



Region 8 News

At the recent Regional Operations Committee meeting, chaired by M. Maurice Papo, it was decided that some major changes should be made to Region 8 News, principally to reduce the expenditure on mailing; postage alone accounts for two thirds of the total production cost of R8 News; some changes are clearly necessary. And thanks be to Director Maurice for the consequent reduction in the editor's workload..

In due course R8 News will be printed and mailed from USA, in the same package as Spectrum and The Institute; this will result in a reduction in mailing costs. The insertion of R8 News into the combined package will be transferred to Wisconsin and bulk mailing to Europe (the Netherlands) will be carried out from, Wisconsin. As a consequence some R8 News services will be modified.

i) A change-of-address form will not in future be included in the polythene wrapper which will contain R8 News, The Institute and Spectrum, as was the custom when "The News" was delivered from UK. The completed forms at that time were returned to the Editor, who sent them to Piscataway where they were used to update the IEEE database.. Members who wish to notify Piscataway of a change of address should now write to: IEEE Regional Activities, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway NJ, 08855-1331 USA. E-mail: d.schreiber@ieee.org.

ii) Copies of R8 News that a country's local postal authorities were unable to deliver (e.g. if the member had moved house but not told the Piscataway office), were returned to the editor; who then sent the labels only, to Piscataway. The members' address details were entered into a "hold file"; thereafter no journals or other correspondence was delivered until the correct address had been established. This service will now be provided from the mailing centre in the Netherlands.

iii) There will be no printed advertisements in Region 8 News.

- iv) There will be no loose inserts of any kind in Region 8 News
- v) There will be no selective mailing service, based on either a member's geographical location or on his technical interests.
- vi) There will be no "direct" selective mailing service. i.e mailed separately, not with R8 News.
- vii) There will be no coloured photographs or full colour illustrations; spot colour illustrations, tints and black & white photographs are permitted.

Lead Times

Copy to the UK Editor before		R8 News arrives in Europe
1st November	for the February issue	15-28 February
1st February	May	15-31 May
1st May	August	15-31 August
1st July	September	-----

Hitherto the Region 8 News copy date, printed several times in every issue, has been the 1st of the month preceding publication. Up to 30 days were occupied in preparation, editing, proof reading and layout, plus 10 days for printing and mailing.

The new R8 News will need some 100 days between the arrival of copy on the UK editor's desk and the arrival of the completed R8 News in Europe; it will then be delivered to members by the local European postal system. Authors must keep in mind that if they are writing about date-sensitive events, e.g. a future conference, it will be *three to four months* before their article will be read by members.

Since Region 8 News will be packaged with Spectrum and the Institute, the schedule does not allow for late copy; everyone, from the author to the postman must be on time; late will not do! After delivery to Europe each country's local postal system is responsible for the distribution to members.

G.H.Byford (Region 8 New Editor)

Vocabulary: Lead Time - The time which elapses between the starting of a service and its completion

The Editorial Team

Since its inception Region 8 News has survived on one editor, who fulfilled the functions of Managing, Copy, and Advertising Editors. The new version of "The News" will need to reflect our changed circumstances; to that end there will in future be four editors each covering a separate facet of of the overall duties.

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Mr. Robert C. Winton, 22 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley
London England N2 9BD

Proof Reader

Region 8 News provides a platform from which the **Director** may put forward and explain his plans for the Region. This ensures that members are kept up-to-date with recent and potential developments.

News from the Sections.

Matters that will be of interest to one or several Sections; *details* of future conferences should not be reported in the text. If copy deadlines have been met, the Section material will be edited, and a proof returned to the author. If a copy date has not been met, then the article will be published "as received" and amended; or rejected, at the discretion of the editor.

Piscataway News.

Articles by members and staff at headquarters in Piscataway, New Jersey, USA. For most of the Region's members, "Headquarters", is a somewhat vague concept; we hope to introduce those who inhabit headquarters to those in distant places who sometimes wonder what this Piscatawayan stable does.

