IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee Report
Malta, 26–27 April 2008

Contents

This report covers the time span from 1 January 2007 until 31 March 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
- Michael Gloegl, Student Representative, m.gloegl@ieee.org   until 5 September 2007
- Pablo Herrero, Student Representative, pablo.herrero@ieee.org   from 5 September 2007
- Pablo Herrero, Student Branch Coordination, pablo.herrero@ieee.org   until 12 September 2007
- Emine Aydal, Student Branch Coordination, aydal@ieee.org   from 12 September 2007
- 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 29 February 2008 (31 December 2006)

- 278 (258) Student Branches
- 19 685 [GSM = 8 839, S = 10 846] (18 652) 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 2007

- Austria, Upper Austria University of Applied Science, Wels (15-02-2007)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Džemal Bijedić University of Mostar (15-02-2007)
- Egypt, German University in Cairo (04-04-2007)
- Egypt, Modern Sciences and Arts University, 6th of October City, Cairo (15-02-2007)
- France, Institut National des Télécommunications, Evry (25-06-2007)
- Morocco, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fes (25-06-2007)
- Morocco, University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech (25-06-2007)
- Nigeria, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt (27-08-2007)
- Poland, Opole University of Technology (15-02-2007)
- Qatar, Qatar University, Doha (27-08-2007)
- Turkey, Atilim University, Ankara (04-04-2007)
- Turkey, Haliç University, Istanbul (25-10-2007)
- Ukraine, Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics, Kharkov

New Student Branches in 2008

- Austria, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (06-02-2008)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (in progress)
- Egypt, Helwan University, Faculty of Computer Sciences and Information, Ain-Helwan, Cairo (in progress)
- Germany, Illmenau University of Technology (20-12-2007)
- Germany, Jacobs University, Bremen (06-02-2008)

- Greece, University of Central Greece, Lamia (20-12-2007)
- 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, The Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi (06-02-2008)

New Student Branch Chapters in 2007
- Croatia, University of Zagreb – Communications Society (30-01-2007)
- Croatia, University of Zagreb – Computer Society (30-01-2007)
- Germany, University of Passau – Computer Society (06-06-2007)
- Jordan, Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid – Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (15-11-2007)
- Ukraine, Institute for Radiophysics & Electronics of Nasu – Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (09-08-2007)

New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups in 2007
- Benelux, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands (05-01-2007)
- Jordan, University of Jordan, Amman (05-01-2007)
- Spain, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (05-01-2007)
- Turkey, Bilkent University, Ankara
- United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, University of York, UK (30-03-2007)

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 $ 9 000 annually to fund the award for the next five years. Up to $ 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.

- 25 January 2007: The Student Branch University of Jordan, Amman, received an amount of $ 1500 for the proposal entitled "Method and System for Imaging Display and Interface."
- 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.

- 8 nominations [Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Oman, Serbia and Montenegro, United Arab Emirates (2), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award.
- The recipient of the 2007 award is Emine Gökçe Aydal, York University, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.
- 3 nominations [South Africa, Tunisia, Western Saudi Arabia] have been received for the 2008 award. The result will be announced in due time.

▶ Deadline for the 2009 award: 31 March 2009

2.2. Student Branch awards

IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

- 3 nominations [Denmark, Turkey, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 award. All three nominated Student Branches qualified for the award:
    - Aalborg University, Denmark
    - Middle East Technical University, Turkey
    - University of York, United Kingdom
- Aalborg University, Denmark, has been nominated for the 2007 IEEE Outstanding Student Branch Award.
- 1 nomination [Turkey] has been received for the 2008 award. The results will be announced shortly.

▶ Deadline for the 2009 award: 31 January 2009

Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Recognition Program

- No nominations have been received for the 2007 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.

- Student Branch Twente, Enschede, Netherlands: Silver Award for organizing the Region 8 Student Robotics Contest, 27 May 2006, Enschede; presented on 10 April 2007, see Sect. 4.3.
- Student Branch Boğaziçi University, Istanbul / Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey: Silver Award for organizing the 3rd Science Parks Summit, 3–4 November 2006, Istanbul; presented on 31 August 2007, see Sect. 4.6.
- No submissions have been received in 2007.

