Scan me with your smartphone to reach the R8N website.

A replica of the first electrical traffic signal in Berlin

R8 Committee congregates in Berlin for 50th birthday

The Fernsehturm, Berlin's central TV tower, built in 1969, is the tallest structure in Germany

Berlin's Funkturm radio transmission tower, built in 1926, is now a protected monument

ON 31 March to 1 April, the 98th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting took place in Berlin, Germany. Nearly 180 members attended the event and participated in the main meeting, workshops, subcommittee meetings and social events.

The date of the events coincided with the Region's 50th anniversary which was celebrated on Saturday evening at the German Museum of Technology. A keynote speech was delivered by VDE president Alf Henryk Wulf (VDE is the German Association for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies, one of the largest technical and scientific associations in Europe).

A 50-year anniversary banner was presented by IEEE president Gordon Day to Region 8 director, Marko Delimar. A 50-year anniversary banner was also presented to UK&RI Section chair Nihal Sinnadurai and a 25-year anniversary banner to UAE Section chair Maryam Ali Al Thani. The Larry K Wilson Transnational Award was presented by IEEE president Gordon Day to Roland J Saam of the UK & Republic of Ireland Section *(see story, right)*.

To celebrate the founding of Region 8 in 1962, the meeting was held at the Potsdamer Platz. Nearby are many places related to IEEE's fields of interest, including a copy of what is claimed to be the first electrical traffic signal in Berlin. Not far away is the German Museum of Technol-ogy with a Dakota plane hanging above its roof as memorial to the Berlin Air Lift of 1948.

The Museum für Kommunikation displays all aspects of postal, telephone and radio communication. In view is the 365-metre high TV tower in Alexanderplatz, built in 1969 by the GDR regime.

R8N editor receives Transnational award

IEEE President Gordon Day, Marko Delimar present the award to Roland Saam

THE IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Larry K Wilson Transnational Award for 2011 was presented by IEEE president Gordon Day to *IEEE Region 8 News* editor Roland Saam at the German Museum of Technology, Berlin, on 31 March during the IEEE Region 8 meeting.

The award comprises a handsome plaque and a cheque for $1,000, and is given by MGA to honour "the most innovative ac-tivity related to Regions 7, 8, 9 and 10 that best exemplifies the transnational goals" of IEEE. It is given in memory of Dr Larry K Wilson, whose service characterised the dedicated volunteer on which IEEE depends for its work.

The citation reads: "Roland J Saam (R8), UK & Republic of Ireland Section. For exemplary service and significant contributions over many years, particularly developing and maintaining the distinctive *IEEE Region 8 News*, which fosters collaboration and engagement across three continents."

Roland is best known for his editorship of *IEEE Region 8 News*, leading it through major changes since 2002. He also serves as chair of the UK&RI Section's Life Members Affinity Group, and has a thriving interest in history of engineering and computing.

Region 8 representatives with students after the award ceremony

World-renowned speakers deliver talks at MELECON

MELECON 2012, the 16th IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference, was successfully held at the Medina Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25–28 March.

The technical program included four plenary talks from world-renowned speakers. These were Dr Bilel Jamoussi from the International Telecommunications Union Standardization Bureau, Geneva, Switzerland; Prof Gerald Shaefer from Loughborough University, United Kingdom; Prof Gérard-André Capolino from the University of Picardie 'Jules Verne', France; and Prof Daniel Pasquet, from the ENSEA Cergy, France.

More than 380 technical papers were submitted to the conference from 50 countries from around the world. Out of these, 261 papers were accepted following a rigorous review process to be presented at MELECON 2012. The conference attracted some 290 attendees from 47 countries.

Further to the technical content, the event also portrayed the enthusiasm of the local student branches, who during a session devoted to student activities presented a video on their school and IEEE student branch and another video on Green Technologies. The best videos were awarded during the conference banquet and Award ceremony which celebrated also the IEEE Region 8 50th anniversary.

During the closing ceremony, awards were delivered to the best paper, best student paper and best poster authors.

The event was organized by the IEEE Tunisia Section.

Mourad Loulou
Tunisia section Chair and
MELECON 2012 General co-Chair
www.melecon2012.org

No party is complete without cake: celebrating the 50th anniversary of Region 8

What does the Education Activities Board do?

IEEE Education Activities Board (EAB) is one of several that govern the IEEE. The others are: Technical Activities (TAB), Publication Services and Products (PSPB), Member and Geographical Activities, and the IEEE Standards Association.

EAB recommends to the Board of Directors policies on educational matters. It implements programs intended to benefit IEEE members in education, the engineering and scientific community, and the general public.

So, EAB is concerned with the spectrum of educational activities, ranging from support for pre-college/university education, university education, professional education, education about Standards and support for Women in Engineering.

With respect to pre-university education, many school-leavers don't take science and engineering studies at university. To counter this trend, IEEE EAB, in partnership with IBM, has established the **TryEngineering.org** website. The site offers information to all who could influence career choices. Information is given about accredited programs offered in 33 countries from over 3000 universities.

TryEngineering.org explores the engineering disciplines and what it is to be a practising engineer, and tells the life stories of successful engineers.

It offers support material for school teachers with 200 Lesson Plans for teaching engineering design and preparing experiments that teachers can conduct. There are virtual interactive games, data on summer camps, fellowships, internships, competitions, and more.

The **TryEngineering.org** Website has been translated into nine languages, making it a truly global offering. In 2011, it received some 6.8 million hits and 4 million lesson plans have been downloaded.

EAB's Teacher-in-Service Program (TISP) offers training for IEEE volunteers and student members, working with pre-university teachers and supporting the teaching of science, mathematics and technology. To date, 25 training workshops have been conducted for 2,203 participants in all ten regions.

In future issues of *IEEE Region 8 News*, I'll write about EAB's work in continuing professional education, editorial portals, awards, accreditation, and curriculum development.

Tariq S Durrani
2011 Vice President, EAB

Recognising ethical practices

DO you know of an IEEE member or an organisation employing IEEE members that has shown exemplary ethical behaviour or practices, or has successfully advocated them? Then consider nominating that person or company for the IEEE Award for Distinguished Ethical Practices. The deadline for 2012 nominations is 1 July.

ieee.org/about/ethics

EAB's online teaching resource is now available in Arabic

THE IEEE Educational Activities Board, with the IEEE Saudi Arabia Section East, is pleased to announce the launch of the **TryEngineering.org** website in Arabic, bringing TryEngineering resources to the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabic speaking world.

TryEngineering.org is a free online career resource featuring useful engineering information, a university search tool, online engineering games, lesson plans for educators, and interesting profiles of engineering professionals and undergraduate students.

As well as Arabic, the site is available in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

The Arabic translation of **TryEngineering.org** was made possible by the generous support of Saudi Aramco as part of its Youth Development Program.

tryengineering.org/lang/arabic

Understanding sponsorship for a successful conference

I am writing this in Hammamet, Tunisia, while attending MELECON 2012, one of Region 8's flagship conferences.

Presentations were delivered by colleagues from all over the Region and beyond, in various fields of engineering. Congratulations to Prof Mourad Loulou and his team for organising this successful conference.

Obtaining sponsorship for a conference is not an easy task but the funds coming from sponsors are often crucial for its success. First, sponsorship it helps to maintain the registration fees low, allowing more potential participants to attend your event. Second, it gives organisers more budget to prepare a better program and invite more well-known speakers.

The conference coordination subcommittee will organise a webinar in June entitled 'Conference Sponsorship'. The webinar will use the WebEx platform, seeking to include advice from IEEE headquarters and the experience of organisers from different sized conferences. Invitations with details will be sent to all IEEE co-sponsored conference organisers in Region 8.

At the IEEE Region 8 meeting in Berlin, 'post-conference reporting' was discussed. A proposal has been drawn up to allow better adoption of best practices for our flagship conferences. More details in the next issue...

Carl James Debono
Region 8
Conference
coordinator
**c.debonon@
ieee.org**

IEEE Standards Education launches quarterly 'eZine'

THE IEEE's Standards Education Program continues to promote the importance of standards for technical, economic, environmental and societal developments. Learning materials explain how to design educational programs with attention to engineering standards. IEEE also pushes for the integration of standards into academic programs.

Two new resources are available for you.

The 'eZine' is a free quarterly e-publication for those who learn, teach, use, deploy and develop standards. The eZine features topics such as Smart Grid Standards and Standards in China. For educators, it has articles on standards in the curriculum and the best Student Application Papers, demonstrating standards in student projects.

To receive a copy, visit **stand-ardsmagazine-ieee-elearning.org**.

A brand new web portal is available at **TryStandards.org**. Global Standards Education and Standards Search were developed to help educators find courses about standards at university and continuing education levels. It has a search facility to find standards maintained by all recognised standardisation bodies in IEEE's fields of interest.