A Letter to the Editor.

Will enable any member to express his or her views on any subject which they believe may be of interest to members.

G.H.Byford - Editor

Lasers and Electro-optics Society

Scottish Chapter - 1997 Chapter of the Year

The Scottish Chapter of LEOS was established by the IEEE in February 1996 as part of the UKRI Section. The chapter is a forum for interactions between scientists and engineers working on lasers and optoelectronics in Scottish universities and industry. Post-graduate student participation is most welcome.

Many exciting opportunities exist through the entrepreneurship route: the LEOS Entrepreneurship Club has been set up to provide information and help those interested in this rewarding career. The Club is organised jointly by Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Chapter of LEOS.

What the Club Offers

A network for those interested in this potential career-move where they can discuss their ideas and build on each other's enthusiasm. It organises meetings and seminars on this and allied subjects and is a mechanism for disseminating the increasing information, documentation and other products" being produced as aids to the development of entrepreneurship.

Associated with the Club are sources of reputable independent advice on many aspects of commercialisation and entrepreneurship. These are people who are willing to have their names added as contact points for members of the Club on various topics. They are drawn from existing optoelectronic entrepreneurs: local Enterprise Company business development managers, the Licensing Centre Business ventures, Scottish Enterprise, Banks, Development Funds, Linc etc. They are happy to answer questions either by E-mail or phone, on an informal basis. They will give whatever advice or encouragement you may require to help you along the entrepreneurial route. This information is a unique resource available only to members.

Membership Application.

To apply for membership of the LEOS/SE Entrepreneurship club, please see the wweb page <http://papc-semi-1st-and.ac.uk/leos/Club/Club/Club-1.htm>

Chairman: Professor John H. Marsh, Dept of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, University of Glasgow, Galsgow G12 8LT. Tel: 0141 330 4790; Fax: 141 330 6002; E-mail J.Marsh@elec.gla.ac.uk.

Hungary

Foundation of the Hungarian Joint Chapter of the Industrial Electronics, and Robotics & Automation Societies

On the occasion of the "1997 International Conference on Intelligent Engineering Systems", with the participation of several members of the Hungary Section, the inaugural meeting of the Hungarian Joint Chapter of the Industrial Electronics and Robotics and Automation Societies" was held in Budapest, Hungary on 15th September 1997. The meeting was honoured by the participation of representatives from the parent Societies as well as other prominent international guests also having important functions in the organisation of the IEEE: Prof. Toshio Fukuda, Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka, Prof. Ren C. K Luo, Prof. Tzy Tarn, Prof. Karou Hirota and Dr. Antal K. Bejczy.

Based on their constructive suggestions and advice, the appropriate Petition and Declarations were submitted to the IEEE. According to the IEEE bylaws the effective date of the Chapter formation was 8th October 1997. According to the voting procedure held during the inaugural meeting Imre J. Rudas, professor at the Bank Donat Polytechnic, Budapest, Hungary, was elected chairman of the Joint Chapter.

The formation of this Chapter is a significant event in the professional life of Hungary Section members active in the fields of automation and industrial electronics. Hungary, as a small Central European country, went through serious difficulties during the years of its economic transition that commenced in 1989. The negative "side effects" of the first half of this transition strongly influenced those sectors of the national economy which encompasses the use of modern equipment automation such as robots as well as electronic devices. In connection with this the high cost of investment, the general shortage of domestic capital resources and the diverse interests of foreign investors can be mentioned, as a consequence of a wide gap which arose between the industrial and the university circles involved in R & D.

By the end of 1997 this tendency seemed to change, and according to the founders' view, it became possible to put into effect a rebuilding of the professional relations between industry and academia, and to strengthen and improve the professional life and activity within the Hungary Section. The newly established Chapter intends to commence its activity and working programme in this direction, and in so doing contribute to the engineering well-being of our electrical engineering community.

