

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/8/>

<http://www.ieee.org/regional/r8/>

From the Regional Director



My term as R8 Director passed by much faster than anticipated. In my last report I will try to give a resumé of R8 activities and achievements during the past two years.

One of my priorities was to concentrate on member needs and problems, in particular in areas with inadequate infrastructure. Since I had received many e-mails from members asking for help with all kinds of IEEE problems, I decided to establish the "R8 Help Desk". This is a

group of R8 Volunteers, including the IEEE Brussels Office, dedicated to help solving our members' problems (for a list of names see the R8 News).

My first Section visit was to Iran, an exciting and very successful trip. Since that time, almost 10 new student branches and chapters were formed there, and many other IEEE activities like student conferences and workshops were held in Tehran.

Another visit was to the Gulf area, which I believe was completely neglected in the past. I visited the Saudi Arabia and UAE Sections, and attended a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting,

where the present 3 Gulf Sections are cooperating. New initiatives such as a student contest and conference, new chapters and branches were discussed, and several neighbor countries are preparing to become sub-Sections or Sections.

Region 8 has a large number of members who do not belong to any Section. In IEEE terminology they belong to Section 99. Section 99 members are of particular concern to the Region 8 Committee because they cannot receive the benefits of belonging to an active Section. We decided to establish a Section 99 Coordinator

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Section and Chapter News

DENMARK

Seven IEEE Third Millennium Medals to Denmark Section

The Denmark Section Chair Soren Holdt Jensen presented seven IEEE Third Millennium Medals at a meeting in April 2000 to the following Danish IEEE Volunteers:



The photo shows from left to right: S.H. Jensen, J.D. Andersen, J. Langeland, P.M. Larsen, C. Kloch, G. Bruun, O. Skovgaard, and J.B. Andersen.

- ♦ Jorgen Bach Andersen, Institute of Electronic Systems, Aalborg University, IEEE Fellow, Section Chair 1992-94
- ♦ Jens Damgaard Andersen, Institute for

Computer Science, Copenhagen University, chair of Computer Chapter 1999-2000, Section Chair 1984

- ♦ Georg Bruun, Professor Emeritus, Founder of the Denmark Section in 1968
- ♦ Jens Langeland, Terma Electronics, Section Chair 1995-97
- ♦ Christian Kloch, L.M. Ericsson, Section Secretary 1999-2000
- ♦ Peer Martin Larsen, Section Chair 1970-71 & 1985-88, Region 8 Director 1995-1996
- ♦ Ove Skovgaard, Institute for Mathematics, Technical University, Section Chair 1989-91

Peer Marten Larsen
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FRANCE

The France CAS Chapter Chair has changed. Agnieszka Konczykowska has given up the position although she will stay on the committee.

The new Chapter Chair is:

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(Jaafar Al-Ibrahim) with a small team to help those colleagues to either become a contiguous member (belonging to a neighbor Section) or to help forming new sub-Sections or Sections, new branches or chapters. This team was very successful and within one year the Jordan and Iceland Sections were formed and several others are preparing for new sub- or full Sections. (Lebanon, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, Morocco, and Zimbabwe amongst others)

Chapters are the most active technical entities in our region. We have by far the highest increase in Chapter formations within IEEE. Our active Chapter Coordinator Tony Davies has run several activities in cooperation with the Technical Activities Board to further promote R8 Chapters. Every year the Div I+IV R8 Chapter meeting is held successfully, and in 2000 we started a first Div IX meeting with SPS as a major sponsor in Istanbul. Due to the outstanding efforts of our organizers (G. Mollova and T. Davies) it too was a great success. In 2001 we will continue with this type of chapter meeting with ComSoc at ICC in Helsinki.

Student Activities have always enjoyed the highest priority in R8 programs. Our dynamic R8 SAC team (under G. Bozdagi and Javi Macias-Guarasa) has organized many successful activities, from which I want to single out our outstanding Student Branch Congress, SBC 2000 in Eindhoven. It was "the R8 highlight" in 2000 with 150 students from all over the world attending. All students enjoyed the excellent technical program and the social atmosphere, and looking forward to the next SBC (see also R8 News August 2000).

At several R8 student events it was recommended that IEEE should assist with international student exchanges for IEEE student members. With the active help of T. Hissey and an international task force we started an "IEEE Student Exchange Program (SEP)". IEEE can of course not establish personal contacts, the idea is to provide worldwide contact names and addresses, e-mail and URLs via the IEEE Website. So far we have already established three worldwide lists with the available information:

- ♦ List 1 provides contact information from universities, which already have existing student exchange programs.
- ♦ List 2 gives names and addresses for industrial companies offering internships and practical work for students and young engineers.
- ♦ List 3 provides contact information for universities with IEEE student branches, offering summer courses and other study opportunities open for foreign students.

The lists are due to be published in the web by year-end 2000 or early 2001.

We held successful AFRICON 99 and MELECON 2000 conferences and started a pilot conference on "Electrical Engineering Education in the Third Millennium" with the United Engineering Foundation (UEF) as a sponsor. It took place in Davos, Switzerland during September 2000, and attracted high level Keynote speakers and many members. For 2001 we are preparing for EUROCON 2001 together with an Accreditation Workshop organized by our experts from the US.

Several Sections complained that we do not have enough R8 speakers in the IEEE Distinguished Lecturers Program. Our VC Technical Activities, K. Richter started a new R8 Lecturers Program to supplement the official IEEE list. Your offers to participate in this activity are most welcome.

IEEE like the rest of the world is presently in a transition phase from paper mail to digital mail. R8 is following this process and we send most of our information for R8 meetings, invitation letters, minutes and others by e-mail. Unfortunately a small number of R8 Chairs and members are not yet reachable by e-mail, have problems with downloads or need address updates. We still have to improve this in the future. Our Electronic Communications Coordinator has been very successful with our R8 Homepage. Important information such as the monthly bulletin, conference calendar, the R8 Committee address roster and many others are already available.

In my US function as a member of RAB and the Board of Directors I tried to emulate my predecessor M. Papo, making IEEE

truly more "global," and to implement many good ideas for transnational activities. I also educated IEEE and my board colleagues on the problems and needs of our smaller Sections and low-income countries, and to allow more non-US representation in US committees and boards.

We are presently trying to improve contacts and cooperation between Regions/Sections and Divison/Societies at the Board level. Very often the Society Presidents do not know what Regions and Sections can do and are doing for them. On the other hand Section Chairs do not know much about planned Society activities in their countries.

