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1. General

1.1 Officers

- R8 Vice-Chair, Student Activities (VCSA, RSAC): Elias Nassar
- R8 Student Representative (RSR): Jorge Soares
- Past Chair: Eva Lang
- Student Paper Contest Coordinator: DjordjePaunovic
- Web Activities Coordinator: Hossam Fahmy
- Awards and Contests Coordinator (c.a. A&R): Jef Beerten
- Student Branch Coordinator: Simay Akar
- Electronic Communications Coordinator: Sohaib Sheikh

Secondary roles & cross appointments:

- MA/GOLD/PA liaison: Jef Beerten
- Student Branch Chapter Coordination: Simay Akar
- Pre-University Activities Coordination (c.a. EASC): Sohaib Sheikh

1.2 Goals and Objectives

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

1.3 Membership

As of January 2012 (January 2011):

- Students: 11378 (10499)
- Graduate Students: 12087 (11958)
- Total: 23465 (22457)
- Branch count: 375 (340)
- Student Branch Chapter count: 65+

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

1.4   New Student Branches and SB Affinity Groups since 09/2011

1.4.1   New Student Branches

- Stellenbosch University Student Branch.
- National School of Computer Science Student Branch.
- Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Student Branch.
- Abu Dhabi Women's College Student Branch.
- University of Essex Student Branch.
- Higher School of Communication of Tunis (Sup Com) Student Branch.
- Riga Technical University Student Branch.
- Methodist University College Ghana Student Branch.
- Obuda University SB
- University College Cork SB

1.4.2   New Student Branch Chapters

- Natl Research Univ of IT, Mech, and Optics, Student Branch Microwave Theory and Techniques Society Chapter.
- Natl Research Univ of IT, Mech, and Optics, Solid-State Circuits Society Chapter in the Russia (Northwest) Section.
- National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics, and Optics Antennas and Propagation Society Student Branch Chapter.

1.4.3   New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

- Instituto Superior Tecnico Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group.

2   Awards and Contests

Awarding volunteers for their efforts is a very good way to keep them involved and active. There are various awards, both on the regional and global level. Similar to last year, we decided to group all upcoming awards and contests of the first half of the year on April 15, the so called 'Deadline Day'. We kindly invite the Section Chairs to nominate potential candidates and bring their names forward to the R8SAC.

2.1   Upcoming awards and contests on Deadline Day

2.1.1   IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award (Deadline: April 15)

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, on-going service to a branch is certainly recognized. This award is designed to reward a particular event or product of IEEE activities.

2.1.2   IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award (Deadline: April 15)

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.

2.1.3   Outstanding Branch Counsellor and Advisor Recognition Programme (Deadline: April 15)

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

2.1.4   IEEE Student Branch Web Site Contest (Deadline: April 15)

This contest encourages SB volunteers to go public and work on their web presence. The first three winning websites per Region will enter the global contest.

2.2   Other Awards and Contests

2.2.1   IEEE Student Enterprise Award (2011 Deadline: November 15)

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.

2.2.2   IEEE Darrel Chong Student Activity Award (Deadline: on-going)

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.

2.2.3   IEEEXtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge

This 24-hour programming contest has proven to be a good instrument for membership drive and member satisfaction. In 2011, 4 Region 8 teams ranked in the top 10!

The top3 Region 8 team were:

- USD, Belarusian State University, Belarus
- 142857, ENST Bretagne, France
- FINKI99, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering - Skopje, Macedonia
- xtremeTeamTTU, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
- BSUMMF, Belarusian State University, Belarus

2.2.4   IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition

The award recognizes students who develop unique solutions to real-world problems using engineering, science, computing and leadership skills to benefit their community or humanity. The winners of the 2012 IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition will be honored during the official IEEE Honors Ceremony in June 2012.

2.3   Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2012

Once every year, each IEEE R8 Student Branch (SB) may hold and organize a local Student Paper Contest (SPC) under its own responsibility. The winner(s) of each Student Branch Contest may compete for the Region 8 Contest, held within the Region 8 limits. A SB may submit one paper per every 100 SB IEEE members or part thereof, with a maximum of three papers per SB. Region 8 Student Paper Contest is for IEEE R8 student members or graduate student members that have not yet started their PhD. Only IEEE R8 student members could be authors of the IEEE R8 SPC papers. Each student author must be a member of an IEEE Student Branch at the time of the original submission of the paper to the Branch Contest, and a member (student or not) of the IEEE at the time of the R8 Oral Finals presentation.

2.3.1   IEEE R8 SPC 2012 - I phase

 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2012 was announced beginning June 2011. The deadline to submit Student Branches best papers to R8 contest was December 15, 2011. Within the SPC 2012 campaign the following activities were realized:

- Beginning June 2011 a SPC 2012 call with essential SPC data and SPC rules was sent to all R8 Student Branch (SB) chairs by email. The same email was also sent to all SB counsellors.
- Different versions of the SPC call were sent to SB chairs and counsellors three more times.
- All Region 8 IEEE student members got two times emails with information about various Students' activities, SPC being one of them.
- A short article about SPC was published on the front page in Region 8 News September issue.
- Section chairs and Section students' representatives/student activities officers obtained two times the basic information about SPC, asking them to support and co-organize SPC activities. It was especially emphasized to connect when possible local SPC contests with IEEE R8 Sections and Chapters conferences.

