

IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee Report

Quebec, Canada, 18–19 September 2008

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This report covers the time span from 1 January 2008 until the beginning of September 2008.

1. General

1.1. Region 8 Student Activities Committee

- Martin J. Bastiaans, Chair, m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org
- Marko Delimar, Past Chair, m.delimar@ieee.org
- Pablo Herrero, Student Representative, pablo.herrero@ieee.org
- Emine Aydal, Student Branch Coordination, aydal@ieee.org
- Luka Lugarić, Electronic Communications, llugaric@ieee.org
- Thomas Watteyne, Awards and Contests, thomas.watteyne@ieee.org

R8 SAC web site <http://www.ieee.org/r8sac/>

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. Student Branch statistics 31 July 2008 (31 July 2007)

- 288 (268) Student Branches
- 17 182 [GSM = 8 093, S = 9 089] (17 066) Student Members

Due to problems in the new Business Management System, SAMIEEE, and Analytics, correct data about Student Members in Branches cannot be generated automatically.

1.4. New Student Branches, Branch Chapters, and Branch Affinity Groups

New Student Branches in 2008

- Austria, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (06-02-2008)
- Benelux, University College Antwerp, Belgium (18-07-2009)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (in progress)
- Egypt, Helwan University, Faculty of Computer Sciences and Information, Ain-Helwan, Cairo (05-05-2008)
- Germany, Illmenau University of Technology (20-12-2007)
- Germany, Jacobs University, Bremen (06-02-2008)
- Germany, Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg (23-05-2008)
- Greece, University of Central Greece, Lamia (20-12-2007)
- Lebanon, St. Joseph University, School of Engineering, Beirut (31-07-2008)
- Nigeria, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri (in progress)
- Nigeria, Federal University of Technology, Akure (23-05-2008)
- Nigeria, Federal University of Technology, Minna (in progress)
- Qatar, Carnegie Mellon Qatar Campus, Doha (26-02-2008)
- Russia (Northwest), St. Petersburg State University of Cinema and Television (06-02-2008)
- United Arab Emirates, Ras Al-Khaimah Womens College (23-05-2008)

- United Arab Emirates, The Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi (06-02-2008)
- United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, University of Westminster, London, UK (01-08-2008)
- University of Kalamoon, Deratiah, Syria (23-05-2008)

New Student Branch Chapters in 2008

- No new Student Branch Chapters till now.

New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2008

- Lebanon, Notre Dame University, Louaize (20-02-2008)
- Nigeria University of Ibadan (20-02-2008)
- United Arab Emirates , American University in Dubai (20-02-2008)

2. Awards and Recognition on Region Level and Above

2.1. General awards for active IEEE Student Members

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. Beginning 2006, a generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is providing \$ 9000 annually to fund the award for the next five years. Up to \$ 1500 in funding is available for project proposals developed by teams of IEEE Student Members from Student Branches established at over 1400 universities and colleges around the world.

- The Student Branch University of Nottingham, UK, submitted a proposal in 2007 entitled “Innotor High-Tech HTS Motor,” with a requested funding of \$ 1500.

► Deadline for the 2008 award: 15 November 2008

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.

- 3 nominations [South Africa, Tunisia, Western Saudi Arabia] have been received for the 2008 award.
- The recipient of the 2008 award is Mounira Maazaoui, Ecole Nationale d’Ingénieurs de Tunis, Tunisia.

► Deadline for the 2009 award: 31 March 2009

2.2. Student Branch awards

IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

- 1 nomination has been received for the 2008 award. This Student Branch, the Middle East Technical University, Turkey, qualified for the award.
- Middle East Technical University, Turkey, has been nominated for the 2008 IEEE Outstanding Student Branch Award.
- We are still waiting for the 2006 and 2007 IEEE Outstanding Student Branch Award, for which Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Benelux, and Aalborg University, Denmark, have been nominated.

► Deadline for the 2009 award: 31 January 2009

Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Program

- No nominations have been received for the 2008 program.
- Deadline for the 2009 program: 28 February 2009

IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award

The purpose of this new recognition system 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.

- No submissions have been received in 2007, and until now, no submissions have been received in 2008.
- Submissions are welcome throughout the entire year; decisions are made once a year during the October MGA SC meeting. Activities submitted after 30 September will be judged the following year.