Grants for students and professors are also available. The IEEE Standards Education committee seeks applicants for grants (US$500 plus US$300 honoraria for faculty advisors) for student projects that involve the use and application of technical standards. The goal is the integration of standards into academic programs. The next deadline is 15 June. Visit the Student Application Papers website: **standards-education.org/applications**.

To read papers based on successful projects, go to **standards-magazine-ieee-elearning.org**.

The Standards Education Committee welcomes your feedback and contributions.

Jennifer McClain
IEEE Standards Education
j.mcclain@ieee.org
standardseducation.org

Gulf region accreditation is focus of workshop held in Berlin

THE establishment of a regionally based accreditation body was the focus of the Gulf Region Accreditation Workshop held on 29 March in Berlin during the Region 8 Committee meeting. Gulf area chairman, Dr Bakr Hassan, and members of his subcommittee took part in a full day of exercises and discussions to review proposals. A Gulf Region Accreditation Body would develop and oversee engineering, computing and technology education programs in the Gulf nations.

Professional program accreditation is needed to monitor institutional quality in the region and internationally. In response to this, several years ago, IEEE volunteers based at universities in the Gulf explored the feasibility of meeting the needs of Gulf-based educational institutions and programs. In September 2011, the IEEE Educational Activities Board's committee on Global Accreditation Activities (CGAA) resolved to see this process through.

The subcommittee is made of up Gulf nation members with experience and expertise in engineering education. It meets regularly via teleconference. Its proposal is to commence its initial operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with further expansion (through bilateral or multi-laterals) to other Gulf Nations.

The purpose of the Berlin workshop was to evaluate this proposal and to plan implementation. CGAA chairman Saurabh Sinha, EAB vice president Mike Lightner and representatives from educational quality assurance authorities in the Gulf were also present. The workshop identified key issues and set up an action plan. The task of creating an accrediting body is complex and time consuming, but with this strong foundation the subcommittee is bound to succeed.

Burt Dicht
University Programs,
IEEE Educational Activities

AHCAA draws up plan for Africa

THE IEEE Adhoc Committee on Africa Activities (AHCAA) met for the first time during the Region 8 Committee meeting in Berlin, and resolved to:
● recruit new members
● increase and promote the number of IEEE sponsored conferences in Africa
● facilitate membership renewals and dues payments
● begin a continuous professional development (CPD) program.

AHCAA is chaired by Prof Zac Oyedokun, Dean of Engineering at the Polytechnic of Namibia, and is supported by Saurabh Sinha (Region 8 VC-Technical Activities) and Moshe Kam (IEEE Past President). Saurabh will establish liaison with the IEEE-UNESCO working group where he is a member.

Please contact John Keaton (**j.c.keaton@ieee.org**) with your information and ideas.

Herbert Lwanga
Member of AHCAA

Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

The future of publishing starts here – at IEEE

YOU may have noticed this issue is a bumper 16 pages! A big editing job hit us with the large number of articles sent in, full of new ideas, new services, interesting activities, student volunteering events and announcements.

Thanks in part to IEEE members, we enjoy fantastic technology: you take snapshots using your smartphone digital camera and write a note about what you saw and did, then share it through social network/apps.

To catch up with tech trends, we migrated the *IEEE Region 8 News* website to the new Region 8 portal based on WordPress. Use the QR code on the front page if you can, or search 'r8 news' on **ieeer8.org**.

Besides that, we would like to point out that student members have done a great job in organising activities within their university, local community and IEEE Section. I hope you all continue the momentum and wish the GOLDies and students well for their SBC2012 in Spain in July.

In April, I participated in the Panel of Technical Editors meeting in San Francisco. Once each year, the technical editors of IEEE journals and magazines are invited to discuss IEEE publication policies and projects.

This was my first time at such a meeting and it really opened up my thoughts. There was a heated discussion on the new-style Open Access Journal. See it on the IEEE website: it's an important development if you want to publish your work in IEEE. Please check out the Principles of Scholarly Publishing and find Open Access detail there.

A number of projects also caught my eye, including the interactive content in IEEEXplore for next-generation articles. Citation information can now be seen when hovering your mouse cursor over the citation sign within the article.

There are new products from Crossref, a non-profit organisation of which IEEE is a member. Cross-Check is a plagiarism detection tool, CrossMark will alert you to corrections and prompt you to download a new version, and FundRef links grant information. Soon you will get IEEE publications through your smartphone and tablet.

Zhijia Huang

PreUniversity webinar series begins with introductory talk

THE first of a new series of webinars organised by the Region 8 PreUniversity subcommittee was held on 1 March.

This webinar was delivered by Elizabeth Burd, who introduced IEEE Education Activities and went on to explain about the Teacher-in-Service Program, EPICS-in-IEEE and Information portals.

The webinar may be viewed at: **tinyurl.com/6s3w6x7**. The slides are at: **tinyurl.com/75ktvuo**

More are planned for this year: TISP in April, EPICS-in-IEEE in June, Humanitarian Activities in August and Education Portals in October.

Sohaib Qamar Sheikh
Region 8 PreUniversity
Activities Coordinator

How increased globalisation is affecting international standards

INTERNATIONAL standards have been driving innovation, contributing to the growth of markets, and protecting the health and public safety of workers and the general public for centuries.

Traditionally, these activities have been focused around principles of national representation which aligned with the way that the markets were organised around the world. This key function of standards is not changing. Today, more than ever, the world needs international standards to enable the creation of products and services to be implemented and used by customers globally.

What is changing, however, is the increasing globalisation of markets and how the markets force the standards. Globalisation, together with rapid changes in technology and quick time-to-market, influences customers' expectations. Industry finds more efficient ways to define global stand-

ards, which, in turn, help expand the global markets. That's how the global standards paradigm is evolving.

This is the complementary model, in which a standard's international recognition is determined by the standard's adoption in actual products and services that are used around the world. The international marketplace itself determines whether or not a standard is relevant.

In future articles, we will look in more detail at how global markets are driving international deployment of standards regardless of their formal status and how the IEEE Standards Association is adapting to this more nuanced, dual-model international standards paradigm.

Steve Mills
Standards Association
president-elect

The workshops were attended by 75 participants, split across five parallel sessions

Workshops in Berlin reveal the vitality of R8's Sections

AT the recent Region 8 meeting in Berlin, several workshops established an open forum of shared experiences. Five parallel sessions were attended by 75 participants.

During two hours, the sessions were led by Gloria Chuwudebe (Nigeria), Athanasios Skodras (Greece), Ghassan Shaban (Lebanon), Natasa Neskovic (Serbia & Montenegro) and Wim Van Etten (Benelux).

The results are reported in detail at the **ieeer8.org** website.

I believe these workshops are important and show the diversity of ideas that our IEEE geographic units can engage in.

Thank you to all participants for sharing your experiences with us.

Ali El-Mousa
R8 Vice Chair Member Activities
a.elmousa@ieee.org

Ugandan EPICS project uses solar power to recharge mobile phones

THE Engineering Projects in Community Service-in-IEEE (EPICS-in-IEEE) initiative is a group of IEEE volunteers. They are supported by a non-governmental organisation, L'OGEL Projects.

Together with students of Kyambogo University, they undertook a preuniversity project with Agha Khan High School in Uganda, entitled 'Poverty Reduction and Environmental Conservation Through Solar Powered Solutions'.

The group received US$5,000 grant from EPICS-in-IEEE initiative, and is working on a solution for a local community.

The student groups will transform their theoretical knowledge into practical engineering skills with an innovative, hands-on approach. They will learn to design and build environmentally friendly, solar-powered phone chargers and controllers for low-income communities. A recent photograph *(above)* received international attention.

Thanks to Kapil Dandekar and Saurabh Sinha for their support of the project.

For details, contact Herbert Lwanga (**lwangaherbert@gmail. com**), principal investigator for the EPICS-in-IEEE Project in Uganda.

Engage your IEEE Section members with these tips

WHAT is the relationship between IEEE communities and members? Think of IEEE technical societies' chapters as cogs in a gear wheel which engage with the technical interests of members.

Local technical activities bring together individuals with a common interest – the gears mesh – to give us an environment in which to exchange ideas and to develop relationships. That can help us when we write proposals, bids, research problems, or simply to exchange ideas when we may be stuck.

What can you do to transfer power behind your ideas? Why not try to plan an activity like an afternoon session or a breakfast meeting? You could possibly hold an IEEE e-Learning session followed by a technical discussion on the topic at hand. Or perhaps you could lead a brainstorm on how the topic could address local engineering challenges and solve local problems.

The IEEE eLearning library car-

ries tutorials across a broad variety of technical areas. It also supports 'soft skills' such as management and inter-personal techniques. The library targets various levels, from beginner to intermediate to the advanced.

