

Region 8 Student Activities Committee Report



Elias Nassar – Region 8 Vice-Chair Student Activities, Chair Student Activities Committee
Email: eliasnassar@ieee.org



Jorge Soares - Student Representative
Email: jorgesoares@ieee.org



Eva Lang - Past Chair
Email: eva.lang@ieee.org



Djordje (George) Paunović - Student Paper Contest Coordinator
Email: g.paunovic@ieee.org



Hossam Fahmy - Web Activities Coordinator
Email: hossam.fahmy@ieee.org



Jef Beerten - Awards and Contest Coordinator
Email: jef.beerten@ieee.org



Muhammad Mustafa - Student Branch Coordinator
Email: mu.kh.mustafa@ieee.org

1 General

1.1 Officers

1.2 Goals and Objectives

1.3 Membership

1.4 New Student Branches and Student Branch Affinity Groups (officially formed by Sept 12, 2010)

1.4.1 New Student Branches

1.4.2 New Student Branch Chapters

1.4.3 New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

2 Awards and Contests

2.1 General Awards for Active IEEE Student Members

2.1.1 IEEE Student Enterprise Award

2.1.2 IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

2.1.3 IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition

2.2 Student Branch Awards

2.2.1 IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

2.2.2 Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Programme

2.2.3 IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award

2.2.4 MGA Student Branch Membership Growth Award

2.3 Contests

2.3.1 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2011

2.3.2 IEEEExtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

2.3.3 IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

2.3.4 IEEE Region 8 Student Promotional Multimedia Contest

2.3.5 IEEE Region 8 Ethics Competition

3 Coordinating Student Branches

3.1 Twin Student Branch Program

3.2 Student Activities at Section Level

3.3 Communication

3.3.1 Web Activities

3.3.2 Emailing

3.3.3 New series of R8 News articles on Student Branch Management:

4 Ongoing Programs and Activities

4.1 Membership campaigns

4.2 Student Branch support

4.3 Section's welcome to graduating Student Members

4.4 Student professional activities

4.5 Students at IEEE technical conferences

4.6 Counselor support program

4.7 EPICS

4.8 TISP

5 Student Activities on Section and Cross-Section level

5.1 Technical Conferences

5.1.1 Student Booth in Technical Conferences in Region 8

5.2 2011 SBCs

5.3 Cross-Committee Work

[5.4 Global MGA Student Activities Meeting](#)

1 General

1.1 Officers

● Chair:	Elias Nassar	eliasnassar@ieee.org
● Past Chair:	Eva Lang	eva.lang@ieee.org
● Student Representative:	Jorge Soares	jorge.soares@ieee.org
● Awards & Contests:	Jef Beerten	jef.beerten@ieee.org
● Student Branches:	Muhammad Mustafa	mu.kh.mustafa@ieee.org
● Student Paper Contest:	Djordje Paunovic	g.paunovic@ieee.org
● Web Activities:	Hossam Fahmy	hosam.fahmy@ieee.org

1.2 Goals and Objectives

- Create more student membership benefits at all IEEE levels
- Develop student activities (including contests, awards and promotion programs)
- Foster student members' awareness of IEEE activities and existing benefits
- Support students' initiatives and inform other IEEE organizational units about them
- Represent student interests and voice student concerns
- Help with the formation of new Student Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Help with communication between existing Branches, Chapters, and Affinity Groups
- Increase student membership and develop retention strategies
- Reach out to pre-university students
- Liaise with other IEEE committees such as GOLD, PA, EASC, WIE, etc.
- Bring more fun to IEEE!

1.3 Membership

As of July 25, 2011

- Students:9086
- Graduate Students: 11221
- Total: 20307
- Branch count: 352

- Student Branch Chapter count:60+

Almost 30% of Region 8 membership is Student or Graduate Student Member.

Note that more than 60 SBs do not have a recorded Chair in the SAMIEEE database and are therefore not reachable by the R8SAC team!