MGA Student Branch Membership Growth Award

- The 2007 recipient of Region 8 is the University of Padova, Italy.

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 percentage of increase in membership and highest increase in new elections relative to other Student Branches within each Region.

Information on these and other awards and recognition programmes for Students and Student Branches is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

3. Contests on Region Level and Above

3.1. IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest

The 2008 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 12 papers from 10 Student Branches in 8 countries: Austria, Belgium (2 papers from 1 Branch), Egypt (2 Branches), Germany, Malta, Slovenia, Qatar, South Africa (2 papers from 1 Branch, 1 paper from 1 Branch). The oral finals took place in Ajaccio, Corsica, France, on 6 May 2008, as part of MELECON 2008, the 14th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (5-7 May 2008).

The three winners were

1. Geert Hellings (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) AlGa_N Schottky diodes for detector applications in the UV wavelength range
2. William Vandenberghe (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Analytical model for a tunnel field-effect transistor
3. Herman Myburgh (University of Pretoria, South Africa) Near-optimal low complexity MLSE equalization

The other two papers selected for the oral finals were

- Mohamed Bahgat (Cairo University, Egypt) A simple implementation for unmarked road tracking
- Vukosi N. Marivate (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) An intelligent multi-agent recommender system for human capacity building

The four jury members for the 2008 SPC were Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos López-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

► Deadline for the 2009 Contest: 15 December 2008

3.2. IEEEExtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

The second Challenge took place on 8 March 2008, with 130 teams; 57 teams from Region 8, which is an increase of more than 100% compared to 2007.

- The winner was from Region 5, with 1270.25 points.
- Seven teams from Region 8 made it to the top 10:
 2. Carnegie Mellon Qatar Campus, Doha, Qatar (Qatarpillars, 983.0 points)
 3. University of Cyprus (DMT, 931.5 points)
 5. Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany (Bucuresti X3, 895.0 points)
 6. University of Sharif, Iran (Diamond, 894.7 points)
 8. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (Telecom BCN, 841.5 points)
 9. Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany (KenLee, 840.3 points)
 10. Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey (Caspian, 832.2 points)

► The date of the 2009 Challenge will be announced in due time.

3.3. IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

39 submissions [Austria (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (2), Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt (3), France, Germany (2), Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Nigeria (2), Russia (Siberia), South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey (7), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (4), Western Saudi Arabia] have been received for the 2008 contest; this is an increase of 70% compared to 2007. The three Region 8 winners

1. Near East University, Turkey, with 84.375 points
2. University of Southampton, United Kingdom, with 84.125 points
3. University of Zagreb, Croatia, with 80.25 points

were sent to the global contest. The submissions that also made it to the top 10 are

4. Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom, with 80.125 points
5. Alexandria University, Egypt, with 79 points
6. University of Manchester, United Kingdom, with 76.875 points
7. Tomsk, Russia (Siberia), with 75.375 points
8. Babcock University, Nigeria, with 74.5 points
9. University of Cape Town, South Africa, with 74 points
10. American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, with 73 points

The jury consisted of Pablo Herrero, Region 8 Student Representative; Khanh Luu, IEEE Entity Web Hosting administrator; Sergio Madrigal, IEEE SB Universidad Politècnica de Valencia, 2nd place of the 2007 edition; Thomas Watteyne, R8 SAC Electronic Communications Coordinator; Alex Williams, Google, Inc.

- Near East University, Turkey, reached the first place, with the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, at the 3rd place and the University of Zagreb, Croatia, (5th place) as runner up.

► Deadline for the 2009 contest: 15 March 2009

3.4. IEEE Region 8 Student Promotional Multimedia Contest

A call for papers is to be sent to all Region 8 students and Student Branches. Participating branches will need to create promotional multimedia for advertising IEEE to students, outlining basic benefits. There will be no defined technology, and participants will be allowed to use any software for desktop publishing such as Corel or Photoshop to produce images, any kind of video editing software to produce short movies, possibilities on producing Flash animations, PowerPoint presentations, leaflets and flyers. The content of the promotional item must be constructed such that it will be applicable to most or all Student Branches in Region 8, and not just locally. All received promotional items will be displayed on the R8 SAC web site. The winning branch will be awarded \$ 500, second best \$ 300, and third best \$ 200. The action will be coordinated by members of R8 SAC. Results will be made a part of an electronic promotional package, which will be put on the R8 SAC web site for all branches to use.

