

**South Africa Section****Riana Geschke****Highlights from the past**

- The South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) and the IEEE has had an established memorandum of understanding (MoU) since 1995. The agreement has been renewed for the period 2014-2016. The new agreement was signed 14 June 2013.
- Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) has kept the projects committee of the UCT IEEE Student Branch very busy since 2009. EPICS-in-IEEE is a global movement that organizes High School learners to work with IEEE University Student Branch members on engineering projects for community development. In 2009, the team members worked on building a wind turbine from scrap materials. In 2010, the team took up a more ambitious project of donating a computer lab to Oaklands high school partially powered by renewable energy. The current project for 2013-2014 involves building iCoolers. These low cost refrigeration boxes are indeed for use mainly in summer. While the temperature in the box will not reach freezing point, it will cool down perishable goods for a few days to avoid damage. One model will not use electrical power while the second model will be solar powered. To date, the UCT IEEE Projects Committee has worked with 8 schools, 15 teachers and over 100 learners.

**Future activities**

- Currently we are in the final stages of the establishment of a joint award with the SAIEE: The Distinguished Volunteer Award, which is with the SAIEE for approval. The first award will be awarded in 2014 and will recognise the spirit of volunteerism.
- We are refocusing our attention to have more joint activities with the SAIEE.
- Domestic Use of Energy conference (DUE) 31 March - 02 April 2014 in Cape Town. This year's theme is "Providing Electricity to all South Africans".
- Industrial and Commercial Use of Energy conference (ICUE) 18 - 20 August 2014 in Cape Town.
- Cape Town is the World Design Capital of 2014- the Computer Society has arranged some events associated with it.
- 2014 Information Security for South Africa conference (ISSA) 13 - 15 August 2014 in Johannesburg.
- Anria Breytenbach (local organizer, CSIR) has presented the arrangements to SARIG (South African Radar Interest Group) for the International Radar Conference 2015 in South Africa.
- 2014 IST-Africa Conference & Exhibition IST-Africa 7 May 2014
- The South Africa IEEE Section supports the bid for Africon 2015 to be held in Addis Ababa. Our South Africa Section Treasurer is providing assistance with finances.

**Best practices**

- We have had a very successful Section event at the University of Cape Town on 27 February 2014 for chairs and South Africa Section officers, attended by 24 people. We had identified three main goals for the year: membership development, better contact between chapters/affinity groups and students branches with their members through use of vtools, our website, twitter and other social media, plus closer cooperation with our sister organization the SAIEE. During the day we provided training on various aspects relevant to the attendees, including efficient management of their IEEE responsibilities.
- We are focusing on filling all vacant positions in chapters and affinity groups, and in the section.

**Miscellaneous**

- We have found a membership development officer for the vacant position in the section and he is attending a Membership Development Training Event in Dubai in March 2014.