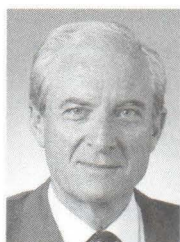


From the Regional Director



We are very pleased and proud that the second IEEE Board of Directors Meeting in June 1999 was held in London within Region 8. The opportunity was used to make industry visits in England, Scotland and Ireland as well as to host two historical events, a lecture on Michael Faraday and the IEEE Honors Ceremony, which took place for the first time outside the USA. We are very thankful to Prof. C.W. Turner for the excellent organisation of the

historical events. He gives a separate report elsewhere in this issue.

Some of the highlights of the Board Meeting were:

- ♦ The member dues will not be increased in 2000.
- ♦ The reference requirement for elevation from Associate to Member grade was eliminated. For elevation to Senior Member grade three references will still be required.
- ♦ A new Technical Field Award, the IEEE Internet Award, has been established.
- ♦ Volta's invention of the battery, and Bakken's invention of the wearable

pacemaker were approved as IEEE milestones.

- ♦ Updates were given on the status and discussions of the three Ad Hoc Committees on Branding, Streamlining Decision Making, and the New Financial Model. However no decisions are to be made before yearend and I will report then.

Region 8 Help Desk

During the past half year I received several requests for help with typical IEEE problems. After taking over some cases, which *continued on page 2*

Guest Editorial – Ken Laker

It is my pleasure to write this editorial to address the IEEE members in Region 8. Your Region 8 is in many ways the most dynamic and culturally diverse of all the IEEE Regions. Networking the world is not only alive and well in Region 8, your Region is a glowing example of what this slogan means in the IEEE. Your region has enjoyed a long history of strong leadership, which has rendered it one of the fastest growing Regions in IEEE. In 1999 IEEE Region 8 Director Rolf Remshardt and the distinguished Region 8 Committee continue this tradition.

This is indeed an exciting time for the IEEE; the Institute is strong and vital. We as IEEE members and volunteer leaders have much to be proud of:

Our membership is at an all-time high. 1998 saw the largest annual membership increase in the Institute's history and that trend is continuing this year.

Electronic delivery of information is redefining the IEEE and the Institute's publishing operations. New technologies

are making it easier to cross-link and search all IEEE information, and cost-effectively generate print and electronic publications from a common database. I believe these advances will add tremendous new value to the information products that are most important to IEEE members in Region 8.

And, we are creating more new electronic products and services. IEEE Standards are now provided online, and our IEEE/IEE Electronic Library is available via the Internet. This is only the beginning.



Today in 1999, as we approach the 21st century, the IEEE is at what I call an inflection point. An inflection point defines a point or period of time during which the external conditions that effect an organisation and its constituents change to a degree that impacts the relevance of the organisation. Although the Institute is strong and vital, externalities that are critical to the IEEE have undergone sufficient

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Regional Director *continued*

had been going on for several months, I directed them with some explanations to the appropriate staff persons. They were solved within 2-3 days. An interface between the member and IEEE seems to be helpful and this gave me the idea of a Region 8 "Help Desk".

I am pleased to announce the establishment of a *Help Desk* for our R8 members. It is supposed to assist all members, who have any query with IEEE or got lost in the IEEE administration jungle. R8 is extremely diversified and consists of many countries with different currencies, languages, laws and cultures. It is therefore very important and helpful for the member to have a colleague in the area, who is familiar with both IEEE and the infrastructure of his country. I am glad that I found some R8 volunteers who will kindly serve as members of the R8 *Help Desk* and assist their fellow members in their area. If a member has problems with payments, name or address errors/changes, with renewals or new applications, with publication delivery or others, he/she should contact the R8 *Help Desk* and ask for assistance. The R8 *Help Desk* consists of the following members:

The "Brussels Office": This is considered to be the extended arm of the IEEE Operations Centre in the heart of Europe and has direct access to the IEEE database. Its manager, **Jacques Kevers**, has summarised the services of his office in a separate note elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Ayhan Altintas, Ankara, Turkey. Ayhan will kindly serve all areas in the near and middle East, from Turkey, Jordan and Egypt to the Gulf countries and Iran including other neighbouring countries. Caucasian countries (such as Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan etc.) can also contact Ayhan.

Dr. Andrej Zemva, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Andrej will kindly serve the Balkan countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and all other neighbours in this area. Member in countries north of Slovenia such as Ukraine, Belarus, etc., and of the Czechoslovakia Section, may contact Andrej as well.

Dr. Iiro Hartimo, Hut, Finland. Iiro will kindly serve the Scandinavian countries, the Baltic States, Poland and Russia.

Jorge-Luis Sanchez-Ponz, Madrid, Spain. Jorge will serve the southwest

European part of R8, which includes Spain, Portugal, and Italy as well as the northern part of Africa (Morocco, Tunisia).

Countries and Sections, which are not specifically listed, may contact the person in the area closest to them, or of their choice if more convenient. Each member seeking assistance should contact his/her R8 *Help Desk* member or the Brussels Office directly. The R8 *Help Desk* is supposed to "own" the problem until it is completely solved. In difficult cases my door will always be open to our members. On behalf of the Region I extend our sincere thanks to all the volunteers serving in this new facility.

R8 Help Desk members:

Jacques Kevers, "Brussels Office" (IEEE European Operations Center) j.kevers@ieee.org or memservice@ieee.org;

Fax: 322 770 8505

Dr. Ayhan Altintas, Bilkent University, Ankara/Turkey a.altintas@ieee.org; Fax: 90 312 266 4126

Dr. Andrej Zemva, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana/Slovenia a.zemva@ieee.org; Fax: 386 61 126 4630

Dr. Iiro Hartimo, HUT/Finland iiro.hartimo@ieee.org; Fax: 358 9 460 224

Jorge-Luis Sanchez-Ponz Madrid/Spain j.s.ponz@ieee.org

R8 Chapter Congress

The R8 Operation Committee (OPCOM) has decided to start a series of R8 Chapter Congress meetings, where chairs of certain society chapters, and those who may want to form a chapter, will be invited by R8 to attend a meeting. At this meeting they can learn about the various services and financial support from Sections, Societies and the Region for their activities. They can meet with their colleagues, learn about their activities and exchange experiences. To make the event more attractive from a technical point of view, the meeting will be in connection with a major IEEE Society Conference. The idea is similar to the successful Div. I+IV Chapter Meeting in R8, which was held in Leuven, Belgium this year.

The first pilot Congress is planned with the Signal Processing Society, ComSoc, and

other Societies together with the ICASSP Conference in June 2000 in Istanbul. We received approval from our partners and started planning the arrangements. All related R8 Chapter Chairs will receive an invitation by yearend and those of our Society members who are interested to attend and might want to form new chapters are invited to contact our Chapter Coordinator, Prof. A. Davies (a.davies@ieee.org).

Travel expenses will be covered by R8 and the Societies. We are convinced that this meeting will become a major event in R8 and you should already plan for your attendance. More information will soon be available in the Web and on our R8 Home page.

After a successful meeting in Istanbul it is planned to continue with these events in connection with the Eurocon Conference in Bratislava 2001.

Brussels Office

After a meeting with the Brussels Office management, a list of services, which can be offered to R8 members, was compiled. The office manager Jacques Kevers gives a short summary of the services available elsewhere in this issue. I strongly urge all members to make use of the Brussels Office where appropriate and to justify its availability in our region.

