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# Most Successful AFRICON Ever!

Last September's AFRICON, held in Gaborone, Botswana, was a massive success with over 200 papers presented from authors representing no fewer than 36 countries. This AFRICON was particularly successful because of the "trail it left." The Botswana government sees the development of the engineering profession as its highest priority and this was stressed by the President in his opening address, as well as Me Seretse, Minister of Works and Transport, in her address at the dinner.

The event was exceptionally well supported by the government, industry, the Botswana Institute of

Engineers (BIE) and university. The outcomes of this will be new links between the BIE and IEEE, a Student Branch at the university, possibly a Botswana Section, more IEEE members (eg, Botswana power Corporation, which was our biggest sponsor, may well sponsor some 50 engineers to become IEEE members — more than the total current membership for the whole country!)

In his opening address Region 8's Director Elect Baldomir Zajc set the scene by describing the broad scope of activities and benefits enjoyed by members of the Institute.

The Conference was officially opened by HE Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana. After first drawing attention to the pioneering work of Africans in the field of engineering (Imhotep and the Stepped Pyramid at Saqqarah), he compared the profession of engineering to that of a politician. He illustrated this point with a series of amusing stories delivered with all the cool and timing of an accomplished performer. President Mogae was accorded a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of his speech and as a mark of appreciation, the conference organizers



*Pictured at AFRICON (L-R): University of Botswana Vice Chancellor Bojosi Othlogile; Gerhard Hancke, Africon 2004 Chair; BIE President Justice Moilwa; HE President Festus Mogae; South Africa Section Chair, Nico Beute; Baldomir Zajc, Region 8 Director-Elect; & George Anderson, Local Organising Committee Chair.*

presented him with a gold embossed copy of the 2-volume Proceedings of the conference.

The underlying theme of the AFRICON series (this was the 7th) was "Electrotechnology in the service of Africa." The scope of the conference was wide ranging, covering topics from Energy and Power Systems, through Control and Automation and Education and Technology to Electron Devices and Circuits and Computational Semiotics. A special track was devoted to Control Networks for automation of home and industrial systems.

Regular attendees at the AFRICON Series have come to expect an interesting social program and this year was no exception. Delegates enjoyed either a bush "braai" (barbecue) held in a nearby game reserve, or an outdoor braai near

the superb facilities of the Grand Palm Hotel Casino and Convention Resort.

Those of us who were privileged to attend the braai in the game reserve were further entertained by a group of schoolchildren, who performed a number of traditional dancing and song routines, the most memorable of which was a buck hunt. Funds gathered from their performances will help to provide transport for the children who have to walk 12 km to the nearest school. The formal dinner was also a huge success. The attendees "let go" and had a great evening.

Feasibility discussions are underway to host IEEE AFRICON 2007 in Mauritius. Those interested in contributing can contact Saurabh Sinha: [s.sinha@eng.up.ac.za](mailto:s.sinha@eng.up.ac.za).

*Report by Duncan Baker and Gerhard Hancke*

## *Excerpts from the opening address at AFRICON of HE Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana...*

"....The profession of engineering has several things in common with the job of a politician.... the job of a politician is to do, to find solutions to problems facing people.... The basic role of an engineer is to find solutions to real life problems which may be physical, economic, quantitative or qualitative.

"....A politician ....is called upon to address national issues as they arise. An engineer must apply knowledge to solve concrete problems and to succeed. The solution must satisfy conflicting requirements. Usually efficiency costs money; safety adds to complexity; improved per-



formance increases weight. The engineering solution is the optimum solution, the end result that taking many factors into account is most desirable.

Whilst a politician may not use complex mathematical and scientific concepts to arrive at decisions or solutions, he must at all times be conscious of the guiding principle that politics should only be concerned with matters that have to do with the prosperity, comfort and happiness of the greatest number.

"....Engineering has had an enormous and positive impact on the lives of people around the globe and continues to affect the way we do things.... In a nutshell, it is no longer possible, in the industrialized world, to think about life without the profession of engineering.

*Continues on page 12*

I'm happy that the new color format for Region 8 News looks so attractive — several readers have told me they like it!

So much is happening in IEEE Region 8 — I wish we could print it all. R8 News gives you only a tiny view of the many Section and Chapter activities. Why not contact a volunteer and participate yourself? (On the right are contact details for all the volunteers at regional level, and there are many more at local level. See the R8 Web site or that of your own Section for names.)

Region 8 sponsors three major technical conferences: one in the North (EUROCON), one in the Middle (MELECON), and one in the South (AFRICON). MELECON 04 was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia (May 12-15) while AFRICON 04 was September 15-17 in Gabarone, Botswana. EUROCON 05 will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, November 22-24.

In this issue we report from Africa on the most successful ever AFRICON. In his opening address, Botswana's President Festus Mogae stated that his country is determined to take its place in all fields of engineering. The evidence: rural electrification, telecommunications and roads, as well as in socio-economic improvements to the quality of life. Read more on our front page and at <http://www.ieee.org/r8> (click "News").

The Region 8 Student Paper Contest begins now, with the finalists invited to be judged at EUROCON 05. Contact your student advisor or Martin Bastiaans: [m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org](mailto:m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org).

In these pages are some photographs showing the Region 8 Committee meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden on October 1-3. The governance of

IEEE is carried out by the Technical Activities Board (TAB) through many Technical Societies and by the Regional Activities Board (RAB) through ten regions worldwide, each of which has Sections. So you belong to a Section, and you elect a chairman, who attends the Region8 meetings in Fall and Springtime. Read about them on the Region 8 Web site (click "Committee Pages") and then email a member to get involved.

Stockholm in October had a crisp, warm, bright atmosphere. Its Science Museum showed me why Sweden's robotics are world famous — fascinating! See the photos on page 11 or at <http://www.ieee.org/r8>.

R8 Director Tony Davies completes his 2-year term of office this month, so the thoughts in his final column on IEEE's progress and problems are well worth a read. (See page 11.)

Anna Konstantinova, from St. Petersburg, Russia, attended the CHE 2004 History of Electronics conference in the UK in July. The conference dealt with meanings and values as well as events and personalities. Read Anna's personal account inside, and see the conference papers published on the Web: [http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history\\_center/Che2004/papers.html](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history_center/Che2004/papers.html).

I would like to ask readers to write to R8 News and express their opinions, or tell us about some achievement or interesting event. Have you read (or written) a book that might interest other members? Is there some aspect of news from our region that would make interesting reading? Careers? Jobs? Skills? What should IEEE be doing in our region to help its members? Let's hear your opinion!

Roland Saam  
October 10, 2004

## IEEE Region 8 News

**Advertisements are welcome.** Prices, deadlines, and information — contact the Editor.  
**Region 8 Web site:** <http://www.ieee.org/r8>  
**Information HELP Desk:** [member-services@ieee.org](mailto:member-services@ieee.org)

### REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE

Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to <http://www.ieee.org/r8>.

#### EMAIL ADDRESSES OF REGION 8 COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2004/5

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##### Newly Elected Officers

October's R8 Committee meeting saw these members elected for terms of office starting January 1, 2005: Secretary, Christian A. Borgert; Treasurer, Brian Harrington; V/C Membership Activities, Jaafar Al-Ibrahim; V/C Student Activities, Marko Delimar; V/C Technical Activities, Jozef Modelski.



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Articles from any member of the IEEE are welcome. Please send as plain text, RTF, or DOC files. Send photographs as high resolution (300dpi) JPG files.