▶ 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 2006 recipient of Region 8 is the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.
- The 2007 winners of each Region will be announced shortly.

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 2007 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest received 16 papers from 14 Student Branches in 11 countries: Belgium (2 papers from 1 Branch), Denmark (2 Branches), Egypt, Germany, Greece (2 papers from 1 Branch), Israel, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa (3 Branches), Turkey. The oral finals took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 11 September 2007, as part of IEEE Region 8 EUROCON 2007, the International Conference on "Computer as a Tool" (9–12 September 2007).
The three winners were

1. Wilm Decré (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Application of a generic constraint-based programming approach to an industrially relevant robot task with geometric uncertainties

2. Aleš Zamuda (University of Maribor, Slovenia) Modelling, simulation, and visualization of forest ecosystems

3. Jan Verveckken (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Design of inverse controller with cross-coupling suppression for UPFC series converter

The other two papers selected for the oral finals were

- Emre Ayranci (Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark) Enhancement of VCO linearity and phase noise by implementing frequency locked loop
- Michael Rapson (University of Cape Town, South Africa) Pareto analysis of controller design methodologies for integrator plus dead time processes

The five jury members for the 2007 SPC were Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos López-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; Ryszard Romaniuk, Warsaw, Poland; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

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 will take place in Ajaccio, Corsica, France, as part of MELECON 2008, the 14th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference (5-7 May 2008).

The jury has selected the following five papers (in alphabetical order of the author) for presentation at the oral finals:

- Mohamed Bahgat (Cairo University, Egypt) A simple implementation for unmarked road tracking
- Geert Hellings (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) AlGaN Schottky diodes for detector applications in the UV wavelength range
- Vukosi N. Marivate (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) An intelligent multi-agent recommender system for human capacity building
- Herman Myburgh (University of Pretoria, South Africa) Near-optimal low complexity MLSE equalization
- William Vandenberghe (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) Analytical model for a tunnel field-effect transistor

The five jury members for the 2008 SPC are Kamel Hassan, Cairo, Egypt; Carlos López-Barrio, Madrid, Spain; Kurt Richter, Graz, Austria; Jean-François Santucci, Ajaccio, France; and Martin Bastiaans, Eindhoven, Netherlands (Chair).

▶ Deadline for the 2009 Contest: 15 December 2008

3.2. IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

The first Challenge took place on 2 December 2006, with 47 teams; 28 teams from Region 8.

- The winner was Team 1 from the Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya, Spain, with 829 points.
- Five more teams from Region 8 made it to the top 10:
  3. University of Cyprus (Team 1, 674 points)
  4. Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands (Team 1, 664 points)
  5. University of Zagreb, Croatia (Team 2, 617 points)
  8. University of Zagreb, Croatia (Team 1, 596 points)
  10. University of Cyprus (Team 3, 573 points)

The second Challenge took place on 8 March 2008, with 130 teams; 57 teams from Region 8 [Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates], which is an increase of more than 100% compared to 2007. The results will be announced shortly.

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

3.3. IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest

23 submissions [Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Nigeria (2), Russia (Siberia) (2), South Africa, Spain (5), Turkey (7), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland] have been received for the 2007 contest. The three Region 8 winners

1. University of Southampton, United Kingdom, with 86,2 points
2. Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain, with 82,0 points

   3. Etisalat University College, United Arab Emirates, with 80,4 points

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

   4. Universidad Alfonso X el Sabio de Madrid, Spain, with 76,8 points
   5. University of Zagreb, Croatia, with 73,4 points
   6. Babcock University, Ilishan–Remo, Nigeria, with 72,2 points
   7. Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, with 71,0 points
   8. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile–Ife, Nigeria, with 70,6 points
   9. Aalborg University, Denmark, with 69,6 points
   10. Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain, with 69,2 points

The jury consisted of Michael Gloegl, Region 8 Student Representative; Mohd Kharbat, 2nd place of the 2006 edition; Khanh Luu, IEEE Entity Web Hosting administrator; Thomas Watteyne, R8 SAC Electronic Communications Coordinator; Alex Williams, Google; and Amine Yazidi, Region 8 Student Branch Congress 2006 organizer.

   • 2007: University of Southampton, United Kingdom, reached the first place, with Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain, and Etisalat University College, United Arab Emirates, as runners up.