► Not yet scheduled

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, according to EMCC member Gerald Peterson, chair of the ad hoc committee that developed the competition program.

► Scheduled for SBC 2008, the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in 2008. Ethics competitions were supposed to take place within the workshops on 30 August. In each workshop, there was a different technical ethical issue to be discussed and the participants of the workshop were to discuss and try to draw a conclusion. The results of the discussions will be reported back to the organizing committee, and the three most original results will be given an award.

Information on these and other contests is available on the R8 SAC web site as well as on the IEEE student concourse.

4. Student Branch Congresses on Section Level

4.1. Egypt, Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Alexandria, 28–29 February 2008

ESBM 2008 – The Egyptian Student Branch Meeting 2008.

The theme of this year's meeting was 'Uniting Tomorrow's Engineers.'

4.2. Spain, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, 4–6 April 2008

More than 40 participants coming from 10 Branches met in early April in the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, which hosted the Spanish IEEE Student Branch Congress in its 9th edition. The host Branch organized a wonderful and very successful event in a record time and with a very low budget, provided by the Spain Section and by industrial sponsors. During two days, many particular problems were analyzed and discussed. This congress shows the constant activity of Spain Section Student Activities, as more than 75% of the attendees were new Student Branch Officers.

4.3. Germany, Magdeburg, German Student Branch Congress, 5–6 June 2008

Representatives of the most active German Student Branches were present at the Student Branch Meeting in Magdeburg. This meeting was organized in conjunction with the Joint Meetings of the

PES and IAS/PELS/IES Germany Chapters. This situation allowed the Students to network not only between themselves, but also with their professors. An open discussion and the presentation of a possible future Section-wide communication platform were the highlights of this meeting.

4.4. Turkey, Adana, 6th IEEE Turkey Student Branch and GOLD Congress, 22–26 August 2008

Around 200 participants from 40 different universities attended this successful event, which was organized by the Çukurova Student Branch. They came together to discuss common problems in Student Branches, to create new solutions and new projects, to come up with new social and technical activities, as well as to get to know each other better and to have fun.

5. Recent and Upcoming Major Events

5.1. IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) program

The IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) Program has been approved with high priority as 2007 IEEE New Initiative by the IEEE Board of Directors. Being the first and only initiative proposed by IEEE student volunteers, ISBIR will combine all industry related activities of student branches in one program and establish a platform where IEEE volunteers can share their best practices and experience about industry relations. Student branches can benefit from the ISBIR Program by implementing their local industry related activities and making permanent collaborations with companies. For more information see <http://www.isbir.org/>.

5.2. Careers in Europe Forum

- Berlin, Germany, 6–7 May 2008
- Brussels, Belgium, December 2008 – applications open from 1 June 2008

Twice a year (Berlin in May and Brussels in December), Careers in Europe holds a unique, invitation-only event at which top international employers meet and interview the very best graduates and early-career professionals for a wide variety of positions throughout Europe. This is a unique opportunity to meet the people that can build our GOLD Members' international careers – at no charge for them. For more information see <http://www.careersineurope.com/>.

- In the last week of February 2008, an E-Notice has been sent to all Region 8 (Graduate) Student Members, to alert them to the Careers in Europe Forum (deadline 9 March). They were also reminded to (i) the IEEEExtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge (deadline 3 March, see Sect. 3.2), (ii) the IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest (deadline 15 March, see Sect. 3.3), and (iii) the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress, see Sect. 5.4.

5.3. Business Engineering Workshop 2008, Austria, Graz, 9–10 May 2008

The IEEE Student Branch Graz took the initiative to organize a two days business engineering workshop, with the aim to provide professional insight into the topics of project and process management and bring engineering students and professionals closer together. The workshop was a huge success with over 35 students and professionals from all over Europe participating. Many of them are now new members of IEEE. By the end of the workshop, the participants understood the basic principals of project and process management by analyzing the process of “boiling an egg.” Furthermore, the participants gained a valuable overview of the way of working in the professional engineering community.