1.4 New Student Branches and Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2011

1.4.1 New Student Branches

- Palestine Polytechnic University Student Branch
- the Middle East Technical Univ - Northern Cyprus Student Branch, Turkey Section
- Fachhochschule Bielefeld Student Branch, Germany Section
- De Montfort University Student Branch, UKRI Section
- Universidad Politecnica de Madrid - Campus Sur SB, Spain Section
- Technological Educational Institute - Serres SB, Greece Section
- Technological Educational Inst of Messolonghi SB. Greece Section
- Technological Education Institute of Piraeus SB, Greece Section
- Regional Maritime University SB. Ghana Section
- the American University of Nigeria Student Branch, Nigeria Section
- Bayero University Student Branch, Nigeria Section
- the European University Cyprus Student Branch, Cyprus Section
- Higher Colleges of Technology Student Branch, UAE Section
- Inonu Universitesi Student Branch, Turkey Section
- International Hellenic University Student Branch, Greece Section
- the Ozyegin University Student Branch, Turkey Section
- South Valley University - Aswan Campus Student Branch, Egypt Section
- Al Ghurair University Student Branch, UAE Section
- Arab American University Student Branch.
- the National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics, and Optics Student Branch., Russia Northwest

1.4.2 New Student Branch Chapters

- the City University London Photonics Society Student Branch Chapter.
- the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Power and Energy Society Student Branch Chapter.
- the American University of Science and Technology Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Student Branch Chapter. Lebanon Section
- the Dumlupinar University Computer Society Student Branch Chapter. , Turkey

- the Tor Vergata Univ Degli Studi Di Roma Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society Student Branch Chapter.
- the Universitaria Nacional De Educacion A Distancia Education Society Student Branch Chapter.
- the University of Pretoria Power and Engineering Society Student Branch Chapter.

1.4.3 New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

- Birla Institute of Technology and Science - Dubai Campus Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group.
- the Istanbul Technical University Woman in Engineering Student Affinity Group.
- the Queen Mary University Of London Women In Engineering Student Affinity Group

2 Awards and Contests

Recognizing volunteers is a very good way to keep them involved and active. There are various awards on Region and global level available.

We ask the Section Chairs to nominate potential candidates and bring their names forward to the R8SAC.

2.1 General Awards for Active IEEE Student Members

2.1.1 IEEE Student Enterprise Award

The IEEE Student Enterprise Award, with funding from corporate partners and individuals, was created by the IEEE to support Student Branch projects. Up to US\$ 1,500 in funding is available for project proposals developed by teams of IEEE Student Members from Student Branches established at over 1 400 universities and colleges around the world.

Deadline for the 2011 award: 15 November 2011.

2.1.2 IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize annually, in each Region of the IEEE, the student most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with IEEE student activities. The

value of a pattern of dedicated, ongoing service to a branch is certainly recognized. This award is designed to reward a particular event or product of IEEE activities.

The 2011 award goes to Sinan Sabih from the TAMU-Q Student Branch, Qatar for organizing the ME SBC 2011.

2.1.3 IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition

The award recognizes students who develop unique solutions to real-world problems using engineering, science, computing and leadership skills to benefit their community or humanity.

The winners of the 2011 IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition will be honored during the official 2011 IEEE Honors Ceremony in San Francisco, CA in August 2011.

http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/students/competitions/change_the_world/change_world_prizes.html

2.2 Student Branch Awards

2.2.1 IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

This award recognizes annually the exemplary IEEE Student Branch operations in each region without any numerical limit. To qualify for the award, a branch must conform to IEEE Bylaws, have an active program and support IEEE goals.

The 2011 award winners within Region 8 are

- Princess Sumaya University Student Branch (Jordan)
- Bilkent University (Turkey)
- IRE-Kharkiv Student Branch (Ukraine)
- IEEE AlexSB (Egypt)
- IEEE METU SB (Turkey)
- IEEE Cairo University Student Branch (Egypt)
- IEEE SB Leuven (Benelux)
- Southampton University SB (UKRI)
- University of Malta SB (Malta)
- IEEE UCG Student Branch (Greece)
- ITU IEEE (Turkey)
- YTU IEEE SB (Turkey)

One branch per Region enters the global competition.

The branch entering the 2011 global competition is IEEE SB Leuven (Benelux).

2.2.2 Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Programme

Aware of the unusual and dedicated efforts of Student Branch Counselors and Branch Chapter Advisors, the MGA and TA Boards sponsor a cash award to each of approximately ten outstanding Counselors and Advisors throughout the world. Winners will be those individuals who, through their work as Counselors and Advisors, exemplify the Institute's commitment to the educational, personal, professional, and technical development of students in IEEE related fields of interest.