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 results will be announced in due time.

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

▶ 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.

▶ Scheduled for 2008; deadline to be determined

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.

▶ Possibly to be scheduled for the next Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress in 2008

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. Serbia and Montenegro, Novi Sad University, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007

This was a joint IEEE/EESTEC event with IEEE and EESTEC tracks and some joint events.
Attendance: 7 Student Branches, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Sarajevo), Bulgaria (Sofia), Croatia (Zagreb), Macedonia (Skoplje), and Serbia (Beograd, Novi Sad).

4.2. Portugal, Universidade de Coimbra, 2–5 April 2007

Attendance: expected number of participants about 300. Not only Student Branches from Portugal Section are invited to the 'I° Encontro Nacional de Estudantes de Engenharia Electrotécnica (I°ENE^3),' but also from Spain Section.

4.3. Benelux, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, 10 April 2007

First IEEE Benelux Student Branch Congress. This one-day Student Branch gathering was built around the visit to the Benelux Section by president-elect candidate Marc Apter.
Attendance: 5 Student Branches, from Belgium (Leuven, Liége) and the Netherlands (Delft, Eindhoven, Twente), with a total of 35 people. During the Congress, the first Silver Darrel Chong Student Activity Award was presented to Twente by Darrel Chong and Marc Apter, see Sect. 2.2.

4.4. Serbia and Montenegro, Čanj, Montenegro, 16–17 May 2007

IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Student Branch Section Congress, organized by Student Branch Novi Sad in conjunction with the 47th International Electrical Engineering Student Gathering "Elektrijada 2007."
Attendance: 39 IEEE and EESTEC representatives and members from Beograd, Niš, and Novi Sad (Serbia), Podgorica (Montenegro), Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rijeka (Croatia), and Skoplje and Bitola (Republic of Macedonia).

4.5. United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, University of York, United Kingdom, 1–3 June 2007

First IEEE UKRI Student Congress, organized by the University of York Student Branch.
Attendance: 110 attendees from 43 universities. This number excludes company representatives, guest lecturers, IEEE Region 8 and UKRI guests. The event received the IEEE Foundation Award.

4.6. Turkey, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, 30 August – 3 September 2007

Attendance: nearly 50 Student Branches from Turkey with IEEE student and GOLD members. ISBIR Workshops and Company Representatives were also present at this Congress. During the Congress, on 31 August 2007, the Silver Darrel Chong Student Activity Award was presented to Boğaziçi University and Middle East Technical University by Başak Yüksel, see Sect. 2.2.

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

ESMB 2008 – The Egyptian Student Branch Meeting 2008.
The theme of this year's meeting was 'Uniting Tomorrow's Engineers.'

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

5. Recent and Upcoming Major Events

5.1. IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) program

The IEEE Student Branches Industry Relations (ISBIR) Program has recently 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, 3–4 May 2007
- Brussels, Belgium, 13–14 December 2007
- 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 beginning of March 2007, 19 868 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Student Members.
- In the last week of October 2007, an E-Notice has been sent to all Region 8 Student Members and GOLD Members, to alert them to the Careers in Europe Forum (deadline 31 October, with an extension to 4 November for IEEE Members).
- 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 IEEEXtreme 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. 5.6.

5.3. IEEE Workshop Zvůle, Czech Republic

5th International meeting of PhD students from Czech and Slovak Republic, Camp Zvůle, Kunžak, Czech Republic, 27–29 August 2007.

Attendance: 49 participants. A R8 SAC-suggested membership campaign resulted in 17 new IEEE members!

5.4. Knowledge Fest 2007 – Mobile and Wireless Communications in Nigeria

Lagos State University, Epe, Nigeria, 31 August – 1 September 2007.

Attendance: about 200 participants. Some outcomes of the event were (i) technical and practical knowledge of telecommunications technologies and roles of various organizations in Nigeria imparted; (ii) opportunities for industrial attachments for year four students; (iii) 10 new members joined the IEEE; and (iv) 23 new (female) members joined Women in Engineering.

▶ The 2008 edition of this conference will be hosted by the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Student Branch.

5.5. Kenya IEEE Students' Exhibition

Sarit Center Exhibition Hall, Nairobi, 14–15 September 2007.