AFRICON'99

By the time you receive this issue of the R8 News, AFRICON'99, which was to be held from 29 September to 1 October 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa will be past. Because the Region 8 News is only issued 4 times a year, and because of the inevitable lead times in preparing each issue, we will have to wait for the February 2000 issue for news of the conference itself. The celebrations of the official declaration of the IEEE Historical Milestone to mark the First Operational Use of Wireless Telegraphy (R8 News, Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 7, November 1998), form part of the conference programme and we look forward to hearing news of those events as well. ♦

Rolf Remshardt
Director, Region 8
r.remshardt@ieee.org

European Operations Centre

Since the last R8 Committee meeting, the Brussels Office continued discussions with several Region 8 officers to define the assistance it could offer based on their priorities.

R8 Help Desk

Region 8 Director Remshardt in his report has made reference to the R8 *Help Desk*. This Office is a member in the R8 *Help Desk* initiative. It will serve as a primary contact for IEEE members in the Region, and as their interface to IEEE staff, and will assist other members of the R8 *Help Desk* team as required. It will handle problems related to membership, addresses, database, payments, subscriptions and many others, focusing especially on the "problem ownership" aspect so that the member will only have to deal with one person to have his/her problem solved.

SAMIEEE

Several potential recipients of the SAMIEEE database are not fully familiar with it, or currently have no access to it. The office can provide them with the data they need for their IEEE activity, or assist them with the installation and application of the programme. The office will monitor enhancements of the software, and bring

any identified problems to the appropriate person's attention. Christian Borgert, our Electronic Communications Coordinator, can also assist with difficult cases if required.

Conference Packages

The office proposes to supply organisers of smaller section or chapter meetings, as well as large society conferences in the region, with "conference packages" containing promotional materials and giveaways. These packages will give additional "weight" to these events by enhancing the visibility of IEEE's support. A procedure will be established in cooperation with the concerned Region officers, where R8 and TAB will regularly provide the office with information on future events in R8.

Ongoing cooperation with R8 volunteers

The office cooperated with the Benelux section to have a presence in their web page. Links between Section, Region and IEEE web sites will be developed.

IEEE EUROPEAN CENTER

IEEE European Operations Center

13 Avenue de l'Aquilon

B-1200 Brussels, BELGIUM

Phones: +32 2 770 22 42 (IEEE)

+32 2 770 21 98 (Computer Society)

+32 2 770 66 34 (Communication Society)

Fax: +32 2 770 85 05

E-mail: memservice-europe@ieee.org

A brochure, presenting the service capabilities of the Brussels office is ready and will be distributed at technical events, sent to various volunteers, and made available to Sections and Chapters. Short articles in R8 News will keep all members informed about new services in Brussels, and a permanent address column will be put into newsletters and bulletins.

In order to develop a close working relationship with all local volunteers, a special effort will be made to have a permanent presence at R8 Committee meetings. The office will attend specific meetings such as Membership Development committee meetings and Retreats as often as possible. ♦

Jacques Kevers

IEEE European Operations Center

j.kevers@ieee.org

Section News

On June 1st, 1999 the general assembly of the IEEE French Section elected a new committee.

The following officers have been appointed:

Chairman: Jean Gabriel Remy
jean-gabriel.remy@cegetel.fr

Vice Chair: Pierre Louis Viollet
pierre-louis.viollet@edfgdf.fr

2nd Vice Chair: Frédérique Vallee
frederique.vallee@mathix.fr

Treasurer: Victor Fouad Hanna
victor.fouad@lis.jussieu.fr

Prof. Fouad Hanna will be assisted by past president Christine Nora

Secretary: Edwige Pissaloux
edwige.pissaloux@univ-rouen.fr
assisted by: Gérard Kantorowicz in charge of the membership file management.
gkantor@club-internet.fr
Catherine Maxwell in charge of the news
datamax@computer

Student Activities: Naly Rakoto
rakoto@auto.emn.fr

Conferences: Lamia KARRAY
lamia.karray@cnet.francetelecom.fr

Educational Activities:

Amara Amara amara.amara@isep.fr

Web: Christophe Cerin
cerin@laria.u-picardie.fr

Fellows: Michel Poloujadoff
Tel: 01 44 2 41 15
jean-gabriel.remy@cegetel.fr or
martine.appert@cegetel.fr

Please note that the next general assembly of the French Section will be held on December 9th 1999 at 18:00 hours. It is expected that the venue will be at Maison des Polytechniciens in Paris, as it was in June this year. The speaker will be Pierre Bornard of Electricite de France. ♦

change to cause the IEEE leadership to re-examine its strategic direction. Such an inflection point during the post second world war era caused the AIEE and IRE to merge to form the current IEEE. That inflection point was driven by rapid paradigm changes in response to a new electronics industry that was burgeoning worldwide.

This current inflection point is driven by developments in a new cadre burgeoning industries based as computing and information technologies, multimedia, bio-technologies, and sustainable technologies. These are challenging the relevance and exclusiveness of today's IEEE. In addition, the needs of engineers are changing in concert with their roles in the fast changing corporate milieu and as they find increasing opportunities in small companies.

With regard to IEEE journals and magazines, the scene is also changing and as I indicated Web delivery of information is redefining the IEEE. In the print-only publishing paradigm, IEEE publications, due to their prestige and wide distribution, have been the journals of first choice for nearly all authors and subscribers in the Institute's fields of interest. In this paradigm, IEEE publications were nearly free of any threat from alternative publishing options. As the paradigm rapidly shifts to Web delivery the ground rules are changing and so are the alternative publishing options. Individual author web sites are enabling any author to become a publisher and the for profit publishers are aggressively moving towards web delivery.

The IEEE is well armed to robustly address the inflection point and we are

doing so on all fronts. For the first time, in my memory as an IEEE volunteer, the IEEE has robust data and analysis regarding how the IEEE is perceived, both within and outside the Institute, and regarding the needs of the Institute's constituents. The IEEE has many assets, several of which I have spoken about in this address. Perhaps most important is that the IEEE enjoys the general good will, credibility, and name recognition among its diverse stakeholders, as well as with thought leaders in academe, industry, and government. It enjoys a volunteer base that has extraordinary energy, talent, and dedication, along with a strong and competent staff. This is an unbeatable combination. ♦

*Ken Laker,
IEEE President 1999
k.laker@ieee.org*

Advanced Communications Technologies and Services

The world's largest set of interconnected trials of advanced communications

Leading edge users, service providers, network operators, broadcasters, manufacturers, research and educational institutions and consultants pool their knowledge and resources in pursuit of specific research and trials objectives defined by the ACTS workplan. ACTS brings together over 1000 such bodies, sharing a European Commission contribution of around 680 MECU. A typical project is funded up to 50% by the Commission and is carried out by a consortium of partners based in several different countries.

The European Commission (Directorate GENERAL XIII) directs the programme. It is the focus of the EU's research effort in advanced communications and forms part of the European Commission's Fourth Framework Programme of research and technical development. Other programmes within the Fourth Framework such as Telematics,

ESPRIT (information technology) and COST-Telecom (Co-operation in Science and Technology) complement it. There is also close co-operation with other bodies including EURESCOM and ETSI.

ACTS projects are grouped into several domains and one horizontal (supporting) domain:

- ♦ Multimedia Services
- ♦ Photonic Technologies
- ♦ High Speed Networking
- ♦ Mobility, Personal & Communications Networks
- ♦ Service Engineering, Security & Communications Management
- ♦ Horizontal Actions

The projects are grouped in "Chains" to study specific objectives, which have strategic importance outside of the ACTS Programme itself. These include interoperability issues that cut across domain

boundaries. The 20+ Chains are organised into five Chain Groups:

- ♦ Broadband access networks, economics and evolution
- ♦ Network level inter-operability and management
- ♦ Global service integration (end-to-end multimedia services)
- ♦ Generic access to applications (the user perspective)
- ♦ Broadening of awareness of ACTS

A key function of the Chains is to develop consensus and publish strategic Guidelines for the industry as a whole, on the introduction of advanced communications. Approximately 70 guidelines are under development and around 40 of these have been published in draft form by the Commission.