In 2011, two Region 8 nominees entered the global competition:

- Ms. Tracey Cassar, University of Malta Student Branch, Malta section.
- Dr. Mona Ghassemain, IEEE Greenwich Student Branch, UKRI section.

No results on the winners have been published yet.

2.2.3 IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award

This award serves to change the mind set of our student groups from being number-driven to become value-driven and acknowledge exemplary student activities around the world. The eventual goal is to improve the quality of the activities and foster knowledge sharing among students. Ultimately, the initiative is targeted at improving student membership growth. This will encourage and motivate students to continue to innovate and implement meaningful ideas.

Submissions are welcome throughout the entire year; decisions are made once a year during the MGA SC meeting. Activities submitted after 16 November will be judged the following year.

In 2010, the IEEE Princess Sumaya University for Technology Student Branch, Jordan received a Bronze award.

Deadline: ongoing

2.2.4 MGA Student Branch Membership Growth Award

Each year a Student Branch in each region is recognized as having achieved the highest rate of growth. The greatest level of growth is based on a composite rating, considering the highest increase in membership and highest increase in new elections relative to other Student Branches in each Region.

2.3 Contests

2.3.1 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2011

SPC 2011 was announced immediately after the end of the 2010 Contest. The deadline for the 2011 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest was December 15, 2010.

The SPC 2011 international jury

- Prof. George Paunovic, Serbia – Chair, g.paunovic@ieee.org
- Prof. Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Spain, barrio@die.upm.es
- Prof. Andrzej Pacut, Poland, a.pacut@ia.pw.edu.pl
- Prof. Ali El-Mousa, Jordan, elmousa@ju.edu.jo
- Prof. Manuel de Medeiros Silva, Portugal, manuel.medeiros.silva@gmail.com

was appointed to select five papers for the oral finals and to decide about the three winners.

SPC 2011 promotional campaign

Within the SPC 2011 campaign the following activities were realized:

- Beginning July a SPC 2011 call with essential SPC data and SPC rules was sent to all R8 Student Branch (SB) chairs by email.
- The same email was also sent to all SB counselors.
- SPC information was placed as a direct link at R8 SAC page.
- A short SPC presentation was made during the plenary session at Student Branch Congress SBC 2010 in Leuven.
 - Different versions of the SPC call were sent to SB chairs and counselors three more times.
 - All Region 8 IEEE student members got two times emails with information about various students' activities, SPC being one of them.
 - A full paper about SPC is published on the front page in Region 8 News September 2010 issue.
 - Section chairs and Section students' representatives/student activities officers obtained two times the basic information about SPC, asking them to support and co-organize SPC activities. It was specially emphasized to connect when possible local SPC contests with IEEE R8 Sections and Chapters conferences.
 - Many other single activities were realized in order to make SPC 2011 more successful.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST PHASE

Before the deadline, December 15, 2010

- **32 papers were submitted;**
- **29 papers were accepted and graded;**
- **SPC 2011 contestants were from 17 Sections and 22 Student Branches/Institutions:**
 - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven SB, Benelux Section
 - Université Catholique de Louvain SB, Louvain-la-neuve, Benelux Section
 - University of the Witwatersrand SB, Johannesburg, South Africa Section
 - University of Cape Town SB, South Africa Section
 - School of Electrical and Computer Engineering SB, University of Tehran, Iran Section
 - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology SB, Germany Section
 - National School of Engineers of Sfax (ENIS) SB, Tunisia Section
 - Queen Mary University of London SB, UKRI Section
 - University of Maribor, University of Ljubljana SB, Slovenia Section

- Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania Section
- Graz University of Technology SB, Austria Section
- Democritus University of Thrace SB, Greece Section
- University of Patras SB, Greece Section
- Cairo University, Faculty of Engineering SB, Egypt Section
- Belarusian State University SB, Belarus Section
- American University of Sharjah SB, United Arab Emirates Section
- Manipal University Dubai SB, United Arab Emirates Section
- The Petroleum Institute SB, Abu Dhaby, United Arab Emirates Section
- Strossmayer University of Osijek SB, Croatia Section
- Czech Technical University Prague, Czechoslovakia Section
- University of Malta SB, Malta Section
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology SB, Sweden Section

The International Jury anonymously graded all accepted papers. The contributions were graded as follows:

- **Written paper:**
 - 45 points maximum for the technical and engineering content,
 - 25 points maximum for the paper content presentation.
- **Oral presentation:**
 - 30 points maximum, to be additionally given to the selected finalists.