IEEE Section leaders can even manage customised web portals. For example, your Section could offer continuing education and certificates. For more information, contact Niovi Pavlidou (**niovi@ auth.gr**) who is our Region 8 education activities coordinator.

For assistance in setting up or developing an IEEE technical society chapter, talk to Daniel Pasquet (**d.pasquet@ieee.org**) who serves as R8 chapters coordinator.

IEEE Technical Activities looks forward to serving you!

Saurabh Sinha
Vice-chair,
Technical Activities
ssinha@ieee.org

Technical Committees Liaison explains his new role in R8

WHY is there a new Technical Committees Liaison in Region 8? The role was created to bridge the gap between Region 8 and new committees of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB). Future technical directions are the responsibility of IEEE's New Initiatives Committee which seeks to promote them to our chapters, conferences, and industrial activities.

Vladimir Katic arranged a WebEx session in which Roberto de Marca told us about new technical initiatives: Green ICT, Smart Grid, Cloud Computing and Electric Vehicles. He will go on to co-ordinate a number of other IEEE initiatives, such as IEEE's Committee on Earth Observations and IEEE Life Sciences New Initiative.

His goal will be to inform our subcommittees about IEEE future directions and have them transferred into Region 8 operations: chapters coordination, industrial relations, and so on.

During the webinar, consensus was reached that Region 8's flagship conferences could be improved by crossing disciplines that reflect the converging nature of IEEE-designated fields of interest.

A conference promoting the IEEE Future Directions will take place on 23–25 May in Dresden.

Vladimir Katic
R8 Technical Committees Liaison

Technology Time Machine provides a vision of the future in Dresden

BY the time you read this, the IEEE Technology Time Machine symposium will have taken place on 23–25 May in Dresden, Germany.

Dresden is the perfect place for Technology Time Machine (TTM), combining 800 years of history with high-tech businesses in a region that claims to be Europe's number-one silicon semiconductor site.

Sponsored by the IEEE Future Directions committee, TTM is a unique event for industry icons, academics and government leaders who direct R&D activities or manage strategies, or oversee products and services.

TTM was designed to engage technology leaders in conversations about advances in technology that will change the course of our lives, looking ahead to the year 2020. It attracted leading experts from around the world, while the structure of TTM promoted informal discussions among the participants. The event also provided opportunities to visit German research institutes and industries.

Plenary and panel topics included cloud computing, networks supporting future Applications, smart power, smart transportation, cyber physical systems, advanced medical technologies, security, collective intelligence, the future of media and silicon technology that extends 'beyond' CMOS.

A full report will follow next issue. In the meantime, for more information on what took place at this year's symposium, visit the website at ttm.ieee.org.

Bichlien Hoang
IEEE Technical Activities department,
Life Sciences

The Female Engineer of the Year award is presented to Grace Olukune

South Africa WIE honours outstanding contributors

THE IEEE South Africa Section's 2011 Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony of the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group was held on 19 November 2011 in Pretoria.

The awards honoured the achievements and contributions of South Africa's outstanding men and women in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). Certificates of appreciation were also given to the WIE STAR School, Phateng Comprehensive, and to various IEEE volunteers who were involved in making a success of the 2011 WIE activities.

The following people were honoured:
● IEEE WIE SA Female Engineer of the Year: Grace Olukune
● IEEE WIE SA Award for Human Capital Development: Hannelie Nel
● IEEE WIE SA Award for Community Service: Mr Masilo Kgatle

At the AGM, the WIE SA hosted a discussion forum for female engineers and scientists to discuss issues faced by them within South Africa, and to come up with solutions that can be carried out. Two highly successful women, Dr Thokozile Lewanika and Sibulele Mvana, presented the topics 'Leadership' and 'Succeeding as a female in a male-dominated environment', which yielded much vibrant discussion and useful advice.

To close the meeting, a networking lunch was held, allowing delegates to reflect and indulge in further discussions of some of the topics of the day.

Chioniso Dube
WIE South Africa Section
chioniso@ieee.org

Masilo Kgatle receives his award for community service

Women in Engineering conference investigates female achievement

ON 5 April, WIE Hashemite University Affinity Group held the first WIE conference at the university.

Seven successful female speakers delivered talks to almost 100 students of both genders from the Engineering faculty. There was a dominant presence of female students who were eager to hear all about the 'world out there' from our speakers.

The event started with a welcoming address from Mohammad Widyan, IEEE HU Student Branch counselor and the host. This was followed by a 10-minute video explaining best practices for overcoming challenges a female Engineer might face. Farah Mansour, WIE chair-woman, highlighted the purpose behind organising this event and also summarized a recently conducted video survey of female students entitled 'What about female engineers?' WIE-PSUT AG members also joined the conference, at which its chairwoman, Meran Nasser, also shared her thoughts.

Zain Abu Farha, ex-chairwoman of HU and a currently a control systems design manager in the private sector, shared her experience on what it is like to be a female electrical engineer in a male-dominant workplace. Pinolopi Shihab, CEO of Monojo (which manufactures antibodies), talked about her personal story of success, the ups and downs, revealing the key word behind her achievement 'passion'.

The Engineering faculty dean, Shaher Rababeh, spoke on leading financial support and scientific adoption to the scientific and engineering projects by students. Sahar Mashqba and Amany Haikal shared their own stories, answering respectively what it takes to be a 'woman of achievements' in the mechatronics and industrial engineering fields.

Ghada Mashaqba discussed the difference between industry and academic life, being one of the noteworthy lecturers in the Computer Engineering department. The final speaker, Ola Al Jundy, a project officer for UN Women, introduced the UN's female-oriented projects, announcing valuable prizes to be presented by UN Women to female winners at the National Technology Parade which will be hosted by Hashemite University this June.

Finally, the discussion panel was opened, followed by a Q&A segment to help the audience learn more about our speakers' careers, education, experience of balancing between family and work, and the important contributions to their successes. Shaher Rababeh expressed his gratitude towards our speakers, honouring them with golden medals.

Farah Mansour

Members' families were invited to celebrate IEEE Day

Iraq Section launches into spring with a busy diary

A SCIENTIFIC workshop on Mathematics and Multidisciplinary Aspects was organised at Iraq University of Technology – Applied Science department on 4 April. Its objective was to highlight the interaction of science and technology with mathematics. By engaging mathematics directly in traditional areas, other scientific disciplines could be encouraged to engage in a dialogue with mathematicians.

Iraq Section, in cooperation with the Kalimat Private Communication Company, held a scientific workshop in Karkuk University, entitled 'Communication and Internet Security, Status and Challenges'. The organiser, Mr Hussain, is a director of Kalimat and serves as the Iraq Section's industry relations officer.

The keynote was given by Sattar Sadkhan: 'The challenges of wireless communication security inside Iraq after 2003'. Also featured were four lectures by members of Iraq Section, Kalimat and Asia Cell.

At the Science College & Local Government Office of the University of Al-Muthen, Iraq Section organised its first scientific workshop, 'Electronic Government'. A keynote presented the challenges related to IT and security.

'Future Communication Networks' was the topic of ICFCN'12 at Al-Nahrain University, organised by Information Technology College in Baghdad and Delphi Project in the UK, held on 2–5 April. Of the 117 papers received, only 27 were accepted. The chairman of the conference was Prof Hamed of Brunel University, UK, who also arranged the technical co-sponsoring by IEEE UK&RI section. Prof Hamed is head of one of the Delphi Projects in Iraq in cooperation with the British Council.

In the north of Iraq, the Section celebrated IEEE Day with many members and their families. It was a nice social opportunity for the Section to invite children to this event and to explain the importance of IEEE for their future. Previously, the celebration was held in Basra City in the south, but this time it was organised in the north near Erbil City.

Dr Sattar B Sadkhan
Chairman, Iraq Section

The Section's first scientific workshop focused on Electronic Government

IEEE's 2012 Edison Medallist is honoured by President Obama

THE Cambridge Engineering alumnus who designed and built the first-ever digital camera stood side by side with Barack Obama at the White House as he was honoured with a lifetime achievement award.

Dr Michael Tompsett was handed a National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honour given by the US government to engineers and inventors. Dr Tompsett has also received two other lifetime awards: the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame 2010 Pioneer Award and the 2012 IEEE Edison Medal. The thermal-imaging camera tube developed from his invention also earned a Queen's Award in 1987.

Dr Tompsett is a British-born physicist and former researcher at English Electric Valve Company (EEV, now E2V) in Chelmsford, but who later moved to Bell Labs in America. He is best known as the developer of charge-coupled device (CCD) imagers used in digital cameras. This and his other achievements led to several enabling technologies.

Dr Tompsett reflects on his working life...

