimitar Filev, Hungarian Academy of Sciences vice president Szász Domokos, SMC2016 general chair Imre J. Rudas, Óbuda University rector Mihály Réger and SMC2016 Technical Program Committee chair Shun-Feng Su.

Social events during the conference included a horse show visit and a junior post conference tour.



SIGHT Tunisia launches its connectivity project

AFTER setting a plan for its TAWASOL project ('tawassol' means 'connectivity' in Arabic), IEEE SIGHT's Tunisia Team aims to provide all primary schools across the 24 regions of Tunisia with an Internet connection and enhance the quality of STEM education.

The team began with a project pilot in Sadiki School on 17 September last year. Established by Kheireddine Bacha in 1875, Sadiki School is one of the most prestigious and highly reputed schools located in the heart of the Tunisian capital.

A launch workshop was held to present the project to the public and students interested in volunteering. A booth set up to distribute flyers and stickers attracted parents as well as students who were interested. The team then gathered participants together with about 40 students and asked them key

questions such as "How does the internet work?" The director of the school also attended the session and addressed the students and the organizing team, emphasising the importance of such activities and how the Sadiki School is lucky to be the first school in Tunisia to benefit from the project.

New computers were installed and the internet connection was checked by the team as they were preparing the rooms for the next workshop. The team then taught students how to create their first website using the Weebly platform, on which they were asked to create a blog website for their school.

This pilot project provided a great opportunity for the students to use the Internet for learning as well as creating web content.

Skander Mansouri

Vice chair, SIGHT Tunisia Section

Prof Liu visits Seville to present lecture on auditory processing

SHIH-CHII Liu, Distinguished Lecturer from the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS), gave a talk entitled 'Event-Based Auditory Processing with Spiking Silicon Cochleas and Deep Networks' at the Institute of Microelectronics of Seville, IMSE-CNM at CSIC/University of Seville, Spain, on 16 September 2016.

Professor Liu co-leads the Sensors group at the Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich in Switzerland and chairs the IEEE Swiss CAS/ED Society. The event was sponsored by the IEEE-CASS



Distinguished Lecturer Program and organized by the Spain Chapter of IEEE-CASS, chaired by Jose M de la Rosa. For more details, please visit: <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/39516>

A seasonal school on Wireless Sensor Networks – WiSe School 2016 – was held in Thessaloniki on 15-18 December with 55 participants, organized by Stylianos Siskos and Alkis Hatzopoulos from the Electronics Labs of the Departments of Physics and of Electrical and Computer Engineering, respectively.

Presentation topics included sensors; biosensors; signal conditioning circuits; IoT applications; analog/RF front-end circuits for wireless transceivers; WSN protocols and secure data transmission issues; energy harvesting; microgenerators and power management systems; and laboratory work on measurements using LABVIEW software. A written test at the end led to one participant winning a prize of €250.

The event was financially supported by the IEEE CASS Seasonal School 2016 activity, the IEEE Greece CAS-SSC joint

CAS Society in Greece gets 'WiSe' with networks



Chapter, and the Research Committee of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. More details about the event can be read at <http://sites.ieee.org/greece-casscc/events/wise-school-2016/>.

■ As part of IEEE's Distinguished Lecturer program, Rajiv Joshi, researcher

at IBM's TJ Watson Research Center in New York, gave two talks in Greece in December last year – one at the University of Patras, the other at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – entitled 'Technology Circuit Co-Design for Sub-nm Low Power Design'. Both events were very successful, attracting participants from the universities themselves and from industry.

Yen-Kuang Chen, principal engineer at Intel Corporation in Santa Clara, California, gave a lecture at Aristotle Uni-

versity of Thessaloniki on 31 October entitled 'Challenges and Opportunities of Circuits and Systems on Internet of Things'. The event attracted more than 250 participants locally and online.