Emails: Subject [R8News]

Student News to: [R8StudentNews@ieee.org](mailto:R8StudentNews@ieee.org).

GOLD News to [R8GOLD@ieee.org](mailto:R8GOLD@ieee.org).

Read past issues at <http://www.ieee.org/r8>.

Deadlines for upcoming issues of R8 News are:

March 2005 issue:	January 1, 2005
June 2005 issue:	April 1, 2005
September 2005 issue:	July 1, 2005

## Region 8 Computational Intelligence Society Chapters' Chairs Meeting

In conjunction with IJCNN 2004 and FUZZIEEE 2004 in Budapest, Hungary, we held the first meeting of the CIS Chapters' Chairs, specifically dedicated to Region 8, although Chairs from other regions were also welcome to attend.

Our first goal was to gather the Region 8 Chapters' Chairs to start networking activity at regional level, as well as coordination and cooperation amongst each other for synergistic growth of the whole region. Our second goal was to stimulate discussion on organizational topics so as to identify possible common needs and actions that could be proposed to the governing bodies of our society.

Both goals are fundamental to the creation and maintenance of strong ties with our membership and solid roots in our local communities. In fact, continuous cooperation and interaction between the central governing bodies and the membership (represented by Chapters) is (and will be) essential for our society to ensure vitality and service to our membership.

The meeting started with a comprehensive presentation of our society and the general status of the main activities by CIS President Dr. Jacek Zurada. Then, the overall plan for membership activities was presented by the VP Members Activities, Dr. Vincenzo Piuri. This encompassed the geographically-distributed structure of the society; possible chapter activities; the visibility of members' services; recognition of outstanding members; and two new awards that will be submitted for approval to the IEEE governing bodies (the Outstanding Chapter

Award and the Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award).

Some opportunities for chapter activities with the society's support were presented, including the distinguished lecturer program and the organization of workshops and conferences. The VP for Publications, Dr. David Fogel, illustrated some publications issues and possible interaction with the Chapters.

Dr. Peter Magyar presented his experience as the German Chapter's Chair. His very informative talk addressed many practical problems of Chapter life and activities and included a number of suggestions for tackling them.

Chapters Chairs also reported *their* activities, which are covered periodically in this newsletter. A very friendly and open discussion followed these presentations and focused on future activities and interactions between the governing bodies of the society and the Chapters for the maximum benefit of our members. Several ideas and issues were considered and discussed, including enhancement of the repository for Chapter activities information; cooperation among Chapters to optimize

the use of the distinguished lecturer program; expansion of the student grant program to better support attendance at conferences, Summer schools and internationalization through Summer research; the creation of a conference grant program for members coming from economically less-favored countries; and the creation of international educational programs promoting the dissemination of knowledge about computational intelligence and supporting the creation of advanced laboratories. All of these ideas will be further analyzed and discussed in the Members Activities Committee to assess their feasibility and make proposals to the governing bodies.

Participants were glad of this opportunity to meet and get to know each other in person, talk, and establish new friendships. Personal relationships will in fact pave the way for much easier interactions at worldwide level and better cooperation especially at regional level, not only within the society but also among researchers and professionals at large by exploiting the CIS networking.

Vincenzo Piuri  
CIS VP Members Activities

## Development & Activities of GOLD in Germany



GOLD officers and guests at the Affinity Groups section meeting in Berlin

GOLD Germany has had an exciting year so far in 2004. The Munich group was expanded by GOLD veterans who had formed a regional IEEE group earlier, and this year decided to join GOLD for the benefit of both groups.

In February, the Munich group started to join forces with the local British IEE group by cross-inviting members to each others' meetings. Also in February, the group started a series of technical and non-technical lectures at its monthly meetings. In August, the group conducted a member survey.

### Meeting in Berlin

In March, the semi annual GOLD section meeting took place in Berlin. After a dis-

cussion of on-going and new projects, Ingo Rüsche gave an informative presentation on Standards Development in Region 8.

At the event in Berlin, a local GOLD group was established for the German capital. Consisting of highly motivated academics and professionals, this group has hit the ground running and has already set standards for the work of GOLD Germany.

We are already looking forward to the next big event for GOLD in Germany. This will be the Region 8 SBC & GOLD Congress in Passau, one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Helmut Hauschild  
GOLD Chair,  
Germany Section  
hhauschild@ieee.org

## An Inspiring Forum For Information Exchange....

### 2004 International Symposium on Signals, Systems, and Electronics (ISSSE '04) in Linz, Austria

The 6th International Symposium on Signals, Systems, and Electronics, ISSSE 2004, was held in Linz, Austria during August 10-13, 2004. The symposium was organized by the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) and co-sponsored by the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S), the IEEE COM/MTT

Joint Chapter Austria.

The 3-day technical program proved to be an inspiring forum for discussions, and to initiate networks between scientists and developers in the fields of signal- and system theory, electronic components, and communications engineering.

Eighty nine papers were presented from more

than 20 countries (63% from Europe, 29% Asia, and 8% North America). The social event in the monastery of St. Florian with a banquet in the monastery's rooms provided outstanding ambience.

Two best paper prizes were awarded: "Enhanced Detection Through Signal Space Diversity for a Coded MC-CDMA System"

by Ronald Raulefs from the German Aerospace Center and "An Alexander Half-Rate Phase Detector for 80Gb/s" by Jan-Louis Sundermeyer from the Fraunhofer Institute.

Further information concerning ISSSE 2004 <http://www.icie.jku.at/issse04>. The next ISSSE will be held in Montreal, Canada in 2007.

## Egypt GOLD Section: Egyptian Engineering Day 2004

Mohamed Younis writes...

The IEEE's Egyptian Engineering Day (EED 2004) was the annual nexus for IEEE engineers in Egypt last Summer. This year's event, held August 7-8, 2004 in Cairo, was organized by the IEEE Egypt GOLD Section for the third year in a row and provided a great opportunity for engineering professionals to meet new associates, share ideas, collaborate on projects and learn something new. For fresh graduates, the timing was ideal to introduce them to the engineering market.

Opened by Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Minister of State for Administrative Development, EED 2004 had a refined vision: *Bringing Together Engineers with Ideas*. The scope was expanded further to provide a complete forum for Egypt's engineering community and a starting point for building our future.

This gathering of the Egyptian engineering community promoted the sharing of ideas and knowledge, discussion of current issues, and the discovery of talents and opportunities, and was intended to provide a starting point for innovative business ventures and relationships. While the focus was on professionals, it was also important to bridge the gap with the academic world, and get students involved in the industrial world early in their career.

We started Day One (or perhaps Day Zero, "Reboot Day") at nine o'clock with graduation projects, registration and exhibition preparation. One of our important goals of EED was to enhance the skills needed for better performance in the professional world. Reboot day activities were aimed at achieving that goal and included a number of workshops on non-technical subjects, including some teamwork, leadership, business and self-improvement skills.

Topics were selected to introduce ideas and expand horizons, encouraging further learning after the event. All EED2004 participants attending these workshops were delighted and excited by them and asked for more such activities.

Day Two's program began with welcoming speeches by EED 2004 Chair Dr. Mohamed Abu El-Dahab, IEEE Egypt Section Chair Dr. Mohamed Younis and Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Egypt's Minister of State for Administrative Development. The keynote speaker, Eng. Mohamed El-Hamamsy, spoke on opportunities for business and the

of Academic Research: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship?"