More information on ACTS can be found at <http://www.actsline.org>. ♦

Society and Chapter News

Benelux

The Industry Applications/Power Electronics Society joint Chapter of the Benelux Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 23 July 1999. The Interim Chair is

J. A. Ferreira

Delft University of Technology

Power Processing Group ITS Faculty

Mekelweg 4

Delft The Netherlands

E-mail: j.a.ferreira@ITS.TUdelft.NL

Bulgaria

The Communications Society Chapter of the Bulgaria Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 17 June 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Prof. Peter T. Antonov

Technical University

9010 PO Box 22

Varna Bulgaria

Egypt

The Industrial Electronics/Industry Applications/Power Electronics Society joint Chapter of the Egypt Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 3 September 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Amr M. A. Amin.

E-mail: AmrmaAmin@yahoo.com

Russia

The Lasers and Electro-Optics Society

Chapter of the Russia Section

(Novosibirsk) has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 23 July 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Michael G. Noppe

17 Uritskogo Str.

Flat 10

Novosibirsk 630099 Russia

noppe@first.nstu.ru or

l.m.noppe@inp.nsk.su

South Africa

The Engineering Management Society Chapter of the South Africa Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 23 July 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Antonie M. de Klerk

299 Polaris Ave.

Waterkloof Ridge

Pretoria 0181 South Africa

E-mail: amklerk@eng.up.ac.za

Spain

The first Affinity Group of the Women in Engineering (WIE) Committee has been formed in the Spain Section. An Affinity Group stands for the local unit of a Standing Committee. The WIE interests are to improve the status and the climate of women in engineering fields in general and to increase participation and membership of women within IEEE. The effective date of this Affinity Group formation is May 14th, 1999.

The Women in Engineering Committee in Spain has also a mailing list:

wie-spain@ieee.org

Interim Chair: Sandra Baldassarri

Universidad de Zaragoza

Maria de Luna, 3

50015 Zaragoza, SPAIN

E-mail: sandra@prometeo.cps.unizar.es

Tel: 34-976-761933 / 761916

Fax: 34-976-762111

Switzerland

The Solid State Circuits Society Chapter of the Switzerland Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 12 August 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Christian Enz

CSEM

Jaquet-Droz 1

Neuchâtel CH 2007

Switzerland

E-mail: christian.enz@csem.ch

Ukraine

The Circuits and Systems/Instrumentation and Measurement/Computer/Microwave Theory and Techniques Society joint Chapter of the Ukraine Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 23 July 1999. The Interim Chair is:

Pavel Molchanov

25 Pushkin Str.

Apt. 4

Vinnitsya 286000 Ukraine

vsaci2@vsmu.vinnica.ua +

Historic Meetings for IEEE in London

The IEEE Board of Directors met for the first time ever outside of North America in June when they held their summer meeting in London on June 13th. The meeting followed a busy program of events that included visits to industry, a lecture and reception hosted by Region 8 and the UKRI Section, and the annual IEEE Honors Ceremony. Groups of Directors and other volunteers and staff visited companies in England, Scotland and Ireland to meet with leaders in industry and academia.

In London a lecture on the work of

Michael Faraday and his American contemporaries at the IEEE Headquarters, Savoy Place, London was followed by a reception for the IEEE visitors at the Savoy Hotel. The reception was attended by many volunteers from Region 8, including the Director Rolf Remshardt, and the Chair of the UKRI Section, Roland Saam.

The IEEE Honors Ceremony was held the following evening in the historic Whitehall Palace Banqueting Room, where King Charles 1st of England was executed in 1649 at the end of the English Civil War.

The most prestigious awards of the Institute were presented to some of the world's outstanding contributors to electronics technology in a memorable and colourful ceremony.

After the Board meeting discussions on possible cooperation were held with senior IEEE staff and volunteers.

To commemorate these events a special booklet on the life and work of Michael Faraday has been published by the UKRI Section. Copies are available from Charles Turner. +

Charles Turner
c.turner@ieee.org

From the Vice-Chair, Student Activities



Once again, the summer is over and we are all back to school. This summer we had one of the most important student events in Region 8, the R8 Student Paper Contest. It was held in Bled, Slovenia, on Tuesday, 13 July 1999, as part of the 1999 International Symposium on Industrial Electronics, ISIE'99. Thanks to Martin Bastiaans, the Student Paper Contest Coordinator for the organization of this event, the ISIE'99 conference committee for their incorporation of the contest to the

conference and the jury members for their careful evaluation of the papers. He reports in more detail on the competition. Our sincere congratulations to the contestants, and the winners.

In addition to awards to individual winners, the IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Fund offers USD 250 as the Dick Poortvliet award to the branch where the winner comes from. So, congratulations to Maribor University Student Branch for getting this award.

This year, you will see again a lot of regional or local activities concerning students. Just follow the articles written here or visit the WEB page for the updates. In

the last issue, I gave a list of student specific programs in Region 8 and the deadlines. These are important events to support activities of your branch so try not to miss the deadlines.

We are also in the process of redeveloping the R8 Student Activities WEB page. Please send us your ideas on what you want to see on this WEB page so that we can be helpful to you as much as we can.

I wish all our student members a very successful and productive term. ♦

Gozde Bozdagi
R8 Vice Chair, Student Activities

1999 Region 8 Student Paper Contest

The 1999 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 21 papers submitted by 16 Student Branches from 9 different countries. Based on the written material, an international jury consisting of Buyurman Baykal (Ankara, Turkey), Jordan Kolev (Varna, Bulgaria), Caro Lucas (Tehran, Iran), Javier Macias-Guarasa (Madrid, Spain), and Baldomir Zajc (Ljubljana, Slovenia), and chaired by the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest Co-ordinator Martin Bastiaans (Eindhoven, Netherlands) selected the following seven papers for presentation at the oral finals:

- 1) Hamid Reza Azarinia, Sharif University, Tehran, Iran:
Optical coupler fabrication based on buried field-assisted ion-exchange method
- 2) Giuseppe Garcea, Delft University, Netherlands: Derivation of data flow networks for a specific domain of applications
- 3) Vili Podgorelec, Maribor University, Slovenia:
Self-adapting evolutionary decision support model
- 4) Tobias Raithe, ETH Zurich, Switzerland:
Software synthesis with evolutionary algorithms
- 5) Pieter Risseuw, Eindhoven University, Netherlands:
Development of a hysteresis current controller for three phase induction machines
- 6) Katrin Schroeder, Bochum University, Germany:
Synthetic aperture-based reconstruction of intravascular ultrasound images in the time domain and frequency domain
- 7) Dimitri Van De Ville, Ghent University, Belgium:
Non-linear resampling for edge-preserving moire suppression

The oral finals were held in Bled, Slovenia, on Tuesday, 13 July 1999, as part of the 1999 International Symposium on Industrial Electronics, ISIE'99. The Student Paper Contest session attracted a relatively large audience, under which Rolf Remshardt, the IEEE Region 8 Director, and Kurt Richter, the IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair Technical Activities.

Prizes were awarded during the conference banquet on

Wednesday, 14 July 1999. The winners of the Student Paper Contest 1999 were:

1. Vili Podgorelec, Maribor University, Slovenia
2. Dimitri Van De Ville, Ghent University, Belgium
3. Katrin Schroeder, Bochum University, Germany

The first-prize winner receives an amount of USD 500, the second amount of USD 300, and the third an amount of USD 200. The prize money is donated by the IEEE Life Member Fund. Furthermore, the IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Fund offers USD 250 as the Dick Poortvliet award to the branch where the winner comes from.