■ A Career Day workshop on 1 December 2016 focusing on career opportunities featured several speakers from industry in Greece highlighting the current situation and existing work opportunities for students. The complete program can be found at <http://sites.ieee.org/greece-casscc/events/career-day-december-1st-2016/>.

The event was attended by 135 participants and broadcast online for those who could not attend in person. It was organized by the Student Branch of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in cooperation with the IEEE Greece CASS/SSCS joint Chapter.



Technical talks and conferences prove to be a draw big to AAU

THE 16th Mediterranean Microwave Symposium (MMS2016) was hosted on 14-16 November last year at Al Ain University of Science and Technology's Abu Dhabi campus in the United Arab Emirates. The meeting was technically co-sponsored by three IEEE societies – MTT, IM and AP – and attended by 125 participants from 23 countries.

In addition to five keynote lectures delivered by prominent speakers from Canada, the conference technical program comprised 96 technical papers organized within 18 oral sessions. There were also three specialized tutorials addressing topics including microwave engineering, RF circuits and systems, antenna technologies, wireless communications, and a broad range of high-frequency topics such as terahertz and photonic technologies.

■ The College of Engineering at Al Ain University of Science and Technology (AAU), in conjunction with IEEE UAE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S), Instrumentation & Measurement Society

(IM-S) Joint Chapter and IEEE AAU Student Branch, organized an IEEE Administrative Meeting and a Technical Talk at Abu Dhabi Campus – Mohammed Bin Zayed City on 8 May last year.

The two events were led by Shervin Shirmohammadi of the University of Ottawa, Canada, who introduced the IM society and gave a technical talk on 'Video, Games, Video Games and Modern Video Systems'.

■ The College of Engineering at AAU, in conjunction with the IEEE UAE MTT-S & IM-S Joint Chapter and the IEEE AAU Student Branch, organized a technical talk entitled 'The engineering of the Human Joint – Advances in Orthopedics Research and Computer Navigation' presented by Farid Amirouche of the University of Illinois in Chicago, USA.

The presentation highlighted laboratory research efforts to advance our understanding of the human joint using nanotechnology, imaging and biosensors to design better implants.

Celebrating 45 years in Serbia & Montenegro

SERBIA & Montenegro Section, as one of the successors of the former IEEE Yugoslav Section founded on June 21, 1971, celebrated 45 years of existence by organising an anniversary event in Belgrade on 23 November 2016.

Djordje Paunovic, Yugoslavia Section chair (1992-2002) and former Region 8 vice-president (2007-2008), welcomed participants, followed by a presentation by Vera Markovic, current chair of Serbia & Montenegro Section. His talk on 'IEEE in the Former Yugoslavia Region – a 45-Year-Long History', outlined the process of separation and the formation of the new Sections from its predecessor.

Several special guests also addressed the attendees: Kurt Richter from Austria Section (Region 8 director 1991-1992), Aleksandar Szabo from Croatia Section (IEEE Life Members Committee Chair and Region 8 Vitality Coordinator),

Goce Arsov (past chair of Republic of Macedonia Section), Dusanka Boskovic from Bosnia & Herzegovina Section (Region 8 vice-chair for Member Activities) and Igor Kuzle from Croatia Section (Region 8 vice-chair for Technical Activities). Goce Arsov presented a gift of artwork from Republic of Macedonia Section to commemorate the event.

Also attending were past Serbia & Montenegro Section chairs Vladimir Katic (2006-2010) and Natasa Neskovic (2010-2014), Section secretary/treasurer Mladen Koprivica, and most of the Chapter chairs. Many participants shared their memories, contributing to a very friendly atmosphere.

The event concluded with a dinner joined by all participants.

For more information about the Section, visit www.ieee.uns.ac.rs

Vera Markovic
Chair, Serbia & Montenegro Section



Current and past IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section chairs plus guests (from left): Kurt Richter, Vladimir Katic, Dusanka Boskovic, Vera Markovic, Aleksandar Paunovic, Goce Arsov, Natasa Neskovic, Igor Kuzle and Aleksandar Szabo

10 years on, Estonia Section ramps up its activities

ESTONIA Section has been actively engaged in several events since the beginning of the last academic year in September 2016.