*Chapter Chairman: Prof. Imre J. Rudas, Head of Department of Information Technology, H-1081 Budapest, Nepszinhaz u.8, Hungary.
Tel: +36 1 333 4513. Fax: +36 1 333 9183*

IEEE Logo Guidelines

Special Guidelines for the use of the "IEEE Logo and Logotype IEEE" have been developed to help members, volunteers and staff with the proper use of the IEEE logo and logotype.

The guidelines were developed for two reasons: first, to establish a common understanding about how a strong, consistent identity makes our association unique, thus increasing its value to members, customers, and ourselves; second, to provide simple, concise instructions for each of us to follow. The guidelines include information on logo use for stationery, text publications, printed material and conferences/meetings.

A copy of the guidelines can be found on the IEEE Copyright page at <http://www.ieee.org/copyright> For more information contact Bill Hagen, IEEE Administration Copyrights Manager, Publications. Tel: 1-908 732 3966. Fax 1 908 981 8062. E-mail: w.hagen@ieee.org.

M. M.Papo (Region 8 Director)

Vocabulary: Logotype - A group of letters or numbers that serves the same purpose as a logo.

Promotion to Senior Member

A new program has been launched for 1998 to increase the number of members who upgrade to Senior Member status. Many members with years of experience in industry, academia or government service, are eligible to become Senior Members but don't take the opportunity to upgrade themselves. The basic qualifying criteria are a total of 10 years of professional experience (of which 5 years can be educational experience) plus 5 years of significant professional performance.

This year IEEE is providing incentives to Sections and Societies that nominate members to become Senior Members. A simplified procedure, via e-mail, is now in operation. Forms can be obtained from: via: senior-member-forms@ieee.org

Applications and references can be submitted via: senior-member@ieee.org

To qualify for the \$10 incentive payment, applications must be submitted by December 4th 1998.

Further details can be obtained from Bill Hunter - w.hunter@ieee.org Fax: +001 732 562 5522

Charles W. Turner (IEEE Region 8 Planning)

As from January 1 1998, the new Agreement of International Cooperation between the Netherlands Electronics and Radio Association (NERG) and the IEEE became effective for the next three years. This is the happy outcome of many years of friendly relationships between NERG and the IEEE Benelux Section, and a growing understanding that there is no competition between the IEEE as a technical international organization and the national societies: they are complementary.

Belonging to the most important electronics societies in the Netherlands, with many members already enlisted in both groups, will certainly improve the mutual benefits for the members and enlarge their national and international scope. For example a reduction of 10% of the basic fees is given if you are a member of the two associations.

This IEEE-NERG agreement was celebrated in the usual manner at a combined meeting after the General Assembly. This new arrangement has been wholeheartedly welcomed by the IEEE Board of Directors, being in line with their international policy, and in the hope that other national societies will follow the Benelux example.

INFORMATION ON CHAPTERS

There are now 8 chapters in the Benelux. For their addresses see below. Members who wish to be involved in Chapter activity should contact a Chapter Chairman from the list below:

Information Theory IT Prof. E. C. van der Meulen
Tel.: +32 16 32 70 47 e-mail: ecvdm@gauss.wis.kuleuven.ac.be

Circuits and Systems CAS Prof. Patrick de Wilde
Tel: +31 15 278 62 34 E-mail: p.dewilde@dimudelft.nl

Signal Processing SP Johan Van Ginderdeuren
Tel.: +32 16 39 06 43 e-mail: Johan.VanGinderdeuren@ping.be

Veh. Tech. and Communications VT & C Prof. Ramjee Prasad
Telephone: +31 15 278 24 17. e-mail: R.Prasad@et.tudelft.nl

Consumer Electronics CE: Prof. Kees A. Schouhamer Immink
Telephone: +31 40 274 22 21

Antennas and Propagation & MTT. Ir. Kees van t Klooster
Tel.: +31 71 565 39 40. e-mail: kvtkloos@vmprofs.estec.esa.nl

Electron Devices ED: Prof. C. Claeys
Telephone: +32 16 28 13 28 E-mail: claeys@imec.be

Lasers and Electro-Optics LEOS Dr. E.C.M. Pennings
Tel.: +31 40 274 30 37 E-mail: epenning@matlab.research.philips.nl

The Belgian Treasurer Dirk Rabaey presented the financial report, and thanks to their healthy financial situation, the Chapters received more funds for their symposia and workshops.