"I am proud and lucky enough to be recognised with three lifetime awards for having blazed several new trails for technologies that continue to be used today. However, all inventions are a product of their time and the ideas of many people. I have been lucky to be in situations where I was able to synthesize some of those ideas. I should also point out that I have always had talented people working with me, who made major contributions.

"A very important aspect for developing new ideas, particularly in today's always-on environment, is to take time out to look around and define a tangible problem to be solved, since inside every large problem there is always a little problem waiting to be solved.

"The Latin motto of my High School was *Incipe* ('begin') which I must have taken to heart. I would encourage all aspiring engineers to 'begin' repeatedly and be willing to deliberately move out of their comfort zone into new areas.

"I have to give credit to Brentwood School and the University of Cambridge Departments of Physics and Engineering for teaching me these things, and all the smart people that I have worked with over the years for their stimulation."

ComSoc Young Researcher Award 2011

THE IEEE Communications Society award for the most outstanding young researcher in Europe Middle East and Africa recognises individuals for the quality of their research, publications, potential and service. The 2011 recipient of the award was Michail Matthaiou of Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. Runners-up were Zaher Dawy of American University of Beirut and Henk Wymeersh of Chalmers.

Tariq S Durrani
IEEE ComSoc EMEA Region

Chapter chairs meet at MELECON

THE Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC) met at MELECON 2012 where its chairman, Daniel Pasquet, presented an overview of IEEE, along with insights into its history and organisation.

Richard Grisel, Region 8 coordinator for the Industrial Electronics Society, gave a presentation followed by information on best practices from Tunisian Microwave Theory and Techniques, the German Consumer Electronics and the joint Swedish VT/Com/IT Chapter.

Discussions continued on IEEE benefits available to members from low income countries, and Region 8 initiatives in Africa.

Daniel Pasquet

German Joint IEEE IAS/PELS/IES Chapter organises visit to KEB

FROM 17–18 November 2011, the IEEE German joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter visited the University of Applied Sciences Ostwestfalen-Lippe in Lemgo as well as the headquarters of Karl Ernst Brinkmann (KEB) GmbH, makers of electronic and mechanical drive technology in Barntrup. Ostwestfalen-Lippe ('East Westphalia Lippe') is situated in North-Rhine Westphalia, western Germany.

The Chapter had been invited by Holger Borcherding, head of the power electronic lab in Lemgo and by Wolfgang Wiele, CTO of KEB.

On the first day, Stefan Witte, vice president of the university, explained its three main locations – Lemgo, Detmold and Höxter – each of which has a different profile.

Holger Borcherding gave an overview of electric engineering and information technologies faculties, located in Lemgo. Both are active in research.

The technical talk began with the subject of grid compatibility of power electronic devices. These are most especially found in industrial environments, typically with a passive frontend coupled to a local grid.

'Energy harvesting using electro active polymers' introduced us to the working principles of dielectric polymers being used where initially the elastic structure is discharged.

Thomas Schulte closed this first session with a presentation about real-time simulation of power electronic circuits. FPGA based simulation could be a solution, he said, but a suitable toolchain is still missing, which is where his focus lies.

We toured the facilities at the Lemgo campus and the day ended with a reception with the board of KEB our host at the Steigenberger hotel in Bad Pyrmont.

On the Friday, the chapter was invited to KEB headquarters. Wolfgang Wiele welcomed us and gave the history of KEB, its products and markets.

Helmut Fichter and Volker Dalbke then gave a examples of the KEB approach to the market – in this instance involving wind turbine equipment – and showing how the inverter systems used can be optimised. In particular, the inverters for the pitch and the yaw control were in focus.

Dirk Erasmie told us how inverter drives are combined with RCD protection.

After a factory tour around the Barntrup facilities for inverter and brake production, the Chapter meeting ended with a call for new members to join IEEE.

Andreas Wagener
IEEE Joint IAS/PELS/IES Chapter Germany

Jordan summit tackles non-tech skills teaching

JORDAN GOLD and Jordan Joint CIS11/C16 Chapter, with the help of Region 8 PASC team, co-organised a Professional Activities summit on 12–13 November 2011 at King Abdullah II School for Information Technology at the University of Jordan in Amman.

It was attended by 50 members and was designed to enhance non-technical professional skills such as soft skill training, psychological and sociological issues within the business world, job searching, telecommunication management, project management, design management, engineering management and economics-related topics.

The world's top companies invest large amounts of money and resource on training programs targeting these specific skills. The Jordan Professional Activities summit offered an opportunity to develop some of these skills in much the same way as if you were attending a corporate training session.

The speakers at the summit were Prof Kurt Richter, Dr Margaretha Eriksson and Dr Hafidh AlSamarri.

Kurt Richter is actively involved in IEEE and has conducted many workshops in all over Region 8. He holds a PhD in communication engineering from the Technical University Vienna (TUW) in Austria, and is Professor Emeritus at the Technical University Graz (TUG).

Margaretha Eriksson is from Sweden and she has a PhD degree in information security from Kungliga Tekniska högskolan. Her specialty is in information security coaching project management, technical writing and translation. She is an active IEEE volunteer, having served as Sweden Section chair, is employed by Volvo Construction Equipment and also teaches information security at Halmstad University.

Hafidh AlSamerrai is from Iraq and has the PhD from the University of Technology, Loughborough, UK. He is highly qualified professional with diversified experience in engineering and management, and now is employed by the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

See more information about this outstanding event at **ieee. org/r8/jordan/PA2011**

Giving children a Christmas to remember

LAST Christmas, the Women in Engineering Affinity Group at the Instituto Superior Técnico Student Branch (WiE-IST), Lisbon, held a charitable campaign with the aim of supporting HIV-positive children. Its goal was to give these kids a glimmer of hope, by personally delivering a toy to each on Christmas.

The collection of goods took place between 5 and 16 December, and we set up a box on campus

where people could drop them. We recorded a video to promote our cause, and got professors to screen it in classes (see **www.ieee-ist. org/wie-social**). After sorting out and wrapping the presents, the members of WiE-IST spent the afternoon of 20 December playing and having lunch with the children.

It was a great journey for us! We feel like we made a difference by raising important and needed

goods including food, toys, clothes and basic hygiene products. But, most importantly, our presence, and that of others, brought joy and hope to these children, at a time when it was so direly needed. If you have the opportunity to do something like this in your branch, go ahead. You won't regret it!

Catarina Moura
WiE-IST Chair
wie@ieee-ist.org

Ahmed Al-Naamany receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Faris Al-Naimy, ICT HoD-Engineering

Funding for research can ensure GCC has a future

'BOUNTIFUL research funds are available in Gulf Countries' – this was the theme of a guest lecture delivered by Ahmed Al-Naamany, incumbent chairman of the IEEE Oman section, at Ibra College of Technology on 27 February.

It was organised by IEEE Oman Section with the ICT Engineering Department. Many attended from other colleges including Al-Musanna College of Technology, Caledonian College of Engineering and Sultan Qaboos University. Guests from Mazoon Electricity Company, Bank Sohar and Ministry of Education, Sharqiya region, were also present.

In his one-hour lecture, Dr Al-Naamany outlined the important roles that the Arab people have played relevant to the modern day. Alongside that, GCC is the world's major supplier of oil and natural gas.

He noted, however, that if the Arab people fail to contribute to research, the future may be bleak. The funds from various GCC research funding organisations should enable study towards finding alternative energy sources while the depletion of natural reserves may be inevitable. He urged the students, lecturers and guests to do something to muster a collective action to decisively meet the demands of globalisation.

Dr Al-Naamany is an associate professor in Information and Communications Technology. He is also managing director of Global Computer Services and a very active member of IEEE Computer and Control Society. He lectures on computer architecture, computer control, computer networks and artificial intelligence applications.

Arnold N Santos

R8 GOLD fully open to the world

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's the new Region 8 GOLD website.

One of the main goals for Region 8 GOLD Committee is to establish and improve internet communication to the GOLDies. Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn presences were set up at the beginning of 2011. But now, GOLDies can access the latest news and information from Region 8 GOLD in another way.

The new website has a left-hand menu with tabs related to different topics. The 'Committee' tab contains information about the GOLD Committee and iterates all the Chairs in Region 8. One of the most interesting and useful tabs is the 'How To', where all recent questions and concerns are answered.

Additionally, the 'Awards' subsection contains information about recipients of IEEE awards and calls for nominations. You can also find recent copies of publications in which Region 8 GOLD has been mentioned. In 'Local events', GOLD chairs have a chance to publish notes and pictures from their events.

One of the latest achievements of the Committee – the GOLD Book – has its own tab where you can download the electronic version. Finally, links and contact tabs resolve all the problems related to communication and searching for information within IEEE websites.

The Committee has a great hope that this website will serve you well. Naturally, nobody is perfect and improvement suggestions are always welcome to make this digital world better for everyone – especially GOLDies.

