1. General

1.1   Officers

- R8 Vice-Chair, Student Activities (VCSA, RSAC): Pablo Herrero
- R8 Student Representative (RSR): Christian Schmidt
- Past Chair: Elias Nassar
- Student Paper Contest Coordinator: DjordjePaunovic
- Web Activities Coordinator: David Dias
- Awards and Contests Coordinator (c.a. A&R): Piotr Graca
- Student Branch Coordinator: Efthymia Arvaniti

Secondary roles & cross appointments:

- Student Branch Chapter Coordination: Simay Akar

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.
- Link the Student and Graduate Student Members closer to the industry
- Bring more fun to IEEE!

1.3   Membership

As of January 2013 (January 2012):

- Students: 10845 (11378)

- Graduate Students: 12466 (12087)

- Total Students + Graduate Students: 23311 (23465)

- Total R8 IEEE : 79351 (78094)

We are still lacking access to the samIEEE database. IEEE staff has communicated us that there are some IT issues still pending with the new accounts.

1.4 New Student Branches and SB Affinity Groups since 01/2013

1.4.1 New Student Branches

The following plot shows the current status of pending and approved applications for new IEEE Student Branches in Region 8.

		Entry	Full application	Contact Chair/Counselor	Business plan review	Status	Date appr
Tunisia: Nat Eng School of Gabes (ENIG)		?					24-01-13
Tunisia: Nat Inst Applied Sci and Tech (INSAT)		?					24-01-13
Tunisia: Faculty of Science of Tunis - FST Student Branch		12-01-13	no	yes	yes		03-03-13
Poland: Politechnika Gdanska		?					24-01-13
Russia: St Petersburg State Poly		?					24-01-13
France: Tech de Belfort Montebeliard		?					24-01-13
Western Saudi Arabia: Taif University Student Branch		14-01-13	no	yes			
Spain: Universidad Politecnica de Cartagena Student Branch		22-01-13	yes	yes	yes		13-03-13
Cyprus: University of Nicosia Student Branch		16-01-13	no	yes	supported by section/yes		13-02-13
Nigeria: Covenant University Student Branch		28-01-13	no	yes	yes		18-02-13
Egypt: Al-Azhar University Student Branch		07-02-13	yes	yes	yes		05-03-13
Saudi Arabia: King Saud Uni		30-01-13	yes	yes	yes		18-02-13
Turkey: Mersin University		21-02-13	no	yes	yes		11-03-13
Tunisia:Nat. Eng School of Monastir (ENIM)		26-02-13	yes	yes			
Turkey: Karabuk University		27-02-13	yes	yes	yes		13-03-13
Turkey: Istanbul Bilgi		01-03-13	no	yes	yes		13-03-13
Greece: Peloponese University		05-03-13	yes	yes	yes		15-03-13
Turkey: University of Turkish aeronautical association		06-03-13	no	yes			
Tunisia: National School of Bizerte ENIB		15-03-13	yes	yes			
UAE: Al In University of Science (AAU)		26-03-13	yes	no			

The full list is provided below.

Tunisia: Nat Eng School of Gabes (ENIG)

Tunisia: Nat Inst Applied Sci and Tech (INSAT)

Tunisia: Faculty of Science of Tunis - FST Student Branch

Poland: Politechnika Gdanska

Russia: St Petersburg State Poly

France: Tech de Belfort Montebeliard

Western Saudi Arabia: Taif University Student Branch

Spain: Universidad Politecnica de Cartagena Student Branch

Cyprus: University of Nicosia Student Branch

Nigeria: Covenant University Student Branch

Egypt: Al-Azhar University Student Branch

Saudi Arabia: King Saud Uni

Turkey: Mersin University

Tunisia:Nat. Eng School of Monastir (ENIM)

Turkey: Karabuk University

Turkey: Istanbul Bilgi

Greece: Peloponese University

Turkey: University of Turkish aeronautical association

Tunisia: National School of Bizerte ENIB

UAE: Al In University of Science (AAU)

1.4.2   New Student Branch Chapters

We approved 5 Student Branch Chapters in the period Jan-Apr. 2013.

