1 General

1.1 Officers

- Chair: Eva Lang   eva.lang@ieee.org
- Past Chair: Martin Bastiaans   m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org
- Student Representative: Amélie Anglade   amelie.anglade@ieee.org
- Awards & Contests: Pablo Herrero   pablo.herrero@ieee.org
- Student Branches: Muhammad Mustafa   mu.kh.mustafa@ieee.org
- Student Paper Contest: Djordje Paunovic   g.paunovic@ieee.org
- Web Activities: Jorge Soares   jorgesoares@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
- Bring more fun to IEEE!

1.3 Membership

July 2010: 19,852 Student and Graduate Student Members (9146 StM, 10703 GSM) in 330 Student Branches

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 (officially formed by Sept 12, 2010)

1.4.1 New Student Branches

- IEEE Hariri Canadian University Student Branch, Lebanon Section
- IEEE University of Monenegro Student Branch, Serbia and Montenegro Section
- IEEE University of Western Macedonia Student Branch, Greece Section
- IEEE Yanbu Industrial College Student Branch, Western Saudi Arabia Section
- IEEE TEI of Create - Tech Educational Inst of Crete Student Branch, Greece Section
- IEEE European University Of Lefke Student Branch, Turkey Section
- IEEE Akdeniz University Student Branch, Turkey Section
- IEEE Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitat Bonn Student Branch, Germany Section
- IEEE Universita della Svizzera Italiana Student Branch, Switzerland Section

1.4.2 New Student Branch Chapters

- IEEE Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu Photonics Society Student Branch Chapter, Ukraine Section
- IEEE Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu Antennas and Propagation Society Student Branch Chapter, Ukrain Section
- IEEE Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu Solid-State Circuits Society Student Branch Chapter, Ukraine Section
- IEEE Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu Dielectrics & Electrical Insulation Society Student Branch Chapter, Ukraine Section
- IEEE University of Cape Town Power & Energy Society Student Branch Chapter, South Africa Section
- IEEE Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu Magnetics Society Student Branch Chapter, Ukraine Section

1.4.3 New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

- IEEE Hashemite University Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group, Jordan Section

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 2010 award: 15 November 2010.

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 2010 award goes to C. Serkan Baydin from Turkey Section.

Deadline for 2011 award: 31 March 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 IEEE Student Humanitarian Supreme Prize (US$ 10,000) went to e.quinox and the team at Imperial College London. The winners were honored during the official 2010 IEEE Honors Ceremony (http://www.ieeechangetheworld.org/submission/finalists.html).

The 2011 competition starts in September 2010. Deadline: 31 January 2011.

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 2010 award winners within Region 8 are
- AUB (Lebanon)
- ENIS (Tunisia)
- PSUT (Jordan)
- METU (Turkey)
- Yildiz Technical University (Turkey)
- Gent (Benelux)
- QMUL (UKRI)
- Alexandria University (Egypt)
- Cairo University (Egypt)

One branch per Region enters the global competition. However, no results have been published until now.
Deadline: 31 January 2011.

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 2010 one of these 10 global awards goes to
- Prof. Dr. Joos Vanderwalle, Student Branch Leuven, Benelux

Deadline for this annual award is 28 February.

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

Once each year, each Student Branch may hold and organize a local Student Paper Contest under its own responsibility. The winner(s) of each Branch Contest may compete for the Region 8 Contest, held within the Region limits. SPC is a traditional, long lasting student activity in Region 8. SPC was and is an important IEEE topic in many aspects.

2.3.1.1 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2010

The 2010 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest featured 28 papers from 26 Student Branches in 19 Sections:

- Austria, Univ of Graz
- Benelux, Technical Univ, Eindhoven
- Benelux, Univ of Gent
- Benelux, KU Leuven
- Benelux, Catholique Univ of Louvain
- Germany, Karlsruhe Univ
- Greece, Univ of Central Greece
- Iran, Bu Ali Sina Univ, Hamedan

- Iran, Univ of Kurdistan, Sanandaj
- Kuwait, Kuwait Univ
- Lebanon, American Univ of Beirut
- Lithuania, Vilnius Gediminas Tech Univ
- Malta, Univ of Malta
- Qatar, Qatar Univ, Doha
- Rep. Of Macedonia, Univ of Skopje (UKIM)
- Slovenia, Univ of Ljubljana
- South Africa, Univ of Cape Town
- South Africa, Univ. of Pretoria
- South Africa, Univ of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- Spain, Univ Nacional De Educacion A Distancia
- Tunisia, Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Sfax (ENIS)
- Turkey, Suleyman Demirel Univ, Isparta
- United Arab Emirats, Bits, Pilani-Dubai
- UKRI, City Univ London
- UKRI, Queen Mary, Univ of London
- Western Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz Univ

The oral finals took place in La Valletta, Malta, on April 26 2010, as part of 15th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference, MELECON 2010.