The contest was of a very high quality. The differences in grading between the finalists were marginal: on a scale of 100 (with 70 points for the content and the presentation of the written paper and 30 points for the oral presentation). The ranking of papers were as follows:

- No. 1 received 87 points (59+28),
- No. 2 received 86 points (58+28),
- No. 3 received 85 points (55+30), and
- No. 4 received 84 points (60+24).

The importance of the oral presentation is obvious! The high quality of the papers and the large diversity of subjects demonstrate the difficulty of the task that the jury members were facing.

The Student Paper Contest Co-ordinator wishes to thank the jury members for carrying out a difficult task. Special words of thanks go to Baldomir Zajc, who took care of the local arrangements in an excellent way, and to Karel Jezernik, the ISIE'99 General Chairman, for including the papers of the seven finalists in the ISIE'99 Proceedings.

NOTE: The deadline for the next Student Paper Contest is 15 December 1999! Please contact the co-ordinator via e-mail:

M.J.Bastiaans@ieee.org. ♦

Martin Bastiaans,
Student Paper Contest Co-ordinator.

News items were selected from recent issues of the IEEE Leadership Wire. This is an electronic publication prepared by IEEE staff for use by volunteer leaders of IEEE.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The IEEE Women in Engineering Committee hosted Nancy Hopkins, a professor of biology at MIT, who discussed a study she and other women professors made in 1995 on the status of women faculty in science at MIT.

Hopkins detailed a study that showed that although MIT appeared to meet federal guidelines, women experienced real and costly gender bias. The number of women tenured professor, 15 of a total of 209, was essentially unchanged in 10 to 20 years. The study also found that women professors had 30 percent smaller offices and fewer resources and were paid 20 percent less than men. They had little role in important decision making in their departments. This bias had led to the gradual marginalization of women professors at MIT.

"Individual women had anecdotal evidence of discrimination, but by looking at all tenured professors in science, we developed a large enough group to draw statistical conclusions," Hopkins said. "Discrimination was unconscious and many denied that it was happening until they saw the numbers."

When she brought this information to the attention of the dean of science, Robert Brigenuea, he quickly began to correct the inequities by providing more space and resources, elevating women to chairs, boosting salaries and making additional payments to the women's pension program.

Her efforts to achieve equality at MIT were written up in the New York Times and Hopkins was invited to the White House to meet the Clintons.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED

The IEEE recently entered into cooperation agreements with the following:

- ♦ Association Francais des Sciences et Technologies de l'Information (ASTI)
- ♦ The Iranian Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IAEEE)
- ♦ The Scientific Society of Measurement, Automation, and Informatics (MATE)

- ♦ The John von Neumann Computer Society (NJSzT)
- ♦ The Scientific Society for Telecommunications (HTE)
- ♦ The Hungarian Electrotechnical Association (MEE)

All of these agreements are in effect until 31 December 2002. These agreements are "To encourage the exchange and dissemination of technical information, and to promote understanding and cooperation between members..." of that organization and the IEEE. The agreement outlines specific matters of cooperation, including visiting member procedures, joint activities, coordination of technical meetings, exchange of publications, standards and membership.

A full listing of these agreements is contained on page two of the August 1999 issue of The Institute.

For additional information on Society Sister Agreements, CONTACT Mary Ward-Callan - IEEE Technical Activities

Telephone: +1.732.562.3850; Fax +1.732.981.1769;

E-mail to: m.ward-callan@ieee.org

IEEE Forges Agreement with ETSI

The IEEE Standards Association has finalized a three-year cooperative agreement with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). The formal agreement fosters a stronger relationship between the two standards bodies to encourage collaboration and the development of a complementary approach to the standardization process. Together, IEEE-SA and ETSI expect to heighten the development of global standards, especially in the electromagnetic compatibility and radio local area network domains.

For more information, contact Rona Kershner: r.kershner@ieee.org.

New IEEE Foundation Initiatives

New International Initiatives for Funding Projects in IEEE Regions 8, 9, and 10

Primarily known through the IEEE in North America, the IEEE Foundation - in order to better support the global outreach of the IEEE - has expressed interest in receiving proposals - to support new IEEE Educational and Scientific initiatives in IEEE Regions 8, 9, and 10.

Although the IEEE Foundation is open to receiving requests for support funds for all types of new IEEE initiatives in the educational and scientific area, the type of projects "ear-marked" for support include:

- ♦ Improvement of Educational Standards
- ♦ Definition of curriculum to better support Engineers and Scientists of the 21st Century in a specific country, or region
- ♦ IEEE Student Branch Activities
- ♦ Graduate student exchange

You can find out more about the Foundation's vision by visiting Strategy for the Future and the Foundation Strategic Plan on our website <http://foundation-office@ieee.org>.

Global Growth

Technical Activities has launched a program to increase the number of IEEE Society chapters around the world, starting with Region 8 (Europe, Middle East and Africa). According to Technical Activities Vice President Mike Adler, this push for chapter growth in the IEEE's fastest-growing Region will provide a greater base for local activities, serve as a model for similar initiatives in other Regions and help increase global membership.

This pilot program is based on one implemented in 1996 in Region 8, Divisions 1 and 4 that resulted in the formation of more than 60 Society chapters. The Technical Activities staff will provide support for these chapter formation efforts.

For more information, visit the project's Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/tab/ciaadlerreg8.html> or contact Linda Pellis, Technical Activities, at E-mail: l.pellis@ieee.org. ♦

Conferences

The Region 8 Homepage list of R8 Conferences and Technically Co-sponsored events is regularly updated. Visit our Website at <http://www.ieee.si/r8-conf.html>

AFRICON, MELECON, EUROCON Series of Region 8 Conferences



IEEE Region 8 is again hosting a full structure of Regional Conferences since the Region 8 Committee decided in May 1999 in Berlin to promote EUROCON 2001 on

July 5, 2001 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Africons and Melecons got their distinctive profiles during the last few years. The Africon series began in Nairobi 1983 and then in Abidjan 1987, Mbabane 1992, Stellenbosch 1996 and Cape Town 1999. This series has developed into the forum for all Electrical and Electronics activities in Africa, as was adequately demonstrated at the last Africon conference held at the end of September this year.

Melecon is circulating among Mediterranean countries, and started in 1989 in Tel Aviv, Israel going through Greece, Spain, Italy (twice), Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey and returning in 1999 to Tel Aviv again. During May 2000 it will be organized in Cyprus. The need for the exchange of ideas of researchers and practitioners with emphasis on subjects of interest to the Mediterranean territory showed up very strongly that Telecommunications, Power Engineering, Computer Science, Signal Processing, Electronics, Environmental Technology were the main topics all the time.

In the last few years we missed having a conference in the Middle of Europe at the entrance to Eastern Europe. Many new IEEE Sections in Eastern Europe were developed and new and old members expected more activity there. The new idea is that all Regional conferences should also include Integrated IEEE Services such as Continuing Education, Society Programs via Chapters, Student Activity and Membership Development for Conference participants, besides excellent Technical Programs at the Conference of course. This

way new Sections will develop faster to meet IEEE standards and new members will more readily understand the Services, which IEEE is offering. The experience will be transferred to future Africons and Melecons of course.

I invite you to plan the visit to EUROCON 2001, MELECON 2002 and AFRICON 2003 right now.

Baldomir Zajc
R8 Conference Coordinator

CALLS FOR PAPERS

IMFP 2000

27 - 29 January 2000

Budapest, Hungary

IMFP 2000 International Workshop on the Inelastic Mean Free Path of Electrons (applied by surface and thin film analysis in technology and testing electron devices). It is being organised under the Auspices of IEEE Hungary Section. Venue of the Workshop is the Res. Inst. Technical Physics and Materials Science, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Campus of the Central Inst. Phys. Hung. Acad. Sci. Budapest.