In collaboration with IT-college, Tallinn University of Technology Branch and the WiE Branch in Estonia organized the first IEEE Day celebration in Estonia since the Section was formed 10 years ago. The event hosted four speakers who talked about the strong connection between academia and industry



from their different points of view and fields: security, network, electronics and social science)

In October, the Estonian team 'VertexCover' reached first place in IEEE Xplore's leaderboard, achieving the same score as teams from Switzerland, Iran and Australia. Overall, about half of the Estonian teams ended up among the top 10% of participants around the globe.

The WiE Branch has been participating in the organization of TTU Geekly Weekly, a weekly program of technical talks and workshops on various topics founded by Gulcin Yildirim. Through September and October, eight workshops were run by TTU Geekly Weekly, making a total of 13 workshops since the program began in April 2016.



Polish mountains make venue for conference on computer networks

COMPUTER Networks conference CN2016 took place in a charming mountainous region of southern Poland in June last year, in the antique Brunów Palace near Lwówek Śląski. More than 70 scientists gathered from many countries to share experiences and discuss problems associated with computer networks, teleinformatics and telecommunications, new technologies, queuing theory, innovative applications and distributed computer systems.

Four keynote lectures were given and some 60 regular papers were presented. Special guest speaker Miroslav Skoric from NIAR – Hyberabac in India delivered a tutorial on amateur radio computer networks and communication technologies. Social events included a trip to a ceramics factory, a football match and games of boules.

More details on the event are online at cn.polsl.pl or you can contact us by email at cn@polsl.pl **Jacek Stój**

Smart systems and technology experts converge on Osijek for SST2016

THE Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek organized an international conference on smart systems and technologies (SST) on 12-14 October last year in Osijek, Croatia.

The conference aimed to provide to both researchers and experts a platform for the development and expansion of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of smart systems and technologies in the fields of electrical engineering, computer science, commu-

nications technologies, automation, robotics, as well as all other interdisciplinary fields and applications. It provided a platform for researchers and practitioners and aimed to connect the latest scientific and technical knowledge in the field of smart systems and technologies with the economy.

Some 44 scientific papers were presented at the conference within the framework of the following nine sections with more than 130 participants. Papers presented at the conference were published in

the conference proceedings and will be submitted to the IEEEExplore database.

Croatia Section (Computer Chapter; Communications Chapter; Systems, Man and Cybernetics; Reliability Chapter) was technical co-sponsor of SST2016, which was also co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Croatian Academy of Engineering (HATZ) and the International Council on Large Electric Systems – CIGRÉ, Croatian National Committee.

For more information about the conference, please visit www.iefos.unios.hr/sst2016

Goran Martinović
SST conference program co-chair



Etienne Perret wins Léon Brillouin award

THE Léon Brillouin award, sponsored jointly by IEEE and the French Société des Electriciens et Electroniciens (SEE), is given every other year in the domain of material and component physics, optics and electronics. The 2016 award was awarded to Etienne Perret for his contribution to the identification of an object in an unknown environment using a chipless label or tag.

Etienne Perret is a professor at Grenoble Institute of Technology and has his research activity in LCIS laboratory. He is a member of Institut Universitaire de France that gathers the best scientists in their field.

At the ceremony in Paris, held at SEE's headquarters on 5 December 2016, a €4,000 prize and certificate were presented by Cédric Demeure (Award Committee President), Daniel Pasquet (Chair of the Organizing Committee), François Gerin (President of SEE) and Martin Bastiaans (Region 8 past-director).

Etienne Perret gave a short talk which provided a bright overview of his research, emphasizing the potential applications in industry and in every day's life.