The event is organized by the IEEE Kenya Section. It aims at bringing innovative students in touch with the Industry. There are 144 groups of at most 2 students. Most of them are from Kenya, some from other countries such as Sudan. The main room consists of 134 stands, each of which presents a demo of the innovation. There are three areas: software engineering, electrical engineering, and electronic engineering. As an important outcome of this very successful event, an IEEE Student Activities Task Force has been established, consisting of four active students, with objectives like (i) creating a Kenya website, (ii) communicating about how to become member and creating a Student Branch, and (iii) publicizing their activities through the Region 8 channels: r8web, r8sacweb, r8news.

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

The call for proposal was published in mid–April. R8 SAC has chosen Queen Mary, University of London, as the venue for Student Branch Congress 2008. The Congress will take place from 28 August till 1 September 2008. For more and up-to-date information, see http://www.sbc2008.org/.

5.7. 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

- Marko attended the Student Branch Congress in Novi Sad, Serbia, 9–11 February 2007 (Sect. 4.1).
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Nice, France, 24 February 2007.
- Marko, Martin, and Michael attended the RAB SAC Meeting in Boston, MA, 16–18 March 2007.
- Pablo attended the EESTEC International Annual Congress, Budapest, Hungary, 24 March – 1 April 2007.
- Martin attended the Student Branch gathering in Eindhoven, Netherlands, 10 April 2007 (Sect. 4.3).
- Luka, Marko, Martin, Michael, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14–15 April 2007. R8 SAC had its meeting on 13 April.
- Thomas attended the Student Branch Congress in York, United Kingdom, 1–3 June 2007 (Sect. 4.5).
- Marko and Martin attended the OpCom Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 20–21 July 2007.
- Marko and Martin attended the GOLD Summer Working Retreat in Zaragoza, Spain, 23–24 August 2007.
- Marko and Martin (and Luka as an author of two papers) attended EUROCON 2007, the International Conference on "Computer as a Tool," in Warsaw, Poland, 9–12 September 2007.
- Thomas attended the Kenya IEEE Students' Exhibition in Nairobi, Kenya, 14–15 September 2007 (Sect. 5.5).
- Emine, Marko, Martin, Pablo, and Thomas attended the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 14–15 October 2007. R8 SAC had its meeting on 13 October. Unfortunately, Luka could not make it.
- Marko, Martin, and Pablo attended the RAB SAC Meeting in Santiago, Chile, 24–25 October 2007, held in conjunction with Region 9 Student Branch Congress, 25–28 October 2007. The three Region 8 representatives participated heavily in the Student Branch Congress.
- Martin attended one of the meetings of the organizers of the Region 8 Student Branch and Gold Congress 2008 at Queen Mary, University of London, on 26 November 2007.
- 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 SC 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. 4.8).
- Pablo will attend the EESTEC International Annual Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Rijeka, Croatia, 4–14 April 2008.
- Emine, Luka, Marko, Martin, Pablo, and Thomas will attend the Region 8 Committee Meeting, Saint Julians, Malta, 26–27 April 2008. R8 SAC will have its meeting on 25 April.