E-mail SERVICE

Ed Deprettere, Chapter coordinator (ed@cas.et.tudelft.nl) manages an E-mail journal, the ProRISC Letter for dissemination of news and meeting announcements. For submissions mail to proletter@cas.et.tudelft.nl

WEB SITE

At the moment our place on the World Wide Web is under construction by Jan Vanderschoot - please look at our home page: <http://www.medfac.leidenuniv.nl/ieec/>. All the parties of the Benelux Section involved are requested to input their data at this site. In this way the exchange of information can be greatly enhanced.

Here the Netherlands Chairman and Secretary took over, and Past Chairman Prof. P./ Jaspers welcomed the members and reported about their activities, especially of the flourishing new Chapters. The newly elected executive committee consists of:

J. Noordanus Chairman

P. Jaspers Junior Past Chairman

C. Claeys Vice Chairman

Ouibrahim Hamza Secretary

D. Vanhoenacker Second Secretary (B)

J.B.H. Peek Treasurer

D.H. Rabaey Second Treasurer (B)

P. Eyckhoff Awards

D.M. Van Dommelen Student Activities

G. D. Khoe Educational Activities (NL)

J. Destine Educational Activities (B)

K.K. Keimpema Professional Activities

F.V. Jorgensen Membership Development

J. Vanderschoot Electronic Communications

E. Deprettere Chapter Coordination

After the lunch, kindly offered by Philips Electronics, Prof. Jaspers acknowledged the awards, bestowed upon our Benelux colleagues:

- Heinrich Hertz Medal 1995 to Prof. J. van Bladel, University Gent
- Masura Ibuka Award 1996 to Prof. dr. K. Schouhamer Immink, Philips Research
- Solid-State Circuits Award 1996 to Prof. dr. R. van de Plassch, Philips Research
- Frederik Phillips Award to Dr.R. Huber, European Commission
- Dick Poortvliet Award to the IEEE Delft Student Branch

For the last part of the day, two award winning members, Schouhamer Immink and van de Plassche presented papers about their work on respectively Coding Techniques and Signal Processing for Digital Recorders and Data Conversion, the key to digital signal processing of analog signals.

Section Chairman: Ir. J. Noordanus, Bachlaan 6, 1272 EK HUIZEN, Netherlands. Fax and Telephone: +31 35 5251704, E-mail: J.Noordanus@ieec.org.

Stop Press!

Congratulations to Ir. William Watte of the Benelux Section, who has been chosen by the IEEE Regional Activities Board to receive the 1997 GOLD Award in recognition of his work on behalf of the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) programme. Mr. Watte serves as the GOLD representative on the Region 8 Committee, and can be contacted for details of Section GOLD programmes on E-mail: w.watte@ieec.org Ed.

Chapter Coordination

Welcome Estonia

It is with great pleasure that I announce the formation of the Signal Processing, Circuits and Systems, Solid-state Circuits Joint Chapter in Estonia. Because there is so far no Estonia Section, the new Joint Chapter is temporarily affiliated with the Finland Section. This is the first Chapter in Estonia, and the Chairman, Prof. Vello Kukk <vkukk@cc.tu.ee>, should be congratulated on his successful efforts in getting it established - best wishes go to him for its future.