As a member of the Individual Benefit and Services Committee (IB&SC) I made several proposals to improve the financial benefits to R8 members. However I had first to learn about the difficulties of providing our members with similar benefits as our US colleagues. Often these related to legal aspects in the countries where the Sections are. The diversity of our region makes it almost impossible to enjoy the same benefits as in the USA. My successor L. Onural will continue working in this committee.

In discussions with IEEE HQ, I recommended the continuation and activation of the European Operation Center (Brussels Office). I am convinced that the Brussels Office – sufficiently staffed – can give excellent services to our R8 members and other R8 activities. In particular we discussed possibilities for special support to the R8 Committee Meetings, R8 Conferences, Membership Development and Chapter activities as well as administrative and other member support.

Besides my regular R8 commitments as a Past Director I will continue to be concerned with my initiatives and new programs. This is the best way to guarantee continuity.

At the end of my term I would like to thank everybody for the friendship and support I have received from all of you, officers and members alike. I have no doubt that you will continue offering this support to my successor Levent Onural as well. ♦

*Rolf Remshardt
Region 8 Director*

Section and Chapter News *continued*

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GERMANY

The number of IEEE members in Germany is large and continues to grow rapidly. In order to enable both the Excom of the German Section and its Chairman to contact the members more easily, Oliver Keitmann (e-mail: O.Keitmann@ieee.org) took on the task to make a list of the e-mail addresses of all members in the Section. He almost succeeded with the exception of a few cases by using the membership files of Headquarters. If any member of the German Section suspects that Headquarters does not have your latest e-mail address, please send this to Dr. Keitmann. Communication with members will then be much easier, possible at relatively short intervals in order to distribute short-term information and in general make activities in the Section even livelier than they are already at present.

It is surprising from the statistics of the Section that there are often many members in one or the other of the IEEE Societies without any German Chapter being created. Here Excom of the Section proposes that some of the leading personalities of that Society in Germany should take the initiative in the interest of IEEE members to start a corresponding chapter. The Section funds are of course limited, but some financial assistance can be provided in such situations.

The International Workshop on Acoustic Echo and Noise Control will be held in Darmstadt, Germany, from 10 to 13th September 2001. This is the seventh biennial workshop focusing on signal processing for acoustic echo and noise control with typical applications in telephony, voice control systems and conferencing systems. The internet address is <http://www.iwaenc2001.com>

There are many other conferences in

the Section. Organizers are invited to inform me in time so that I can briefly mention them in the short report of our German Section.

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Chairman of the German Section
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web: <http://www.tu-darmstadt.de/fb/et>

GREECE

The Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology Society Chapter of the Greece Section has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 21 July 2000. The interim Chair is Dr.

Nikolaos K Uzunoglu
(nuzu@cc.ece.ntua.gr)

The Vehicular Technology Chapter of the Greece Section has changed status to include the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society. The effective date of this Chapter change is 17 July 2000. The interim Chair is Dr. Fontini-Niovi Pavlidou
(niovi@vergina.eng.auth.gr)

ITALY

The Robotics and Automation Society joint Chapter of the Northern Italy/Central & South Italy Sections has been formed. The effective date of this Chapter formation is 21 June 2000. The interim Chair is Dr. Paolo Fiorini. Dr. Fiorini's e-mail is fiorini@helios.jpl.nasa.gov.

NIGERIA

The Graduates Of the Last Decade Affinity Group of the Nigeria Section has been formed. The effective date of this Affinity Group formation is 3 August 2000. The Acting Chair is Isaac A. Adekanye. His e-mail address is given as ignazio.scaccia@naoc.agip.it.

RUSSIA

The Broadcast Technology/Communications Society joint Chapter of the Russia Section (St.Petersburg) has changed status to include the Circuits and Systems Society. The effective date of this Chapter change is 27 July 2000. The Acting Chair is Dmitry A. Tkachenko (ppdkach@dux.ru).



Professor Wilhelm Leuschner (right) congratulates Alfons Bogalecki, one of the finalists at the Region 8 Student Paper competition in Cyprus.

SOUTH AFRICA

IEEE President Bruce Eisenstein visited South Africa early in August this year. He managed to pack a number of presentations into an extremely busy schedule, with barely enough time for sightseeing. After a few relaxing days in the Cape Town area he addressed a meeting organized by the West Cape Branch of the SAIEE, with which the IEEE has a Cooperation Agreement, on 3 August in Cape Town. This was followed the next day by a presentation to the students at the Faculty of Engineering of Stellenbosch University.

From the Cape he flew to a private game reserve bordering Kruger National Park. After a relaxing weekend he resumed his hectic schedule. On 8 August he was the guest speaker at a gala function hosted by the IEEE South Africa Section and the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering. His talk addressed issues pertinent to South Africa in the Global Economy. Guests included the final year students of the Department and numerous personalities representing industry and academia. He presented Millennium Medals to Prof. Jan Malherbe, immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at University of Pretoria, and Mr Simon Mangwengwende, the Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority.

During the function the Head of Department, Prof. Wilhelm Leuschner, pre-

sented a certificate to Alfons Bogalecki, a post graduate student who had represented the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Pretoria at the Finals of the Region 8 Student Paper Competition in Cyprus earlier in the year. His paper was based on a project undertaken in his final year in 1999.

On 10 August President Eisenstein addressed the entire student body of just under 600 students in the EECE Department of Pretoria University on entrepreneurship.

During his visit he made many new friends for IEEE and experienced the increasing globalization of the IEEE at first hand.

*Duncan Baker
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SWEDEN

The Engineering Management Society started a new Chapter in Stockholm,

Sweden, with effect 1 May 2000. Twenty-four members signed in to found the IEEE Engineering Management Chapter, among them the IEEE Sweden Section Chair Margaretha Eriksson and the founding board members.

During its first year, the chapter's main goal is to form a strong network for exchange of information and experience, through meetings and individual contacts.

This board is setting up the program for the rest of year 2000 and prepares for the election of the 2001 board, to be elected during Fall. Two meetings are planned during Fall 2000, as visits to companies where our members work, combined with informal discussions.