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 March 2007, 5 948 personalized email messages were sent to students who did not renew for 2007.
- In the last week of September 2007, Region 8 Student Branches and individual Student Branch leaders have been alerted to organize membership campaigns at the start of the academic year; they were also hinted to the Member-Get-A-Member program.
- Also in September 2007, 6 059 personalized email messages were sent to all Region 8 Graduate Student Members to alert them to the elections for IEEE President and IEEE Region 8 Director.
- 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: Student paper conference sees 55 entries (26-01-2007)
- Aalborg University, Denmark: Aarlborg organises contest for 2008 (15-02-2008)
- Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE: SB attend WETEX 07 (13/15-03-2007)
- Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE: AUST honours its volunteers (03-06-2007)
- Alexandria Student Branch, Egypt: Alex SBs host Egypts first student paper contest (Summer 2007)
- American University of Beirut, Lebanon: AUB at Comms workshop (24-03-2007)
- American University of Sharjah, UAE: AUS visits substation (01-03-2007)
- American University of Sharjah, UAE: AUS technical tour of Kuala Lumpur (25-05-2007)
- Benelux Student Branch Congress: Twente wins Chong award at congress (10-04-2007)
- Boğaziçi University, Turkey: Robots play soccer and sumo (12/13-05-2007)
- Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic: Czech and Slovak doctorate students meet up (27/29-08-2007)
- Budapest Polytechnic, Hungary: Successful spring meeting (26-04-2007)
- Çukurova University, Turkey: Do computers fall in love? (21/22-11-2007)
- Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey: Projistor contest gains momentum in Istanbul (18-05-2007)
- Higher Technology Institute, Egypt: HTI seminar covers PCB (17-03-2007)
- 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)
- Lagos State University, Nigeria: LASU celebrates knowledge (31-08/01-09-2007)
- Lebanon Student Branches: First SPAC activities are organised (05-05-2007)
- LEOS Benelux Student Branch Chapter: Belgian sorting technology visit is the BEST (16-02-2007)
- 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)
- Serbia and Montenegro Section Student Branch: Congress in Canj held during Elektrijada 2007 (16/17-05-2007)
- Student Branch Karlsruhe, Germany: Imaging the Earth from outer space (22-01-2007)
- Student Branch Zagreb, Croatia: IEEE Week success (05/09-03-2007)
- Suleyman Demirel University, Iisparta, Turkey: Activities begin at SDU (30-11-2007)
- University College of Antwerp, Belgium: Why world citizens win (December 2007)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: A look at the comms industry (18-01-2007)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Training day with Linux (02-11-2007)
- Universität Karlsruhe, Germany: Karlsruhe karters burn rubber (17-07-2007)
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain: Technorati founder joins 'Geek Dinner' (15-11-2007)
- University of Seville, Spain: Use your Imaginatica! (05/09-03-2007)
- University of York, UK: Students make a day of it at Praxis (07-02-2007)
- University of York, UK: 100+ members attend UKRI student congress (01/03-06-2007)

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.
  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.
- Operation of the *Virtual Community* was discontinued in mid–April 2007.

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.

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	12 900.00
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	-2 500.00
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 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 $ 2 500.00).

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

9.2. Financial support from R8 SAC to SBC 2008 participants

1. Sections are encouraged to cover the cost of registration and traveling for their Student and GOLD Representatives (*Bucharest motion 7*).
2. R8 SAC will cover the registration fee for the primary representative of each Student Branch 'in good standing'; 'in good standing' includes viability (sufficient number of members) and sufficient activity (verifiable from timely submitted annual reports). The number of Student Branches thus covered, is presently limited to 85–90 (permitted by the budget plan), taking into account that the registration fee for 20–25 GOLD representatives will also be covered by R8 SAC (from the budget item 'SBC 2008 organization' ad $ 55k).
3. Sections are encouraged to cover the cost of traveling for the representatives mentioned under item 2 above. (*Bucharest motion 8*). This may become problematic (i) for Sections with many Branches (see item 6 below) and (ii) for needy Sections, in particular if no low-cost airline tickets to London will be available from these Sections.
4. Other attendees (Branch officers, regular Branch members, students outside a Branch, Branch Counselors, Section Student Activities Chairs, ...) should take care of their own registration fees and traveling costs. It is likely that they will ask their Sections for support.
5. Sections are encouraged to support additional attendees (see item 4) to attend SBC 2008. Again, this may become problematic for the Sections mentioned under item 3.
6. Sections with 10 or more branches are Turkey (43), Egypt (18), Italy (18), Spain (16), Germany (15), Nigeria (14), United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (13), France (12), and UAE (10). R8 SAC expects requests for travel support from some of them. Estimated travel cost will not be less than $ 500/person, and may go up till over $ 1000/person.
7. R8 SAC also expects travel support requests from needy Sections, which are generally located far from London. The same travel cost would apply: at least $ 500/person, and probably much more.
8. With $ 20k, thus bringing the amount for SBC 2008 to a total of up to $ 75k (*Bucharest motion 9*), R8 SAC may be able to (partially) support traveling of up to 40 Student Branch representatives, if the average support is estimated at $ 500/person.
9. Note that a (relatively small) part of the $ 20k will be used to cover the travel cost for the R8 SAC and GOLD team members (Emine, Luka, Marko, Martin, Pablo, Thomas; Eva, João, Pilar).

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.

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Martin Bastiaans, 12th April 2008