Do not hesitate to visit us at: **www.ieeer8.org/gold**.

Rafal Sliz
R8 GOLD Committee

France Section hosts seminar on Smart Cities

A seminar on Smart Cities was held on 20 December at Telecom ParisTech in Paris, France.

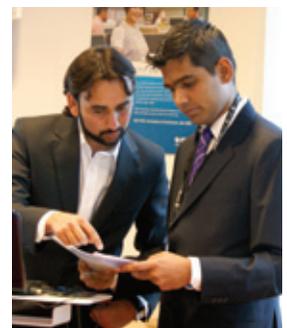Smart Cities names the vision of leading information and communications technology companies to address the main challenges of the 21st century: urbanisation and sustainable development. During the seminar, industry leaders IBM, Cisco, Siemens and INRIA revealed their different approaches and international experiences.

The event, organised by the ISEP Student Branch as a STEP (Student Transition & Elevation event), gathered 60 attendees and was followed by cocktails hosted by France Section. Videos of the speakers are available on **IEEE.tv**.

Angel Talamona
France Section Chair, GOLD AG
a.talamona@ieee.org

GOLD Sweden awards prizes in January after co-organising 2011 Student Paper Contest

IEEE-BTH Student Paper Contest 2011 was an event for young researchers to encourage them for innovation and creativity. BTH and IEEE GOLD Sweden AG were the joint organisers of the contest.

All graduate students from school of engineering, Blekinge Institute of Technology, were welcomed to participate. After analysing more than 50 papers in different areas, the Content Technical Committee, chaired by Wlodek Kulesza, declared five winners:

1. Muhammad Arif, Maboud Kaloorazi and Arash Hassanzadeh for their paper entitled 'Improving A-Scan Signal in Ultrasonic Testing by VSS-LMS and SWT'.

2. Praneeth Bejjenki, Muneeb Goraya and Syed Moid for 'Optimised Takagi-Sugeno Fuzzy Power Control Strategy for Cognitive Radio'.

3. Joyraj Chakraborty, Amir Shehni and Sundas Sheikh for 'Using Hilbert Curve Slot for Bandwidth Enhancement of Microstrip Patch Antenna'.

4. Sadh Rahmat, Sabine Mukaze and Shakira Shaheen for 'Mobile Services for Diabetic Patients' Sustainable Lifestyle'.

5. Dineshkumar Muthusamy, Hossein Sabri and Tomasz Skalski for 'Area Change Detection Based on Iterative Histogram Matching Combined with Morphological Processing'.

IEEE-GOLD Sweden AG organised the certification and appreciation ceremony for winners, technical committee and organisers on 12 January.

We appreciate the support from Sweden Section, Region 8 GOLD and all other people for their support and encouragement. We are looking for active 2012 with STEP, Industry Trip and workshops activities.

Amir Zahoor
Chair, IEEE GOLD Sweden AG
amir.zahoor@ieee.org

R8 STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Latest news from your Region 8 Student Activities team

The team (from left): Sohaib, Hossam, George, Elias, Eva, Jorge, Jef and Simay

STUDENT Branch and GOLD Congress 2012 is coming, so get ready to say hola! We have a great program, an excellent number of IEEE volunteers, and a legendary amount of fun to be had! For more information, visit the congress website now at www.sbcmadrid.es.

New website
Our website has finally been merged into the Region 8 site and now features a sleeker look and what we hope is a more streamlined and clear structure. We're happy to get feedback from you on what we can improve and what's missing: www.ieeer8.org.

50th anniversary event for students
It's time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Region 8. We encourage you to organise events in your Sections and Student Branches to commemorate this milestone. Keep an eye on the R8 SAC website for sample event ideas, graphic designs and a contest with prizes for the top three winners!

Student Paper Contest 2013
SPC 2013 has just started at the Student Branch level. The submission deadline to Region 8 of the winning papers selected during the local Student Branch Contests is 15 December. An international jury will anonymously review all papers and select five papers for an oral final, which will be held at IEEE Region 8 EUROCON conference in July 2013, in Zagreb, Croatia. SPC 2013 calls will be sent to all Region 8 SB Chairs and Counselors, as well to Section Chairs. All Region 8 student members will also get a SPC 2013 reminder.

How to plan student professional activities
Since we first wrote about the SPAA (Student Professional Awareness Activities) program in the last issue, some of the Branches in Region 8 have already boosted their professional awareness activities. If you haven't done so and you still want to organise a Branch activity to develop your soft skills such as leadership, coaching, project management and job interviews, you can benefit from the SPAA funding available for Student Branches all around the world.

Check out our website for more information.

Update your SB contact data
How long has it been since you checked/updated the contact information for your Student Branch on the official Region 8 branch listing? This is as good a time as ever! If your name/website/email is out of date, please send a message to student-services@ieee.org and ask for it to be fixed. Check now at: http://link.ieeer8.org/sb-list

The new and improved Region 8 Twin Branch Program
The Twin Branch Program (TBP) is an ongoing program in Region 8 aimed at creating links between Branches in different Sections. The TBP will be overhauled and become a lot more dynamic in 2012! How? We'll be replacing the old matching procedure with a face-to-face selection process at the SBC 2012.

Attendees will be able to register for a pair of workshops where they can meet and choose their twins for the two following years. Twin awards will also be announced by R8 SAC later on; please follow the official announcements on our website. Join the TBP to add an international dimension to your Student Branch activities!

More eBooks for free
Six new titles were added to the eBook Classics for the 2012 membership year. The full list can be found at the IEEE eBook Classic webpage: www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/products/ebookclassics.html

IEEE members now have access to more than 250 eBooks from the IEEE Press collection through IEEE Xplore, at no additional cost.

As always, do not forget to visit us at www.ieeer8.org and email us at r8sac@ieee.org. Thanks for being a member of the IEEE family!
Your Student Activities Team,
Elias, Jorge, Eva,
George, Hossam, Jef,
Simay and *Sohaib*

Caledonian College of Engineering, Muscat, Oman

CCE lecture examines electrical power

CALEDONIAN College of Engineering (CCE), Muscat, Oman IEEE Student Chapter organised a Guest Lecture on 11 March on the 'Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electrical Power'.

The program started with a welcome address by Dr Dharmasa, CCE-IEEE Branch Counselor and an introduction of the guest speaker by Afraa Abdullah Al Balushi of the Student Chapter.

Amer Al Haini, from Sultan Qaboos University, presented the various modes of generation of electrical power, their sources and their principles of generation. He also elaborated on applications of various large rating power system components used for transmission and distribution of electrical power. Further, he extended the lecture on Power System Protection and development of Electricity Sector in Oman.

CCE-IEEE Student Chapter also organised a guest lecture on 13 March on 'Manufacturing of Customised Products'. Sreekumar Nair from Sharikah Fanniyah Omaniya Switchgear Industry delivered the lecture to nearly 30 students and staff. Nair presented the various parameters to be considered, while designing the custom based products such as electrical panels and circuit breakers. Later in his lecture, he stressed the importance of strategic industrial planning and material management. The industry oriented talk was highly informative, very needful and was well received by the participants.

Dr Dharmasa
Student Branch Counsellor,
Caledonian College of Engineering

Your 50th anniversary event could win prizes

REGION 8 is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and the R8 SAC team would like to give Student Branches the opportunity to organise events to commemorate this anniversary and win prizes!

It's easy to participate. Just organise an event and upload the pictures of that event on the 50th Anniversary Celebration Contest Facebook page along with the name of your Branch. The competition has officially started and will end 30 April 2013. This gives you a whole year to win the prizes: 1st US$700, 2nd US$500 and 3rd US$300.

Prizes will be given to the organisation units of the winning entries and R8 SAC will send a surprise package as well. Let the celebrations begin!

For original event ideas, you may want to look at the IEEE Day website: www.ieeeday.org/local-event/ or email us at r8sac@ieee.org

A delegation of 11 students and three members of staff from the Engineering and Information Technology Departments of Ibra College of Technology participated in the 2nd Gulf Programming Contest (GPC), hosted at Khalifa University for Science, Technology and Research, UAE on 14–15 March.

It was the first time that the Sultanate of Oman sent delegates to this annual contest organised by IEEE UAE Section. The competition provides an excellent opportunity for students in computer science and any IT-related specialisation to demonstrate their programming and problem-solving skills and teamwork.

Each competing team consisted of three students. During the gruelling competition, the teams tried to use a computer to solve ten problems in five hours. The team with the most number of problems solved correctly at the fastest time won. The problems included computer science and engineering applications such as data structures,

The complete delegation from the Sultanate of Oman to the 2nd GPC

Ibra College of Technology, Oman

ICT participates in Gulf Programming Contest

combinatorics, graph algorithms and computational methods.