Members of the Board:

Chair: Jan Österlund, The Royal Institute of Technology, Senior Consultant within Engineering Management

Vice Chair/Program chair: Lisbeth Crabo

Ljungman, Ericsson Business Consulting
Secretary: Nils Johnny Kristensson,
Ericsson Telecom AB
Treasurer: Antoni Fertner, Ericsson
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Our URL: http://www.ieee.se/Chapters/em_Chapter/em_chapter.asp

*Margaretha Eriksson
IEEE Sweden Section Chair,
margaretha.eriksson@ieee.org*

UKRAINE

The Electron Devices/Microwave Theory and Techniques/Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology Society joint Chapter of the Ukraine Section (Kiev) has changed status to include the Solid State Circuits Society. The effective date of this Chapter change is 7 September 2000. The Interim Chair is Prof. Yuri M. Poplavko. ♦

Chapter Chairs Meeting

A one-day Division IX R8 Chapter Chairs Meeting was held on 4th June 2000 in Istanbul, Turkey.

This was an initiative of the IEEE R8 Committee, directly modeled on the very successful Div.I+Div.IV R8 Chapter Chairs annual Meetings organized by ED and MTT Societies, which have been held recently (Ludwigsburg 1997, Amsterdam 1998, Leuven 1999), the next of which will be in Paris on 1 st October 2000.

The Istanbul location and date were chosen to fit in with the ICASSP Conference, which is the major annual Conference of the Signal Processing Society. Financial support for the Meeting was provided by the Signal Processing Society and by R8.

This event was an unique opportunity for Division IX Chapter Chairs from all parts of R8 to meet each other and to exchange their experiences. We were very pleased to have as official guests at the meeting the President of the Signal Processing Society (Panos Papamichalis), the Past President of the Signal Processing Society (Leah Jamieson), the R8 Director Elect (Levent Onural), and IEEE President

Elect (Joel Snyder).

Additionally, 14 R8 Signal Processing Chapter Chairs and 1 Organizer of a new SP Chapter from North Italy presented their Chapters at our event, and also 8 Chapter Chairs from other Div. IX Societies attended the Meeting.

Total attendance was 35, and we consider that this is a good result for this pilot project. The Signal Processing Society responded very favourably to this initiative and are now considering organizing such Chapter Chairs meetings themselves at future ICASSP conferences.

The principal objectives of the Meeting were: to improve the quality of Chapter operations and the services offered to the IEEE membership; to stimulate the formation of new Chapters; to ensure an effective guidance and assistance to ensure good operation of existing Chapters; to help Chairs to establish better contacts with the management of parent Societies, Sections, IEEE HQ and R8 officers.

Almost all Chapter Chairs presented reports concerning the activities and 'best practices' of their Chapters. The Agenda of the Meeting concluded with a Focus Group

Session and an Open Discussion Period where a number of key issues important for Chapter activities were raised, various recommendations made and feedback received.

In our opinion, this event was very informative and beneficial to all the R8 Chairs present as well as to the IEEE and Society officers who were there.

The meeting concluded on a nice sunny summer evening, with a dinner for all the participants held in a restaurant on the top floor of the Istanbul Hilton Hotel, overlooking the Bosphorous.

We would like to thank the Signal Processing Society for their enthusiastic and generous support, our R8 Organizing Team for the substantial amount of work needed to prepare for this event, the local Turkish colleagues for their invaluable advice and assistance, and of course all attendees of the Meeting for their participation and contributions. ♦

*Tony Davies
Chair of R8 Chapter Coordination Committee
Guergana Mollova
R8 SP Chapters Coordinator and
Organizing Team Leader*

Technical Field Awards and Paper Awards for the Year 2000

- ♦ IEEE Andrew S. Grove Award to: Wolfgang Fichtner, IEEE Fellow, and Head of the Electrical Engineering department at the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland. "For outstanding contributions to semiconductor device simulations."
- ♦ IEEE Internet Award to: Donald W. Davies, Paul Baran and Leonard Kleinrock. Donald Watts Davies, non-member, worked at the National Physical Laboratory in the United Kingdom. "For their early, preeminent contributions in conceiving, analyzing and demonstrating packet-switching networks, the foundation technology of the Internet."
- ♦ IEEE Koji Kobayashi Computer and Communications Award to: Adi Shamir, Ronald L. Rivest and Leonard Adleman. Adi Shamir, non-member, is professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, "For the revolutionary invention of the RSA public key crypto-system which is the first to be widely adopted."
- ♦ IEEE W.R.G. Baker Prize Paper Award to: Petre Stoica and A.Lee Swindlehurst. Petre Stoica, IEEE Fellow, is professor of System Modeling at Uppsala University in Sweden, "For their paper entitled "Maximum Likelihood Methods in Radar Array Signal Processing," Proceedings of the IEEE, Vol.86, No.2, February 1998, pp.421-441."
- ♦ IEEE Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award to: Ezio Biglieri, John G. Proakis and Shlomo Shamai (Shitz). Ezio Biglieri, IEEE Fellow, is professor at the Istituto di Elettronica e Telecomunicazioni, Politecnico di Torino, Italy. Shlomo Shamai (Shitz), IEEE Fellow, is professor at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Israel. For their paper entitled "Fading Channels: Information Theoretic and Communications Aspects," IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Vol.44, No.6, October 1998, pp.2619-2692. ♦

Conference News: Every effort is made to update the Calls for Papers and the Schedule of Events. Unfortunately space limitations make it impossible to provide a complete list in each issue. The Conference Coordinator, Baldomir Zajc, maintains an updated list of Region 8 Conferences and Technically co-sponsored events on the Region 8 Conference website <http://www.ieee.si/r8-conf.html>.

Conference Reports

International ODL Symposium

The International Symposium on "Open Door Learning" subtitled "A Network Linking Industry and Education" was held on June 8 and 9, 2000 in Vienna, Austria. It was initiated by the IEEE Region 8

Education Activities and organized together with Siemens AG, Austria, Department of Program and System Development (PSE). From the beginning it was planned as a pilot project and a first step to intensify the relations between IEEE and industry

in Region 8 and to increase the awareness of IEEE in industrial entities. Based on this idea a close cooperation between the Region 8 Educational Activities and Siemens PSE started resulting in a symposium which was considered as very successful by all participants and speakers.

Intentionally the symposium was kept small whereby the 69 participants including the speakers from industry and educational came by invitation from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland,

United Kingdom, and USA. The 21 presentations from industry and the educational institutions were of high quality mostly describing their courses and approach to open door learning. Between Lyle Feisel, IEEE VP EA, Baldomir Zajc, Region 8 Conference Committee Chair, and Kurt R. Richter, Region 8 VC TA there was ample opportunity to present the IEEE and its role in continuing education and life long learning during the symposium.

At the end of symposium Lyle Feisel's presentation "Engineering Education in Engineering" was elected unanimously as the best paper of the conference. Congratulation Lyle!