Please kindly send abstract by E-mail.

Deadline for abstracts:

December 15, 1999.

Accommodation will be provided on request.

Registration fee: 125 EURO
(nearly dollar)

Contact: G. Gergely, MTA MFA,
PO Box 49, H-1525 Budapest,
Hungary.

Fax: 361-395-9232

E-mail: gergely@kfk.hu

<http://www.mfa.kfk.hu/imfp2000>

IMSEE

1 - 3 March 2000

Tehran, Iran

The **IEEE International Millennium Seminar on Electrical Engineering** is organised by the Department of Electrical Engineering and IEEE Student Branch at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, to celebrate the eve of 21st century. The theme of the seminar is to review past achievements, the current situation, and future prospects of Electrical Engineering in

its major fields. The seminar will be composed of a number of invited lectures delivered by leading authorities around the world.

Additional information is available on our website located at:

<http://www.sharif.ac.ir/~imsee>

Mailing Address:

IMSEE

Department of Electrical Engineering

Sharif University of Technology

P. O. Box 11365-9363

Tehran, Iran

Fax: +98-21-6036008

E-mail: imsee@sina.sharif.ac.ir

MSM 2000

27 - 29 March 2000

US Grant Hotel, San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Third International Conference on Modeling and Simulation of Microsystems

The largest gathering in the field worldwide, MSM is the premier technical forum for presenting the latest research and development in modeling and simulation tools and applications in the micro-system, microelectronic, semiconductor, sensor, materials and biotechnology fields.

Abstract Deadline: December 15, 1999

<http://www.cr.org/MSM2000>

MELECON 2000

29 - 31 May 2000

CYPRUS

10th Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference on Information Technology and Electrotechnology for the Mediterranean Countries

Organized by IEEE Region 8, IEEE Cyprus Section, IEE Cyprus, Cyprus Professional Engineers Association, University of Cyprus.

Topics of interest include:

Regional Communication and Information Technology
Signal and Image Processing
Power Generation Supply and Renewable Resources

More information is available from:

<http://www.cs.ucy.ac.cy/melecon2000/home/index.html>

*Melecon '2000, Department of
Computer Science, University of
Cyprus,
P.O. Box 20537, CY-1678 Nicosia,
CYPRUS,
Tel no.: +357-2-892230,
Fax no.: +357-2-892240,
E-mail: melecon@ucy.ac.cy*

NORSIG 2000

13 - 15 June 2000

Norrköping, Sweden

2000 IEEE Nordic Signal Processing

Symposium will be held at
Vildmarkshotellet, Kolmården,
Norrköping, Sweden.

The symposium is the fourth in a series of
biannual gathering of researchers specializ-
ing in signal processing and their applica-
tions. NORSIG 2000 will be devoted to all
aspects of theory, design, and applications
of signal processing.

Schedule:

Submission of proposal:

January 14, 2000

Notification of acceptance:

March 1, 2000

Submission of final paper:

April 25, 2000

The call for papers and more informa-
tion can be found at:

<http://www.es.isy.liu.se/norsig2000/>

or contact

Prof. Lars Wanhammar

Dept of Electrical Engineering

Linköping University

SE-581 83 LINKÖPING, SWEDEN

BIOSIGNAL 2000

21 - 23 June 2000

Brno, Czech Republic

**The 15th biennial international confer-
ence BIOSIGNAL 2000** will be at Brno
University of Technology in held in Brno,
Czech Republic. The basic themes of the
Conference organized in cooperation with
EURASIP and IEEE EMBS include
Measurement and Interpretation of
Physiological Signals; Medical Imaging
and Image Analysis; Signal Based
Modelling and Simulation in Biomedicine;
Multimedial Data in Clinical Decision
Making; and Education in Biomedical
Engineering/Medical Informatics

Submission deadline - December 1, 1999.
Organizing committee chairman:
Dr. Ivo Provaznik
E-mail: ivo@ieee.org
Conference Secretariat:
Tel: (+420 5) 41149 562
Fax: (+420 5) 41149 542
E-mail: bs2000@dbme.fee.vutbr.cz
Web site: <http://www.fee.vutbr.cz/UBMI/bs2000.html>

EMC-2000

27 - 30 June 2000

Wroclaw, Poland

The 15th International Wroclaw

Symposium and Exhibition on

Electromagnetic Compatibility is to be
held in Wroclaw, Poland.

Abstracts by: 6 September 1999

Notification of Acceptance: 30 October
1999

Camera ready manuscript required by:

31 January 2000

For more information contact:

Prof. RG Struzak

Fax: +4871 372 8878

E-mail: ryszard.struzak@ties.itu.int

or *Dr. W Segal*

Tel: +4871 348 3051

Fax: +4871 372 8878

E-mail: emc@il.wroc.pl

VIPROMCOM-2000

28 - 30 June 2000

**Zadar, Borik Hotel Complex,
Croatia**

**2nd International Workshop on Video
Processing and Multimedia
Communications**

Topics include General Techniques and
Algorithms, Computed Imaging, Image
Scanning Display and Printing,
Multimedia Processing, Multimedia
Databases, Multimedia Communications,
Multimedia Applications, and Standards
and Related Issues

Deadline for submission of papers:

January 28, 2000

VIPromCom-2000 Secretariat:

Mr. Tomislav Kos

*Faculty of Electrical Engineering and
Computing in Zagreb*

Address: Unska 3 / XII, HR-10000

Zagreb, CROATIA
Phone: ++385 1 6129 772
Fax: ++385 1 6129 717
E-mail: tomislav.kos@fer.hr
Web site: <http://grgicnt.cc.fer.hr/vip2000>

EIS'2000

29 June - 02 July 2000

**University of Paisley,
Scotland, U.K.**

**Second International ICSC Symposium
on Engineering of Intelligent Systems**

The EIS conference series pursue the syn-
thesis of Artificial Intelligence techniques
with Control Engineering methods to pro-
duce Intelligent Systems for Engineering
applications. In recent years, the combina-
tion of Control Engineering, and extensive
knowledge of AI techniques has allowed
scientists and practitioners to make a num-
ber of significant contributions to this
rapidly developing field; for example in
qualitative control, fuzzy qualitative simu-
lation and model based diagnosis, Artificial
Neural Networks (ANNs), Genetic
Algorithms (GAs), Fuzzy Logic (FL), and
Neuro-Fuzzy Systems (NFS).

Submissions must be received by
November 30, 1999. Full updated infor-
mation is available from

<http://www.icsc.ab.ca/eis2000.htm>

or contact

*ICSC International Computer Science
Conventions*

*P.O. Box 279, Millet, Alberta T0C 1Z0/
Canada*

E-mail: operating@icsc.ab.ca

Phone +1-780-387-3546

Fax +1-780-387-4329

*Prof. Colin Fyfe (EIS'2000 General
Chair)*

*University of Paisley, Computing &
Information Systems*

*High Street, Paisley PA1 2DE,
Scotland/U.K.*

E-mail: fyfe0ci@paisley.ac.uk

Fax +44-141-848-3542

ISTAS 2000

6 - 8 September 2000

Rome, Italy

**The IEEE International Symposium on
Technology and Society**, titled "University
continued on page 10

Conferences *continued*

as a Bridge from Technology to Society" will be held in Rome, Italy. Conference Chair and contact, Prof. Valerio Cimagalli, Department of Electronic Engineering, University "La Sapienza", via Eudossiana, 18 - 00184 Rome,

Phone +390644585864

Fax +39064745101

E-mail: istas2000@tce.ing.uniroma1.it

First deadline, Feb. 1, 2000.

Please visit our web page and register on-line to be kept informed on ISTAS 2000:

<http://tce.ing.uniroma1.it/istas/istas.html>.