Daniel Pasquet
Chair, France Section



Anniversary event looks back at Section origins

ESTONIA Section celebrated its tenth anniversary on 19-20 August last year with a summer seminar. A relatively young Section, its history really began after the restoration of Estonian independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, as those who had gone to study or research abroad started to return with IEEE membership acquired outside the country.

By 1998, a joint Chapter with colleagues in Finland was established, and only in 2006 did the number of IEEE members in Estonia exceed necessary threshold to sign the petition to form our own Section. This was approved on 26 July of that year. Since then, the Section has grown in size and structure, such that by the anniversary event it could boast 167 members, four Chapters, two Student Branches and a WiE Affinity Group.

The first day of the event took place in Virumaa College at the Tallinn University of Technology, located outside of capital in the industrial area. Region 8 director-elect Margaretha Eriksson brought participants up to date with the Region's activities, followed by a talk by Jari Eiro, CEO of Dicro OY, an electronics company with factories in Finland and Estonia.

The evening and second day of the seminar was held in the picturesque Saka Manor. An award ceremony during dinner recognized long-term members of the organization with IEEE Membership Loyalty Program pins and certificates. Special thanks and a Section award of recognition were given to two people who played a key role in forming the Section: Vello Kukk, past Section chair and professor at Tallinn University of Technology, and Eiko Kängsep, Section treasurer for all these years and test development engineer at Ericsson Estonia.

The second day of the seminar was dedicated to the activities of Chapters and Student Branches, and to membership issues and upcoming Section elections. A presentation was given by Rein Sabolotny, who revealed engineering secrets behind the electronic music over its history.

The seminar ended with a consensus on forming a new joint Chapter within Estonia Section to combine industry and academic specialists in four societies: Power and Engineering, Industrial applications, Industrial Electronics, and Robotics and Automation.

Kalle Tammemäe
Chair, Estonia Section

Keynote and lively panel at first IEEE Day for UK and Ireland Section

UK and Ireland Section held its inaugural celebration of IEEE Day at the University of Westminster, London, on 4 October 2016. The meeting was attended by around 45 participants from across the IEEE membership grades and their spouses.

Section chair Ali Hessami opened the event with an overview of the Section's aims, plans and services. This was followed by a keynote talk on technical and career development opportunities with the IEEE, and invited lectures on the Section's Chapters, Student activities, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, Technology History and Mentoring Groups.

An interactive panel discussion with attendees was held on the topic of 'Enhancing IEEE member benefit and value'. Lively

discussions were focused on widening access to IEEE Xplore within universities in the Middle East, best practices in creating and running student branches at UK universities, and more outreach and career development opportunities for apprentices and other potential non-IEEE members.

The Section congratulated their Class of 2016 newly-elevated Fellows and award certificates were presented to four volunteers for their outstanding services to Student Activities, Young Professionals and WiE, as well as an appreciation to a late friend and former executive secretary of the SMC Chapter.

A webcast of the event can be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/ibze2X>

Lai Bun Lok, Lee Crudgington and Ryan Xi



Turning young engineers into young entrepreneurs

MORE than 90 students and young professionals gathered to take part in the much-anticipated IEEE Young Entrepreneurs Day at the University of Greenwich, London. The event is the first in a series planned by the UK and Ireland Section aimed towards people looking for inspiration, resources and guidance to help develop themselves professionally or start and grow a business.

The day attracted a diverse audience of delegates, including many undergraduate and postgraduate research students from universities across the UK and Europe. Interactive workshops were run by Google

Digital Garage, IBM, Entrepreneur First, and a full schedule of speakers offering advice and experience in entrepreneurship ranging from the current vice president of the IMechE to professional networking coaches. Representatives from the main event sponsor, AWE, were also on hand to explain opportunities.

A social lunch and IEEE drop-in sessions allowed delegates to find out more about the IEEE and its Affinity Groups and Chapters, and take advantage of registration offers.