5.4. Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress, 28 August – 1 September 2008

The call for proposal was published in April 2007. In July 2007, R8 SAC has chosen Queen Mary, University of London, as the venue for SBC 2008. The Congress took place from 28 August till 1 September 2008.



The Congress was attended by a total of 215 participants, among which 104 (Graduate) Student Members, representing 69 Branches from 31 Sections, and 15 Section GOLD coordinators. The entire R8 SAC was present (6 members), as well as 2 members from the R8 GOLD Committee, 9 members from the ISBIR team, and the 15 members from the SBC Organizing Committee plus 4 others that helped this Committee. We could also welcome the Student Representatives from Regions 2, 3, and 6, as well as the Region 10 Student Activities Chair and the Region 10 GINI (Global Integrated Network of IEEE Students) Coordinator, and 2 guests from EESTEC. 11 additional attendants had a direct relation with WiE. The remaining 42 guests were mainly from Queen Mary University of London (4), sponsors (3), and different IEEE entities (both volunteers and staff).

From all registrants, at least 13 people suffered from visa problems (Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine) and could not attend, and one person had to cancel because of health problems. A total of 18 people did not show up without giving any notice; 3 of them might also have encountered visa problems (Iran, Morocco, and Tanzania), while some others may have applied for a visa too late (Egypt and Turkey).

Local Organizing Committee

- Zhijia Huang, Chair
- Shuxian Chen, Executive Vice Chair and Secretary
- Amélie Anglade, Vice Chair, Communication and Publications; SBC WiE Coordinator
- Naeem Ramzan, Vice Chair, Registration
- Oliver Shepherd, Executive Treasurer
- Ling Liu, Assistant Treasurer
- Masood Ur Rehman, Logistic Chair
- Lina Men, Event Organizer
- Keisuke Toyama, Event Organizer
- Shihua Wang, Event Organizer
- Samuel Pachoud, Technical and Industry Liaison Coordinator
- Yousef Hamouda, SBC GOLD Coordinator
- Teck Fui Chin, SBC Volunteer
- Colombine Gardair, SBC Volunteer
- Zabiullah Masshoor, SBC Volunteer

with the help of

- Andrea Cavallaro, Branch Counselor
- Bob Chew, QMUL SB Webmaster
- Pedro O'dery
- Zhenxin Zhu

and with advice from

- Emine Aydal, R8 SAC Student Branch Coordinator
- Tony Davies, Former Region 8 Director (2003–2004)
- Brian Harrington, Region 8 Treasurer

<i>Speakers from IEEE and Queen Mary University of London</i>	IEEE entity
1. Maryam Al-Thani, Region 8 WiE Coordinator	Region 8
2. Simay Akar, ISBIR Industry Relations	ISBIR
3. Gerald Anleitner, Region 8 Professional Activities	Region 8
4. Emine G. Aydal, Region 8 Student Branch Coordinator	Region 8
5. Emre Ayranci, Benelux GOLD Chair and Professional Activities Coordinator	Benelux
6. Martin Bastiaans, Region 8 Vice Chair Student Activities	Region 8
7. Babak Beheshti, MGA Student Activities Committee Chair	MGA
8. Robert Berger, Region 8 Professional Activities	Region 8
9. A. Gökhan Çelebi, ISBIR LSC Coordinator	ISBIR
10. Xiaodong Chen, QMUL Graduate School of Science and Engineering Academic	
11. Marko Delimar, Region 8 Vice Chair Membership Activities	Region 8
12. Laura Durrett, MGA Manager Student Services	MGA
13. Esra Erişen, ISBIR Career Responsible	ISBIR
14. Kübra Erol, ISBIR PR Responsible	ISBIR
15. João Figueiras, Region 8 GOLD Committee	Region 8
16. Ebru Gocmen, ISBIR University Relations	ISBIR
17. Gerhard P. Hancke, MGA Board Vice Chair Member Development	MGA
18. Pablo Herrero, Region 8 Student Representative	Region 8
19. Zhijia Huang, SBC Chair	Queen Mary University of London SB
20. Cecelia Jankowski, MGA Managing Director	MGA
21. Eva Lang, Region 8 GOLD Coordinator	Region 8
22. David Law, Region 8 Standards Coordinator	Region 8
23. Joe Lillie, Vice President Member and Geographic Activities	MGA
24. J. Roberto de Marca, Vice President Technical Activities	TA
25. Ursula Martin, QMUL Vice Principal Science and Engineering	
26. Seán Mcloone, UKRI Section Chair	UKRI
27. Steve Mills, Standards	Standards
28. Józef Modelski, Region 8 Director-Elect	Region 8
29. Ferhan Ozkan, ISBIR Program Director	ISBIR
30. Karen Panetta, WiE Chair	WiE
31. Prijoe Philips Komattu, Region 10 GINI Coordinator	Region 10
32. Rolf Remshardt, Region 8 Membership Development Committee Chair	Region 8
33. Jean-Gabriel Rémy, Region 8 Director	Region 8
34. Kurt Richter, Region 8 Professional Activities	Region 8
35. Mazen Sakran, General Motors Middle East	
36. Aleksandar Szabo, Region 8 Membership Development Committee	Region 8
37. Lewis Terman, President	Board of Directors
38. Mini Thomas, Region 10 Student Activities Chair	Region 10
39. Dirk Van Hertem, Benelux Section Student Representative	Benelux
40. John Vig, President-Elect	Board of Directors
41. Baldomir Zajc, Region 8 Past Director	Region 8
42. Matej Zajc, Region 8 Professional Activities	Region 8