ICEECEE

**10 - 15 September 2000
Davos, Switzerland**

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the United Engineering Foundation (UEF) invite you to participate in an **Interdisciplinary Conference on Electrical, Electronics & Computer Engineering Education** in the Third Millennium.

Deadline for abstract: 31 January 2000
Notification and acceptance and of the type of presentation: 31 March 2000
Full papers required: 31 May 2000

*United Engineering Foundation
Conferences*

*Three Park Avenue - 27th Floor -
New York, NY 10016*

Phone 1-212-591-7836;

Fax: 1-212-591-7441

E-mail: engfnd@aol.com

*WWW: <http://www.engfnd.org> **

Calendar of Events

Also see the August 1999 issue of the R8 News.

EDMO'99

**22 - 24 November 1999
King's College London, UK**

The **7th IEEE International Symposium on Electron Devices for Microwave & Optoelectronic Applications (EDMO'99)** will provide a forum for microwave and optoelectronic device designers, fabricators, modelers, and general users to discuss the synergy between system needs and advanced semiconductor devices and circuits.

This event is sponsored by the IEEE UK & RI MTT/ED/AP/LEO Joint Chapter and King's College London.

For more details please contact the Chairman of EDMO'99:

*Dr Ali Rezazadeh, King's College
London, UK*

Tel/Fax: +44(0) 207 848 2879

E-mail: ali.rezazadeh@kcl.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/eleceng/edmo99>.

ITG

**17 - 19 January 2000
Munich, Germany**

3rd ITG Conference Source and Channel Coding

The conference will cover Information

Theory, Source Coding, Compression for Data, Speech, Audio, Image and TV, Channel Coding, Joint Source and Channel Coding, Error Concealment, Baseband Coding, Multiplexing (e.g. CDMA) and Coded Modulation (e.g. TCM), Synchronization, Cryptography, and Applications.

For further information please contact the technical program chair:

*Prof. Dr. Joachim Hagenauer
Institute for Communications
Engineering*

*Technische Universitaet Muenchen
D-80290 Muenchen*

Germany

Web site: http://www.LNT.ei.tum.de/itg/itg_main.html

IZS2000

**15 - 17 February 2000
Zurich, Switzerland**

The **2000 International Zurich Seminar on Broadband Communications** will be held at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Electrical Engineering Department, in Zurich, from. This Millennium Seminar will bring together the experts in the topics: Accessing, Transmission, Broadband and Mobile Networking.

Web site: <http://www.ifh.ee.ethz.ch/~izs2000>

INFOCOM 2000

**26 - 30 March 2000
Dan Panorama Hotel in
Tel-Aviv, Israel**

For the last 18 years Infocom has been the major conference on computer communications and networking, bringing together researchers and implementors of every aspect of data communications and networks presenting the most up-to-date results and achievements in the field.

The conference is sponsored by the technical committees on computer communications of the IEEE Communications and Computer Societies. For more information, please see <http://www.comnet.technion.ac.il/infocom2000/>

The contact for INFOCOM 2000 is:

Moshe Sidi

Dept. of EE, Technion

Haifa 32000, Israel

moshe@ee.technion.ac.il

IEC 2000

IEC2000

**7 - 9 May 2000
Al-Ain Hilton Hotel, Al-Ain,
United Arab Emirates.**

International Energy Conference 2000

The conference focuses on exploring how a competitive marketplace can foster the development of new renewable energy

Calendar of Events *continued*

capacity and promote energy, efficiency and conservation services. It features presentations on new technologies, opportunities for creating energy consortia and consumer education programs.

Contacts:

Dr. Eesa Bastaki: Conference Chair

E-mail: eesa@uaeu.ac.ae

or

Dr. Hasan Hejase: Conference

Secretariat

E-mail: iec2000@uaeu.ac.ae

http://www.engg.uaeu.ac.ae/iec2000/iec2000.html

ICM 2000

16 - 18 May 2000

Jerusalem, Israel

International Conference on Metrology

Trends and applications in Calibration and Testing Laboratories. Co-hosted by NCSL, CITAC, IML. co-sponsored by IMeko, ISQ, INPL.

Deadline for abstracts Dec 20, 1999.

For more information contact:

Conference secretariat: ISAS

International seminars,

Fax: +972-2-6520588

Tel: +972-2-6520574

E-mail: confer@isas.co.il,

Web site: http://www.isas.co.il/metrology

ISRACAS'2000

18 May 2000

Mossad Neaman, Kiriath Hatechneion, Technion Haifa, ISRAEL

Preliminary Call for Papers and participation in the Third Israeli Symposium on Computer-Aided Surgery, Medical Robotics, and Medical Imaging

The goal of the Symposium is to convene in Israel clinicians, scientists, and engineers actively interested in medical imaging, computer science, and robotics, and their application to the planning, monitoring, and execution of medical surgeries. The symposium is the sequel of the first

and second ISRACAS symposia, held on May 4th, 1998 at Technion, and May 6, 1999 at the Hebrew University. Each was attended by over 150 participants (evenly distributed between clinicians, industry, and engineering academia). The one-day events included four to six invited speakers, 15 oral presentations of refereed papers, and several system demonstrations.

Symposium topics are to be drawn from relevant research in Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Biomechanics, and Electrical Engineering

The Symposium will be held in Haifa, at the Mossad Neaman, Kiriath Hatechneion, Technion.

For registration and more information contact:

Dr. Leo Joskowicz

Institute of Computer Science

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Givat Ram, Jerusalem 91904, Israel

Phone: +(972)-2-658-6299

FAX: +(972)-2-658-5439

E-mail: josko@cs.huji.ac.il

Or:

Prof. Moshe Shoham

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

Technion City, Haifa 32000, Israel

Phone: +(972)-4-829-3264

FAX: +(972)-4-832-4533

E-mail: shoham@tx.technion.ac.il

Check our web site for frequent updates: <http://www.cs.huji.ac.il/~josko/isracas2000.html>

NC'2000

23 - 26 May 2000

Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Second International ICSC Symposium on Neural Computation

The science of neural computation focusses on mathematical aspects to solve complex practical problems, and it also seeks to help neurology, brain theory and cognitive psychology in the understanding of the functioning of the nervous sys-

tem by means of computational models of neurons, neural nets and subcellular processes. NC'2000 aims to become a major point of contact for research scientists, engineers and practitioners throughout the world in the field of Neural Computation. Participants will share the latest research, developments and ideas in the wide arena of disciplines encompassed under the heading of NC'2000 as a follow-up of the most successful NC'98 conference in Vienna, Austria.

Fully updated information is available from: <http://www.icsc.ab.ca/nc2000.htm>

You may also contact:

ICSC International Computer Science Conventions

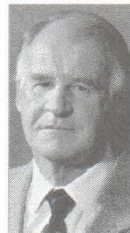
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DEADLINES

Material to reach me by the following date:

February 2000 issue -

1 December 1999

Duncan Baker

Editor, R8 News

duncan.baker@ieec.org



IEEE
Networking
the World™

region8student news

Editor: Jens Hannemann (Student Representative) j.hannemann@ieee.org

EDITORIAL

Hi folks,

I hope you all had a nice summer. At least I find it tough to get back to business as usual after this exceptionally good weather we had this summer in Germany (except for the eclipse, of course). However, as you can see from the mere amount of articles in this issue (thanks for the space, Duncan!), the Branches in Region 8 have been pretty busy in the past. I would particularly like to recommend reading the report from Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey, which very much impressed me. The summer course and the planned activities are definitely worth being taken as a basis for other Branches to promote membership and connect to other organizations.

A very good illustration for the non-technical part of networking the world is Nedko's article about his summer practice in Munich. This is one of the nice (and intended) side effects of last year's Branch Congress.