In a final discussion it was unanimously suggested to continue with this type of symposia and/or workshops whereby the size of it should not be increased considerably. ♦

*Prof. Dr. Kurt R. Richter
IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair
Technical Activities
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The organizers share a joke with the keynote speaker Lyle Feisel (from left: H. Entler, PSE; Udo Scheiblauber, Director PSE; L.D. Feisel, IEEE Vice President Educational Activities; W. Brinsky, PES; K.R. Richter, IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair Technical Activities).

Conference Reports *continued*

ICEECEE Conference

Electrical and computer engineering education in the new Millennium was the principal theme of the ICEECEE conference held in Davos, Switzerland, September 10-15 th. The meeting was attended by about 60 engineering educators from 20 countries in a small-scale workshop format designed to promote maximum interaction and discussion. Keynote speakers included IEEE President Bruce Eisenstein, Joe Bordogna, Deputy Director of the US National Science Foundation, Dr Arthur Winston of Tufts University, Dr Charles Alexander of Ohio University, and Dr Kruno Hernault of Siemens.

The key points that emerged were:

- the impact of the new technologies in IT and Communications was already being felt in undergraduate teaching
- many students qualified to enter EE and CE courses preferred to pursue business and law studie
- career patterns for EE and CE graduates showed increased mobility between jobs and companies, many in non-technical fields
- the traditional engineering science-based type of education was no longer appropriate for the majority of students who needed a more integrated

approach with more emphasis on design and synthesis, and team work

- a new set of skills, especially the ability to use the latest tools, was essential to the success of graduates entering industry
- university teachers need help from many sources to develop the new courses required, especially from the professional institutions, government agencies and industry
- greater involvement by the engineering profession in pre-college education would help ensure improvements in technological literacy amongst teachers and students
- new outcomes-based accreditation criteria being introduced in the USA would provide a fresh challenge to designers of undergraduate courses
- the present heavy load on teachers and students needed to be reduced in engineering courses to stimulate a love of learning and improve motivation
- embedding 'soft skills' in the existing curriculum was the best way for students to acquire design, problem-solving and learning skills
- more flexibility in program structures allowed the balance between basic principles and engineering

applications to be tailored to the needs and personal goals of students

- the advent of multi-media delivery of engineering courses created exciting opportunities for teachers, especially in distance learning
- a strategic view of engineering education was essential at a time of rapid change in industry and academia, to ensure that key technologies (such as power engineering) were not neglected
- academic staff were the key to successful curriculum development and should be encouraged to participate enthusiastically in the process of change
- life-long learning would become even more important in the new millennium and would be delivered by a wide variety of course providers

At the close of the meeting Dr Jacob Baal-Schem announced that follow-up workshops would be organized in Region 8 over the next two or three years.

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of the United Engineering Foundation and the IEEE. ♦

*Charles Turner
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Calls for Papers

VIPromCom-2001

13 - 15 June 2001

Zadar, Croatia

3rd International Symposium on Video Processing and Multimedia Communications

The 3rd International Symposium on Video Processing and Multimedia Communications (VIPromCom-2001), will be held in Borik Hotel Complex, in the beautiful old town of Zadar on the Croatian Adriatic coast. VIPromCom-2001 is sponsored by (approval pending) IEEE Region 8, IEEE Croatia Section, EURASIP and University of Zagreb. The aim of the VIPromCom-2001 is to cover selected aspects of video and image processing theory and its applications, as well as

advances in multimedia communications, and to be an international forum for presentation and discussion of advances in the field and new perspective research areas. The scientific program of VIPromCom-2001 will consist of invited lectures and oral presentations on new research results. Papers describing original work would be welcome in the areas listed below. All papers will be peer reviewed and acceptance will be based on quality, relevance and originality. Accepted papers will be published in the VIPromCom-2001 Proceedings that will be distributed to the participants at the symposium. Deadline for full paper (four pages) submission: 02 February 2001
VIPromCom Web-site:
<http://www.vcl.fer.hr/vip/>

Contact Information:

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Phone: + 385 1 6129 851

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ISAP2001

18 - 21 June, 2001

Budapest, HUNGARY

The "Intelligent Systems Application to Power Systems" continues the tradition of preceding conferences on such topics hav-

Calls for Papers *continued*

ing been held since "Expert Systems Application to Power Systems" (ESAP) in 1988 and "International Forum on Applications of Neural Network to Power Systems" (ANNPS). This conference - the first ISAP in the new millennium - will deal with the new IT tools, deregulation, energy trading and its human aspects based on the traditional energy production technology. Employment of novel software technologies and other are in the special scope of the conference but also intelligent approaches achieved with conventional programming. Proposed subjects should be beyond the phase of declarations of interest or presentations of ideas; papers reporting practical realization and application will have priority. The technical co-sponsorships - for the first time - of both CIGRE and IEEE are intended to emphasize and promote the practical application aspects of the proposed systems, as well as to bring developers and users closer to each other.

The Conference will be held at the Danubius Grand Hotel Margitsziget:

H-1138 Budapest, Margitsziget
Tel.: +36 1 329 2300
Fax.: + 36 1 329 3923
E-mail: Margotel@hungary.net
<http://www.danubiusgroup.com/conference>

Scientific Secretariat
Péter Kádár
DYNAdata Ltd.
H-1115 Budapest, Bátfai u.54.
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Web Site of the Conference
<http://www.isap2001.hu>

IFIP

27 - 29 June 2001

Hotel Agro, Budapest, Hungary

9th IFIP Working Conference On
Performance Modeling And Evaluation Of
ATM & IP Networks

The focus of the 9th IFIP Working Conference on ATM & IP Networks (IFIP ATM & IP 2001) is to contribute to fundamental research in ATM and IP technologies and in internetworking issues focusing on performance and reliability modeling and analysis.

The Conference is built on the tradition of the earlier workshops (Bradford - Ilkley, Antwerp) with increasing emphasis on issues related to IP and to the global Internet. We specially encourage researchers to submit original papers and posters in the field of Internet performance evaluation.

Submission of full paper: January 31,
2001

Notification of acceptance: March 31,
2001

Camera ready paper due: April 30, 2001

Submission of poster abstract:
May 15, 2001

For more information on submission,
please go to:
<http://www.diamond-congress.hu>

ICPC 2001

15 - 16 August 2001

Suzdal, Russia

International Colloquium Professional Communication: Problems, Technology and Services

Be part of a unique gathering of scientists, engineers and professional technical communicators as they gather from around the world to discuss the current and future status of communication. They will particularly explore the problems with and trends of modern professional communication. Participants will include representatives from research institutes, information centers and libraries, educational institutions and industry.