Lee Crudginton

UK and Ireland Section Student Activities Committee



Take a 'stelfie', win an Apple Watch

RUNNING throughout the summer until 15 September, YP's 'Milestelfies' contest has been challenging IEEE members to visit as many IEEE historical Milestone sites as possible and take selfie photos alongside the plaques. Each photo must be shared via

Twitter with a message about the Milestone pictured, plus the hashtag #Milestelfie and tag @IEEEPEESYP.

The individual who posts the most Milestelfies wins an Apple Watch Series 2, with runners-up winning IEEE PES merchandise.

YP Bulgaria organizes brace of bright summer events

A TALK by James Bezdek and a summer school on 'Systems, Man and Cybernetics' were organized by the Young Professionals Affinity Group in Bulgaria at the Software University in Sofia.

Professor Bezdek is one of the world's most authoritative researchers in the field of fuzzy systems for pattern recognition. He has presented lectures such as 'Anomaly Detection in Wireless Sensor Networks: Visual Assessment and Clustering for Environmental Monitoring' and 'How big is too big? (Mostly) c-Means Clustering in Big Data' within the Computational Intelligence Society's Distinguished Lecturer program.

The summer school, supported by Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society, ran alongside the eighth IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Systems, also in Sofia. The program included talks on '3D surface reconstruction' by Vincenzo Piuri (Politecnico di Milano), 'Linguistic Geometry' by Boris Stilman (University of Colorado, Denver) and 'Switched Fuzzy Systems' by Georgi Dimirovski (University of St Cyril and Methodius) and Patrick Wang (Northeastern University).

These inspirational presentations by renowned lecturers were completely free to participants.

Gergana Lazarova
Secretary, YP Bulgaria



Nile University, Cairo, Egypt

Error Camp helps raise technical skills in advance of IEEEExtreme

IEEEEXTREME 10.0 ambassadors in Egypt organized an Error Camp at Nile University to promote the programming contest and raise the technical level of competitors, giving them a strong base to make their debuts.

Around 100 participants from 15 Egyptian universities were trained by three coaches provided by Coach Academy. The program contained topics such as complexity analysis, STL data structures, recursion and number theorem. Additionally, participants

competed in a virtual online competition designed as a miniature version of IEEEExtreme. The three winners were: Alone, Codify.h and BigBang.

The camp was co-organized by Helwan and Benha Student Branches and Modern Academy, and hosted by Nile University Student Branch. Student partners were: BUB SB, EGI SB, Assuit SB, PUA SB, AAST Cairo SB, AAST Alex SB, Tanta SB, SVU SB, New Cairo SB, MSB and Aswan SB.

Tanta University, Egypt

Conference enhances scientific research

UNDER the slogan 'Excellence in innovation and sustainable development', Tanta Student Branch, with the help of other societies, organized the fourth edition of the three-day conference

'Enhancing Scientific Research 2016' held in the University's conference hall.

The conference covered topics about scientific research in Egypt. It was divided into three main tracks: sessions about scientific fields (such as biological and chemical renewable energy, biomedical applications, and pseudo-science), general sessions (such as scientific research policies and the role of academia in scientific research and technol-



ogy in enhancing innovation) and a gallery for young innovators and project makers.

Around 800 researchers, students and businessmen had the opportunity to listen to speakers from Egypt, Japan, Tunisia and South Korea as well as to see the work of 38 innovators and projects makers. The deputy minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Essam Khamis, was also present to give a talk on scientific research policies.

Jordanian teams muscle into the top rankings at programming competition

JORDAN was represented by 59 teams from seven different universities in the tenth edition of IEEEExtreme, the IEEE's annual programming challenge which saw the participation of 2,000 teams from 60 different countries.