This year's EED attracted some 2,650 visitors from industry and academic institutions. We expect this communication to promote the direction of university research towards solving industrial problems, mutual participation in the development process and the meeting of community needs. Ultimately, we hope all these efforts will lead to the further development of society at large.

Some of the statistics from EED 2004 indicate that these aims are not unrealistic. For example, there were over 100 projects with participants from ten universities, and 33% of the participants and 43% of visitors were women.

Our thanks and appreciation go to everyone who helped make this event such a success. In particular, members of the organizing committee: Dr. Gamal El-Deen Mokhtar of AAST, Honorary Chair; Dr. Mohamed Abu El-Dahab of AAST, Co-Chair; Dr. Ahmed Darwish of Cairo University; Dr. Ahmed El-Sherbeeny of Cairo University; Dr. Abd El-Rahman El-Sawy of Helwan University; Dr. Hany Asal of ETC/Quicktel;

Mr. Mohamed El-Hamamsy of Vodafone; Dr. Mohamed El-Sherbeeny of Asiat University; Dr. Besheer Saleh of AAST; Dr. Abd El-Raheem and Abd El-Hameed of AAST.

Also deserving recognition for their hard work and enthusiasm are team leaders Ahmed Mikkawi, Hesham Wahby and Mohamed Aboud; the public relations team comprising Nahel Amerah, Sherif Abdel-Baky, Shaimaa Yehia, Mahmoud Gomaa and Tarek Salah; the materials & supplies team of Mohamed Hassan, Eyad Mohamed, Hager Fathy and Mostafa Sakr; and the logistics & administration team: Amr Hamed, Amr Abdul-Kader, Abdallah Ghonemi, Amgad Ibrahim and Mai Fathy.



## Electron Devices Society Region 8 Chapter Meeting in Madrid

Thirty IEEE members representing 19 Chapters from Region 8 met up with the society's Administrative Committee in Madrid on Saturday, May 22. This was the first such Electron Devices Society (EDS) meeting in three years.

Cor Clayes, EDS Regions/Chapters chair, introduced the Regional Chapter Coordination Program. Mikael Östling, detailed plans

and introduced a new Vice-Chair, Enrico Sangiorgi from the University of Bologna, Italy. Our region now has 39 existing Chapters with plans for new Student Chapters, so Mikael and Enrico will work together with VC Ninoslav Stojadinovic and VC Marcel Profirescu.

Ilesanmi Adesida, EDS President-elect, gave an overview of the EDS Distinguished Lecturer pro-

gram, which encourages any Chapter to invite noted lecturers on hot topics.

Magali Estrada presented the SRC Latin America report. She shared with us her experiences from Region 9 and also discussed the establishment of the special EDS Outstanding Student Paper Award for the Region.

Mikhailo Andriyчук, Chapter Chair of the joint

MTT/ED/AP/CMPT/SSC West Ukraine chapter described his activities and plans – including the new West Ukraine Student Branch founded in 2003, and promoting Senior Member development.

It was extremely encouraging to see three Student Branch presentations: Alexander Gridchin presented the Novosibirsk State Technical University

Student Branch and the joint MTT/ED/COM/CPMT/SSC Chapter; Oray Orkun Celtek presented the ED/SSC Middle East Technical University Student Branch and the MTT/AP/ED/EMC Turkey Chapter Report; and Remy Pampin presented the ED/CAS Université Catholique de Louvain Student Branch Report.

Mikael Östling  
SRC EAM Chair

# Signal Processing is Everywhere!

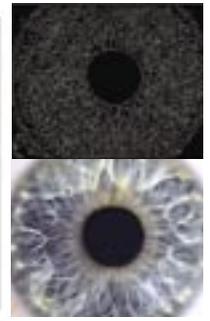
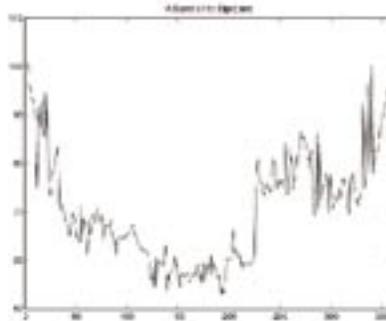
A long time ago, when I started my PhD, and I wanted to gear towards the applications of fractals, my supervisor recommended a book entitled "Fractals Everywhere". I was amazed to see how common fractal structures are in our lives. Examples extended from tree leaves, to river flows, to bone structure, to voice, to mountains, to many other applications. It did not take too long for me to realize that signals are also everywhere.

In introducing Signal Processing to my students, I define it as the set of mathematics, algorithms, and techniques used to manipulate signals and systems to extract useful information. While continuous time signal processing is about 200 years old (since Fourier presented his famous paper

in 1807), digital signal processing is still only about 60 years old! (The same age as computers.)

As the new coordinator of Signal Processing Chapters in Region 8, I thought I would introduce myself through this brief history of Signal Processing. It is worth mentioning here a few statistics about the Signal Processing Society in general and our Region in particular. The Signal Processing Society (SPS for short) is the 4th largest society in the IEEE with more than 16,000 members worldwide. Its mission is to advance and disseminate state-of-the-art scientific information, educate the signal processing community, and provide a venue for people to interact and exchange ideas. The good news is that Region 8's

*Simple manipulation of the eye's iris through edge detection, followed by contour extraction, can provide a robust signature*



SPS members form more than 25% of the total SPS membership.

The SPS began as the IRE Professional group on Audio in 1948, initiated the reputable ICASSP conference in 1976, and published its first magazine (ASSP Magazine) in 1984. More than 30 SP Chapters are active within Region 8 (followed by 14 chapters in Region 10). The latest addition is the Saudi Chapter inaugurated this year and

the only Chapter in the Middle East. In addition to the different transactions published by the society, the Distinguished Lecturers Program has been very successful in the Region.

I take this opportunity to invite you to join the Society through its chapters. Finally, I'll finish with an example of applications where Signal Processing has made huge advances: the area of biometrics or personal identification. In our lab,

we have shown that simple manipulation of the eye's iris through edge detection, followed by contour extraction, can provide a robust signature (which we call the iris signature), to allow personal identification at a very low computation load. As I said Signal Processing is everywhere!

*Mohamed Deriche  
Region 8 SPS Chapters  
Coordinator,  
VC Saudi Section  
mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa*

## From the Region 8 Chapter Coordinator....

With great pleasure I would like to inform you that the Chapter Coordination Subcommittee for 2004 has been expanded and we have two new colleagues:

ED Ninoslav Stojadinovic *nstojadinovic@elfak.ni.ac.yu*  
SP & EMB Mohamed Deriche *mderiche@kfupm.edu.sa*

I encourage all Chapter Chairs to contact their coordinators and inform them about either interesting events or new initiatives or problems. You can find contact information for the appropriate coordinator on the Region 8 Web site: <http://www.ieee.org/r8>.

From the beginning of the year 2004 the following new chapters have been established:

1.	E	Spain	March 12, 2004
2.	CI (formerly NN)	Poland	May 3, 2004
3.	IM	Romania	May 3, 2004
4.	Com	Romania	May 3, 2004
5.	PE	Romania	May 3, 2004
6.	CI (formerly NN)	Yugoslavia	May 3, 2004
7.	EM	Saudi Arabia	May 19, 2004
8.	IA	Hungary	June 1, 2004
9.	SP/AE/UFFC	Russia (Northwest)	June 1, 2004
10.	IE/PE	Spain	June 2, 2004
11.	IM	Germany	July 16, 2004
12.	E	Greece	July 16, 2004
13.	E	Saudi Arabia	July 16, 2004
14.	BT	Spain	July 19, 2004
15.	SP/Com	United Arab Emirates	July 19, 2004

We extend our best wishes for the successful operation of all these new Chapters!

