

## South Africa Section

**Shaun Kaplan**

### Getting Closer to Industry

- The section has had a steady stream of CPD applications. We are in the process of re-evaluating the fees charged and the process of application to reduce workload, increase income for the section and provide better service to the applicants and our members.
- Once more the section hosted an IEEE-SA visit. Our newly appointed Industry Ambassador arranged the Johannesburg and Pretoria events. Events were held in Cape Town for the first time. The Cape Town events focused mainly on computing, innovation and local government.
- The section has close ties with SKA South Africa.
- The section lists events and job offerings on the website as a service to our members.
- The section is still working on job and consultant networks and related resources.

### Students and Young Professionals

- There are two ongoing EPICS in IEEE projects hosted by the University of Johannesburg.
- The section is working on revitalizing some student branches.
- The Central University of Technology has expressed interest in starting a student branch.
- The SKA South Africa is to work with the section and student branches.
- Distinguished lecturer visits and STEP events work well in the section.
- There is a need to improve communication with the student branches. This is being worked on.

### Section Vitality

- Section newsletters are well received.
- Ongoing "IEEE Community talks" to improve the sense of community within the section.
- Meetings have typically drawn a small group, all of which have given positive feedback.
- The section continues its interaction with the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). The IEEE PES chapter has monthly joint meetings with the Power and Energy Section of the SAIEE. The section and, in particular, the Western Cape office of the SAIEE share event invites.
- There have been a number of applications for conferences in the section which will provide the members with more opportunities to present and publish their research.
- We attempt to keep our members and interested parties informed through various channels, e.g. the section website, twitter, newsletters.
- The section covers a large geographical area and it is a challenge to have events spread widely to provide value to all our members.
- There is a newly created IEEE EMBS chapter.

### Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The South African Rand has decreased in value significantly. This has caused the cost of membership to increase and in some cases beyond the means of our members.
- IEEE Spectrum magazines were distributed to some organizations, which increased IEEE visibility.
- The section is a supporter of the proposed Africa Area.
- The section's constitution and registration is progressing.