The best result was achieved by the MasterSamurai team from Princess Sumaya University of Technology, who reached an impressive 8th place and even was leading at the one point during the competition. Among the top 100 teams in the world were five more teams from Jordan: teaMaram, JCPcenter and ThreeLaptops from Princess Sumaya Univer-

sity of Technology, EagleRock from Yarmouk University and TeamH2A from Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Yarmouk University Student Branch, with the help from volunteers from other universities, exerted tremendous efforts to organize the competition for the Jordanian teams at Yarmouk University in Irbid. Further Jordanian teams came from University of Jordan, Applied Science University, Hashemite University and Al-Balqa Applied University.

Nada Manna
WiE chair, JUST Student Branch



Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Studying in Berlin? Join our new Student Branch

WE are happy to announce that the German capital now has a Student Branch. Berlin is one of the best startup hubs in the world with a great international population and three well-known universities. Our goal is to make Berlin a recognized name among community of IEEE volunteers and our peer Student Branches throughout the world.

Our main activity themes at Technical University Berlin IEEE (TUBIEEE) Student Branch will be technology and leadership, focusing our educational activities on what classic education does not

cover and fostering links between the university and professional life through networking events. We are currently a small team of remarkable diversity, speaking seven languages, and looking for more members to grow. So if you are a student in Berlin, interested in learning more about technology or practicing leadership skills in a safe environment, come and join our friendly team. If you are visitor, feel free to drop a line.

Please visit our website at <http://sites.ieee.org/sb-tuberlin>
Saeed Afrasiabi Gorgani

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany

Student Conference interest exceeds all expectations

LAST year saw the seventh annual German IEEE Student Conference organized by Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg Student Branch at the modern facility of the Fraunhofer Virtual Development and Training Center near the river Elbe.

The conference became an unexpectedly huge success as 36 contributions were submitted from students all over Germany. After a thorough review process, 20 papers were accepted and presented over four sessions, which addressed the fields of Power Electronics, Information Technology, Medical Engineering and Technology, and Electromagnetic Compatibility. Up to 60 participants per talk were attracted by these sessions, including not only students, but also postgraduates, PhD students and professors, who contributed to very lively discussions after each talk. Three Würth Elektronik Best Paper Awards were given to the best authors and speakers at the conference.

In the evening of the first day, 20 speakers, the organising committee and representatives of the sponsoring companies enjoyed dinner together and used the opportunity

to network – or simply to enjoy the great weather and German beer.

The Magdeburg Student Branch would like to thank all the partners and sponsors, which completely financed the whole conference.

University of Thessaly, Lamia, Greece

UTH is already eyeing up IEEEExtreme 11.0

TEN teams from the IEEE University of Thessaly Student Branch, each consisting of two to three students, participated in the IEEEExtreme 10.0 programming competition. The best result was achieved by TeamCotC, who took the 865th position in the global ranking and the 291th in Region 8. Other teams representing our Student Branch were Hotkeyboards, Omegateam, TeamGTA, TeamCReal, 123over, Error404NameNotF, Integers, PsychoProgA and TehLurdOfTehRein.

Athanasios Kakarountas, our proctor, together with all the teams gathered at the University, waited eagerly for the start of the competition which was conducted in a pleasant atmosphere, with the students fully concentrated on their work for the majority of its 24-hour duration. Unlimited quantities of water, coffee and snacks were offered to the participating

You are our future leaders and our source of inspiration

DEAR student friends! You are truly the heart of IEEE!

This year a new committee is determined to collaborate with you. Our pledge is to deliver our best at all times, whenever and wherever you need us. Our team is led by Efthymia (Femia), Arvaniti (Austria), Mona Ghasseman (UK and Ireland) sharing her useful advice as past chair, Ana Ines Inacio (Benelux) as the voice of all Region 8 students and our Region student representative, Jose Miguel A Sepulcre (Spain) is the electronic communication coordinator who will take care of our online presence, and Sarra Ben Rabii (Tunisia) is the link between all Student Branches and our Student Branch coordinator. Yara Melki (Lebanon) is the awards and contests coordinator in our Region, George Papadimitriou (Greece) is our project coordinator, and last but not least Paul Micallef (Malta) will coordinate the Student Paper Contest.