This year, as usual, we held several Chapters Chairs Meetings:

- R8 IA PEL/IE/PE Inter-Society Chapters Workshop and Joint Chapter Meetings of the IEEE IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter and IEEE PES German Chapter were held on May 12-14, in Berlin, Germany. The workshop was organized by Peter Magyar and Andreas Luxa.
- R8 ED-S Chapter Chairs Meeting, in conjunction with the EDS AdCom Meeting (May 22 in Madrid, Spain), the first ED Region 8 Chapters meeting in four years, which gathered around 30 people representing 19 chapters (from a total of 38) and prominent officers of ED-S.
- R8 CI-S (former NN-S) Chapter Chairs Meeting, during IJCNN/FUZZ-IEEE (July 25-29 in Budapest, Hungary). This was the first meeting of the CIS Chapter Chairs, and was well attended with representatives from 13 chapters and prominent officers from CI-S. The main organizer was Vincenzo Piuri.
- MTT-S and AP-S Chapter Chairs Meeting, during European Microwave Week EuMW 2004 (October 11-15, Amsterdam, the Netherlands).

### Region 8 "Chapter of the Year" Contest 2004

I encourage all Section Chairs and other IEEE officers to nominate candidates. We have more than 360 Chapters in Region 8, many of which are very active and deserving of appreciation. As usual there are two categories in the contest: big Chapters (100-plus members), and small and middle size Chapters (fewer than 100 members). The winners will be awarded during the Spring R8 Committee Meeting in Paris, France. Besides the title, the winning Chapters receive \$1000. You can find more information and the entry form at the Region 8 Web site: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg8/chapters.html>. The deadline for entries is February 15, 2004.

*Jozef Modelski*

## A Russian Visitor to Bletchley Park....

My name is Anna Konstantinova. I am a student from the St Petersburg State Electrotechnical University and IEEE Student Member of R8 IEEE Russia (North-west) Section.

At the end of June, I attended the IEEE Conference on the History of Electronics (CHE 2004) and as a plenary speaker presented a paper entitled "Alexander Popov – a Great Contributor into the Development of Wireless Communication".

It is really hard to describe all my impressions and feelings about my trip to England as it was my first visit to Great Britain as well as the first to a conference of this kind.

### Bletchley Park

I managed to see so much during this short visit that I am really overwhelmed with what I learned, heard and saw. CHE 2004 took place on June 28-30 at Bletchley Park, a venue that produces an impression of a very calm place, ideal for working. Bletchley is situated 50 miles North West of London. It is a unique place known as "Station X", being home to the famous allied code breakers of the Second World War and the birthplace of many computing and communications innovations.

Bletchley Park justifies its name by being so wonderfully hidden in the green areas, parks and valleys that it was really hard to find the place on my own. Only thanks to the friendliness of local people who directed me to Bletchley Park could I get there as quickly as I did.

The conference was held in the historic Victorian mansion that served as Winston Churchill's WW2 intelligence headquarters and where the efficient

work of 10,000 people helped shorten WW2 by perhaps two years. Conference participants could also see an exhibition of wireless sets used during the war; demonstrations of the first semi-programmable computers and the Enigma machine that enabled the workers at Bletchley Park to encipher and decipher messages.

### Looking Back....

The motto of the History Conference was "without looking back, one can't look forward." This expressed the main idea of the scientific conference, emphasizing that everything in science is interconnected: the past, the present and the future. This was demonstrated by numerous presentations.

One may feel that there are many gaps in the history of science in general and the history of electronics in particular that need to be filled up if we are to go forward. There still remains a lot to be investigated, and consequently there remains a lot to be discussed.



*The author receives congratulations from IEEE President, Art Winston*

A past president of the IEEE, Dr Wallace Read, addressed the conference with warm and encouraging greetings. The conference agenda included paper presentations covering the evolution of electronics from early achievements to present day innovations. The problems under discussion were concerned with the application of electronics



*CHE 2004 participants at Bletchley Park*

to a wide range of different fields such as radio, music, medicine, TV engineering, computers, space communications, etc.

The conference was attended both by great authorities and young specialists, valuable assets to the participants. The Student History Paper Contest presented at a poster session showed how research activity is popular within the student community in different countries. I have been amazed at the contest members' enthusiasm and profound knowledge of various scientific subjects.

The panel discussion on the history of the computer business stressed the close connection between electronics theory and its practical application and caused a lively discussion. Of special interest to me were the papers on the history of wireless communication development in various other countries. It turned out that numerous specialists were working separately on the same problem at the same time for the sake of the scientific and technological progress of their own countries.

### Presenting My Paper

As to my talk at the plenary session, I should say that it was my first presentation at an international

conference and I might have felt too excited and embarrassed but for the general encouragement and atmosphere of friendliness. One of the cheering signs was the pullover with Russian symbols worn by one of the conference participants, which was really touching.

I suppose that the subject of my paper caused great interest and I was asked a few questions on more detailed information about A. Popov's scientific investigations as unfortunately little is known about them.

Before coming to England I had heard and read about it a great deal. But certainly it is better to see it once than to hear about it a lot. The country impresses you greatly, as ancient traditions exist side by side with modern ones — the latest technology is equally as important as ancient customs are.

My visit to London would have been incomplete without visiting the Tower of London, the British Museum, the Tate Gallery and Tower Bridge as well as climbing to the top of St Paul's Cathedral. The latter enabled me to enjoy the majestic view of the City stretching out from the height of a bird's flight.

University College London was an ideal venue for

the second Fleming Centenary Conference. I managed to be present at the IEEE Milestone unveiling. I hope that it will someday be possible to unveil an IEEE Milestone in the grounds of the St. Petersburg State Electrotechnical University, where A. Popov lived and worked as a professor and the first elected Director during the last four years of his life.

Of great interest at the Fleming Conference among other topics discussed was the lecture by Sir Arthur Ashe on the greenhouse effect, which is an urgent problem for many different specialists of the world. An optimal solution of replacing conventional power stations with wind-, solar- and wave-power stations was proposed

In conclusion, I believe that it was really great to have an opportunity to meet people with a common interest, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to broaden the scope of my knowledge.

### Efficient Organization

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the organizing and program committees for the efficient organization of the conference. All the scientific sessions were well run and extremely interesting.

One of the benefits of being an IEEE Member is the possibility of attending such conferences, enriching one's knowledge of different subjects and making friends with the students of the IEEE community from different countries. Such interactive conferences are of great value for stimulating and encouraging young specialists in their research activities.

*Anna Konstantinova  
August 2004*

I'm happy to welcome you all to this new issue of Region 8 Student News, which is mostly reserved for articles on the Student Branch Congress (SBC) 2004 held together with the GOLD (Graduates Of Last Decade) Congress in Passau, Germany during September 4-7, 2004. It was a unique feeling to meet student members of our region face-to-face at the congress.

In this issue, you will find among other things reports of the congress from different points of view. This issue is also dedicated to Region 8 Student Activities Vice-Chair, Pilar Molina Gaudo, and you can read her "Last Message" below. It was nothing but fun for me to work with this committee led by her. Thank you for everything Pilar!