So long,

Jens

NEWS FROM IRAN

New branch in Tehran, Iran

In April 1999 the IEEE approved the formation of an IEEE student branch at Islamic Azad University Of Tehran (IAUT) CENTRAL BRANCH. From the time of founding we have organized several activities such as a seminar in electrical Eng. and some committee meeting, technical meetings and scientific tour.

Our university is the first branch of Islamic Azad University system that is the first private university in Iran. The Islamic Azad University system is the largest university in Iran with about 700 000 around the country, our branch has about 50,000 students.

In the faculty of Engineering we have 8500 students in four courses of Engineering. These are Electronics, Mechanical, Computer and Civil Engineering. In the department of Electronics we have 1500 students that they are studying for a BS degree.

Our student branch has the potential to be the most active branch in Iran or Region 8.

We thank University Chair, Dr. Zareh, the IEEE Iran Section and the Department of Electronics Eng. of IAUT for their support.

For more information please contact to me.

Reza Kabiri Moridi Far
Chair IEEE student branch of IAUT
(C.B.)

First IAUT (C.B.) Conference in Electrical Engineering

Our first student conference on Electrical Eng. was held in June 8-9th, in the faculty of Engineering of Islamic Azad University of Tehran (IAUT) central branch. The conference was organized by the IEEE student branch. In this conference students presents 22 papers about Solid State, Control, Communication, Industry Electronics, Electronics and Engineering in Medicine.

Dr. Ghafoori Fard (Iran section chair), H. Avanesian (Iran section secretary) and Dr. Caro Lucas were invited to our conference. This conference directed by a group of volunteers formed to organize the conference. This conference was the first one, which has been held at this

level in our university. We thank the University Chair, Dr. Zareh, Iran section, Department of

Electronics Eng., and A. Ashrafi
(Branch Counselor) for their support.

Reza Kabiri Moridi Far
Chair IEEE student branch of
IAUT (C.B.)

Sharif University of Technology First Iranian Student Conference on Electrical Engineering

The Department of Electrical Engineering at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, hosted the first of a series of Student Conferences on Electrical Engineering, on November 18-20, 1998. The conference was attended by more than 2200 participants and over 200 papers contributed by BS, MS and PhD students of electrical engineering around Iran. Several invited lectures and a technical exhibition were organized beside the conference.

Switching Workshop

The IEEE Student Branch at Sharif University of Technology organized a two-day workshop on switching theory and technology in February, with the aim of introducing this field and reviewing major trends to students. About 300 students and guests from industrial centers participated in the workshop.

HOTLINE

HOTLINE is a scientific/cultural bulletin published by the Student Branch and the English Discussion Group at Sharif University of Technology. Please view our HOTLINE pdf files at: <http://emitter.sharif.ac.ir/~ieeesb/HOTLINE>

Introductory Workshop on Photonics

In September 20-21, 1999, the IEEE Student

Branch conducted an intense workshop on Photonics theory and devices. Three lecturers introduced the participants to the basics and future of this interesting field.

IEEE Millennium Seminar on Electrical Engineering

The IEEE International Millennium Seminar on Electrical Engineering (IMSEE) is organized by Department of Electrical Engineering and IEEE Student Branch at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran on March 1-3, 2000, to celebrate the eve of 21st century. The theme of the seminar is to review past achievements, the current situation, and future prospects of Electrical Engineering in its major fields. The seminar will be composed of a number of invited lectures delivered by leading authorities around the world. The IEEE President Ken Laker and R8 Director Rolf Remshardt have motivated this gathering by submitting messages to the seminar's organizing committee. We invite you to come and visit our seminar's home page at: <http://www.sharif.ac.ir/~imsee>

SPAIN

I'm very happy to tell you about the meeting our Section Committee held with representatives from all Spanish Branches.

As you probably may not know, in last Region 8 SAC meeting in Berlin, we discussed the possibilities of strengthening the relationships between Sections and Branches, as this interaction could lead to great benefits in both sides.

We talked to Magdalena Salazar-Palma, the Spanish Section Chair about this and she agreed it could be great. Finally, the idea came to fruition. Our Section Committee invited ALL the Spanish Branches Chairs and Counselors to join their next meeting, on July 2nd (they even were extremely kind to change the originally planned date to allow students to finish their examination periods and take care of all the expenses for travel and accommodation).

The meeting lasted a whole morning and continued during and after lunchtime. Lots of topics of great interest came up, specially regarding the Section procedures (budget, relationship with Piscataway, etc.), the role of the Section itself in linking all the structures related to it

(Chapters, Branches and affinity groups), and the future of this initiative.

From my point of view, the meeting was the first step towards fixing a strong relationship between our Section and the Branches. I think this will improve the visibility of the Section activities in the Branches and vice-versa, making all of us even more active. Magdalena also announced her intention to include a new member in the Section Committee to take care of Student Activities, so that this will also boost the process.

Apart from that, we also had the opportunity of talking with the rest of Branch representatives, and prepared the way to further interaction and collaboration among all of us.

On behalf of all the Spanish Student Branches I would like to thank Magdalena very much for her great initiative and encourage all Section Chairs in R8 to follow this path!

Javier Macias-Guarasa

*ETSIT-Madrid IEEE Student Branch
IEEE R8 SAC Coordinator, Awards and
Recognition*

SULTANATE OF OMAN

In March 1999, the IEEE approved the formation of an IEEE Student branch at the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). We are really happy and proud about having a new student branch in our university. SQU was founded in 1986 and the campus is located in the capital, Muscat.

The IEEE student members elected the branch officers for the current year. The officers have already met with the branch counselor, Dr. Khaled Ellithy to set up some plans, and highlighted the aims for

the coming period of this year. These plans include seminars, selection of the best final year project, scientific trips, social activities, etc. The branch has organized several meetings with its IEEE members and non-members to introduce the idea behind the IEEE and the student branch. We all hope for bright active performance and to achieve the goals for our new branch.

*Khaled Ellithy, SB Counselor
Abduljalil Al-Maaini, SB Chairman
EEE Department, SQU*

TURKEY

METU SB Organizes Summer Course

Between 26 July and 6 August 1999, the Student Branch of the Middle East Technical University in Turkey has organized a two week course on the C++ programming language and Object Oriented Programming. There was an unexpectedly huge attendance of 74 undergraduate and graduate students, mostly non-members.

The intended audience were those who had little or no knowledge of structured programming with Pascal or C. Thus the lectures started with the simplest statements, building a solid foundation of the language both on the practical and theoretical side and then a fast dive into object oriented methodologies. In addition to the OOP constructs of the C++ language, discussion also included pure OO languages like Smalltalk, and how to implement such features in C++ by using several design patterns like envelope/letter classes. The idea was to lead the students to a better understanding of the Rumbaugh OOA/OOD/OOP method. Lecture notes of about 150 pages specifically prepared for the course were distributed to the students. The lecture notes were written in Turkish, and included appendices on the UNIX programming environment and also software safety issues.

The course fee for members was just a

quarter of the non-member rate, so we believe that was a good encouragement for future membership. At the end of the event we got very positive feedback from everyone attending the course and there is also demand for a repetition of the course and also a more advanced course on various OOP techniques.

*Bora GUNGOREN
Vice Chairperson
IEEE METU SB
b.gungoren@ieee.org*

METU SB Activities for the 1999-2000 Year

The METU (Middle East Technical University, Turkey) Student Branch Annual Plan of Activities is at the draft level, however, here we present some of the important points.