The organizing committee is suggesting the following topics:

- ♦ Information Resources
- ♦ Information Systems and Databases

- ♦ Teaching of Technical Communication
- ♦ Technical and Business Communication
- ♦ The Art of Communication
- ♦ Education in Professional Communication
- ♦ Internet: Technology and Services
- ♦ Technology and Services of Electronic Libraries
- ♦ Web development
- ♦ Information Design
- ♦ Opportunities for Inter-Society cooperation.
- ♦ Interaction and Collaboration between the IEEE and Russia.

Proposals are due by December 15, 2000 and acceptance will be given by January 30, 2001.

For more information about the program or to submit a proposal contact:

Dr. Henrich S. Lantsberg (Russia)
Phone: (7095) 203 4985
Fax (7095) 203 8414
E-mail: h.lantsberg@ieee.org

Dr. Lantsberg is a Member of the Executive Board of the Russian Popov Society, Vice-Chair of the IEEE Russia Section and Chair of the IEEE PCS Russia Chapter

IWAENC 2001

10 - 13 September 2001

Darmstadt, Germany

The International Workshop on Acoustic Echo and Noise Control is the seventh biennial workshop focusing on signal processing for acoustic echo and noise control with typical applications in telephony, voice control systems and conferencing systems. The internet address is <http://www.iwaenc2001.com>

Prof. Hans Hartnagel
hartnagel@hf.tu-darmstadt.de

ME-MIA'2001

18 - 20 September 2001

Novosibirsk State Technical University, Novosibirsk, Russia

3-rd IEEE - Russia Conference «2001 Microwave Electronics: Measurements, Identification, Applications»

- Papers are invited on the following topics:
- ♦ Characterization of non-linear microwave

Calls for Papers *continued*



Conference Organizer Jacob Baal-Schem welcomes attendees to the ICEECEE conference.

systems and devices: procedures for identification of non-linear devices; techniques for measurements and testing, modeling and performance evaluation.

- ♦ Design, measurements and applications

of microwave passive and active devices including analysis-synthesis, optimization, CAD and Software Engineering.

- ♦ Microwave solid state and electron devices including component packaging and manufacturing topics.
- ♦ Microwave/RF for Mobile, Cellular, Television, Wireless, and Communication Systems including design, simulation and testing.
- ♦ Microwave/RF for Industrial, Scientific and Medical/Biological Applications.

April 1, 2001: Submission papers to Conference Committee (electronically for submission and 2 hard copies)

June 1, 2001: Acceptance notification



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July 10, 2001: Advanced Program

Contact and Submission Address:

Please, forward all submissions and inquires to: Dr. V.Snournitsin, NSTU, 20 K. Marx Ave., 630092 Novosibirsk, Russia, Tel/fax +7-3832-462598, e-mail: crra@ref.nstu.ru. More information will be available at <http://www.nstu.ru/memia20001>.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the February 2001 Region 8 News is 1 December 2000.

Duncan Baker • Region 8 News Editor • duncan.baker@ieec.org

News From IEEE

RSA SECURITY AND IEEE TO SET PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTO STANDARD

The IEEE and RSA Security Inc. announced a landmark standard for public-key cryptography that will offer a single, comprehensive reference guide to companies that wish to implement the RSA algorithm and other encryption technologies to add security to their applications.

The IEEE 1363 Standard Specifications for Public Key Cryptography highlights the critical role these technologies now play in achieving security for a rapidly growing array of applications in wireless communications, the Internet and e-commerce.

The reference guide is intended to make it easier for companies building security into their applications to ensure they will work together.

For more information, visit
<http://standards.ieee.org/announcements/rsacrypto.html>.

THE IEEE LEADERSHIP WIRE

23 June 2000

Vol. V, No.12

EVOLUTIONARY COMPUTATION AND APPLICATIONS CD-ROM TUTORIAL NOW AVAILABLE

PISCATAWAY, NJ, 15 June 2000. New from IEEE Neural Networking Society and Educational Activities is the CD-ROM tutorial entitled Evolutionary Computation and Applications. Evolutionary Computation has become the standard term that encompasses evolution strategies, evolutionary programming, and genetic algorithms. David B. Fogel, Editor in Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation and host of this tutorial has stated, "Evolution is an optimization process that can be simulated using a computer or other device and put to good engineering purpose."

This tutorial serves as an introduction to evolutionary computation and is supported by case studies from four expert practitioners and a roundtable discussion about practical implementation issues. The learner is able to access the following sections:

- ♦ Dr. David B. Fogel, who provides an extensive overview on designing evolutionary algorithms for problem solving.
- ♦ Dr. Mohamed El- Sharkawi, on evolutionary techniques for vulnerability assessment on power systems.
- ♦ Dr. Piero Bonissone, on hybrid soft computing systems using fuzzy logic and evolutionary algorithms.
- ♦ Dr. Stephan Freer, who addresses AGDOCK, a software application that utilizes evolutionary computation to a significant problem in receptor-based drug design.
- ♦ Roundtable discussion covering practical issues of implementing evolutionary algorithms.
After viewing the tutorial you will know:
- ♦ The basic principles of evolutionary computation
- ♦ How to design evolutionary algorithms to fit your problems
- ♦ Details from experts who have applied evolutionary algorithms to their own problems

The single CD-ROM, based on the four power point presentations, features menu jump capabilities, navigation, full audio, and an MPEG player video component. Dual platforms (MAC and PC) supported.

Minimum systems requirements: 200 Mhz Pentium or PowerMac; Windows95/98 or MacOS 8.0 minimum; 100 MB free space on hard drive; 8x CD-ROM drive; 16 bit sound card; SVGA display; 800 x 600 display resolution; thousands of colors display; QuickTime 4.0.

Member Price: \$250.00

List Price: \$312.50

IEEE Order #: EC126

The CD-ROM can be ordered from the IEEE Customer Service Department, 445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, USA; by e-mail: customer-service@ieee.org; by phone: 1.800.678.4333; and on the Web at <http://shop.ieee.org/store/>. For further information on Education Activities check out our Website <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/eab/index.htm>.

Lynn Murison

Outreach Administrator, IEEE Educational Activities

ph: 1.732.562.6526

www.ieee.org/organizations/eab/

IEEE DEDICATES EE MILESTONES IN JAPAN AND IRELAND

On 13 July, Japan's bullet train and County Kerry, Ireland's transatlantic cable stations were dedicated as IEEE Milestones in Electrical Engineering. In County Kerry, the IEEE UKRI Section unveiled three plaques to commemorate the first telegraph stations in Valentia (1866), Ballinskelligs (1974), and Waterville (1884), Ireland. The ceremony was held at the station at Waterford, which is now a museum.