SBC brought together student branch and GOLD members from the whole of Region 8 and gave all participants a great opportunity to meet not only fellow student members but also IEEE president Art Winston and other IEEE volunteers as well. First of all, thanks to the organizers

of the congress, IEEE Passau Student Branch and Student Branch Counselor, Prof. Dr. Winfried Hahn, for their exceptional motivation in making the congress such a success. You will find in these pages their contribution to our news from an organizational point of view of the congress.

Having GOLD members in the congress gave us the opportunity to discuss continuity of IEEE membership after graduation and also learn more about professional issues and personal skills. You can find more on that in the following pages.

Being the most diverse region of IEEE, our congress was a mosaic of cultures. With the participation of Student Representatives from Regions 9 and 10 in our congress, it became more global. These were some of the happiest days for me as an IEEE student member.

**Robotics Competition**

The organization of the Regional Robotics Competition has now taken a step forward. After having asked for volunteers to build an

organization team, we got responses from all over the region. Now, it's time to build the team and start organizing. You still have some more time until the next issue to be a volunteer in the organization of the competition. Just let us know your contact information!

The next step is to decide the concept of the competition all together. We already had some input for the content of the competition — not only during SBC 04 but also from individual emails we received. The main aim behind the competition is to increase international activities within the region so as to increase the value of IEEE student membership; to get together with other IEEE student members; and to organize and participate in the technical activities of our profession.

You are all welcome to send your ideas, opinions, proposals and views related to the content and subject of the robotics competition. Tell us what kind of competition you think will be most beneficial and inclusive for Region 8 student members

in terms of the content, subject and area of robotics. Email: [reg08-sac@ieee.org](mailto:reg08-sac@ieee.org) or [basak@ieee.org](mailto:basak@ieee.org).

**Promoting Links With Other Students**

In our region, there are several other international student organizations; some of them we know, some of them we do not. The main motivation of students joining these student organizations, including IEEE Student Branches, has some common values and reasons such as mobility, visiting different countries, getting to know other students and cultures in different countries, improving personal skills, and technical and professional development, among others. EESTEC (the Electrical Engineering Students European Association) is one of them and we, IEEE, have a Memorandum of Understanding with them in order to promote cooperation between the members of EESTEC and IEEE. The first step of this agreement started up by a joint conference, IEEE-EESTEC Technical Conference, "Engineering Education," organized by Calabria University



IEEE Student Branch and EESTEC Local Community by financial support from the IEEE Foundation.

Also in this issue, we're kicking off a new section: "Did You Know?" in order to introduce student members to existing opportunities in the IEEE and to increase the perceived value of IEEE membership by discussing the institute's programs. The first subject of this section is SPAC/SPAve. If you want to learn more about that, please read the related pages below written by the professionals of the related subject.

Have a nice time reading our news pages and join me in thanking the contributors to this issue.

Warm wishes!  
Basak Yuksel  
R8 Student Representative  
[basak@ieee.org](mailto:basak@ieee.org)

**Last Message From Pilar as Region 8 SAC**

Dear Region 8 Students,

My term as R8 Student Activities Vice-chair is almost over. It has been a pleasure to work these two years in this position and I am still enjoying every second of it. Those of you, who I have had the pleasure of meeting personally or interacting with more directly, probably know how much I have enjoyed this voluntary effort. I have to admit that the most joyous days were during the last Student Branch Congress in Passau, last September. It was an amazing experience. You



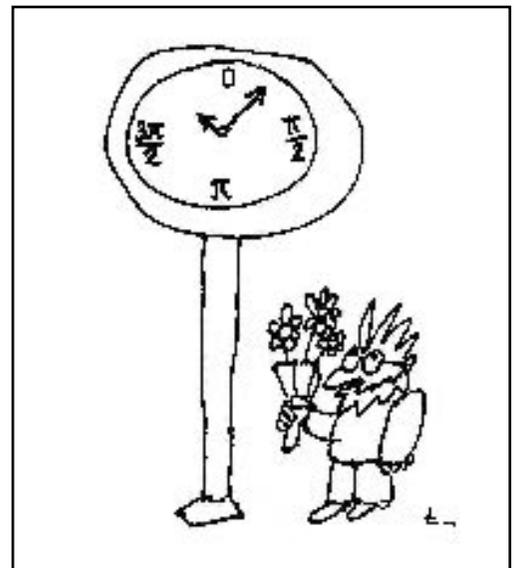
will see parts of that in this issue of the Region 8 News from different points of view. From *my own* point of view, it was a total success and I want to express my gratitude to the organizers in Passau whose outstanding team work and devoted

hours of their own time made the event so great.

I don't think this is a farewell, you will see me around helping this Region's Student Activities next year as Past Chair. As I said in my first message: Give us your feedback!! Let us know what you think, who you are, where you would like to help improve the IEEE, and what we are not doing that we *should* be doing.

Thank you for the good times you have given me!!

Pilar Molina Gaudo  
[pimolina@ieee.org](mailto:pimolina@ieee.org)



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## 1st IEEE-EEESTEC Technical Conference



September 27 saw the first IEEE-EEESTEC joint event at Cosenza, Italy! Calabria University SB and Cosenza EEESTEC organised a Technical Conference on *Engineering Education* attended by almost 40 students from various IEEE Student Branches and EEESTEC Local Committees.

The program included three student and three professional sessions, plus sightseeing around local cities Cosenza, Rende and Montalto Uffugo, and an excursion to Falerna, on the Tyrrhenian Coast. At the

conference itself, student papers were presented and academic sessions took place.

The atmosphere among the organisers was of great activity and big hopes, because it was the first time IEEE and EEESTEC officially mixed their worlds, combining socializing, fun and professional activities. The enthusiasm our joint experience was able to generate should ensure this event becomes a tradition in years to come.

*Enrico Natalizio  
enatalizio@deis.unical.it*

## Ljubljana University Student Branch, Slovenia

Ljubljana University SB began a new era in 2004 with a new board formed mostly from postgraduate students. In early February, we organized two "kickoff" meetings to adopt plans and directions for the year. The main goal of the new board was to reanimate student activities, to promote IEEE and its societies among other students and to recruit new members. Our plans were presented to the secretary and president of the Slovenian Section, Prof. Drs Andrej Žemva and Saša Divjak, who both agreed with our mission and vision, and promised their support. We are proud that R8 Director-Elect Prof. Baldomir Zajc joined us and presented his vision for the field of electrotechnics and the growth of IEEE in Slovenia.

The activities of SB Ljubljana consist of organizing six workshops for students per year; organizing free-of-charge tours to professional events such as conferences, exhibitions and fairs; promoting IEEE among students and encouraging students to participate in the IEEE Student Contest at ERK '2004 — the International Electrotechnical and Computer Science Conference in Slovenia.

In the future, we intend to continue our work to fulfill and improve our plans, which could not be realized without the encouragement of our sponsor, IEEE Slovenian Section.

*Rudolf Sušnik  
SB Ljubljana Secretary  
Iztok Humar  
SB Ljubljana Counselor*

## SBC 04: The Organization Committee's Report

Becoming "Cool and good looking" has become an achievable task in Passau, Germany. At least that's what one of the participants at the Region 8 Student Branch & GOLD Congress 2004 told us.