Program items (G : GOLD track; S : Student Branch track; # : speaker)

1. *Welcome reception* (10, 26)
2. *Dinner*
3. *Opening session*
4. *Introduction* (19)
5. *Inside IEEE* (20)

6. Leadership skills in the IEEE (23)
7. IEEE Student Activities – Get more involved today (12)
8. Region 8 Student Activities (S; 6)
9. Region 8 GOLD Activities (G; 15, 21)
10. GOLD and Societies (G)
11. Professional Activities (G; 3)
12. IEEE Standards Education (22, 27)
13. Using IEEE’s educational tools to better prepare yourself for the job market (7)
14. IEEE GOLD (21)
15. WiE Forum
 - Stimulating simulating, a perspective of engineering careers and opportunities (30)
 - Region 8 WiE Activities (1)
 - Panel discussion: My career as an engineer
16. Student Professional Activities (S; 3, 42)
17. IEEE Student Awards (S; 6)
18. Outstanding Branch Activities – Branches from R2, R3, R6, R8, and R10 (S; 18, 31, 38)
19. GOLD panel: Hey you! Get involved! Get appointed! (G; 11, 21)
20. *Gala diner*
21. Workshops: Introduction (19)
 - (a) Recruiting new members – Benefits of IEEE membership and volunteer work (4)
 - (b) Fundraising and external representation of a Student Branch (39)
 - (c) Networking Student Branches – Cross-Branch organization of events (31)
 - (d) Collaboration between Student Branches and GOLD (5)
 - (e) How to make industry involved in Branch activities? Permanent industry relations, taking company sponsorship (2, 16)
 - (f) Volunteer activation with career opportunities, utilizing the ISBIR platform (9, 14)
 - (g) Professional Activities: Leadership skills (34)
 - (h) Professional Activities: Time management (8)
 - (i) WiE: Know yourself (1, 35)
 - (j) GOLD: How to handle the conflict between your job and your family (21)
22. ISBIR Introduction (S; 29)
23. IEEE Technical Activities (S; 24)
24. IEEE industry link (S; Microsoft, Cisco)
25. ‘Best practices’ on GOLD Affinity Group Activities (G; 15)
26. Membership retention: Strategies and practice (G; 32, 36)
27. Member engagement (17)
28. Meeting with industry (9, 13)
29. *Multicultural night*
30. Reports on workshops
31. Open panel discussion (S; 7)
32. GOLD programme wrap-up – Creation of ‘Hey you! Get involved! Get appointed’ handbook (G; 21)
33. Closing session and farewell
34. *Sightseeing*

Sponsors

- IEEE: Region 8 Student Activities Committee, Region 8 GOLD Committee, ISBIR, UKRI Section, WiE, Computer Society

- QMUL: Queen Mary University of London, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science
- Industry: Microsoft, EMAL, Cisco, Transitive

For more information, see <http://www.sbc2008.org/>.