Non-linear dynamics in Hungary

The sixth International Specialist Workshop on 'Non-linear Dynamics for Electronic Systems' (NDES'98) will take place in Budapest, 16-18th July. The Circuits and Systems Society is giving substantial support and further help is being provided by the Region 8 Voluntary Contributions Fund. This financial support will enable NDES'98 to continue in the traditions of the previous NDES workshops of bringing together experts in non-linear dynamics from Eastern and Western Europe, and maintaining low-cost registration fees for students. Members from economically disadvantaged areas of the Region (for example, the countries of the former Soviet Union) who have difficulty in finding the financial support needed to attend are invited to contact the Workshop Chairman, Prof. Geza Kolumban, as soon as possible. Details are on the Internet at: <http://www.mmt.bme.hu/events/ndes98/>

Chapter Growth

At the end of March '98 there were 42 new chapter or joint-chapter additions to Region 8; this is far ahead of any other Region. This comes about from Society initiatives and support, and also from Chapter Coordination activities promoted by the Region 8 Committee. These Chapters provide a much greater scope for local technical activities and enable non-members to join in and appreciate the benefits of IEEE membership. There is also a better foundation for developing links between the Societies and the Region. However, the Chapters will not work without the support of the local membership - so please offer your services to the local Chapter committees in your area - and if there is not a Chapter of the Society in which you are most interested, and you would like to help form one, contact the R8 Chapter Coordination Chairman: Prof. Tony Davies <tonydavies@kcl.ac.uk>

Anthony C. Davies - (Region 8 Chapter Coordinator)

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Tel: +44 171 873 2441. Fax: +44 171 836 4781

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The Next Region 8 News

From the first two pages of this issue, readers will be aware that there are changes in the way that R8 News will in future be edited, printed and mailed. The lead times in particular will for a while affect publication dates; but I must assure authors that we are doing everything possible to return to our previous regular publishing schedule.

I would ask any author who is able to contribute an article on any subject, in the past, present or future, of interest to the members, to write it as soon as possible and send it to me by: E-mail, fax or letter. I shall endeavour to provide you with a proof as soon as possible. Copy date = 1st July 1998

Mick Byford - Editor

Professor Walter E Proebster

In 1956, after having received the "Dr.-Ing." degree (thesis: electronic circuitry design in PERM--programmgesteuerte elektronische Rechenmaschine, Muenchen), Walter Proebster joined the IBM Research Laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland, as a project manager with responsibility for magnetic logic and high-speed magnetic film memories. In 1962 he went to the IBM Research Center (U.S.) in Yorktown Heights as Director of the Experimental Machines Department. He returned to Germany in 1964 and took over the position of Director of the IBM Laboratory in Boeblingen.

He was elected an IEEE Fellow in 1977, and as Region 8 Director, served on the Board of Directors from 1981-2. IEEE Secretary in 1985. His most recent post was the Appointed Representative for Membership Development on the Region 8 Committee - during his period of office the number of members increased substantially.

He was associated with several IEEE Conferences:

AFRICON '80; EUROCON '82; ICC '84;

INTERMAG '84; MELECON '81; NTG 1977

It seems unlikely that Walter will be allowed to take up his retirement in the traditional fashion; someone, somewhere, will be saying "I have just the job for you, you are so well qualified you can't refuse it"

Technical Support

*If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
And addressing the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.*

R.S.B.

The Section Annual Meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, June 16, 7 pm at Maison des Politechniciens, 12 rue de Poitiers, 75007 Paris. During the traditional dinner, M. Pierre Bacher, former Delegate Director and Technical Director of the EDF Production Division, will give a talk entitled « Superphenix : why ? ».

Professor Ferdy Mayer has been honored with the distinction of « Honorary Life EMC Member » at the Int. IEEE EMC Conf., Austin, TX, August 18-22, 1997 for the « Coordination of IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society International Events and his Services on the Society's Board of Directors ». He has been re-elected to the Board of Directors, starting January 1, 1998.

The **French Chapter of the EMC Society** has with its program 1997-1998 the pleasure to invite M. Art Wall, EMC responsible at the Federal Agency FCC for a presentation concerning « Global Trends in Commercial EMC-Requirements (in cooperation with the French SEE, Club 25) ».