In the heart of Europe, high tech met baroque. This year's Student Branch & GOLD Congress took place during September 4-7 in the Bishop's residence city of Passau, Germany, where the rivers Danube, Inn and Ilz meet in the 3-country triangle of Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany. Following the congress motto "Tomorrow's Region 8," 100 students, 20 GOLD members and 20 IEEE representatives came together to discuss the future of student activities in the region. The meeting kicked off on Friday, when participants arrived from countries all over the world — as far away as Siberia, South Africa and Columbia.

On Saturday, the program started with welcome addresses, speeches and the first contacts between the attendees. We would especially like to thank the President of IEEE, Prof. Dr. Art Winston for attending the congress and giving us an interesting introduction to IEEE. After a day of speeches and discussions we enjoyed a concert

played on Europe's biggest church organ in the baroque St. Stephans Cathedral followed by a dinner in the historical town hall of Passau.

The next day Congress participants split up into small groups to take part in several workshops on relevant issues such as membership recruitment, fund raising and cooperation with GOLD. Discussions were enriched by the attendance of IEEE officials.

After the workshops, students met with various GOLD members to discuss their first steps into business life. The presentation and discussion of outstanding Student Branch Activities led on to the Multi-Cultural Evening where students had the opportunity to present the culture of their home countries.

The following Monday started with reports on workshop results and an open panel discussion with IEEE officials about student



branch-specific problems. In the afternoon the attendees enjoyed Passau's beautiful architecture with its picturesque buildings and landscape by foot and by boat. The day came to a sound end with a relaxed barbecue party.

On the last day, after the presentation of the new IEEE Region 8 Student Portal, the conference concluded with a magnificent closing session and farewell.

Overall the Student Branch Congress was very successful from our perspective. Everybody learned a lot about IEEE, lots of new contacts were made between the branches of Region 8 and everybody had a good time. We hope everybody left us with a good impression of Germany, and a lot of new ideas and energy for his/her student branch. Organizing the Student Branch Congress was a lot of hard work, but also a great experience and a lot of fun for us.

Last, but not least, we all want to thank every participant for their attendance and great feedback, especially the anonymous one who gave us the extraordinary compliment quoted at the beginning of this report!

*Michael Glögl  
gloegl@oktiron.net*

## IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2005

The Regional Student Paper Contest 2005 deadline is approaching fast. Submissions should be in by December 15, 2004.

To participate in the contest, you have to be an IEEE Student Member belonging to a Region 8 Student Branch. The length of the paper should not exceed six pages. You can get the detailed rules

from the Region 8 Student Activities Committee Web page at [http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/student\\_activities.html](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/student_activities.html).

There are three prizes of 800, 500, and 200 US dollars, respectively, which are offered by the Life Member Fund. Furthermore, the Region 8 Student Activities Fund offers 250 US dollars as the

"Dick Poortvliet Award" to the Branch from which the winner comes. The oral finals will most likely take place in Belgrade, Serbia, as part of Eurocon 2005.

For further information, contact me by email or visit <http://www.sps.ele.tue.nl/members/m.j.bastiaans/spc/>.

*Martin Bastiaans  
M.J.Bastiaans@ieee.org*

## Thoughts on a few days in Passau....

During the week, we had lots of rain and it was cloudy and cold. I was really worried about the weather. The GOLD congresses I attended in earlier years always had great weather and this added a lot to their atmosphere: sunshine, walking around outdoors and enjoying the fantastic weather in the great cities where congresses took place. So when I opened my eyes on Saturday morning and saw the sun drawing bright spots into my room, I was *really* happy getting up. (I'm not always up that early in the morning!).

The SB Congress is a highlight for every student volunteer in Region 8, enabling them to experience the full variety of IEEE in general and of Region 8 in particular — from the North of Scandinavia to the South of Africa, from the West of Iceland to the East of Siberia. During the cultural fair, everyone had the chance to experience the different colours (and drinks!) of each country, to listen to stories of everyday life, to listen to local music and to see local clothes.

Since Egypt's 2002 congress, GOLD has also

been part of the SB Congress. So in Passau, about 20 GOLD volunteers from different sections met to discuss and learn GOLD issues and also bring a *GOLDen* flavour to the conference.

GOLD still is a very young program within the IEEE and thus we are still in the stages of defining procedures, motivating people and trying to spread the GOLD idea in Region 8 and beyond. Amongst other things, GOLD is about continuing your IEEE membership after graduation. But after experiencing the

congress in Passau, few would need any encouragement to extend their IEEE membership beyond graduation. No-one could really think about quitting after experiencing this!

And at the end, you should know: IEEE is what you make out of it. And this is especially true when you leave the love and security of your Student Branch. When you have to rebuild your social environment, make new friends, start a new life. This is where GOLD kicks in and I hope this is also something attendees took with them

when leaving Passau. (The sun was still shining then!)

So what was it in the end? I myself had some fantastic days there at my former university talking to a lot of interesting IEEE people and making new contacts, learning new things about IEEE and having a lot of new ideas about things to do. I hope it was the same for you. Keep up the energy. And don't forget whom you should contact about GOLD.

Gerald Anleitner  
GOLD Germany & GOLD  
Committee 2004  
g.anleitner@ieee.org

## Important Benefits for Student Members

The process of membership renewal is now underway and this year there is mainly only online registration available. If you are not fully aware of the benefits that IEEE membership delivers, and of the additional benefits of Region 8, we have something important for you to read: <http://www.ieee.org/r8sac>.

### Important Benefits for Student Branches

If you participate in a Student Branch, there are a number of programs that can help you develop local activities and projects. So, if you would like to form a Student Branch in your own university, just let us know.

There are five \$400 prizes for branches with the highest membership increases as of December 31. There is an additional \$800 prize for the best branch in the last three years.

Region 8 is willing to provide some financial support for your activities. There is a limit of \$500 and you are also asked to provide a budget and a final report. Alternative reporting is a piece of R8 News!

We are aware that \$25 of Student dues is not exactly the same depending on what Section you live in. For example, in the UK, it can mean several pints of beer (not many) and in some other places it is a big percentage of the monthly wage. We have therefore created a program to help Student Branch volunteers in needy situations to get a 50% reduction in their dues. That is, IEEE Student Membership for only \$12.50. There's an application form on the SAC Web page.

### More Help

Are you interested in producing promotional material with the IEEE logo to expand your branch? We can give you tips and help you produce it and find resources to enhance the image of IEEE around you.

Willing to organize a R8-wide contest? We can help you there too. For example, there is currently a R8-wide Chess Contest, and soon the second one will start. So don't miss the chance to register. This is organized by the BTI

Student Branch in Russia, Siberia Section. Additionally, a short Branch promotional video contest is coming soon.

### The R8 Student Portal

We are working strongly to build an enhanced tool: The Region 8 Student Portal. This will be much more than a Web site. It is coming soon and beta-testers are needed.

There are also awards and scholarships that you cannot miss. There are online IEEE courses that you cannot miss. And check out the IEEE Job site at <http://www.ieee.org/jobs>, you may find something of interest to you.

There is regional support to the organization of Section wide meetings of Branches. There have been several examples in Spain, Turkey, Egypt, ... and this helps the branches a lot.

Not just interested in technical events? You have to check out the SPACs and SPAVes. These events will make your branch members very happy. We have support and suggestions for you at our Web site.

Create technical Chapters within your branch and expand your activities: You can create *Women in Engineering Affinity Groups*. WIE membership is open for *anyone* (male or female) and is free for students. If you want to increase the diversity of your branch, check out: <http://www.ieee.org/women>.