The bullet train, Tokaido Shinkansen, was recognized by the IEEE Tokyo Section in a joint ceremony with the Association of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) International. ASME co-designated the train as a Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The event was co-sponsored by bullet train operator, Central Japan

Railway Company.

For more information, contact Mike Geselowitz, IEEE History Center, MailTo: m.geselowitz@ieee.org.

IEEE LEADERSHIP WIRE

14 July 2000

Vol. V, No.13

IEEE LOGO GUIDELINES

Seven working groups of volunteers and staff are examining the uses of the IEEE logo and developing identity standards recommendations. The groups' recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors in November. Until then, there are interim guidelines that should be used. They can be found on the IEEE Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/>. Once logged onto the site, click "About the IEEE" and then "IEEE Branding & Interim Logo Guidelines." Or, access the page directly at <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/committee/branding/guidelines.html>.

The guidelines can be used for the IEEE visual identity of all new applications such as product/service identification, print and web promotions. Existing applications should remain unchanged until new standards are approved and usage manuals are issued.

For additional information contact Helen Horwitz, IEEE Corporate Communications, h.horwitz@ieee.org.

SCOOP - July 2000

NEW SITE FOR SECTION/VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER EDITORS

A new web page contains information for volunteer newsletter editors. By clicking on "Newsletter Editors" editors will find hints on converting from hard copy to electronic, articles on IEEE member benefits, information on products and services that can be used to "fill space," and links to featured Section newsletters, the IEEE Electronic Communications page and newsletter policies. For more information, contact Tracy Hawkins, IEEE Regional Activities at +1 732 562 5512; "MailTo: t.hawkins@ieee.org".

THE IEEE LEADERSHIP WIRE

25 August 2000

Vol. V, No.16

REASONS TO GET AN IEEE WEB ACCOUNT

You've probably heard many references to IEEE Web Accounts but still may be asking "What is it, and why do I need one?" IEEE Web Accounts provide IEEE members and customers with access to a growing number of online services, many of them free. Web Accounts provide access to Bibliographies Online, BooksPlus, and Spectrum Online; renewing membership; shopping in the IEEE Online Catalog & Store; and soon, access to IEEE Xplore.

According to IEEE Executive Director Dan Senese, "Upcoming areas of planned migration to Web Accounts are e-mail alias services, IEEE OPeRA (through Xplore), and other to-be-announced Society-oriented services and publications."

To register for an IEEE Web Account or for more information, visit

<http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts/>.

SCOOP - August 2000

FOUR IEEE SOCIETIES JOIN TO OFFER DISCOUNT ON TRANSACTIONS

For the first time ever, the IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS), IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES), IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) and the IEEE Power Engineering (PES) Society will offer its members electronic access to all four Societies' transactions for only US\$48 a year. That is a 25 percent discount from the member price for all six transactions currently available.

According to PELS President Philip T. Krein, "The program grew out of meetings held over the past several years among leaders of IAS, IES, PES and PELS to explore cooperative ventures and develop intersociety programs. This is the first of what the four Societies hope will be a series of joint activities."

Electronic access to the publications will begin January 2001 and will be offered as part of the 2002 membership renewal package.

The IEEE LEADERSHIP WIRE

11 August 2000

Vol. V, No. 15

TWO WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT REAL-TIME SIGNAL PROCESSING AVAILABLE

PISCATAWAY, NJ. 17 July 2000. Meet the challenge of moving from research to real life applications with two new offerings from IEEE Educational Activities, a self-study course and a selected reading book. Commit to an 80-hour course or use the selected readings as a primer for application writing to learn this vital system.

According to Philip A. Laplante, Dean of Pennsylvania Institute of Technology and editor of the Real-Time Image and Signal Processing? Selected Readings, "Real-time signal processing differs from 'ordinary' signal processing in that the logical correctness of the system requires correct and also timely outputs. Real-time has no tolerance of missed deadlines. Even one missed deadline can result in total system failure."

The self-study course, Real-Time Signal Processing, developed by John G. Ackenhusen, Veridian, ERIM International, Inc., covers the entire process of implementing signal processing algorithms, from real-time concepts to multiprocessors and trade-off analyses. This course also walks through the entire system design process from requirements development through life-cycle systems engineering, project management, integration, testing, and maintenance.

The complete course includes a study guide, a workbook, and the text, "Real-Time Signal Processing," Ackenhusen, Prentice Hall; a final examination is provided in paper format, and, in September, the examination will be available by web at IEEE Professional Development Institute (PDI). Eight Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and a Certificate of Achievement are awarded upon successful completion of the course.

John G. Ackenhusen has been involved with research in real-time signal processing since 1978. Following his work in speech recognition at AT&T Bell Labs, he joined the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, now ERIM International, Inc., leading efforts in recognition processor and algorithm design. He is a fellow of IEEE, past President of the IEEE Signal Processing Society, and past director of the IEEE Signals and Applications Division.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Real-Time Signal and Image Processing? Selected Readings provides introductory-level to intermediate-level readings in the hardware, software, programming languages and applications of real-time image and signal processing. These systems are incredibly important in virtually every application from avionics to industrial inspection and in every application domain from entertainment to defense.

The reader is intended to provide sufficient background for a baccalaureate engineer or scientist who is not familiar with the field to become familiar enough to write software or design systems for these types of applications. The reader is also ideal for managers supervising projects of these types.

The thirty-one selected readings are culled from referred journal articles and reviewed magazine pieces, all IEEE sources, and less than five years old. The articles focus on the following topics: issues and challenges; hardware support; algorithms; software languages and systems; applications and case studies.

Phillip A. Laplante has been a software engineer, project manager, teacher, researcher, and author for almost 20 years. His experience includes designing software for embedded avionics like the Space

Shuttle; building computer aided design software for commercial use and developing software and best practices for software testing. He has written 13 books and currently edits two book series, Complex Systems and Image Processing.

He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and received his Ph.D. in computer science with a dissertation in digital signal processing from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Real-Time Signal Processing Self-study Course, IEEE Product No.HL5765, List: \$475.00/Member: \$375.00.

Real-Time Image and Signal Processing? Selected Readings, IEEE Order No. SR116, List: \$69.99/Member: \$49.95.