The team from the American University of Sharjah was declared champion, while two other teams from Carnegie Mellon University of Qatar bagged second and third place. All winners received valuable prizes from the different event sponsors and shall have the chance to represent GCC in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) and World Programming Contests.

Arnold N Santos
ICT Student Branch Counselor

Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan

First Jordan Student Branch Congress

JUST as PSUT has been known to initiate big new ideas in the Section and Region, such as the first Middle East Student Branch Congress back in 2009, they were on to a new idea again. The 2012 committee has organised the first Jordan Student Branch Congress (JSBC) at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT).

One main event for the JSBC was the panel discussion about the energy status in Jordan. The Student Branch feels it a social responsibility to inform young engineers about this and also to raise awareness about alternative resources and renewable energy. A heated discussion took place between a panel of professionals and policy-makers. During the discussion, questions were also asked on controversial issues about the relationship of environmental issues and politics, and suggesting solutions.

The congress also hosted a WIE meeting for all chairwomen in Jordan.

An executive committee meeting was held in which all the Ex Com teams got together to share problems and discuss future collaboration, and they also voted the next host for the JSBC.

Finally, the Chairman of the branch, Feras Shadid, launched an initiative with the collaboration of Student Branches in Jordan and support from the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC): IEEE's involvement with the national campaign organised by the ERC, in which every Branch will assign a team to raise awareness and help spread efforts by the ERC campaign throughout Jordan. This is believed to be the first nationwide collaborative effort on such a scale by students, and is expected to have a great impact on the local society.

The JSBC was a huge success. It's a small step but it will be the one annual congress to look forward to for years!

Feras Shadid
Chairman IEEE PSUT

All participants at what should be just the first of many JSBCs to come

Arab American University, Palestine

Paltel visits AAUJ for WAN workshop

IEEE Arab American University Student Branch held a workshop sponsored by Palestinian Telecommunication Company ('Paltel').

In the first part of the 'Paltel WAN Services' workshop, the director of corporate accounts, Mohammad al Qisi, explained how commercial services are provided through wide area networks and presented services through MPIP (multiprotocol label switching). He also described government networks that link ministries, and academic networks that connect Palestinian universities to Mediterranean universities.

In the second part, Firas Shalabi, director of IP planning, talked about WANs and the division across the Palestinian cities and how they replace old ISDN technologies with fibre connections.

Iyad Jaradat
Chairman, AAUJ Student Branch

Organisers promise 'best ever' SBC

IN a few weeks, the biggest student and GOLD members' event is going to take place: the Student Branch Congress in Madrid on 25–29 July. We are working hard to bring you an even better SBC, if that's possible, than the previous one in Leuven.

The SBC is not a typical congress, but an IEEE event held and supported mainly by students and for students and GOLD members. It means that there will be not only interesting workshops but also a lot of time for sharing experiences and ideas with IEEE members around all the Region 8 and even IEEE staff members. For this reason, eight different technical tracks and another eight non-technical tracks have been planned covering the majority of the IEEE topics.

For these reasons, we want to encourage you to attend or at least to follow the congress on our website (www.sbcmadrid.org) or social networks (Facebook www.facebook.com/sbcmadrid and Twitter twitter.com/#!/SBC_Madrid_2012). And don't hesitate to ask any questions.

We hope see you in Madrid!

Jorge Pacheco
IEEEsb UPM member

THE Department of Biomedical Engineering at the American University of Science & Technology held its Fifth Annual Biomedical Engineering Open House on 19 December 2011. This event marks the tenth anniversary of the department and also highlights the launching of the AUST IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) Student Branch Chapter.

Ziad Abu-Faraj, the chairman of the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Computer and Communications Engineering, gave a welcome speech. This was followed by Michel Owayjan, Counselor of the AUST Student Branch, who spoke about IEEE and its branches, chapters, and groups in Lebanon.

Subsequently, Riad Farah talked about the reality of biomedical engineering in Lebanon and the roadmap towards establishing a Biomedical Engineering Society.

Hasan Al-Nashash then gave an enlightening presentation on the state of the art in biomedical

American University of Science & Technology (AUST), Beirut, Lebanon

Bio-medical Open House sees launch of new EMBS

engineering research that is conducted at the American University of Sharjah, with specific emphasis on four areas: quantitative clinical neuroengineering, enhancement of noninvasive fetal ECG signals, quantitative monitoring of bone healing process, and the design of analog low-frequency IC filters.

The final session of the event was a one-hour live Skype video-conference with Silvestro Micera from Pisa, Italy. His presentation on 'Controlling Hand Prostheses using Implantable Intraneural Electrodes' was not only comprehensive but very informative.

Ziad O Abu-Faraj

Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal

IST SB coaches brilliant minds into engineering

IST Student Branch organised TISP activities on 28 February, visiting five high schools with a reach of more than 1,000 students.

High school students were delighted with our engineering activities and experience, their saw in us their future studies. We succeeded in attracting lots of young and brilliant minds to engineering, by enlightening them with all the cool stuff engineers do. We also shared our achievements and stories as IEEE members.

We plan to upload a video reporting the event, so stay tuned at our website **www.ieee-ist.org**.

David Dias

University of Patras, Greece

Seminar series attracts students and professors

THE IEEE EMBS Student Chapter in University of Patras has organised a series of technical seminars.

The 3rd Seminar of EMBS Student Chapter, entitled 'Tissue Engineering', was held with great success on 13 January in co-operation with the Student Branch of the University of Patras, as part of a Seminar Series on Biomedical Engineering. More than 120 students and professors from different scientific fields attended.

D Papachristou presented the role of stem cells in regenerative medicine, emphasising bone diseases. I Misirlis gave an introduction to Tissue Engineering, and Rodrigo Romanowski and Cristian d'Alessandro, chair and vice-chair of EMBS Student Chapter of the Favaloro University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, presented the Windkessel Model: 'An Introduction to Cardiovascular Engineering'.

The 4th Seminar was 'Neuroengineering', held on 20 February, based on a survey for students' interests.

The 5th Seminar was 'Fuzzy Systems and Bioinformatics', held on 9 March.

'Fuzzy Systems for Medical Applications' and 'Medical Decisions on the New Technological Medical Environment' have also been topics. The 6th and 7th Seminar, 'Plasma & Laser Technology in Biomedicine' on 26 March, attracted more than 150 students and professors from different scientific fields of Patras University who had the opportunity to interact and prove the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration.

For further information, visit our site: **http://emb.ieee-upatras.gr**

Eirini Kaisari
EMBS Student Chapter Vice-Chair

Ibra College of Technology, Oman

Student Branch leads Multisim workshop for Physics teachers

TWENTY-FIVE high school teachers from various parts of the Northern Sharqiya region of the Sultanate of Oman learned the basics of electric circuit simulations using Multisim software as a new approach for teaching Physics among the new generation of high school students.

The training was held at Sumaiyah High School in Safalat, Ibra, Sultanate of Oman on 21 February. Mohamad Ali Al-Mahrooqi and Areej

Sulaiman Al-Ghunaimi, chairman and vice-chairman respectively of Ibra College of Technology Student Branch, facilitated the workshop under the supervision of Arnold Santos, the Branch Counselor.

The two students demonstrated the use of Multisim in drawing and analysing simple as well as complex electric circuits. The activity was conceptualised by Mr Santos as part of plans to extend technical services to the nearby communities.

Future plans include the conducting of actual hands-on experiments for high school Physics teachers in the newly opened state-of-the art Physics Laboratory of the Engineering Department of Ibra College of Technology.

Arnold Santos
ICT-IEEE Student Branch Counselor

Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT), Jordan

Future of the environment?

THE Student Branch organised a PSUT Environment event on 3 April at the university with a main goal of spreading awareness among the students, and to announce future plans for the Environmental Office.

After an introduction from Waleed Zaghloul, head of the Environmental Office, Abo Saleem, a freelance environmental consultant in Amman, discussed environmental issues with the students, based on his experience in Jordan. A video is available at: **www.youtube.com/watch?v=nos579hf_wA**

Technology and Us is another event organised by the IEEE-PSUT Technical Development office. The purpose of this event is to discuss our status with technology and its use and how it's affecting our lives.

Fadia graduated from PSUT with interactive discussion on 'What is technology and its effect on our lives': what we think is the best use of technology – online social media in particular – and its effect on the educational level of the people.

Waleed Zaghloul

Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey

Student Branches assemble in Istanbul for regional meeting

THE Turkish regional Meeting of Student Branches in Istanbul was co-organised by Dogus University Student Branch, IEEE-TR CAS Chapter and the Electronics and Communications Engineering Department (ECED) on 17 March.