The Jury has selected the following five papers (in alphabetical order of the first author's first name) for the oral finals:

- **Amel Ksibi, Nizar Elleuch, Anis Benamar: "Semi-Automatic Soft Collaborative Annotation for Semantic Video Indexing", National School of Engineers of Sfax (ENIS) SB, Tunisia Section.**
- **Hossein Hajimirsadeghi: "Conceptual Imitation Learning Based on Functional Effects of Action", School of Electrical and Computer Engineering SB, University of Tehran, Iran Section.**
- **Jaymin Mankowitz, Andrew Paverd: "Mobile Device-Based Cellular Network Coverage Analysis Using Crowd Sourcing", University of the Witwatersrand SB, Johannesburg, South Africa Section.**
- **Ralph Tanbourgi: "Resolving the Connectivity-Throughput trade-off in Random Networks", Karlsruhe Institute of Technology SB, Germany Section**
- **Shailesh Kulkarni, Patrick Reynaert, Cicero Vaucher Domine Leenaerts, Maarten Tytgat: "Design of a Ka-band Upconverter for Satellite Communication", Katholieke Universiteit Leuven SB, Benelux Section.**

SPC 2011 ORAL FINALS

SPC 2011 Oral Finals were successfully realized in Lisbon, Portugal, April 26 and 27, 2011, during the EUROCON 2011 Conference. Due to visa problems of two finalists, SPC Oral Finals were realized in two sessions. All five selected SPC papers were presented by authors/co-authors. Prof. A.Pacut, member of the SPC Jury, was absent due to medical reasons.

In spite of visa problems and late arrival of two finalists (in advance agreed), both sessions of SPC Oral Finals were successful:

- Sessions were reasonably well attended.
- The papers Power Point introductions were well prepared and presented (all within permitted 20 minutes).
- There were quite a number of questions, both from Jury members and from audience.
- The finalists' answers were very good, and in some cases really impressive.

IEEE Region 8 Director Marko Delimar attended the SPC session.

When both sessions finished, Jury had a private discussion and awarded the prizes to:

I prize: Diploma and 800 USD (cash award amount):

Shailesh Kulkarni, Patrick Reynaert, Cicero Vaucher, Domine Leenaerts, Maarten Tytgat: „Design of a Ka-band Upconverter for Satellite Communication”, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, Benelux Section;

The **KU Leuven Student Branch**, from which the I prize winner of the SPC 2011 comes from, receives the R8 "**Dick Poortvliet Award**", an amount of USD 250;

II prize: Diploma and 500 USD (cash award amount):

Jaymin Mankowitz, **Andrew Paverd**: "**Mobile Device-Based Cellular Network Coverage Analysis Using Crowd Sourcing**", University of the Witwatersrand SB, Johannesburg, South Africa Section;

III prize: Diploma and 200 USD (cash award amount):

Ralph Tanbourgi: "**Resolving the Connectivity-Throughput Trade-off in Random Networks**", Karlsruhe Univ SB, Germany Section.

The official recognition of the winners, finalists and SPC Jury was organized during the **EUROCON 2011** Gala Dinner, April 28, 2011. It was a magnificent event ! IEEE Region 8 Past Director Jozef Modelski and SPC 2011 Coordinator George Paunovic introduced all the SPC finalists, members of the Jury and pronounced three winners. All finalists also obtained certificates that their papers were selected within the five best SPC 2011 papers, and also that they personally participated within the SPC 2011 Oral Finals. All finalists papers were included in EUROCON 2011 Proceedings, will be included in IEEE Explore base and will be posted to SPC Internet pages.

EUROCON 2011 organizers, especially General Chair Joao Costa Freire, made extra efforts to co-organize IEEE R8 SPC 2011. SPC obtained all possible and reasonable support, organizational, financial and promotional. Even more, all SPC participants and Jury really felt as being an important part of the EUROCON 2011 Conference itself.

The SPC final results were already sent to IEEE services. The official prizes (diploma and money) are to be sent by IEEE Services to winners within the next period.