A special thanks to the previous committee for their dedication in the past years, and for their endless support for the best of our Region Student Activities. Thank you Mona, Pablo, Efthymia, Heind, Lebogang, Dinko, Youmna, Carlos, Ruba, Ahmet and Mehrsid.

This year, we are working to continue the excellent projects from the previous years, from the revitalisation project under which many Student Branches were reactivated and the Mind the Gap project to the mind-blowing Region 8 SYP Congress. But we also have many new surprises for you... just stay tuned!

The following Cross-Sectional Congresses were scheduled to take place in 2017: CEUSYP – Central European SYP, WESYP, MESYP – Middle-East SYP, ASYP – Africa SYP, NYSP-Nordic, and GCC SYP. Also, several Sectional Congresses took or will take place this year: in Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and other Sections across Region 8.

We are looking forward to your participation in these meetings, and to your activities and events. Remember, we are here for you! If you need anything or have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with us through our Facebook page, Instagram profile or by email at rsac@ieee.org. Also, please share your ideas with us, and send us pictures of the great events and congresses you organize! Finally, to ensure a smooth communication between us and your Student Branch, do not forget to report all new officers.

To sum up, we would like to congratulate each and everyone of you for making the IEEE journey full of glory and unforgettable moments. You are our source of inspiration: the IEEE Region 8 students, our future leaders. Join us and make a difference in our big family. We are, and will always be proud of you and of being part of this family :)

Your Region 8 Student Activities Committee: *Efthymia, Mona, Ines, Sarra, Yara, José Miguel, George and Paul*



teams in order to help them to perform the best they could.

We look forward to participating in IEEEExtreme 11.0 and we hope that even more teams will take part in this wonderful experience which combines knowledge with team spirit.

Klara Eleftheriadi, Chair
Ilias Xanthopoulos, Secretary

University of Thessaly Student Branch celebrated IEEE Day in conjunction with the University by organising a presentation of previous and forthcoming activities to the 150 student participants.

The event included also a Coffee & Cake Session, a night party in a local cafeteria as well as an easy and interesting competition in which teams used the Scratch programming language to successfully complete a game of Pong.

An Internet of Things workshop took place at the University of Thessaly in Lamia on 22-23 November 2016.

Speakers from across Greece came to share their views and ideas, and inform attendees about the prospects of this fascinating new field. Over the two days, lectures were given on various IoT topics, including medical applications, robots in assisted living environments and data security. The workshop attracted 154 participants.

An Arduino competition was also organized in which four teams demonstrated their projects. Each member of the winning team was awarded a €50 store voucher.

We are looking forward to organising another workshop on an interesting new topic in the near future, and thus broadening horizons of our students.



Photo: EirSpace

University of Bordeaux, France

Rocket's 576km/h flight wins prize

THE French Aerospace Industries Association, GIFAS, and the French Space Agency, CNES, have jointly awarded a prize to EirSpace ENSEIRB-MATMECA Engineering School Student Association and Bordeaux Electrical Engineering Branch, for the successful launch of its 2m-tall Artémis experimental rocket.

This prize rewarded an ambitious two-year project culminating in a successful lift-off and four-minute flight during the C'Space student contest. Artémis reached an altitude of 1.95km and a maximum speed of 576km/h. The rocket was entirely designed and manufactured by a team composed

of undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, with the support of the IEEE MTT-S French chapter, various academic institutes (including IMS research centre, Poly-Grames research centre, I2M research centre and CFAI), as well as Thales, Airbus, CST and other industrial partners.

The success of this flight has motivated Student Branch members to take part in the next C'Space edition, designing telemetry and telecommand systems by implementing slot and 3D printed blade antennas.

www.ieee-bordeaux.org
contact@ieee-bordeaux.org

Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine

Busy year for new Chapter

THE first Ukrainian Computer Society Student Chapter has been established in Lviv as a subunit of Lviv Polytechnic National University Student Branch. The initiative derived from students and young professionals, along with Edvantis, a leading Ukrainian software engineering company which substantially helped during the process.