The next International IEEE EMC Conference will be held in Denver (CO), August 1998. Several new patented technologies will be shown during the conference. Inf. Ferdy.MAYERLEADFrance@Compuserve.com.

Int. Conf. on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques (PACT'98) will be held on October 14-17, 1998 at ENST (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications), 46 rue Barrault, Paris 13. Deadline for submission : April 26, 1998. Inf. kemal@watson.ibm.com, http : //www.inf.enst.fr/pact/. The IEEE France Section Computer Chapter offers the « Best paper award ».

OCEANS'98, Conference and Exhibition (with student posters) will be held in Nice, Acropolis Convention Center, 28 Sept. - 1 Oct. 1998. Inf. Rene Garello, rene.garello@enst-bretagne.fr; http : //oceans98.ifremer.fr/oceans98; fax : 33 (0)2 98 00 10 98.

Int. Symp. on Computer Employment and Education (ISCEE'98) sponsored by the IEEE, IEEE Comp. Soc., European Commission, U. of Picardie Jules Verne will be held on October 8-9 1998 in Amiens. Paper deadline : July 1, 1998. General Chair and inf. : Ch. Cerin : c.cerin@computer.org ; fax : 33 (0)3 22 82 75 02 ; http : //w3.U-picardie.fr/~cerin/iecc/Iscee98/.

France Section contacts : Christine Nora, *Chairman*
nora@poly.polytechnique.fr; Edwige Pissaloux, *secretary*,
Edwige.Pissaloux@univ-rouen.fr. IEEE France Section Internet
address is: http://w3.u-picardie.fr/~cerin/iecc/.

Peer Martin Larsen and I will be sharing the Membership Development activities because this is a transitional year for Region 8. I attended the MD retreat held in Baltimore on behalf of the Region and exchanged views and ideas about the MD programmes being pursued throughout IEEE and focused on some key issues that need to be given higher priority at Section and Chapter level.

The GOLD programme is a good example of a new approach to the problem of member recovery and retention. The IEEE loses over 40,000 members each year, but many of them are recently graduated students who have entered employment, and moved away from their university address. The GOLD programme aims track engineers who were student members within the past 10 years and invite them to resume membership. There are also other examples of lapsed membership that are worthy of extra effort at Section and Chapter level.

Much time and discussion was devoted to the application of the SAMIEEE database in MD activities. Now that Sections have convenient access to a very comprehensive set of data about their members, including their technical interests and Chapter affiliations, it should be much easier to follow up members who have not renewed or who have resigned. In Region 8 there is some concern about the accuracy of the SAMIEEE diskettes and their usefulness in keeping track of members. There appears to be no simple solution to this problem, but a concerted effort at the local level in both the Sections and the Chapters to remove faulty data, especially in the vital details of addresses (e.g. postal codes) that ensure prompt delivery of journals and other correspondence.

Membership Development should not just be about increasing the number of members, although ultimately that is to the benefit of all members, but it should also aim to improve the quality of member services and to increase member satisfaction. Every Section Committee should be thinking about ways to increase member satisfaction. Every Section Committee should be thinking about ways to find out what its members, including students, want from local IEEE entities (Section, Chapters and Student Branches) Later this year Region 8 will be organising an MD workshop to help students to energise their MD activities. Does your Section have an MD chair who communicates with you?

Charles W. Tumer (Membership Activities)

Vocabulary: Retreat - A peaceful place which is said to stimulate the thinking processes



Region 8 Student News

No 4 — May 1998

Editors:

Jens Hannemann (Regional Student Representative), J.Hannemann@ieee.org
Levent Onural (Regional Student Activities Committee Chairman), L.Onural@ieee.org

Editorial

Hi folks,
it never fails: just when you need your email connection most urgently, the whole thing breaks down. If you should have tried to contact either Levent or me via email the last weeks, you might, in the best case, have noticed that something went wrong. However, a lot of messages just went down the dump, especially those directed to me. Since Levent's link is operational again, and I can't really tell when we'll have fully fixed my network, be sure to send him a cc (carbon copy) of emails to me if you want to make really sure it reaches us.