As soon as possible, complete report-information about the results of IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2011 will be posted at the SAC page, including several pictures. There is a plan to include an article about SPC 2011 in Region8 News September 2011 issue.

2.3.2 IEEEExtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

This 24-hour programming contest has proven to be a good instrument for membership drive and member satisfaction. In 2010, 188 teams from Region 8 participated, 15 of them ranked in the top 25!

The 2011 Contest will be held on 22 October 2011. More information is available at <http://ieee.org/xtreme>

2.3.3 IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

With 23 participating student branches around our region, the IEEE Website Contest 2011 was a big success. As a result of the regional evaluations, the following student branch websites made it to the finals:

Winners:

- 1st: [Pretoria Student Branch](#) (South-Africa)
- 2nd: [Alexandria University IEEE Student Branch](#) (Egypt)
- 3rd: [IEEE Greenwich Student Branch](#) (UKRI)

Other finalists:

- [ENIS IEEE Student Branch](#) (Tunisia)
- [University of Ibadan IEEE Student Branch](#) (Nigeria)

- [KTH Student Branch](#) (Sweden)

The three winning websites will also take place in the global contest. Results are yet to be announced.

2.3.4 IEEE Region 8 Student Promotional Multimedia Contest

The goal of the contest is to generate student promotional material for IEEE. The videos display content about IEEE benefits seen by the students, not only products and services but also the impact that IEEE made in their communities, life as engineering students and the world in general.

The videos were shown during the SBC 2010, and voted by the attendees. Three prizes were given: US\$ 500 for 1st place, US\$ 250 for 2nd place, and US\$ 125 for 3rd place.

The winners of this edition were:

- Mostafa Akin, Bilkent University Student Branch (Turkey)
- American University of Sharjah Student Branch (United Arab Emirates)
- Dawood Fadel, Cairo University Student Branch (Egypt)

2.3.5 IEEE Region 8 Ethics Competition

The IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC) wants to raise the ethics awareness of IEEE members while they are still in school. To this end, the committee is launching the IEEE Student Ethics Competition, which is designed to provide student members with experience in applying ethical concepts to situations that might arise in the workplace. The competition also wants to increase the visibility of the IEEE Code of Ethics.

During SBC 2010, one of the workshops focused on “How to run a Student Ethics Competition”. Due to limited attendance at the workshop, only certificates will be given out. Note that there is prize money available for Student Branches running an Ethics competition. Further information can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/about/ethics/competition.html>.

3 Coordinating Student Branches

3.1 Twin Student Branch Program

The Twin Branch Program was established in April 2009, and has been active ever since. We maintain a page on the R8 Student Activities Committee website, where we list branch requests.

Registered student branches can then agree to become twins. The relationship between twin branches are free-form, but branches are expected to be in touch, exchange information concerning their activities and difficulties, as well as any supporting documents and ideas that may help their operations. Most twins also organise joint activities, e.g. talks on the premises of both branches, using video-conference links or joint contests.

In this way, the program helps promote activity among the branches in the Region and jump-start recently established branches, while also increasing enthusiasm and creating interpersonal links between distant and otherwise unlikely partners.

The program has attracted considerable interest. We get questions about it at every meeting, and frequently through email. On several MGA SAC meetings, we have also been approached by representatives from other regions - during the 2011 Spring MGA SAC meeting, it was voted the best SAC activity worldwide. However, the program suffers from lack of funding, which prevents it from realising its full potential.

Aiming to take the program to the next phase, we are in the process of preparing a New Activities Committee Seed Grant Proposal. If approved, this will allow us to financially sponsor twin activities, and, in some cases, inter-twin volunteer exchange to organise such activities.

In the meantime, we have gone live with a new twin registration procedure. This is, however, still in a testing phase, as it is part of the yet-to-be-launched R8 website.

3.2 Student Activities at Section level

Starting from April 2009 Region 8 meeting in Venice, and followed by all the next Region8 meetings we encouraged the Section Chairs to nominate a Section Student Representative (SSR) and a Student Activities Chair (SAC), we have decided to clarify and redefine the role and responsibilities of the SSR for the benefits of Student Branches, Sections and SSRs themselves. We have been working on this project with a few SSRs in Region 8. Database of SSRs and SACs are still not complete, we have been encouraging all Sections officers to provide us with their SSRs and SACs. This program is still ongoing work and our results will be published in our next reports.

IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) training modules are now available for the Section Student Representative (SSR) and the Section Student Activities Chair (SSAC). Both can be found at <http://ieee-elearning.org/outreach/course/view.php?id=82>.

3.3 Communication

3.3.1 Web Activities

We have continued improving our online presence. Here are some of the updates

- Users can now subscribe to our posts by email, in addition to using our RSS, Twitter or Facebook feeds.
- The long-planned Wiki is finally online, although access is, in this phase, still limited to SAC members.
- We have replaced our site search system with Google Custom Search, enabling visitors to easily find the information they are looking for.
- New online cooperation tools are available to SAC members, using Google Apps for Domains.
- We completed the migration of the website to a new domain: www.r8sac.org
- We have started hosting public monthly chat sessions, each having a different topic and different guests.. Member response to these sessions has been very positive. We have now deployed a new chat system, that will be used for the coming sessions.
- Our Facebook page is now approaching 1400 fans, and steadily increasing.
- Our Twitter feed is now followed by 150 people.

3.3.2 Emailing

The SAC team sends out bi-monthly email newsletters to all students and graduate students in Region 8. The newsletters contain announcements on upcoming deadlines, programs and awards as well as any news and benefits relevant to the target audience.

3.3.3 Cookbook series R8 News articles on Student Branch Management

We have decided to write a series of articles for Student Branch officers in the Region 8 News (one per issue). We called it “Student Branch Cookbook” and it focuses on practical and useful tips for student branch officers. The first article of this series was published in the November 2009 issue of the Region 8 News on Student Branch fund-raising. The second article was part of the December 2010 issue and focused on Student Branch Chapters.

Next issues from cookbook and other information about Student Branch operations will be included in the new version of SAC website.

4 Ongoing Programs and Activities

4.1 Membership campaigns

Since September/October (which is also the start of the academic year) is the best time of the year to join the IEEE, R8 SAC and participating Student Branches continue to organize membership campaigns inside universities and online. In December/January our focus changes to membership

retentin. In April/June, joining as a Student Member for the second half of the year is beneficial, which is something that Student Branches can use in their membership campaigns.

A reminder for Arrears was sent in February 2011. A large number of responses was received which were helpful in assessing why students do not sometimes renew their membership.

4.2 Student Branch support

R8 SAC supports its Student Branches with seed money for their major activities. This is a successful program with increasingly more requests than we can handle. Only those activities may qualify for financial support, in which more than one Student Branch is involved and/or from which more than one Student Branch will benefit. R8 SAC expects the Section to support the activity with at least the same amount of money.

4.3 Section's welcome to graduating Student Members

Section Chairs are invited to welcome recent graduates into the Section as voting members and possible new volunteers. We strongly believe that such a personal contact at the Section level is very important for retention.

A program piloted in Region 8 is now a joint SAC-GOLD initiative called STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership). STEP events are organized with funding from GOLD, and are attended by recent graduates, who can hear talks of interest for their professional future and also learn more about post-student IEEE life and their GOLD AG and Section. See www.ieee.org/step for further information.

4.4 Student professional activities

Student Professional Awareness Conference/Venture (SPAC/SPAV) support funds are available from the global SPAA Committee. SBs can apply to get funding for events.

Workshops on Leadership skills and Project management are successfully organized throughout the Region, and are attended by many IEEE Student Members.

4.5 Travel grants for students at IEEE technical conferences

The Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund is not just intended for members, the fund helps also needy students to attend technical conferences (limit \$ 1000 per person in a lifetime).

Students attending technical events or conferences may receive a travel grant to the conference. In 2010 six students received funding (total of \$4500) to travel to conferences and four so far in 2011 received such funding.

4.6 Counselor support program

Section Chairs are requested to remind their Student Activities Coordinators and Student Representatives to remind each student branch to ensure that every SB in a given section benefits from the guidance of SB Counsellor, and helps us to keep our Counsellor list updated.

Section Chairs are requested to take note of the Counsellor programme Website: www.ieee.org/r8sac -- click on "Counsellor Programme"

4.7 EPICS High

Educational Activities is developing the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program in IEEE. Conceived and championed by IEEE 2007 President Leah Jamieson, [EPICS is a program that organizes university and high-school students](#) to work on engineering-related projects for local area humanitarian organizations.