The three winners were

- 1st : Maxime Taquet: "Feature-based error processing for robust surface registration in computer assisted orthopedic surgery", Catholique Univ Of Louvain SB, Benelux Section
- 2nd (*ex-aequo*): Daniel Johannes Louw, P.R.Botha, B.T.Maharaj: "A low complexity Soft-Input Soft-Output MIMO detector which combines a Sphere Decoder with a Hopfield Network", University of Pretoria SB, South Africa Section
- 2nd (*ex-aequo*): Micha Linde: "A Simple Stochastic Channel Simulator for Car-to-Car Communication at 24 GHz", Karlsruhe Univ SB, Germany Section

The other finalists were

- Eman AlQuraishi, Reem AlTeenan: "Average Power Reduction in Compression-Based Scan Designs", Kuwait Univ SB, Kuwait Section;
- Hariharsudan Sivaramakrishnan Radhakrishnan: "Non-volatile and Volatile Bipolar Resistive Electrical Switching in Ag and Cu Chalcogenide Memories with a Dedicated Switching Layer", KU Leuven SB, Benelux Section;
- Riccardo Mazzon: "Real-Time Structure from Motion for Monocular and Stereo Cameras", Queen Mary, Univ of London SB, UKRI Section.

The jury members for the 2010 Student Paper Contest were

- Prof. George Paunovic, Serbia
- Prof. Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Spain
- Prof. Andrzej Pacut, Poland
- Prof. Ali El-Mousa, Jordan
- Prof. Simon Fabri, Malta

2.3.1.2 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 is 15 December 2010. The oral finals will take place as part of IEEE EUROCON 2011, April 27-29, 2011, Lisbon, Portugal

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
- ○ Delegate of EUROCON 2011, Portugal

will select five papers for the oral finals and will decide about the three winners.

Within the ongoing SPC 2011 campaign up to now 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. In SAMIEEE base there are data about 268 R8 Student Branch chairs. Considerable number of emails was not received or was returned for various reasons.
- The same email was also sent to all SB counselors and the same comment about the correctness of email addresses also apply.
- Let us also note that according to R8 SB statistics as of August 31, 2010, there are 331 SBs. That means that over 60 SBs do not have contact emails in SAMIEEE (chairs and/or counselors are not listed at all !).
- SPC information is placed as a direct link at R8 SAC page (http://www.r8sac.org/index.php/spc).
- A short SPC presentation was made during the plenary session at Student Branch Congress 2010 in Leuven.
- All Region 8 IEEE student members got recently an email 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 issue.

Additional plans:

- An email, devoted to SPC 2011, is about to be sent to all Section and Chapter chairs, as well as to student activities Section officers and Section student representatives, asking them to support and co-organize SPC activities. It is specially emphasized to connect when possible local SPC contests with IEEE R8 Sections and Chapters conferences.
- Updated SPC emails will be sent to SB chairs and counselors, asking them to back-inform about their current activities or plans with regards to SPC 2011.

2.3.2 IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

This 24-hour programming contest has proven to be a good instrument for membership drive and member satisfaction. In 2009 more than 170 teams from Region 8 participated, 9 of them ranked in the top 25!

The 2010 Contest will be held on 23 October 2010. More information is available at
http://ieee.org/xtreme

2.3.3 IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

With 16 participating student branches around our region, the IEEE Website Contest 2010 was again a big event. As a result of the regional evaluations, the following student branch websites made it into the top 5:

- 1st Cairo University IEEE Student Branch (Egypt)
- 2nd Alexandria University IEEE Student Branch (Egypt)
- 3rd Instituto Superior Técnico IEEE Student Branch (Portugal)
- 4th ENIS IEEE Student Branch (Tunisia)
- 5th/6th (Tied): Koc IEEE Student Branch (Turkey) and University of Ibadan IEEE Student Branch (Nigeria)

The first two websites will also take place in the global contest. Results are yet to be announced. Next deadline: 15 April 2011

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 Emirats)
- 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". Note that there is prize money involved for participating branches. 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 Student Branch Program aims at creating links between Student Branches in different Sections of the Region 8. Like twin towns, pairs of Student Branches choose to be partners and exchange on a regular basis good tips, useful documents, projects, etc. They can also organise the same events the same day but in their respective cities, motivating each other and going through the same organisation schedule as each other.