There are many History of Engineering related activities that you can organize. For a start, have you seen the IEEE Virtual Museum? It is a great place to know more about how things happened. <http://www.ieee-virtual-museum.org/>

Your counsellor is great? Then nominate him/her to the Outstanding Branch Counsellor award. Discontent with the counsellor? Just change it, you don't even need the signature. Find a Faculty member who helps and respects the branch. We have a nice Virtual Community, alive and with many members. There are calendar options, discussions, files shared and chat sessions. You will find a link to it from the R8 SAC Web page: <http://www.ieee.org/r8sac>. We hope you find this helpful.

The R8 SAC Team  
reg08-sac@ieee.org



## Did You Know?

Student Professional Awareness Activities for *your* Campus!!! Professional Awareness.... As you move forward through your undergraduate years, you will learn many technical aspects of engineering that you will use when you start your professional career. However, an engineering career is not just based on technical aspects; it also involves understanding and applying non-technical professional attributes. Examples include the ability

to communicate effectively (written and verbally), managing your finances and time efficiently, networking, coping with ethical dilemmas, and interacting with co-workers. These are only a few of the non-technical issues that you may face after graduating and entering the workforce.

The IEEE has developed and sponsors a program for Student Professional Awareness Activities (SPAA) with a variety of resources available to help students plan

and put on SPAA events on campus in all IEEE Regions, including your Region 8.

### SPAA Events

SPAA events are designed to be implemented in two different forms: (1) a Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC), and (2) a Student Professional Awareness Venture (SPAVe). SPACs are planned, managed, and conducted by students. They typically include presentations given by engineers on non-techni-

cal, professional aspects of engineering careers. In addition to the presentations given by individuals, interaction between the presenter and students is encouraged. SPACs can also include panel discussions, round tables, or debates on certain issues of interest.

SPAVes are organized and managed in a similar manner, but are focused on professional awareness activity rather than a presentation format, and can span days, weeks, or even an entire semester. Examples of SPAVs include mock interviews, resume writing skill development, role playing and videotaping of an ethical dilemma/situation, networking/etiquette dining, creating a skit depicting expert testimony in a courtroom, and others.

### SPAA Event Planning

Students who plan SPAA events can gain project management experience, as well as a variety of other valuable skills. The first step is to decide which issues are of interest to the students in your Branch. One way to do this is to conduct a survey and choose the top two or three; consulting professors or local professionals may also yield alternatives.

Once proposed topics have been identified, the Regional Student Activities Chair (RSAC) and Regional Student Representative (RSR) should be contacted. They may recommend speakers or suggest ways of finding the speaker for a SPAC, or assist you in refining your SPAVe activity.

For SPACs, a popular method for finding speakers is to make contact with local companies (they may not necessarily have to be engineering-oriented). Another method is to work with the local IEEE Sec-

tion to identify individuals who are able to talk on the chosen topics.

After speakers have been identified and invited, the planning continues. As with any project, planning a SPAA event involves dealing with logistics, as well as the anticipated budget. The RSAC and RSR will send you a preliminary budget form, which must be returned during the initial planning stage. To offset expenses incurred, enough money must be raised to balance out the budget. Suggested sources of funding are local industry through sponsorships, IEEE Sections, or ticket sales.

Once planning is complete, SB members will be ready to hold their SPAA event. Afterwards, it is very important to submit a final report. This allows the branch to reflect on lessons learned from the experience of organizing and attending this type of event, but it's also beneficial for IEEE to get feedback as to the success of that event.

### Benefits to Organizers

Previous organizers and attendees of student professional awareness activities have enjoyed these events and the topics discussed, and have also benefited a great deal by learning about the non-technical aspects of engineering that they are not exposed to while in school. It is also a crucial step toward becoming a "complete" engineer!

For more information on SPAA for Region 8, contact your RSAC Pilar Molina Gaudó ([pimolina@unizar.es](mailto:pimolina@unizar.es)) and/or RSR Basak Yuksel ([basak@ieee.org](mailto:basak@ieee.org)).

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## Change in OAU IEEE Student Branch Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Change was inevitable and the executive board of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) IEEE SB is now in new hands. One year has gone and OAU is growing stronger despite all the difficulties it faces. After the handover of SB leadership, it's worth remembering the impact of the past branch officers on the OAU community, students and lecturers. Various self development programs were implemented to increase not only students' awareness of the benefits and advantages of membership but also participation in IEEE activities. These activities are outlined below:

"IEEE Student Membership: Benefits and Prospects," a seminar delivered by Prof. Olorunfemi Ojo, of Tennessee Technology University, and SB counselor, Dr. M. O. Omoigui of OAU's Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, led to the enrolment of 20 new student members.

"Use of MATLAB/SIMULINK for Modeling, Analysis, Design and Simulations of Systems," a seminar presented by Messrs. Oshunleke, Chemical Engineering Department and Bimbo Jubril, Electrical and



Electronics Engineering Department, OAU. This seminar hosted SB members and non-members.

"VHDL for Modeling and Simulations," a seminar given by Messrs. A. Jubril and Soji Ilori, Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department. VHDL is a relatively new concept to many engineering students on campus and several participants left the venue afterwards in deep thought.

Participation in "Electronic Week" organized by the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Students' Society (EESS), OAU. Participation was in the form of exhibitions and the aforementioned VHDL seminar. A "PC for Home Automation" system designed by SB member Mr. Adegbege Ambrose Adebayo was exhibited, which uses the common desktop to control home applications — up to eight at a time.

An awareness talk, "Industrial Training," was presented to students of

the OAU's Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering during their Student Work Experience Program (SWEPE). The talk was presented by SB Chair Mr. Adegbege Ambrose Adebayo and SB secretary Mr. Odegbami Harrison Oladele, to almost 200 attendees. The outcome was that IEEE student membership application forms taken to the venue ran out!

The branch also participated in the Region 8 Student Paper Contest. A paper was submitted as one of the 17 from all over R8.

After just one year, the OAU SB is *really* warming up. The only inhibiting factor has been funding, which has so far been the responsibility of student members alone. Lots of planned programs and contests could not be implemented due to lack of funding. So a lot of challenges are waiting for the new *ex-com*, especially financial issues. Nonetheless, IEEE has come to stay in OAU and the sky is just the starting point!

Adegbege Ambrose  
Adebayo, SB Chair  
[amby@ieee.org](mailto:amby@ieee.org)  
Odegbami Oladele  
Harrison, SB Secretary  
[hodegbami@ieee.org](mailto:hodegbami@ieee.org)

## From the Region 8 Director

This is my last opportunity to write in R8 News as Region Director, so I first wish to thank all those IEEE volunteers who have worked with me since January 2003 for their support and enthusiasm. In particular I want to mention the outgoing R8 Vice Chairs (Tariq Durrani: Technical Activities; Rolf Remshardt: Membership Activities and Pilar Molina Gaudo: Student Activities) and R8 Treasurer Hans Schmitt and R8 Secretary Charles Turner. I wish my successor, Baldomir Zajc, a successful and satisfying term of office.