Since it was founded in April last year, five workshops have been organized, with tech talks conducted by Edvantis' leading engineers. The head of the Chapter, Ihor Zhuk, has also attended Region 8 SYP Congress held in Regensburg, Germany.

The Chapter plans to run a hackathon for young software engineers, as a way to provide them with an intensive training.



University of Coimbra, Portugal

Portugal SB volunteers converge on Coimbra for skills workshops

MORE than 40 students gathered in Coimbra, Portugal, for the 4th Leadership Camp to share their experiences in managing Student Branches, participate in soft skills workshops, attend technical lectures and get in touch with several engineering companies.

João Santos from IST Student Branch spoke about the TISP 2.0 program, while Gonçalo Carito and Francisco Esteves held a workshop on Self-Leadership and Group Dynamics. The Young Professional Portugal representative, Rafael Arrais, gave a talk about Affinity Groups and Filipa Ramos spoke about WiE Portugal. These were followed by Anisa Shahidian's presentation about IEEE Academics.

A very enriching weekend was completed

by talks from José Pedro Silva, Tomás Tavares and Miguel Marques, who gave information about IEEE SAC/SSR, Student Branch Reporting and provide the answers in their presentation 'How to build a Sexy Student Branch?'

Joana Pereira

■ Portugal Section's 35th birthday was celebrated during Engineering day, organized by UC Student Branch in Coimbra. Talks were given by Catarina Silva, José Manuel Terras, Miguel Coimbra, Miguel Morgado, Pedro Simeão and Daniela Fontes. Work by several Chapters was presented in a poster session, followed by an open discussion on 'I finished my degree! What now?'

Take advantage of mentoring and internships

AS a part of Region 8's Action for Industry initiative, Industry Ambassadors have established effective and friendly contacts with many companies across Region 8 with the help of IEEE Seniors and Fellows who are already based in the industry. The aim is to move IEEE closer to industry by initiatives delivering credible and sustainable value to industry.

Many industry Seniors and Fellows are now available as Mentors to young engineers. Companies offering intern-

ships seek high-ability IEEE students, preferring those who show commitment, communicate well and have good interpersonal skills, while offering them short-term industry experiences.

The AfI team participated at SYP 2016 Congress in Regensburg and held a very successful interactive workshop attended by more than 70 students and young professionals, as well as Region 8 OpCom, candidates for IEEE president and the Region director. The strong interest in

AfI was evident from the contributions made by many who were benefitting from it. Already more than 100 IEEE student members have been placed in internships throughout Region 8.

Briefings can be found online here: Internships: <https://goo.gl/N5iqc6> Listed offered internships: <https://goo.gl/mEiwg6> Mentoring: <https://goo.gl/XcyxGz> Volunteer Mentors: <https://goo.gl/LMql8M>

{ IN BRIEF }



■ Al Ain University of Science and Technology, in conjunction with the UAE MTT-S & IM-S Joint Chapter and AAU Student Branch, organized the 11th IEEE UAE Student Day 2016 at the Abu Dhabi Campus.

Some 350 students from 13 universities across the United Arab Emirates competed for 24 awards in six categories while participants had the opportunity to find out more about IEEE, the Solar Decathlon Competition and to attend a technical talk about the Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA).



■ 300 students attended Mid-Year Training 2016 with the slogan 'Beyond Your Expectations', organized by Tanta Student Branch. The main technical tracks were Robotics, Internet of Things, AutoCAD Software, Software Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.



■ The third consecutive open T.I.S.P 2.0 festival was organized by UTH (Lamia) Student Branch in the Central Square of Lamia, Greece. Students of all ages had the opportunity to gain an understanding of simple engineering and notion that every problem can be solved when you cut it down to pieces and work rigorously.