Speaking of electronic communication, for the website contest and during our mail problems, we were very glad to have the help of our new Regional Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC), Christian Borgert (remember that guy with the Larry K. Wilson Award from the first issue?). He will help to improve the electronic flow of information in Region 8, and we will introduce him more closely in one of the next issues. For the time being, if you have any problems or questions related to electronic communications like email, www and the like, feel free to contact him under C.Borgert@ieee.org.

See you all in İstanbul,

Jens

S-PACs and S-PAVEs Explained What They Are and How They Work

We'd like to draw your attention to a program that still is pretty much unknown in our Region. At first sight, the acronyms S-PAC and S-PAVE are a bit awkward, but the implementation of these programs is really easy.

Now, S-PAC stands for *Student Professional Awareness Conference* and S-PAVE for *Student Professional Awareness Venture*. If this still sounds too confusing, let's just call it *Money for Professional Awareness*, because that's what it basically is. The programs are well-established and well-funded within IEEE. If a Student Branch plans any activity related to professional awareness (that is, learning about what will expect you in your professional life after graduation) and already has a part of the funding needed to carry out that activity, it can get a good portion of the remaining funds through the S-PAC/S-PAVE pro-

gram.

There are (at least) 6 categories of professional awareness topics that can be addressed at S-PACs or S-PAVEs:

- Career Growth
- Working
- Professional Ethics and Societal Responsibility
- Self-Management
- The Engineer and Public Policy
- The Role of the Professional Society

The basic difference between the two programs is that an S-PAC is an event held on a single day in a conference-like format, whereas an S-PAVE can cover a longer timespan (like a project).

If you are interested in conducting such an event, contact Laura Durrett (1.durrett@ieee.org).

Conference Support for Students

Student members who attend an IEEE conference in 1998 may get a voucher up to \$30 to be used for their 1999 membership renewal. To receive the voucher, your IEEE mailing address must be in Region 8 and information about the conference, your membership number, proof of payment of the conference registration fee as well as your address (plus your e-mail if you have one) must be mailed to Levent Onural, Elektrik ve Elektronik Müh. Böl., Bilkent Üniversitesi, TR-06533 Ankara, Turkey. You'll get your vouchers before the 1999 membership renewal cycle starts. More information can be obtained from:

www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/free.html

Deadlines & Upcoming Events

May 1 *Annual Report* must be submitted to Student Services. \$1.10 per member rebate checks will be issued only upon timely receipt of the Annual Report!

May 20 *Student Paper Contest Finals* will be held at the MELECON '98 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

June 18 *4th Annual International Barbecue* of the IEEE Student Branch Bochum. All Region 8 Student Branches are sincerely invited; please contact them at ieeesb@ieee.ruhr-uni-bochum.de.

August 1 *Fall Promotional Mailing* sent to all Branch Counselors. So, after the usual mail delay (4-6 weeks) check with your counselor whether that stuff has arrived.

August 10 - 13 *IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Congress* in İstanbul, Turkey in conjunction with STUDENT'98.

August 15 *Rebate Checks* will be sent if the Annual Report of Activities has been received by headquarters in time (deadline May 1).

If you want your local student branch activity listed here, just drop us an email.

1998 Region 8 Student Paper Contest Finalists Have Been Chosen

There are various activities of IEEE that student members can participate. Among these, the regional student paper contest is one of the most rewarding. Personally, I find it very exciting.

This is an annual event. Each year, the student branches must hold their own local contests to participate in the regional contest. All authors of the papers must be student members of IEEE. The work presented in the papers should be completed before the authors get their first professional degrees. However, the submission date to the regional contest can be within six months after graduation. Although the engineering curriculum in our region varies significantly, the students are usually required to complete a project during their final year of studies. So, it should not be a problem to find out "what to write"; these "senior projects" (sometimes called "graduation projects") are excellent resources.