We are expecting to establish Student Branch Chapters of the Computer, Control Systems, and Information Theory Societies. Action has already been taken for the Computer Society Branch Chapter, for which we have been given greatest support from both the Dept. of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Dept. of Computer Engineering. Currently, our membership profile consists of mostly EE students, but we want to break the chain and encourage Computer Engineering students for IEEE membership. We have also contacted the METU Computer Club for possible cooperation in events and had a warm welcome. In fact, most members of the club will definitely be new IEEE members in October. Similar efforts are also being spent at other departments.

Together with other Student Branches in Turkey, especially the ITU SB, we will prepare and distribute a firm catalog nationwide. The target is huge, about 5000 engineering students at the best universities in Turkey. This activity will not only be a good opportunity to present IEEE, but also contribute significantly to the engineering

profession, by means of enriching the views of future engineers. The firms will absorb all costs since they will use the catalog as an effective recruiting tool.

We will organize a conference and fair on Education with Informatics Technology, namely BTIE2000 in May 2000. The event is the successor of BTIE98 and BTIE99, the latter with a participation of about 22,000 persons. The organization will again be together with the Turkey Informatics Association (TBD), which is the largest and most active organization in the field in Turkey.

We will also continue our usual activities like option seminars, Biltek Magazine, parties, movie shows, etc. We believe that our activities contribute to the students' life at the campus.

*Bora GUNGOREN
Vice Chairperson
IEEE METU SB
b.gungoren@ieee.org*

IEEE - NETWORKING THE WORLD

When I started preparing for my summer practice in Munich, Germany, I thought how important it was to find decent accommodation in advance. But at the time I didn't actually realize that it was so difficult to find anything from abroad. After a series of unsuccessful phone conversations I gave up.

Then I turned to the IEEE SB at TU-Munich and Marc-Philipp Horn, a representative of this Branch at the IEEE Student Branch Congress'98, who I had the luck to meet there. My request for help was shortly followed by response, giving me up-to-date information (part of it from other IEEE members who also tried to help me) and even offering short-term shelter until I find something else. Thanks to Marc-Philipp, two days after my arrival I already had accommodation that even the long-term students in Munich can envy me for.

I would like to express my personal thank-you to Marc-Philipp, all his friends who provided helpful information and the IEEE SB at TU-Munich as a whole. In the past I gave technical publications as my main personal motivation to join IEEE. Now I would put in first place the World-Wide Network of IEEE-mates you can rely on when in need.

*Nedko Nedev
IEEE SB at TU-Sofia, Bulgaria*

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

Groupware or labor in-group

Since the technology is matured, why is there not a new type of application that boosts the sharing of information. One in which all the members of the group provide not only data, but also documents, that serve as a basis for common analysis, for reports made in joint authorship, where there are supported versions which do not require physical attendance in the same site or at the same time? Applications should focus on the increase in productivity in the group. The applications should take into account the fact that the volunteer spends some of his/her time connected to the network and some time outside of the office working on a portable computer, and sporadically being connected through a modem.

Groupware is a term that acts as umbrella for a variety of technologies that permits groups of persons to work together electronically. It can be defined as a form of software and elements of hardware that allow a group of users to collaborate in specific processes. The introduction of applications groupware requires some minimal technological platform on which it can be installed. However, the organizational aspects are more important. The implementation must work with some clean-looking and optimized proceedings. It must also

address the social aspects related to the disposition of the persons working in a team, and who are conscious of the advantages that this can bring to them.

Unfortunately these factors are not taken into account in many initial implementations of groupware, which in turn results in failures and confusion. It is essential to synchronize its introduction with other organizational and cultural changes to achieve success. This success is, as a rule, bound to experiences that rely on the support of the executive committee of the student branch and begins at the level of a small group, as a pilot project of low risk. This serves to demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the technology and its impact in the organization. Initial widespread deploy-

ment of groupware to all the student branches in a standard format for workstations, and attempting to set it up in a changing environment, could cause chaos in management unless the necessary support structure, in terms of persons and of networks, has not been put in place.

Introduction of groupware must take note not only the technical aspects but also the cultural and political aspects of the organization. In many cases the groupware is considered as a tool in the majority of the group. Even though it is intended to adjust the student branch to the demands of greater competitiveness, its principal effect is the removal of the information exchanges, the purpose of which is increase or to decrease the data according the hierarchical structure.

Since groupware enables one to flatten the organizational hierarchy so that the information flows more dynamically between all the users, all the student branches should be informed if they are ready for such collaboration. Very often the executive committee wishes to keep authority and the volunteers wish to be judged by their individual efforts, which can enable such collaboration. The success of the introduction of groupware will depend above all on the personality of its users and the cultural change that could be encouraged.

*Jorge-Luis Sanchez Ponz
Region 8 Student Representative*

DEADLINES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 -	Annual Plan of Activities due to student services
December 15 -	Student Paper Contest deadline
February 28 -	Outstanding Counselor Award nominations due to Services
March 1-	Half—Year dues cycle begins
March 1-	Outstanding Student Award recipient should be named to Services. Allow 4 weeks for preparation of certificates (and additional time for mailing)
March 1-3 -	International Millennium Seminar on Electrical Engineering (IMSEE) held at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
May 15-20 -	Region 8 Student Branch Congress in Eindhoven, the Netherlands

Award

2000 IEEE Andrew S. Grove Award Recipient

On behalf of Region 8 we congratulate and salute Wolfgang Fichtner, who has been selected as recipient of the 2000

IEEE Andrew S. Grove Award by the IEEE Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Awards Board with the following citation:

"For outstanding contributions to semiconductor device simulations."

The IEEE Field Awards were established to provide special recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of electrical and electronics engineering. ♦

IEEE Renewal on the Web

Increasing the number of members who renew on the Web will save the IEEE on postage. Beginning 26 September, the 50,000 people who either renewed on the Web last year or who joined the IEEE on the Web this year will receive reminders via e-mail about renewal. Those who respond promptly will be purged from the direct mail solicitation for renewal, saving the IEEE more than US \$1 per renewal, money that can be redirected into programs.

Last year when online renewal was available on a selective basis, some 34,000 members renewed on the Web. With expanded availability of the Internet and the online renewal system open to all members, the goal this year is to top 100,000 online renewals.

Online renewal will be available beginning in late September. Leadership Wire will publish the URL for renewal at that time.

BRANDING WEBSITE

Managing the IEEE brand has become an important topic within the IEEE. To help staff members, volunteers and other members stay up to date on the subject, a new site has been added to the IEEE Home Page at: <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/committee/branding/index.htm>

The site contains timely, accessible and authoritative information about the IEEE's Branding project. It also provides details about the activities and progress of the Branding Ad Hoc Committee.

"In today's competitive world, more 'branding' is probably taking place than in the heyday of the Wild West," says David J. Kemp, Branding Committee chair. "Using an accepted methodology, we are identify-

ing and organizing the values, beliefs, and personality of the IEEE to create a communications platform that will help ensure our association's future growth. The Committee's goal is to recommend a clear, consistent brand that strengthens the IEEE's culture and image among members, prospective members, opinion leaders and the public by reinforcing the organization's high quality and global reach."

In addition to information about the IEEE Branding Ad Hoc Committee, the IEEE Branding site contains general background on branding and various terms regularly used in branding discussions, and other frequently asked questions. The site will be continually updated and expanded. Comments about the site, or the Branding project, can be sent to the Committee at branding@ieee.org. ♦

Y2K — A lighter View

To: My Boss

From: Secretary

Subject: Changing calendars from Y2K

I hope that I haven't misunderstood your instructions because, to be honest, none of this Y to K problem made much sense to me. At any rate, I have finished the conversion.

The calendars have returned from the printer and are ready to be distributed with the following new months: Januark, Februark, Mak, Julk I also changed all the days of each week to: Sundak, Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak, Thursdak, Fridak, Saturdak

We are now Y to K compliant!!!!

Christian Borgert
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