Both the self study course and the selected readings can be ordered from the IEEE Customer Service Department, 445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, USA;

by e-mail: customer-service@ieee.org;

by phone: 1.800.678.4333; or on the Web at <http://shop.ieee.org/store/>

For further information on Education Activities check out our Website www.ieee.org/eab. ♦

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Outreach Administrator, IEEE Educational Activities

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IEEE
Networking
the World™

region8student news

Editor: Jens Hannemann (Student Representative) j.hannemann@ieee.org

Editorial

Hi folks,

So we're all back to school now. I hope you had a good start into the new academic year and wish you all the best for it.

We still have lots of material about the Branch Congress, some of which you can read in this issue to bring back memories on this event. As once again, all of you are really active in reporting about your activities, you give me as the editor the second most unpleasant task of shortening and selecting your articles (the most unpleasant job is to beg for contributions). So please bear with me if not all the information that you might feel important made it into the Student News. I'd appreciate feedback - both positive and negative - on that matter, so please drop me a note if you're not satisfied with the handling of your stuff, so we can add corrections or clarifications in the next issues.

Now have fun with the articles, there are a lot of good ideas that you can copy for your branch.

Jens.

*Jens Hannemann
Student News Editor
j.hannemann@ieee.org*

News From The Student Activities Chair

R8 IEEE students: back to fun!

Once again the summer is well over and we are all back at school, plenty of energy to face an exciting academic year.

First of all I would like to congratulate Wael M. Saleh, member of the recently

established American University of Sharjah Student Branch, in the United Arab Emirates for getting the 2000 IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society Undergraduate Scholarships. The competition was opened to undergraduate students worldwide and only 8 students were chosen worldwide.

I'm also very proud to tell you that 15 new student branches and 4 student branch chapters have been created this year or are in the process of establishment. This shows again the huge potential of activity we have in our region regarding student activities, and the best is still to come!

Finally, I would like to remind you that the R8 Committee approved the creation of a grant known as the "Research Grant for R8 Outstanding Student Branch Counselor." This is to be awarded each year up to a maximum of USD 7,500 subject to the approval of the research proposal submitted by the Student Branch Counselor. Only the winner of the "Regional Outstanding Student Branch Counselor Award" will be eligible to apply for this grant, so make sure your Counselor is aware of this new opportunity, and nominate her/him!!

I really wish you a successful academic year plenty of IEEE-related fun!

R8 Students Activities Committee Web site: presentations available online

Just a quick reminder on the availability of the R8 SAC Web Site (http://www.ieee.org/r8_sac/), where you'll find plenty of information on R8 student related activities.

This time I would also like to point your attention to the documents section (http://www.ieee.org/r8_sac/info/#sec4). There we've stored, among other things, presentations on different IEEE related aspects. I ensure you it is worth having a look if you are in the process of preparing

a presentation about the IEEE to any of your colleagues or simply want to get additional information on a wide range of topics.

If you use this material, please let us know, and if you prepare any piece of material, software, presentation or documentation you would like to share with others and be included in our site (related to the IEEE, your branch, your activities or whatever), we'll be really very happy to publish it!

RAB funds student related world-wide events

This year, RAB has allocated a budget of \$20,000 to support the participation of student members attending at a global IEEE student-related event. The students selected to receive the regional funding and attend the selected events are chosen by the Regional Student Activities Chair (RSAC) and the Regional Student Representative (RSR) with final approval by the Regional Director.

This year, our SBC2000 was selected as one of these events and the other one is the Region 9 Student Branch Congress that took place in the beautiful city of Morelos, in MEXICO (November 9-11).

Stay tuned because this opportunity will hopefully happen every year!!!

*Javier Macias-Guarasa
(j.macias@ieee.org)*

*IEEE R8 Student Activities Committee
Chair
http://www.ieee.org/r8_sac/*

"Networking the World" by "Bringing Branches Together"

When first asked to put down some sentences and express my opinion on SBC2000 at Eindhoven, I thought it would be an easy task. After the first few days, however, having interacted with many people of the most diverse cultural and educational backgrounds, I had become so over-

loaded with new impressions that a mere list of activities and comments simply would not do.

Certainly, I feel committed to mentioning the excellent organization of the congress, the availability of real proceedings, other printed matter and by-products like bags, t-shirts and note pads. And yet, what I found most important in the entire undertaking was the human factor.

Not only did the organizers show an absolute personal commitment to making this congress a success, but also participants brought lots of input. For example, from the very first day on it was out of

question that participants would socialize in-between the various events, or during nightly visits to Eindhoven City.

I would like to point out that the congress agenda was neither too packed nor too loosely filled, thus giving everybody the time and opportunity to get engaged in both technical and non-technical discussions. Also, the choice of events was so diverse that students could enrich their general knowledge in the field of electrical engineering, regardless of their area of specialization.

By finishing my little account at this point I am sure to drop many more impor-

tant details. Nonetheless, to both my own and other participants' belief, SBC2000 has promoted tight interaction and understanding among active members of an international professional organization. How could I better conclude than by merging a central IEEE slogan with the motto of this congress: SBC2000 has successfully contributed to "Networking the World" by "Bringing Branches Together."

We all give our best regards to Eindhoven. ♦

*Arnd-Ragnar Rhiemeier,
Chairman, IEEE Student Branch
Karlsruhe, Germany.*

Student Branch News

Egypt - HTI News

On 5th April 2000, the first Egyptian Student Branch Meeting (ESBM'2000) was held under the organization of the Student Branch at the HTI 10th of Ramadan City, and with the sponsoring of The HTI, HitecPioneers Corporation, and NCR. The participation was from 8 universities from all over Egypt, with an attendance of about 100 students and professors.

The program included the following:

A seminar on "Tomorrow's Engineer", which was presented by Prof. Dr. Sherif Genina from the HTI.

A seminar by HitecPioneers Corporation, on "The new technologies in PCB and SMT".

The Student Branches presented three seminars on the IEEE as follows:

1. "How to start a Student Branch in your university," presented by Nahel Amirah, Chairman of the HTISB.

2. "How to fund the activities of your Student Branch," presented by Muhammad Aboud, Vice-Chairman of the IEEE SB at Zagazig University.

3. "IEEE Awards," presented by Hayman Shannan, Chairman of the IEEE SB Cairo University.

The student Poster contest, where the

students presented the ideas of their projects on posters. 18 projects participated, and a judging committee chose three of them as the best projects.

They were:

Microprocessor Measurement of Car Functions (Helwan University).