5.5. IEEE Career Horizons, 1 September 2008

On Monday 1 September, as a satellite event to SBC 2008, a special event has been organized for Student and GOLD members by the IEEE UKRI Section, to help them in their career development and job-searching. A total of 40 people was involved. The attendees had the opportunity to meet people from industry and universities, to discuss opportunities for employment, for PG courses and research, and also learn about the skills that prospective employers require from new graduates.

Program items

- Meet senior academics
- Socialize with colleagues
- Leadership skills (Kurt Richter)
- Interviewing skills: How to ace the interview (Peggy Hutcheson)
- Global career strategies (Mary Anne Thompson)
- Career success and fulfilment (Peggy Hutcheson)
- CV writing (Mary Anne Thompson)
- Company presentations – Meeting with industry – Company stands visit

For more information, see <http://IEEEcareerhorizons.com>.

5.6. Numerous activities organized by our Student Branches

For more information, log onto our web site and follow the Region 8 News. See also Sect. 7.6.

6. Meetings and Visits

- Martin attended the Region 10 Student Congress, Chennai, India, 27–30 January 2008.
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Paris, France, 2 March 2008.
- Marko, Martin, and Pablo attended the MGA SAC Meeting in Chicago, IL, 14–16 March 2008; on his way back, Martin visited the IEEE Operations Center in Piscataway, NJ, on 18 March 2008.
- Pablo attended the Student Branch Congress in Madrid, Spain, 4–6 April 2008 (Sect. 4.2).
- Marko and Pablo attended the EESTEC International Annual Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Rijeka, Croatia, 4–14 April 2008.
- Emine, Luka, Marko, Martin, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Saint Julians, Malta, 26–27 April 2008. R8 SAC had its meeting on 25 April and could welcome around 30 guests.
- Martin attended MELECON 2008, the 14th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference in Ajaccio, Corsica, France, 5–7 May 2008 (see Sect. 3.1).
- Marko attended the Business Engineering Workshop 2008 in Graz, Austria, 9–10 May 2008 (Sect. 5.3).
- Pablo attended the Germany Student Branch Congress in Magdeburg, Germany, 5–6 June 2008 (Sect. 4.3).
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Protaras, Cyprus, 28–29 June 2008.

- Emine, Luka, Marko, Martin, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2008, London, UK, 28 August – 1 September 2008 (Sect. 5.4).
- Martin attended the IEEE Career Horizons in London, UK, 1 September 2008 (Sect. 5.5).
- Emine, Marko, Martin, and Pablo will attend the MGA SAC Meeting, Quebec, Canada, 16–17 September 2008, and with Luka they will attend the Region 8 Committee Meeting, 18–19 September 2008, and Sections Congress, 19–22 September 2008; Thomas can only make it to the Region 8 Committee Meeting.

7. Ongoing Programs and Activities

7.1. 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.

- In the beginning of January 2008, 17 526 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Student Members to wish them a Happy (re)New Year.
- In the beginning of March 2008, 5 862 personalized email messages were sent to students who did not renew for 2008.

7.2. Launch a new Student Branch initiative

A pilot project in 2005, it appeared extremely successful and was continued in 2006 and 2007. The project, which needs the cooperation with Section Student Representatives and Section Student Activities Chairs, will be continued in 2008. A branch (or group of branches) that helps a new branch to be established, will receive an amount of \$ 200: \$ 100 when the new Branch has been established, and the additional \$ 100 when the new Branch has completed its first year of operation.

7.3. Waking up dormant Student Branches project

This is a slow, but successful project of contacting last-known Branch officers and Counselors (or other IEEE Members) at the Branch location in an effort to reactivate inactive Branches. On Region 8 initiative, RAB SAC passed an action item to develop a knowledge tool for helping SAC and the Branches keep continuity of previous activities. A ‘wake up kit’ is being prepared to be sent to Section Chairs, Section Student Activities Chairs, Student Branch officers and Counselors (also to be included in Student CD RAB SAC initiative).

7.4. 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.

7.5. 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. Not very successful up to now, we keep insisting on it in our Region Meetings.