Region 8 Sections already involved in EPICS projects are

- South Africa Section
- Nigeria Section

4.8 Teacher In-Service Program (TISP)

[The Teacher In-Service Program \(TISP\)](#) enables IEEE Volunteers to share their technical expertise and demonstrate the application of engineering concepts to support the teaching and learning of science, mathematics, and technology disciplines. [IEEE offers training workshops for its members](#) on how to facilitate in-service programs for local teachers to help them introduce hands-on engineering lessons to their students. [These lesson plans are aligned with education standards](#) and can easily be used in the classroom.

In 2011, UK&RI Section as well as Saudi Arabia Section will be hosting TISP events.

5 Student Activities on Section and Cross-Section level

Sectional student branch congresses should also be supported by the section. These events add a motivation plus to branches and highly prepared volunteers which can increase not only the number of student events in your sections, but also the membership. In addition, it is suggested the section officers attend the event or some part of them, and use it as a look-up for future section volunteers. Regional SAC will only fund this events if and only if the section also provides some funding.

5.1 Technical Conferences

5.1.1 Student Booth in Technical Conferences in Region 8

But not the big ones like EUROCON or IMS, where a student booth usually exists. We need to have these also in little conferences 100-200 people that take place in R8 and are typically R8 wide. This gives also the opportunity of the SB at the venue (if any) to show off a little. Many Graduate Students attend these events who are not yet IEEE members. In addition, students can help in the organization of these events as they have the necessary experience and skills.

5.2 2011 SBCs

5.2.1 2nd Iberian Student Branch Congress (ISBC 2011)

The ISBC 2011 took place in Madrid, Spain, on March 11-13, and was hosted by the ETSIT UPM Student Branch. It brought together around 60 delegates from Portugal, Spain and several other countries from Europe that had the chance to meet each other and exchange valuable experiences for their future as student leaders.

5.2.2 2nd Middle East Student Branch Congress (ME-SBC 2011)

The ME-SBC 2011 took place in Doha, Qatar, on March 14-18, and was hosted by the Texas A&M University at Qatar Student Branch. It was attended by 146 volunteers, most coming from 25 branches in 13 different sections. The host of the 2013 edition was chosen in a very competitive DOA contest, with the winner being the American University of Beirut, Lebanon Section.

5.2.3 1st Central European Student Branch Congress (CEuSBC 2011)

The first Central European Student Branch Congress took place from 13-15 May 2010 at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria. The event was attended by more than 40 participants from seven countries and has been organized by the Student Branch JKU Linz. Workshops and talks covering intelligent music processing, patent law, energy issues and social/professional skills were accompanied by social events. The participants used the opportunity to exchange their know-how of shaping a successful student branch.

5.2.4 National Congresses

Several national congresses are planned around the region. Since our level of involvement with these congresses is very variable, we don't have a complete listing. Some R8SAC members have, so far, been confirmed to attend the UKRI SBC in September, and the Portugal SBC in October.

5.2.5 SBC 2012

Two proposals have been received for the SBC 2012, one coming from the UPM Student Branch in Madrid, Spain Section, and the other coming from the Alexandria Student Branch in Alexandria, Alexandria Subsection. The proposals are currently undergoing evaluation by R8 SAC, with requests for comments going out to other stakeholders. The final results are expected soon.

5.3 Cross-committee work

This year the SAC is initiating cross-committee collaborations in order to enhance student activities and support in Region 8. The following SAC members are liaising and coordinating activities with the indicated Region 8 bodies:

Eva Lang: Liaison to Educational Activities for Pre-university activities

Jorge Soares: Liaison to GOLD

Muhamad Mustapha: Liaison to Technical Activities for Student Chapter issues

Jef Beerten: Liaison to Professional Activities to enhance student Professional Activities.

5.4 Global MGA Student Activities Meeting

Last June, the global IEEE MGA SAC committee got together in Seattle, WA, USA for another yearly meeting. Region 8 was very well represented by Elias, Martin, Eva, Jorge and Jan Verveckken. Many topics related to student activities were discussed. The Region 8 team was ranked first among all IEEE regions for the best student activity concept. The winning concept was the Twin Student Branch Program implemented in Region 8. For more information about this program and how your student branch can join please visit the Region 8 SAC website.