More than 150 IEEE student members from 18 different universities attended the meeting. Elif Çepni, the Rector of Dogus University, gave the opening speech and

İzzet Cem Göknar, head of Dogus University ECED, attended the meeting with his speech about the history of IEEE and achievements of the Circuits and Systems Society. Levent Sevgi offered his autographed books to IEEE student volunteers.

Mert Karaosmanoglu, the chair of Dogus University Student Branch, indicated that the meeting was one of the most beneficial in Turkey.

Cem Goknar

Tanta University, Tanta, Egypt

Soft skills and technical training event

TANTA Student Branch held its first soft skills and technical mid-year training event, a whole week of training from 4 to 9 February.

The main purpose was to help the MIU (Made In University) competitors in their projects and prepare them to work in their teams to achieve their goals. The technical element aims to give basic concepts to students in preparatory and first years. For

higher grades, it helps to increase their technical information and refresh their memory.

The soft skills element aims to help students in all grades to improve their presentation and marketing skills, how to work in a team, how to be an entrepreneur and how to find a sponsor.

Mohamed Alzahaby
TSB Vice Chair

University of Cyprus

Industry visit watches the wind

University of Cyprus Student Branch visiting a local wind farm

Arab Academy for Science & Technology, Alexandria, Egypt

SPAV event: Leading Your Career, Leading Your Society

IEEE Arab Academy for Science & Technology Alexandria's Student Branch is proud to present its Student Professional Awareness Venture (SPAV): Leading Your Career Leading Your Society.

Its aim is to provide senior students and recent graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their professional lives. The venture took place on 11–13 February and was based on the theme of 'Embracing Success'.

Along with our hosting partner, Arab Academy for Science and Technology in Alexandria, it was sponsored by ITIDA, Google, Science Age Society and Momentum. IEEE Region 8 and Event Earl acted as contributing partners. The event hosted around 200 attendees and had IEEE representatives from different branches around Egypt Section, such as IEEE Alexandria Student Branch, IEEE Fayoum Student Branch and IEEE Misr University for Science & Technology Student Branch.

The event program was an extremely intensive, covering 30 hours in three days with a total of 20 speakers. Out of the 23

sessions, seven were technical-oriented in which three were hands-on practical workshops in the fields of Automation, Electronics and Software Engineering. The remaining 16 were based on success stories, career tracking and soft-skills sessions, including such topics as Leading in the Digital Age, Leadership and Organisational Behaviour, Conflict Management, Business English,

Presentation Skills and Accelerated Learning.

The feedback was extremely positive with excellent ratings. Finally, with the vast amount of experience gained, AAST Alexandria Student Branch look forward to hosting this event again next year.

Hossam Fahmy
Web Activities Coordinator, Region 8 SAC
Student Representative, Egypt Section

ON 1 February, the Student Branch of the University of Cyprus (UCY) organised a lecture on 'The Art and Joy of Research and Innovation', delivered by Marios M Polycarpou, president of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society.

The Branch honoured Prof Polycarpou for his efforts in promoting engineering in Cyprus while serving as founding chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Cyprus.

A week later, the UCY Student Branch organised a field trip to a local wind farm in the Larnaca region, on 8 February. Some 56 students participated and were given a guided tour of the facilities by the wind farm's head engineer.

The Power and Energy Society Chapter of the UCY Student Branch organised another lecture on 14 March, entitled 'Is the US electric grid ready for massive PHEV penetration?' This was delivered by Sid Suryanarayanan of Colorado State University.

Agathoklis Papadopoulos

University of Alexandria, Egypt

Hydro-electric power seen up close at High Dam visit by Student Branch

ON 31 January, 16 members of Alexandria Student Branch set off to visit one of the biggest electricity generators, the High Dam in Aswan, South Egypt.

The High Dam itself is considered one of the greatest achievements in Egypt's history. It protects Egyptian lands from floods and droughts and increases agricultural production and employment. Also, its completion led an industrial revolution by being a main source of energy, as it is a hydro-electric power station that has 12 turbines.

Beholding such greatness as the complex mechanism of the High Dam, the participants came back home with a better concept of the technology, having seen it for themselves.

Mahmoud Moussa
Reporting and Publications Committee,
Alexandria Student Branch
mahmoud.moussa@ieee.com

Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain

SBs of Spain assemble in Barcelona

ALL the Student Branches of the Spain Section got together at for their annual N-SBC (National Student Branch Congress) on 22–24 March. This year the organiser was the Branch of the Technical University of Catalonia.

Every participant discussed the new challenges and activities of their Branches. Also, attendees took the opportunity to visited the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (**www.bsc.es**) where the Marenostrum, the most powerful supercomputer in Spain, is located.

During the closing day, we had many good times in the Calçotada at a typical Catalan meal. This year we also welcomed the new Student Branch of the University of Valencia, which will organise next year's National Student Branch Congress.

Jose Ángel Mateo Vivaracho
Student Section Representative
anjel@ieee.org

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Learning lessons from TV's *The Colony*

ON 4 April, at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Student Branch Ljubljana, with the cooperation of IBM Slovenia and IEEE Slovenia Section, hosted a guest lecture delivered by John Cohn, IBM and IEEE Fellow.

The lecture was entitled 'Lessons From The Colony', in which Mr Cohn shared with us his experiences gained during participating in the *Discovery Channel* TV reality show *The Colony*. After the lecture, a round table was held, moderated by Jadran Lenarčič, the director of Institut Jožef Stefan.

The event was well attended by more than 200 participants.

Katarina Gašperlin
katarina.gasperlin@ieee.org

University of Patras, Greece

Games Expo is the biggest SB event to date in Greece

A series of successful events from the Student Branch, and the expertise combined with the appetite of the members, has led to the establishment of the IEEE Computer Society Student Chapter of the University of Patras, Greece.

The Chapter organised the first Panhellenic Games Expo at the University of Patras on 16 March at the Conference and Cultural Centre of the University of Patras. This was attended by more than 1,000 students, professionals and researchers.

The main Goal of Games Expo 2012 was to bring together a series of speeches by researchers and Greek companies operating in the area of gaming. It also informed the public about the field of gaming, the future of video games and business solutions in this area. Each participating company delivered a presentation while it had its own stand in the event.

A friendly atmosphere enabled all attendees to learn about the activities of the companies, recruit-

ment opportunities and current gaming development projects. Personal contact and dialogue between companies, researchers and young people produced interesting proposals and prospects for participants from both sides.

For details, see **www.computer.ieee-upatras.gr** and **www.games-expo.ieee-upatras.gr**

Marios Bikos
Chair, Computer Society
Student Chapter
Vice-Chair, Student Branch

Toulon-Var University, France

Tunisia and France team up to stage TISP workshop

AFTER the great success of its first and second TISP workshops, Tunisia Section co-organised with the IEEE Education Society (ES) Tunisia Chapter the HANDIBIO laboratory, a TISP session held on 21 Marchin Toulon-Var University in France.

The workshop was a success, attracting 24 participants including more than 15 educators and young university teachers. Teaching material was generated from the TryEngineering website (**www.tryengineering.com**), which is a resource for students aged 8–18, their parents, their teachers and school counselors about engineering and engineering careers.

Philippe Gorce, chair of HANDIBIO laboratory, introduced the context and the main objective of the TISP event in France and spoke about IEEE's involvements in educational at the pre-university level. IEEE member Riadh Besbes opened the program by showing how TISP

Engineering Students working on their Trebuchet Toss project

activities were a solution to enhance the education of Tunisian students. Mohamed Moncef Ben Khelifa also helped lead this event.

During the evening, two practical sessions were held by groups of participants about 'Rotational Equilibrium' and 'Trebuchet Toss'. Participants were shown that a high level of engineering analysis allows them to find the best solutions.

Riadh Besbes

Members of the jury with two winners

Tunisia CAS Chapter
Winners chosen at IC design student contest

IN conjunction with the 23rd International Conference on Microelectronics ICM'2011 hosted in Tunisia on 19–22 December 2011, the IEEE Tunisia CAS Chapter organised the 1st IC Design Student Contest on Design of Analog, Digital, Mixed and RF Integrated Circuits. The final oral session was held on 21 December, and three finalists received awards from IEEE Tunisia CAS Chapter.

First prize went to Rahma Aloulou for her contribution, 'An Improved MOS Charge Pump circuit for Low Voltage Operations and wireless sensor applications'.

Second prize was awarded to Dhouha Daoud for her contribution, 'A Wireless Data and Power Recovery for Biomedical Microsystems Implants'.

Third prize went to Imen Ghorbel for her contribution, 'Design and Implementation of an active inductor based LC oscillator'.

Mourad Loulou Chair, Tunisia CAS Chapter
Hassene Mnif Vice Chair Tunisia CAS Chapter
www.ceslab.org/icm2011/TN_CAS_Contest.html

"GRAB those robots and may the best humans win!" This is the sentence that opened RoboMAC 2012, which for the third time was organised by the Student Branch of Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia, in cooperation with EESTEC LC Skopje, taking place on 19–25 February at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT). The event was supported by IEEE Macedonia, IEEE Region 8 VCF and IEEE CSS.