7.6. Region 8 Student News

Almost half of the Region 8 News (our regional newspaper, distributed to all Members) is based on R8 SAC articles, Student Branch articles, awards, contests, major events, . . . in every issue. Recent student articles include:

- Aalborg University, Denmark: Aalborg organises contest for 2008 (15-02-2008)
- Alexandria Student Branch, Egypt: Alex SBs host Egypt's first student paper contest (Summer 2007)
- Benelux LEOS students make a technical visit (20-03-2008)
- Benha University, Egypt: Student Branch celebrates anniversary (07/08-04-2008)
- Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic: Czech and Slovak doctorate students meet up (27/29-08-2007)
- Çukurova University, Turkey: Do computers fall in love? (21/22-11-2007)
- Jordan University of Science and Technology: IEEE team observes the planets (Fall 2007)
- Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey: SB congress welcomes nearly 200 (30-08/03-09-2007)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium: Energy trip to Germany (Easter holiday 2008)
- Lagos State University, Nigeria: LASU celebrates knowledge (31-08/01-09-2007)
- Leuven Student Branch, Belgium: Belgian students visit Padova (July 2007)
- METU EESTEC, Ankara, Turkey: Robots follow the lines (21/29-09-2007)
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria: IEEE and IET join forces for first GYMN conference (12/15-11-2007)
- Queen Mary University of London, UK: Register now for Student Branch Congress (28-08/01-09-2008)
- Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey: SB visits Nortel Networks (21-03-2008)
- Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey: Activities begin at SDU (30-11-2007)
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain: Technorati founder joins 'Geek Dinner' (15-11-2007)
- Universität Karlsruhe, Germany: Karlsruhe karters burn rubber (17-07-2007)
- Universität Karlsruhe, Germany: Karlsruhe students visit FZK ahead of forthcoming merger (22-01-2008)
- University College of Antwerp, Belgium: Why world citizens win (December 2007)
- University of Applied Sciences, Fachhochschule Dortmund, Germany: West meets East during international workshop (06/08-09-2007)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Training day with Linux (02-11-2007)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Equipping the engineer for the future (05/07-03-2008)
- University of Jordan: FLOSS week hails Open Source (17/23-03-2008)
- University of Malta: SPAC 2008 is a great success (05-03-2008)
- University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates: IEEE Open Week at UOS (30-03/01-04-2008)
- University of Southampton, UK: Driving a winning formula
- Vienna Student Branch, Austria: LaTeX tutorial attracts interest in Region 8
- Warsaw University of Technology, Poland: Astronomy and high energy physics at Warsaw University (25/27-01-2008)

News of a more urgent nature is published at the R8 SAC web site.

7.7. Communications

- *R8 SAC web site* <http://www.ieee.org/r8sac/>. R8 SAC maintains a web site with news about student activities and a knowledge database about student issues.
- *E-notice and email lists*. Region 8 students receive R8 SAC announcements and notifications via E-notice and email lists.

- On 28 July 2008, 7 784 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Graduate Student Members (respecting a possible ‘Do Not Email Flag’) to alert them to the annual elections.
- For more communication activities, see also Sect. 5.2 and Sect. 7.1.

R8 SAC is presently conducting a small project with the ultimate aim of compiling a true and current list of active student branches and their leaders. This will include contacting people from lists currently available on-line, like Chairs, Student Activities Officers, and Student Representatives of the different Sections in the Region.

7.8. Student professional activities

- *SPAC/SPAV support.* Student Professional Awareness Conference/Venture support funds are available.
- *Region 8 Workshops.* Workshops on Leadership skills and Project management are successfully organized throughout the Region, and are attended by many IEEE Student Members.
- Within the *Career Horizons Event* (see Sect. 5.5), there will be training sessions such as Leadership Skills, CV Writing, Global Job Search, How to Enhance your Career, etc.

7.9. Students at IEEE technical conferences

- *Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund.* Not just intended for students, the fund helps also needy students to attend technical conferences (limit \$ 1000 per person in a lifetime).
- *R8 SAC Voucher Program.* Student Members attending an IEEE technical conference in any year, may receive a voucher to be used for their IEEE membership dues in the subsequent year. The number of requests increases from year to year. We may have to end this program because of decreasing budgets.
- *Organization of IEEE student events at technical conferences.* Students organizing such events may receive a travel grant to the conference.

7.10. 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.