For those living in most parts of Western Europe, the past half century has been a time of relative peace and prosperity, with no major wars and immense technological advances which have enhanced the way of life for most of the population. IEEE has been at the centre of this process, by supporting the advancement of technology for military defence systems and for commercial products. It may be a kind of 'Golden Age' for Western Europe. However,

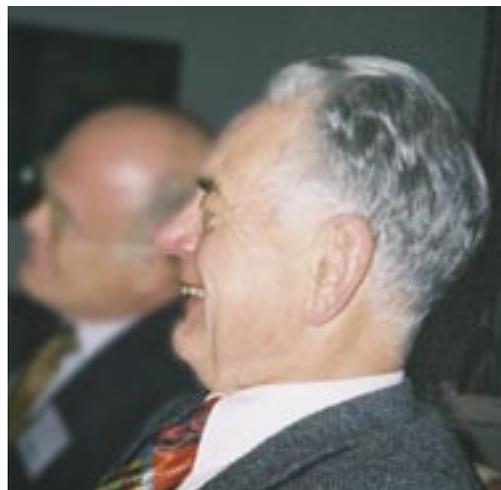
for some people, particularly in Cambodia, Ruanda, Palestine, Iraq, etc., this has been no Golden Age at all. The dismantling of the Berlin Wall in 1989 seemed likely for a while to herald a new era of democracy and prosperity for all. However, the unexpected appearance of medical challenges such as AIDS, SARS, and various forms of extreme terrorism and new totalitarian regimes, as well as changes in weather patterns, energy crises and new forms of corruption, all present major challenges that will need excellent engineers and scientists and the technologies which IEEE helps to promote and develop.

Therefore I believe there is a lasting place and need for the worldwide technological society which IEEE has become. IEEE needs to extend its scope to cover technical areas which will support future advances and the survival of our way of life without further undermining the ecological framework of the planet.

IEEE's system for on-line access to publica-

tions, IEEE Xplore, has been extremely successful in creating a substantial income stream, as a result of which recent financial problems appear to be at an end. However, the success of IEEE Xplore has undermined a major reason for joining IEEE, eg, to obtain personal paper copies of IEEE publications. Now these are often available 'free of charge to the user' because the employer (whether university or industrial company) has paid for electronic on-line access. IEEE therefore has to develop other reasons to encourage membership. For most IEEE Societies, membership is declining steadily while the overhead costs paid to IEEE are increasing.

The response of many Societies is to increase their charges for membership and publications and the registration fees for their conferences (and to emphasise surplus creation from conferences rather than serving participants with a quality experience). At the same time they may reduce



financial support to their Chapters, to local workshops, conferences, etc., and take less interest in developing their Distinguished Lecturer programmes.

I believe that increasing charges and reducing services is not a correct way out of financial difficulties, and the Societies need to find ways of offering more at an affordable cost. Taking more interest in local activities and helping Chapters to provide new technical benefits at the local level may be a way forward for them.

I would like to assure those of you who read what I wrote on page 10 of the September 2004 issue of R8 News that I have not coloured my hair green – this seems to be an artefact of the move to full-colour printing of R8 News, and clearly the colour balance process has not yet been perfected. However, I know that the editor, Roland Saam, would be very glad to hear comments from the readership about the new format and about the content.

*Tony Davies*

## Souvenirs of Sweden



*Some pictures from October's R8 Committee meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.*

### OFAC update

Earlier this year came the welcome news that after much negotiation, OFAC had informed IEEE that it could resume the publication processes for papers submitted from countries such as Iran without breaking US laws.

There is now a further favourable development: recruiting members in countries such as Iran, Sudan, Cuba, is again possible, and IEEE members in these countries will be allowed not only to purchase any of the 'paper' products of IEEE, but will also be allowed electronic access and web accounts.

Elevation of suitably qualified individuals to Senior Member and Fellow Grades will also be resumed.

This is substantial progress, which has taken extensive negotiation and discussion. It is still not permitted to use any IEEE funds for activities in these countries, so IEEE financial support cannot be provided to Iran, Sudan or Cuba. However, IEEE continues to negotiate for a restoration of these opportunities, and hopefully this will happen in the not too distant future.

*Tony Davies*  
*Region 8 Director*

## HE Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana

*Continued from page 1*  
Engineers have been in the forefront of building modern human civilizations. To be an engineer therefore is to be at the cutting edge of development and improving the human condition.

"When we talk about the challenges of under-development in Africa, we are really talking about lack of capacity primarily in the various fields of engineering. Whilst Imhotep built a magnificent structure in 2550 BC, Africa lagged far behind the innovations that led to the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century.

We are however pleased that today many Africans are continuing to acquire skills and expertise in this important profession. Our membership of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.... gives us hope about the future.

"I have noted that a great many technical papers will be presented by experts in science and technology from Europe, the United States, the Middle East and, of course, Africa. It is a matter of interest to me that some of the papers focus on real life problems whose solution can go a

long way in improving the quality of life of people in.... Botswana and across the length and breadth of Africa. I commend the authors and organizers of the Conference for putting together this rich and diverse knowledge. I thank them for bringing it to Botswana.... We, indeed, feel much honored to have you here. I can only say as engineers, you should remember to maintain abiding faith in your profession, the profession that is committed to using scientific knowledge to solve practical problems and building societies."

## Postcard From Bucharest, Romania



*Tony Davies, Svetlana Rau, Christian Borgert in Thread Street, Bucharest during the Region 8 Operating Committee Meeting last August*

## REMINDER CALENDAR Workshops, Conferences & Symposia in R8

### IEEE ICIT 2004 – TUNISIA

**International Conference on Industrial Technology**

December 8-10, 2004  
Hotel Le Royal, Hammamet, Tunisia  
<http://www.icit2004.com>

### ICMSAO 2005

**Conference On Modeling, Simulation, & Applied Optimization**

February 1-3, 2005  
American University of Sharjah,  
United Arab Emirates  
<http://www.ausharjah.edu/media/icmsao/>

### SETIT 2005

**3rd International Conference on Sciences of Electronic, Technologies of Information & Telecommunication**

Susa, Tunisia  
March 27-31, 2005  
[www.universites.tn/setit](http://www.universites.tn/setit)

### DUE 2005

**Domestic Use of Energy Conference**

March 29-31, 2005  
Cape Peninsula University of Technology,  
Cape Town, South Africa  
<http://www.otech.ac.za/conf>

### IEEE ICT2005

**12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Telecommunications**

May 3-6, 2005  
Capetown, South Africa  
<http://www.ict2005.co.za>

### ICUE 2005

**Industrial and Commercial Use of Energy Conference**

May 25-27, 2005  
Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa  
<http://www.ctech.ac.za/conf>

### ISIE 2005

**IEEE Symposium Industrial Electronics**

June 19-22, 2005  
Dubrovnik, Croatia  
[www.isie2005.org](http://www.isie2005.org)

### St. Petersburg PowerTech 2005

**IEEE Power Engineering Society**

St. Petersburg PowerTech 2005  
IEEE Power Engineering Society  
St. Petersburg, Russia  
June 27-30, 2005  
<http://www.sei.irk.ru/>

### IPCC 2005

**IEEE Professional Communication Society Making Connections**

July 10-13, 2005  
Limerick, Ireland  
<http://ieeepcs.org/limerick>

### UPEC 2005

**40th Int'l Univ. Power Engineering Conference**

University College Cork, Cork, Ireland  
September 7-9, 2005  
<http://www.upec2005.org>

# EUROCON 2005

November 21-24, 2005

Sava Center  
Belgrade  
Serbia & Montenegro

IEEE Region 8, YU Section  
Telecommunications  
Society, Belgrade  
School of EE  
University of Belgrade