V/C Student Activities   Mona Ghassemian

The Past

- Awards Advertisement Campaign: we have launched online campaign called "Who Dares Wins" for raising awareness about Awards and we wanted to encourage students to apply for awards. Result of campaign is that we had 33 submissions for Exemplary Student Branch Award which is new record. Also we had 10 submissions for Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award which is great result. Currently we are working on evaluation of the awards so we can send results to MGA until 22nd May. We are working on campaign for Region 8 website contest. [Dinko and Ahmet]
- Call for Proposal about SYP: Proposal for SUP 2016 was prepared jointly with YP. The call is out and is advertised on social media. The deadline is set for 15th of April. [Femia, Dinko]
- SB/SC Petition approvals: A total of 14 Student Braches have been approved thus far, with 1 pending approval and 7 approved Chapter Societies. [Lebo, Ruba]
- Events attended so far in 2015:
  - Femia: IEEE IST 25years Anniversary (6-8 of March 2015): Efthymia Arvaniti, as the Region Student Representative, participated in the three-days celebrations in Lisbon, for one of the exemplary student branches in Region 8. During the event, both technical and non-technical presentations took place, with emphasis in IEEE. Also, a QA panel with IEEE Officials took place, and many interesting questions were raised and discussed. A one-hour long plenary session about Student Activities in Region 8 and the world was hosted and students and other participants were informed about the interesting activities that are happening and they can participate and get inspired.
  - Mona: IEEE United Kingdom and Ireland Section, 9th Student Branch Chair Meeting, London, 14th March 2015- Hosted by IEEE Student Branch Kings College London - (March 14th 2015):
  Mona Ghassemian was invited as the SAC vice-chair to present the SAC across region to the SB chairs in IEEE UK and Ireland Section. This event included a workshop by University of Southampton on "How to Run a Successful Student Branch" as well as extensive round the table discussion which highlighted the examples for good and bad practices across section SBs.

Outlook

1) Goals and priorities: Revitalization Project continuation

   a) Create an awareness about half price membership.
   b) Promote the member get a member reward system to reduce the renewal of IEEE membership fees.
   c) Encourage the student branches to have fun events and less technical events so that they can attract freshman or new undergraduates at the universities.
   d) Encourage social media interaction, especially Facebook in advertising events and highlighting past events in a fun way that will attract new students.
   e) Link existing student branches in neighbouring cities to the new student branches so they can get motivated by the success of the old branches and learn how they overcame their difficulties.
   f) Contact with student branches in Ghana, Algeria and South Africa. Kenya to provide necessary support. [Lebo]

2) How will you achieve your goals: The idea of the pre-approval forms to be discussed [Mona, Lebo, Ruba]
3) How will you know that you achieved your goals (e.g., how to you "measure" your achievements)
   Our ongoing activities: Cookbook preparation, Participation in Cross-Sectional Congresses, Contact Section Chairs and Section Officers about student activities, Engage with Students and Young Professionals, Industry Relations with Students in our Region (Intel Webinar for recruitment etc), New Project Discussion (Mind the Gap), Reach out to Students with more needs in Africa and Middle East,
   Online SAC Webinars to discuss with students and listen to their questions, needs and opinions, Strong Online Presence through active Pages and Social Media [Femia]
   "Mind the Gap! is SAC's newest project: a contest challenging IEEE graduate and undergraduate students in Region 8 to come up with a project proposal that helps reduce the gap between generations and bring them together, via technology. It should be feasible, useful and beneficial to all generations, using technology to the advantage of humanity. Our aim is to extend Mind the Gap! into a collaboration between SAC and both IEEE Life Members and EPICS in IEEE, to the benefit of Region 8 students." [Youmna, Mona]

Best practices

- Our facebook online message communication
- In terms of Electronic Communications, we established our new links with the region students by updating our biographies and contacts on the R8 website and sharing it with them through our facebook page; encouraging them to stay in contact, ask questions and keep us updated of their activities. We're working on increasing the interaction with the students and maintaining a two-way communication with them. As part of that, we have been sending out reminders for the AC deadlines via email and through our website and facebook page. We've also made sure we have an up-to-date database of SB officers and counselors and had a plan in place to share with them the SB guides and periodic tips and ideas to keep them involved. [Heind]

Future Events

- 4th Iberian Student Branch Congress (ISBC)Madrid (Spain)
- 3rd Central European Student and Young Professional Congress (CEuSYP) Zagreb (Croatia)
- 4th Middle East Student Branch Congress (ME-SBC) Amman (Jordan)
- 3rd Hellenic Student Branch Congress (HSBC)Thessaloniki (Greece)
- 1st West European Student and Young Professional Congress Eindhoven (Netherlands)
  as well as many other regional events and celebrations.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Network for Counselors: to find a way to encourage and get counsellors more engage specially in the newly stablished SBs.
- Finding scalable and time efficient methods to monitor SB activities proactively to avoid going dormant.

Miscellaneous

- Issues about Turkey, Palestine and Iran student branches reported to SAC that will be discussed in Limassol. [Mona , Ahmet]
- Budget Discussion (SPC prize) [Carlos, Mona]
  In general: Please review your report with the 3 Region 8 priorities in mind:
- Getting Closer to Industry: YP collaboration [Femia]
- Students and Young Professionals: Call for proposal SYP 2016 [Femia]
- Section Vitality: We look at this from student activity point of view. [Lebo]

RSR Report: One of the main goals for this year is to attend as many Student Events as the Committee can afford, with main interest in the Cross-Sectional Events, focusing on transferring knowledge to the students and contribute to the exchange of ideas between different Student Branches. Being part of those small-core Congresses is valuable both for the Committee as we can better understand the needs and problems that students face, and the student activities regionally, as during our presentations/workshops, we try to advertise all IEEE Activities, Projects, Programs, Awards, Contests and Events, and encourage students to be a great part of them.

Reaching out to members in every part of our Region, is vital for the continuation of the Activities and the rise of new ideas and challenges. As Students are the Future Leaders of IEEE.