7.11. Counselor support program

This program has been pending for some years now and may be restructured in 2008.

7.12. Region 8 Student Branch Events and Activities Information Warehouse

R8 SAC is in the process of creating a web-based, information-sharing platform for Student Branch projects. This ‘information warehouse’ would consist of documents created during the course of planning, executing, and closing of events and activities in Student Branches throughout Region 8. The proposed solution is planned to include data as, for example, project charters, project plans, promotional material templates, funding requests, budget plans, advertising material, . . . – any and all documentation produced within projects established during all phases of past events and activities.

8. Partner Organizations

We are exploring the possibility to enhance cooperation with our partner organizations like

- *EESTEC*. The Electrical Engineering Students' European Association is an organization of and for electrical engineering students from universities, institutes or schools of technology in Europe that award an engineering degree. The primary aim is to promote and develop international contacts and exchange ideas, as well as improve the technical knowledge of electrical engineering students. The association also aims to introducing students to the industry and the educational system of other countries. For more information see <http://www.eestec.org/>.
- *BEST*. The Board of European Students of Technology is a non profit student organization, run by students, working for students. Its purpose is to promote Europe among Europeans. BEST strives to help European students of technology to become more internationally minded, by reaching a better understanding of European cultures and developing capacities to work on an international basis. Therefore it creates opportunities for the students to meet and learn from one another through its academic and non-academic courses and educational symposia. "Learning makes the master," but the final goal is a good working place, therefore it offers services like an international career center to broaden the horizons for the choice on the job market. For more information see <http://best.eu.org/>.

9. Financial Issues

9.1. Financial report 2007 and budget 2008

SPC 2007 travel & accommodation in Warsaw (EUROCON registration: free)	10 905.54	
RAB SAC meetings (Boston/Santiago)	6 357.63	
Other meetings (Novi Sad/London/Budapest/York/Nairobi)	3 993.85	
Branch support (Eindhoven/Canj/York/Zvule/Trabzon/Nairobi/Nigeria)	3 253.54	
Voucher program	367.00	
GOLD reception	200.00	
Total expenses 2007	25 077.56	
SPC 2008 travel & accommodation in Corsica (expensive air line tickets)	12 900.00	15 900.00
SPC 2008 MELECON registration	2 100.00	2 100.00
MGA SC meetings (Chicago/Quebec)	6 000.00	4 000.00
Other meetings (Ljubljana & Rijeka/...)	4 000.00	250.00
Branch support (Alexandria/...)	3 500.00	350.00
Voucher program	400.00	400.00
Unforeseen	1 022.44	-5 500.00
Total expenses 2008 (except SBC 2008)	29 922.44	17 500.00
Evaporated		12 422.44
SBC 2008 organization	55 000.00	55 000.00
SBC 2008 Sections support for travelling ¹	20 000.00	20 000.00
Totale expenses 2007 and 2008 (including SBC 2008)	130 000.00	130 000.00

Contrary to the expectation of receiving a two-year budget of \$ 130 000, on which amount a balanced budget for 2007 and 2008 was built (see the first column), it appeared at the OpCom meeting on 2 March 2008 that an amount of \$ **12 422.44** has 'evaporated.' Consequently, R8 SAC cannot support any Student Branches by financial means or by sending one of its members to

¹Note that the amount of \$ 20 000 is not visible in the Region 8 budget.

their activities in 2008; moreover, due to commitments already made, a balanced budget for 2008 could no longer be achieved (see the second column, with a deficit of \$ 5 500.00).

10. Region 8 Specific Problems

- Some Region 8 areas experience severe delays with receiving IEEE publications.
- Some Region 8 areas experience credit card problems and high fees for money transfer and cheques (payment of dues).
- Cashing Rebate checks from Piscataway is expensive and sometimes impossible.
- Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power Parity per capita vary significantly within Region 8, with a ratio in the order of 1:100 between the lowest- and the highest-income country. In the US, this ratio is less than 1:2 between the different states. In several Region 8 countries, the US-based prices for IEEE products and services are extremely high.
- Region 8 suffers from a bad rate of exchange between the US dollar and the euro. Moreover, Student Activities suffered from a severe reduction of its budget, which reduction came at a moment that a balanced budget for 2008 could no longer be achieved. For details, see Sect. 9.

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