RoboMAC is an international robotics competition and workshop. The main purpose of this event is to popularise robotics among students and young people in Macedonia and the region, but our goal is also the initialisation and support of many other projects related to robotics.

Besides work and competitions, the participants had the opportunity to see a presentation of a group of students and assistants at the faculty who won first place in the competition Hardware & Software last October in Novi Sad, Serbia, and to hear lectures by 11 professors and experts in the field

Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia
RoboMAC 2012 receives extensive media coverage

of robotics in different topics. This year, we welcomed the participation of 35 international students from across Europe along with 70 domestic students.

The competition was held in four categories: sumo, maze, race with obstacles and humanoids. The finals took place on 25 February in the Macedonian Opera and Ballet in front of a large audience and enjoyed wide media coverage.

For all of us at the IEEE Student Branch of Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Macedonia, it was a feeling of pride to see that our event successfully put robotics into the public limelight.

Iva Matic
Chair, Student Branch

Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
Future Tech conference focuses on soft skills and job hunting

ON 7–14 March, the Student Branch of Universidade Nova de Lisboa held the IEEE Future Tech 2012 at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Monte da Caparica, Portugal.

In the current social-economics context, IEEE Future Tech 2012 consisted of two conferences related to the importance of soft skills and how to approach the first job. These lectures were delivered by two prestigious speakers, José Rocha and Manuel Carneiro (**www.share.pt**), and counted with an audience of about 140 students from several scientific areas.

The lectures addressed some questions that often trouble students when first exposed to the business world. Given the informal atmosphere, many students intervened by presenting their point of view and preconceptions, allowing the speakers to elaborate by describing real case scenarios from their rich history.

With the lectures ending on a positive note, we plan to organise similar events in the near future.

Miguel Marques
Chair, UNL Student Branch

National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS), Tunisia
Android workshop is big attraction

ON 7 April, the Student Branch in the National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS) held with great success an Android workshop entitled 'Yasmine Open Day 7', in partnership with the Sfax GTUG (Google Technology User Group) and L2T (Landolsi Telecom Technology).

The goal of the day was to help attendees to develop Android applications for the benefit of humanity.

After the opening, the workshop begin with two plenary talks on 'The Android Operating System' and 'Yasmine Market and its advantage'. Then attendees were divided into four groups to join four practical sessions presented by expert trainers from L2T on 'API PhoneGAP', 'Parse XML feed', 'Forms and SQLite/Android ADB Utilities', and 'The developer account on Yasmine Market'.

Walid Landolsi, CEO of L2T, introduced the Android Yasmine Market

Q&A sessions were filled with questions with over 150 participants enjoyed the day. More details: **http://android.ieee-enis.org**

Habib Kammoun
Chair, ENIS Student Branch
www.ieee-enis.org

Region 8 student wins Computer Society scholarship

IVA Bojic of Region 8 is one of 14 winners of last year's IEEE Computer Society Richard E Merwin Student Scholarship.

This scholarship is given to students that have outstanding involvement in a CS Student Chapter, excellence in academic achievement, and promise in future efforts.

Iva is member of CS and WIE and currently serves as the Croatia Section Student Representative. Along with this award, she also got the opportunity to serve as the CS Student Ambassador for Region 8, whose duties include disseminating information to Student Branches and Chapters in the Region and serving as a liaison between the CS MGA Board and student members.

Under her leadership, the 54th edition of the ELMAR conference was the first to host Student Sessions. She has also organised lectures and workshops with representatives from Croatian and international companies.

Iva has finished two MSc programs and is currently in the third year of her PhD in Computer Science. We congratulate Iva and wish her all the best!

Jorge Soares
R8 Student Representative

Student contest winners celebrate awards during the conference banquet

MELECON 2012 is venue for original student contests

ON 25–28 March, the IEEE Tunisia section successfully organised three student contests during the 16th IEEE Region 8 MELECON 2012 in Yassmine Hammamet.

The contests were: Best Student Branch Video presenting membership development events, Best Green Technology Video presenting green technologies, and Best Student Booth to present IEEE and the Student Branch in a better way. The National Engineering Schools of Sfax (ENIS) and Tunis (ENIT), the National School of Computer Science (ENSI) and the Higher School of Communication of Tunis (Sup'Com) Student Branches participated.

Student delegates presented their Student Branches and their created videos in the presence of a jury composed of Region 8 MELECON 2012 guests.

The conference banquet was a good occasion for the winners to celebrate their awards: ENIS Student Branch won the Best Booth award, ENSI Student Branch won Best Video, and Sup'Com won the Best Green Technology video.

Students enjoyed the organisation of MELECON in Tunisia, especially the student activities, and are looking forward to participating in future IEEE conferences.

For more details, go online to **www.melecon2012.org**

Habib Kammoun
Chair, GOLD Tunisia AG

The contest finalists mingle with the jury

Student Paper Contest finals take place in Hammamet

RUNNING for 45 years, the Region 8 Student Paper Contest is the traditional and probably the oldest IEEE student activity in the Region. The SPC is for student members or graduate student members that have not yet started their PhD.

Some 29 student papers were accepted and graded, with contestants from 21 Sections and 26 different Student Branches. The first phase of selecting of the best five papers for Oral Finals finished at the end of January.

The second phase, the Oral Finals, were held in Medina Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, on 27 March during MELECON 2012. The jury awarded three prizes from the IEEE Life Member Fund: first prize to Mike Rinderknecht from Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL) Student Branch, Switzerland Section; second prize to Chen Zhu from Technical University of Munich Student Branch, Germany Section; and third prize to Augustin Cosse from Catholique University of Louvain Jt CAS-004 Student Branch, Benelux Section. EPFL Student Branch also won the R8 Dick Poortvliet Award.

All of the finalists' papers were included in the MELECON 2012 Proceedings for all attendees.

George Paunovic
Student Paper Contest coordinator

Summer School on Innovation looks at matters of governance

THE Sfax Subsection and GOLD Tunisia Affinity Group successfully held a Summer School on Innovation (SSG 2012) on 18–21 March in Sousse. The event was co-organised with the Research Group on Intelligent machines and the Association of Sustainable Innovation in Tunisia.

The Summer School was sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). More than 50 IEEE members participated, learning about governance abilities and how to improve their knowledge and skills for a better governance. A series of high-level talks were presented on governance and its role to the scientific and economic progress, e-governance, governance on scientific research laboratories, on companies, and on technoparks, and on local governance.

For more details, go to the website at **http://ssg.regim.org**.

Adel M Alimi Chair, Sfax Subsection
http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia-sfax
Habib Kammoun Chair, GOLD Tunisia AG
http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia-gold

Hashemite University, Jordan

SB arranges training session in air conditioning systems

Students attending the three-hour course at LG AC Academy in Amman

HASHEMITE University Student Branch organised a trip to LG AC Academy in Amman on 4 March, where the students and members received a three-hour training session about LG Technologies in air conditioning systems. The AC Academy Administration also expressed an interest in organising a full-time training course in the future cooperation with the Student Branch.

Hussam Ebbini from LG introduced the LG Companies and explained how the AC Academy fits in the organisation's technologies. The trip started with a one-hour lecture about VRF Systems and their differences from ordinary AC Systems and its advantages such as saving power and space. He took each component separately, describing its role in making the AC system work: compressors, oil separators, condensers, ducts, cassettes, split units, etc.

Then the whole group moved into the showroom where they got a brief description about LG environmental friendly products currently being produced: LED lighting units, high-efficiency solar cells, and ozone-friendly AC units.

The visit finished with a visit to the lab where we enjoyed a hands-on session and demonstration.

Abdelrahman AlSaifi

Introducing the new voluntary teams

ON 9 February, IEEE Hashemite University Student Branch formed voluntary teams with about 80 volunteers all ready to sign up.

Student Branch chair Abdelrahman AlSaifi gave a brief introduction on the mission and vision of these voluntary teams. Active member Mohammad Awwad gave a presentation entitled 'Open Source: Software and Hardware', in which he introduced Linux and open source systems.

Vice chair Anas Nassar introduced the Hardware Design and Robotics Team, and began with an exciting presentation about robots and circuit design. WIE Affinity Group chair Farah Mansour announced the commencement of WIE activities for the upcoming semester, and announced a WIE conference at which a TEDx-like experience is being planned to boost female engineers' participation in activities and their studies at engineering college.

Finally, Abdallah Al-Dalleh introduced the Programming Team, in order to start preparing for participating in IEEEXtreme 6.0, taking place at the end of the year.

Abdelrahman AlSaifi