- ISCTE University Inst of Lisbon, Robotics and Automation Society
- Istanbul Technical Univ, Computer Society
- University of Central Greece, Computer Society
- Univ Of Picardie Jules Verne Industry Applications Society Student Branch Chapter
- University Student Branch Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society

1.4.3   New Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Groups

IEEE R8 had no new WIE Student Branch AG requests during the current period of 2013.

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 February 1st, the so called 'Deadline Day'. We kindly invite the Section Chairs to nominate potential candidates and bring their names forward to the R8SAC. The process is now automatic and goes through https://ieee-student-awards.myreviewroom.com/ which is used to file submissions

2.1   Upcoming awards and contests on Deadline Day

2.1.1   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 member most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with Student Activities. The value of a Student member who shows a pattern of dedication and ongoing service to a Student Branch/Student Branch Chapter is certainly recognized. The award is designed to reward a particular event, program, or product of IEEE Student Activities. It is sponsored by the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board.

2.1.2   IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award

This award recognizes annually the exemplary IEEE Student Branch operations in each region without any numerical limit. To qualify for the award, a branch must conform to IEEE Bylaws, have an active program and support IEEE goals.

2.1.3   Outstanding Branch Counsellor and Advisor Recognition Programme

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

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

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

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. We are waiting on the details for the next edition of IEEEXtreme

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 2013 IEEE Presidents' Change the World Competition will be honored during the official IEEE Honors Ceremony in June 2013.

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 SPC

IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2013 was announced beginning June 2012. The deadline **to submit Student Branches best papers to R8 contest was December 15, 2012.**

Within the SPC 2013 campaign the following activities were realized, mainly by emails:

- Beginning June 2012 a SPC 2012 email call with essential SPC data and rules was sent to all R8 SB chairs.
- The same email was also sent to all SB counselors.
- Different versions of the SPC calls were sent to SB chairs and counselors three more times.
- All Region 8 IEEE student members got two times emails with information about various Students' activities, including SPC.
- Notes about SPC were included in Region 8 News/Student news, June and December issues.
- A SPC Workshop was organized during the 2012 Student Branch and Gold Congress in Madrid.
- Section chairs, Section students' representatives and student activities officers also obtained 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 other IEEE R8 Sections and Chapters activities.
- Several other single activities were realized in order to make SPC 2013 more successful.

Before the deadline **42 student papers were submitted**. 41 student papers were accepted, one paper was rejected (duplicate). Before the selection of the SPC Oral Finalists four more papers were excluded from grading process (three were found as already published and one was part of doctoral studies).

SPC 2013 contestants were from **22 Sections and 34 different Student Branches**:

* University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa;
* Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland;
* University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia;
* Queen Mary University of London, London, UKRI;
* Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany;
* Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany;
* Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt;
* University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain;
* University of Nis (Jt. ED-015/SSC-037), Nis, Serbia and Montenegro;
* Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus, Piraeus, Greece;
* KU Leuven, Leuven, Benelux;
* Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark;
* University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro
* University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran;
* Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria;
* University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro;
* Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia;
* University of Greenwich, Greenwich, UKRI;
* Catholique Univ of Louvain (Jt. CAS-004/, Louvain, Benelux;
* Universita del Salento, Salento, Italy;
* Opole University of Technology, Opole, Poland;
* Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Eindhoven, Benelux;
* Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary;
* University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia;
* Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland;
* University of Manchester, Manchester, UKRI;
* Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia;

* Telecom Bretagne, France;
* Arab American University, Palestine;
* Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark;
* Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
* Saint-Petersburg State Polytechnic University, Saint-Petersburg, Russia
* University of Naples Parthenope, Naples, Italy
* ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

The first phase of the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest – **selection of the best five papers for Oral Finals** – finished beginning of March 2013. During the I phase the **International Jury:**

- Prof. George Paunovic, Serbia – Chair, g.paunovic@ieee.org

- Prof. Samir Shaheen, Egypt,

- Prof. Andrzej Pacut, Poland,

- Prof. Carlos Lopez-Barrio, Spain,

- Prof. Mario Cifrek, Croatia,

anonymously graded papers. The contributions were graded as follows:
- Written paper evaluation:

   * 45 points maximum for the technical and engineering content,
   * 25 points maximum for the paper content presentation.