Local branches can freely make their own rules regarding the submission deadlines and judging criteria: they can choose the appropriate dates matching to their own calendar. Please note that the submission to the regional contest must be completed no later than six months after graduation. A branch may choose to submit its winner(s) as early as they wish as long as it is not later than the announced regional contest deadline. The deadline for the 1998 regional contest was 15 December 1997. Branch officers are strongly recommended to schedule their local contest well in advance. It helps to pinpoint some strong projects and motivate people to participate. Each branch can submit at least one paper (their local winner) to the regional contest. However, if there are more than 50 members of a branch, they can submit more than one: you can increase the number of submissions by one whenever the number of members increases above a multiple of 50: up to 2 submission if there are 51-100 members, 3 if 101-150, and so on. So, try to get more members to have more contestants! There are strict requirements regarding the format of the submitted papers. The details can be

found at www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~onural/rules97.ps or www.fmi.uni-passau.de/~ieeesb/R8-SAC/rules97.ps. The grading is done by an international jury appointed each year by the regional student activities chair. The jury evaluates the papers regarding their content and written presentation. Then the papers are ranked, and the best 5-7 are invited to the oral finals. Oral finals take place during a reputable full scale conference. In 1997, it was the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP) in Munich. In 1998, the paper contest is going to be within MELECON'98 in Israel on May 20. All travel and accommodation costs of the finalists invited to oral part of the contest are covered by IEEE Region 8. (Here is another reason to participate!!!) The jury, upon listening to the 15 min. presentations, and the following 5 min. questions-and-answers session, makes its final decision; the winners (top three) are announced during the conference dinner with a ceremony. The student paper contest session usually attracts a large audience with many participants who are not only the students, but also the other professionals attending the conference.

The contest has always been one of the major student events in our region. In 1997, there were 19 submissions. The best six are invited to Israel. These are (in randomized order): Peter Bienstman (Gent), Vedran Zitnjak (Maribor), M. C. van Beurden et al. (Eindhoven), A. G. Mulders (Eindhoven), Eyal Feigenbaum et al. (Technion), Christian Wolters (Bochum). Congratulations.....

If you are an officer of your branch, and if your branch has not participated in the 1998 contest, I strongly recommend you to start making plans to participate next year. If you are a student member of a branch planning to compete in this exciting event, get in touch with your branch officers to find out local contest organization details. If there is no IEEE branch in your school, yet, you may take the lead and start organizing an official branch; get in touch with me to learn the procedure and to get the forms.

1998 Worldwide Student Branch Website Contest Good Participation in Region 8

The first IEEE Worldwide Student Branch Website Contest is off to a good start, at least concerning Region 8. We have 10 entries, the first 3 of which will take part in the worldwide finals.

The websites will be judged after uniform criteria with emphasis on quality of information and download speed rather than fanciness and features. A jury consisting of various members of Region 8, chaired by the Regional Electronic Communications Coordinator Christian Borgert, will judge and rank the sites. By the time you read this, probably the final decision in the worldwide contest will have just been made, so if you're interested, have a look at <http://sandbox.ieee.org> for more information.

The 10 competing Branches and (if already known) the respective URLs are:

- Bochum (www.ieee.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/)
- Padova (www.dei.unipd.it/~ieeesb/)
- Tehran (khorshid.ece.ut.ac.ir/IEEE/)
- Madrid (www.ieeesb.etsit.upm.es/)
- Zagreb (ieee-sb.cc.fer.hr/)
- Jordan University of Science and Technology
- SB Varna, Bulgaria
- Karlsruhe
(www-itiv.etec.uni-karlsruhe.de/IEEE/i3e.html)
- Eindhoven (www.ele.tue.nl/ieeesb/)
- Passau (www.ieee.students.uni-passau.de/)