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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: Djordje Paunovic
- Web Activities Coordinator: Hossam Fahmy
- Awards and Contests Coordinator (c.a. A&R): Jef Beerten
- Student Branch Coordinator: Simay Akar
- Electronic Communications Coordinator: Sohaib Qamar 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 Qamar 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 July 2012 (July 2011):

- Students: 9269 (9093)
- Graduate Students: 11570 (11149)
- Total: 20839 (20242)
- Branch count: 410+ (380)
- Student Branch Chapter count: 80+

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

1.4 New Student Branches and SB Affinity Groups since 01/2012

1.4.1 New Student Branches

- 1 Birzeit University SB
- 2 University of Salento SB
- 3 Universidad de Valencia - ETSE SB
- 4 Ladoke Akintola University of Technology SB
- 5 King Faisal University SB
- 6 Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Univ Men's Campus SB
- 7 Cumhuriyet University SB
- 8 Palestine Technical University SB
- 9 Modern Academy for Engineering and Technology SB
- 10 Misr University for Science & Technology SB
- 11 Beykent University SB
- 12 Minia University SB
- 13 AGH Univ of Science & Tech SB
- 14 Kirikkale Univ SB
- 15 All Nations University College SB
- 16 Izmir Inst of Tech SB
- 17 Mentouri University Constantine SB
- 18 University of Technology, Mauritius SB
- 19 Zayed University SB
- 20 Technological Edu Inst of Ionian Islands SB
- 21 Scuola Superiore Di Studi Univ Sant'Anna SB
- 22 Natl Aviation University SB
- 23 Miguel Hernandez University SB
- 24 North-West University SB
- 25 Tech. Educ. Instit. (TEI) of Western Macedonia SB
- 26 Al-Quds Open University SB
- 27 Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto SB
- 28 Nat'l School of Engineering of Sousse (ENISo) SB
- 29 Akanu Ibiam Federal Polythecnic SB
- 30 Pamukkale Univ SB
- 31 ISCTE University Inst of Lisbon SB
- 32 Suez Canal University SB
- 33 Abu Dhabi University SB

1.4.2 New Student Branch Chapters

- 1 University of Patras EMB18
- 2 University of Cyprus PE31
- 3 University of Patras, C16
- 4 National Research Univ of IT, Mech, & Optics, C16
- 5 Obuda University, IA34
- 6 Queen Mary, University of London, SP01
- 7 Univ of Zagreb, IA34
- 8 Mentouri University Constantine, IA34
- 9 University of Pretoria, IA34
- 10 University of Sarajevo, IA34
- 11 Univ of Manchester, PE31
- 12 An-Najah National University, IA34
- 13 Natl Technical Univ Of Athens, EMB18
- 14 Hashemite Univ, EMB18
- 15 Instituto Superior Tecnico, IA34
- 16 Democritus Univ Of Thrace, IA34
- 17 University of Cape Town, IA34
- 18 Instituto Superior Tecnico, C16
- 19 Osijek University Of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, C16
- 20 Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Sfax, CEDA44
- 21 Mentouri University Constantine, MAG33
- 22 Univ of Manchester, ED15

1.4.3 New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

- 1 Ecole Nationale D'Ingenieurs De Tunis, WIE
- 2 Higher Coll of Tech, Sharjah Womens College, WIE
- 3 Dogus Universitesi, WIE
- 4 German Jordanian University, WIE
- 5 University of Central Greece, WIE

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

2.1.1 IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award (Deadline: Feb 1)

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: Feb 1)

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: Feb 1)

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: Feb 1)

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.

2012 Award Winners

Congratulations to all of the winners of our R8 contests. Keep up the good work!

IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
Alexandria Student Branch (Egypt)
Arab Academy for Science & Technology (Egypt)
Middle East Technical University (Turkey)
Cairo University Student Branch (Egypt)
German Jordanian University (Jordan)
University of Central Greece (Greece)
Winner to be sent to MGA competition: GJU

IEEE Student Branch Website Contest

25 submissions, 3 winners:
1st place: Instituto Superior Técnico Student Branch (Portugal)
2nd place: TEI Piraeus Student Branch (Greece)

3rd place: Pretoria Student Branch (South-Africa)

IEEE Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

Piotr Graca (Student Branch Opole, Poland)

Event: 3rd International Students Conference on Electrodynamics and Mechatronics

IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Advisor Award

The Region 8 submissions received a certificate:

Dr. Mohamed Khairy

Cairo University SB(Egypt)

Dr. Osama Abu Sharkh

Princess Sumaya University of Technology SB (Jordan)

Dr Mohammad Nazzal

German Jordanian University SB (Jordan)

Dr. Kakarountas Athanasios

University of Central Greece SB (Greece)

2.2 Other Awards and Contests

2.2.1 IEEE Student Enterprise Award (2012 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 IEEEExtreme 24 hour Programming Challenge (held in October each year)

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!

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

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 - Finalists

- 1 Augustin Cosse: "Diffeomorphic Surface-Based Registration for MR-US Fusion in Prostate Brachytherapy", Catholique Univ Of Louvain
- 2 Chen Zhu: "High Accuracy Multi-link Synchronization in LTE: Applications in Localization", Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany
- 3 Marc Weydert: "Model-based Ego-Motion and Vehicle Parameter Estimation using Visual Odometry", Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 4 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
- 5 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 2013

SPC 2013 just started at the Student Branch level. Submission deadline to Region 8 of the winning papers selected during the local Student Branch Contests is December 15, 2012.

An international Jury will anonymously review all papers and will select five papers for oral finals. Oral finals will be at IEEE R8 EUROCON Conference, July 2013, Zagreb, Croatia.

SPC 2013 calls will be sent to all R8 SB Chairs and Counselors, as well to Section Chairs. All R8 student members will also get a SPC 2013 reminder.

3 Communication

3.1 Web Activities

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

- Our Facebook now has 2327 fans, and steadily increasing.
- Our Twitter feed is followed by 608 people.
- We are now using WebEX for our monthly online chat sessions

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 2013 SBCs

The following cross-section SBCs will take place during 2012:

- ISBC 2013, Portugal
- ME-SBC 2013, Lebanon
- CEUSBC 2013, Poland

5.2 SBC 2012

This year, Madrid was the host city of the 8th biannual IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress (SBC 2012), the flagship student and GOLD event in the region. Following on the footsteps of London (2008) and Leuven (2010), the 2012 edition had a special flavour to it, this being the 50th anniversary celebration of Region 8.

The congress managed to attract around 400 attendees (up from 215 just 4 years ago), 300 of which student members from all corners of Europe, Middle East and Africa. However, the list also included the Regional Student Representatives from Regions 2 and 10, as well as 24 attendees from Region 9. We were happy to welcome IEEE Past President Moshe Kam, IEEE President Gordon Day, IEEE President-Elect Peter Staecker and the entire Region 8 OpCom, as well as many other global IEEE volunteers and staff. The already legendary multi-cultural evening once again lived up to its reputation. With participants from 53 different countries, the diversity was everywhere and, by some accounts, you could even call it overwhelming. Diversity could also be found in the congress program, with a mix of technical, non-technical and IEEE topics thrown in. The attendees had the opportunity to ask their questions to the next Region 8 Director in the Director-Elect Candidate debate, and to be rewarded for their volunteer efforts in the SAC/GOLD award session. Perhaps most important, though, were the ample opportunities for networking and exchange of experiences which took place around the clock. Congratulations to the SBC Madrid team for an amazing event and thank you to those who attended. To all readers, hope to see you at the next one! **Thanks to all the Sections who funded the travel of their SB officers to attend the congress.**

The Region 8 SAC Team would also like to thank the members of the Region Operations Committee for their support, also many thanks to Adam, Lisa, Jamie and John from the MGA team.