Thirty student papers were submitted. 29 student papers were accepted, and one was rejected in accordance with the SPC Rules. Contestants were from 21 Sections and 26 different Student Branches:

- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Queen Mary University of London, UKRI
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
- Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany
- Osijek University of J.J.Stossmayer, Croatia
- National Technical University of Ukraine, Kyiv Polytechnic, Kyiv, Ukraine

- Cairo University, Egypt
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- University of Nis, Nis, Serbia and Montenegro
- Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius, Lithuania
- University of Malta, Malta
- Technological Educational Institute of Messolonghy, Greece
- KU Leuven, Benelux
- Aalborg University, Denmark
- Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran
- Techniche University, Graz, Austria
- High School of Communications Of Tunis, Tunisia
- University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia
- American University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- University of Greenwich, Greenwich, UKRI
- Catholique Univ of Louvain, Louvain, Benelux

The first phase of the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest - selection of the best five papers for Oral Finals - finished end of January 2012. During this phase the International Jury:

- Prof. George Paunovic, Serbia (Chair)
- Prof. Ali El-Mousa, Jordan
- Prof. Andrzej Pacut, Poland
- Prof. Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Spain
- Prof. Ilhem Slama-Belkhodja, Tunisia

graded all accepted papers. The contributions were graded according to two criteria: 45 points maximum for the technical and engineering content and 25 points maximum for the paper content presentation. The Jury of the IEEE Region 8 SPC 2012 anonymously selected the following five papers (in alphabetical order of the first author's first name) for the SPC Oral Finals:

- Augustin Cosse: "Diffeomorphic Surface-Based Registration for MR-US Fusion in Prostate Brachytherapy", Catholique Univ Of Louvain
- Chen Zhu: "High Accuracy Multi-link Synchronization in LTE: Applications in Localization", Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany
- Marc Weydert: "Model-based Ego-Motion and Vehicle Parameter Estimation using Visual Odometry", Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Máximo Morales Céspedes, Ana Santos Rodríguez: "Statistical Characterization of Zero-Forcing Coordinated Base Station Transmission for Femtocell Environments", University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

- Mike Rinderknecht: "Device for a Novel Hand and Wrist Rehabilitation Strategy for Stroke Patients Based on Illusory Movements Induced by Tendon Vibration", Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL)

2.3.2 IEEE R8 Student Paper Contest 2012 - II phase

Second phase of the SPC 2012 - Oral Finals - will be realized in Medina Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, 25-28 March 2012, during the MELECON 2012 IEEE Conference, please see www.melecon2012.org. SPC 2012 Oral Finals will be organized on Tuesday March 27, 2012, 15:30-18:00h, Room 1, Session B3L-A, Hotel Diar Lemdina. All five papers selected for the SPC 2012 Oral Finals will be included in MELECON 2012 CD Proceedings, as well as in IEEE Xplore Digital Library. During Oral Finals up to 30 points maximum could be additionally given to the selected finalists, depending on the quality of the paper presentations and given answers. Three top finalists will get prizes from the IEEE Life Member Fund. The awards ceremony will be organized during the MELECON Dinner Banquet, March 27, 2012.

3   Communication

3.1   Web Activities

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

- Our Facebook now has 1852 fans, and steadily increasing.
- Our Twitter feed is followed by 394 people.

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.

4   Ongoing Programs and Activities

4.1   Twin Student Branch Program

The Twin Branch Program was established in April 2009. Registered student branches can then agree to become twins. The relationship between twins is free-form, but branches are expected to be exchange information, supporting documents and ideas, and also organise joint activities. The program helps promote activity among the branches in the Region and jump-start recently established branches. The program is currently suspended and being redefined. A re-launch is expected to take place in time for the SBC 2012. In parallel, a funding proposal is being prepared for submission to NIC.

4.2   Travel grants for students at IEEE technical conferences

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

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

4.3   EPICS-in-IEEE

EPICS-in-IEEE is a program that organizes university and high-school students to work on engineering-related projects for local humanitarian organizations. Projects that are within IEEE's fields of interest should address one or more areas of interest: education, access and abilities, human services, and environment. Region 8 Sections already involved in EPICS projects are

- South Africa Section
- Nigeria Section
- Uganda Section
- Zambia Section
- Benelux Section

More info at: http://www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/preuniversity/epics_high.html

4.4   Teacher In-Service Program (TISP)

The Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) enables IEEE Volunteers to share their technical expertise and demonstrate the application of engineering concepts to support the teaching and learning of science, mathematics, and technology disciplines. IEEE offers training workshops for its members on how to facilitate in-service programs for local teachers to help them introduce hands-on engineering lessons to their students. These lesson plans are aligned with education standards and can easily be used in the classroom. For 2012/13, TISP workshops are being organized in Czech Republic/Slovakia and East Africa. Furthermore, a TISP training workshop is being organized during the R8 SBC in Madrid, Spain.

5   Student Congresses

5.1   2011 SBCs

The following cross-section SBCs took place during 2011:

- ISBC 2011, Madrid, Spain
- ME-SBC 2011, Doha, Qatar
- CEuSBC 2011, Linz, Austria

Several national congresses took place too, including the first UKRI SBC and the Portugal SBC.

5.2   SBC 2012

The 2012 edition of the largest student event in R8 will take place in Madrid, Spain, during 25-29 of July. It will bring together around 300 student volunteers, with financial support from Region 8. We strongly encourage sections to fund the travel of their SB officers, as well as fully support their Section Student Representatives to attend the congress.