The Jury of the IEEE Region 8 SPC 2013 selected the following five papers (in alphabetical order of the author's first name) for the SPC 2013 Oral Finals:

Diego Marmsoler (90658756): "***On the Laws of Failure: A Theory of Compensable Programs***", Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany;

Giel J. Op 't Veld (91077345): "***On a New Compressed Sensing Paradigm in The Modulated Wideband Converter***", Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Eindhoven, Benelux

Maarten Van de Put (92471153): "*Band-to-band tunneling in III-V semiconductor heterostructures***",** KU Leuven, Leuven, Benelux;

Marcos André Pinto (92275550): "***Web-Based System for Automatic Evaluation of Java Algorithms***", ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Saeed Karimimehr (92129760): "***A Novel Face Recognition System Inspired by Computational Neuroscience***", Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran;

Second phase of the Region 8 SPC 2013 – Oral Finals – will be organized in Zagreb, Croatia, on Monday July 1, 2013, at IEEE Region 8 EUROCON 2013 Conference (http://eurocon2013.org). During the Oral Finals SPC finalists can obtain up to 30 additional points maximum, depending on the quality of the Power Point paper presentations (20 minutes maximum) and given answers.
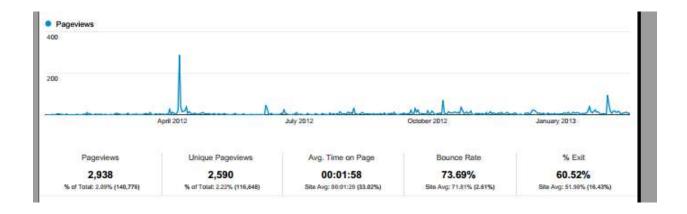
After the Oral Finals Jury will award best three papers with the prizes from the IEEE Life Member Fund.

3   Communication

3.1   Web Activities

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

3.2   Internal communication

R8 SAC is meeting regularly via conference calls in a (mostly) bi-weekly basis. Minutes of all calls are compiled and are available upon request.

3.3   External Communication

R8 SAC has sent out an E-notice at the end of January to introduce the new team and to remind about the deadline day for awards. The notice was sent to every IEEE Student and Graduate Student Member in R8 and personalized notices were sent to Counsellors and Section Chairs.

A chat session was also organized targeting 50+ students, but had to be cancelled due to IT problems. We are working very closely with IEEE staff and to find an alternative to WebEx to hold regular interactive communication session with students, to avoid excessive email traffic.

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 in definition. Feedback metrics are being built and a success mechanism is being set up. The aim of this program would be to address the problem of dormant student branches, with significantly low activity and member count.

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.

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.

5   Student Congresses and other events

The following cross-section SBCs are programed for 2013:

Sectional SBC

Turkey Student Branch Congress   Izmir (Turkey)   04.02.2013 - 08.02.2013

Spanish Student Branch Congress   Valencia (Spain)   21.03.2013 - 24.03.2013

Cross Sectional SBCs

3rd Iberian Student Branch Congress (ISBC)   Porto (Portugal)   15.03.2013 - 17.03.2013

2nd Central European Student Branch Congress (CEuSBC)   Opole (Poland) 13.05.2013 - 15.05.2013

3rd Middle East Student Branch Congress (ME-SBC)   Beirut (Lebanon)   28.05.2013 - 01.06.2013

2nd Hellenic Student Branch Congress (HSBC)   Nicosia (Cyprus)   25.10.2013 - 27.10.2013

5.1   SBC 2014

The 2014 edition of the largest student event in R8 is looking for applicants! If you feel your section has a branch capable and willing to take the challenge of organizing the next edition of the SBC, don't hesitate to contact us directly!