The program has been launched in April 2009.

A full web page on the Region SAC website is dedicated to this program: We publish on this page the "requests for twins" that we receive from Student Branches along with contact information of the Student Branches and their "level of experience" (new Student Branch or experienced Student Branch). The Student Branches can then find each other on this page and contact each other and if they decide to be twins notify us.

The program has been introduced to the Student Branches in an article in the Region 8 News in April 2009 and an email to all Student Branch Chairs in Region 8. We also advertise this program in all the local Student Branches event we are invited to.

So far 16 Student Branches coming from 10 Sections have registered for this program. The number of the participants of this program have been highly increased after the Region 8 SBC 2010 (since it was an easier way for Student Branch officers to meet and agree on a partnership than remotely).

We will measure the efficiency of this program through the twin student branches reporting and statistics.

3.2 (Re-)Defining the Section Student Representative role and responsibilities

Following the April 2009 Region 8 meeting in Venice during which we encouraged the Section Chairs to nominate a Section Student Representative (SSR), we have decide 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. This is still ongoing work and our results will be published in our next report.

In the meantime the IEEE CLE (Center for Leadership Excellence) has started defining SB officer position descriptions and adding quick training material.

3.3 Communication

3.3.1 Web Activities

We have continued improving our online presence since we last reported in May. 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. The first two focused on the SBC 2010, and on the latest one we discussed the IEEE Day. 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.

Here is some up-to-date statistical data on our web presence:

- Since last February, our website had over 31000 pageviews.
- Our Facebook page is now approaching 800 fans, and steadily increasing.
- Our Twitter feed is now followed by 108 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 New series of 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 is scheduled for the December 2010 issue.

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 in these months. In December/January our focus changes to retention. 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.

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.

The program piloted in Region 8 and is now a joint SAC-GOLD initiative called STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership). 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 Students at IEEE technical conferences

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

Students organizing technical events or conferences may receive a travel grant to the conference.

4.6 Help needy volunteers project

R8 SAC runs a project for subsidizing 50% of the IEEE student membership dues for needy volunteers. This program is very successful and has a low financial impact. We are currently developing new ideas for subsidizing IEEE student dues for needy Members at the global IEEE level.

4.7 Counselor support program

Section Chairs are requested to remind their Student Activities Chairpersons 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.

On Region 8 initiative there was be a first ever conference call for Student Branch Counsellors on operational issues, SB officer roles and expectations, SAMIEEE training and further useful tools for easing the Counsellor's job done in January 2010. The next edition of this conference is scheduled for September 2010.

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

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 addtion, students can help in the organization of these events as they have the necessary experience and skills.

5.2 2010 Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC 2010)

The 2010 R8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress took place in Leuven, Belgium, in August 4-8, 2010. It brought together 292 people, of which 238 were students. Among the attendees were also Past President John Vig, President-Elect Moshe Kam, both presidential candidates, IEEE staff members, R8 officers and SA representatives from Regions 1, 2, 6 and 10.

The congress allowed student branches and GOLD affinity groups in Region 8 to interact, increase their leadership and project experiences and share best practices, ideas and issues. More details about the congress program are available on its website at www.sbcleuven.org.

As in previous years, Region 8 SAC funded one representative for each Region 8 Student Branch 'in good standing' to attend the congress: local costs were covered by R8SAC, travel expenses are expected to be covered by the respective Sections. This year, 104 branch received funding from SAC.

5.3 Global MGA Student Activities Meeting

The 2010 MGA SAC face-to-face meeting was held in May 2010 in New Brunswick, NJ, USA. Amélie and Jorge attended on behalf of Region 8 SAC. The focus of the meeting was put on

Strategic Planning for the global Student Activities Committee, operational updates and issues as well as networking.