Industrial Applications of PLC (Ain Shams University).

Applications of a New Dynamic model of ANN (H.T.I).

The final conclusions were:

1. Organizing ESBM on a regular base each year in a different university.

2. Establishing meetings between different Student Branches more frequently.

3. Organizing multi-disciplinary projects between students from different universities.

4. Establishing an IEEE GOLD section in Egypt.

All the participants found the meeting very successful and promising. We hope that this sort of activity could be done more frequently. Also, many universities decided to establish Student Branches as a result of the success of the ESBM. At the end of the meeting, the attendants were invited to have lunch at the Rewad Club. The day ended with all the attendants

happy and thrilled to attend the next ESBM, which will be held next year at the Zagazig University.

*Mahmoud M.El Gaafary
Vice-Chair IEEE SB H.T.I*

EMU Student Branch Turkey

IEEE EMU SB was established in January 1995 and currently has more than 120 student members and more than 30 full members from the departments of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Engineering as well as other related disciplines.

Facilities:

Office: IEEE EMU SB office is fully furnished. The office is also equipped with the internet connected computer and color printer facility.

Library: IEEE EMU SB library is fully furnished including a photocopy machine and a Pentium

III Computer connected with the internet, the Branch Magazine package, different Transactions and books.

Activities:

Orientation program: At the beginning of



Executive Committee with student Members in Branch office.

each semester EMU SB organizes the orientation program to guide the students about the IEEE and its memberships benefits.

Seminars: As part of the Academic Activities every semester series of seminar is organized regularly.

Short courses: Short Courses are the main part of the Academic Activities. Matlab and Simulink, Lab view, Xilinx, Circuit maker, PSpice and web site development etc. are taught.

Awards: Academic awards for top ranking students among the IEEE Student Members are presented every semester.

Technical Tours: IEEE EMU Student Branch also organizes regular technical tours for the students to different related sites. This semester study tours to the National Television Station (BRT), Mobile Telephone Exchange (Telsim), and TRNC power Plant were arranged by the branch.

Picnics: The SB offers day-long excursions to famous tourist spots.

Social gatherings: Social gatherings like tea parties are organized quit often to give students a chance to get together.

Sport Activities: Quite recently SB arranged table tennis and football tournaments.

Summer Training Program: EMU SB has built strong ties with different engineering firms and industries to send students for training during summer vacation.

Special Discounts: Some campus cafeterias give special discounts to IEEE student members as well as full members.

Membership: IEEE EMU Student Branch conducts a membership campaign twice a year.

Another Iranian Student Branch

I'm proud to introduce you another Student Branch in the Iranian Azad University of Qazvin (IAUQ) that was approved by IEEE in April 2000. We started our activities at the beginning of the last academic year with introducing the IEEE and GOLD to other students. Their interest encouraged us to establish a new branch. After applying for a new branch in February 2000, we started our activities including formation of different committees in several scientific fields, publishing a rich scientific and internal news gazette, several scientific tours to industry, participating in the 1st Iranian Robotic Contest in Tehran University, sending more than 40 lectures for the ISCEE'2000, and so on. And now we have some new plans for the summer semester. I hope our branch will be one of the most active branches in Region 8 or even in the world. My friends, I want you to give me some good advice about new and snazzy activities you had in your Branches, and I invite all Branches to share new ideas to build a more active scientific community in the world. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to thank the IEEE crew for their attention to our request, and the department chair Dr. Morteza Mosakhany for his supports.

With good wishes for the future.

*Amir Homayoun Javady Arjomand
Chair, IEEE Student Branch of IAUQ
Email Address: ajavady@ieee.org*

Italy - New Branch In Catania

In May 1999 the IEEE approved the formation of an IEEE Student Branch at the University of Catania. Together with the Branch Counselor prof. Salvatore Alfonzetti we planned some activities which were put into practice during the last year. These activities included research work, meetings with companies and scientific trips.

In November 1999, in collaboration with

prof. De Mercato, we organized a seminar on bioengineering, which was the starting point for some research projects. We also organized, in collaboration with prof. Luigi Fortuna and the "Circuits and System Society", two international conferences on neural networks (CNNA2000), and non-linear circuits (NDES2000) which were held in May 2000 at the University of Catania.

Together with ISA we coordinated a Paper Contest and two seminars with ST Microelectronics.

For the next year we are planning a conference on third generation cellular systems and a meeting with all the other Italian Student Branches. We would like to thank the IEEE Italian section and the Electric, Electronic and Sistemistic Department at the University of Catania for their support.

We invite you to contact us and visit our homepage at: <http://ieee.dees.unict.it>.

*Pietro Peligra
Secretary*

*IEEE Student Branch, University of
Catania*

Maribor Student Chapter

IEEE Student Branch Maribor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor is organizing an international symposium "Extra Skills for Young Engineers" on Oct.18-20, 2000.

The process of globalization and fast development of new technologies demands extra skills from young engineers that are not part of their studies. It is very important that students realize that fact as soon as possible. The goal of this symposium is to increase awareness of students about the needs of the industry and extra skills that it requires from a young engineer. We have invited speakers from IEEE, industry and academia.

We would like to invite student representatives of student branches to join us in Maribor. They have to cover traveling expenditures, everything else will be covered by IEEE SB Maribor. We can host 10

persons, so don't wait too long to apply.

Another mission of symposium "Extra Skills for Young Engineers" is to produce symposium proceedings that would include articles from experienced engineers and managers from academia and industry. Its mission is to be a guideline for IEEE students all over the world.

Please see <<http://www.um.ieee.si/>> for details - follow Symposium link.

We would be really glad if you could promote our activities to your colleagues in academia and industry. Since we are trying to produce a top quality material that would be useful to students all over the world, we are trying to get as much international papers as possible. Please forward our invitation to people you see as leaders of groups, employers, etc. Everybody that has good experience covering mentioned

topics (see www pages of the symposium for the topics).

*Bostjan Vlaovic,
Chair of IEEE Student Branch Maribor
chair@um.ieee.si*

Nigeria

The university of Lagos student branch IEEE-PSI came alive on Friday 28th of July 2000. The branch had an exhibition on electronics concepts from theories to hardware. The event was well attended, as it was a forum with which we introduced the IEEE to a lot of other student colleagues.

Though our branch is not fully "registered" yet, we have more than enough membership strength to do this soon. Putting together this exhibition took a lot of pains and sleepless nights, but the comments and the new enthusiasm offset the

original stress. The exhibition was declared open by the president of the national association of physics students, Pius Oke. A lot of students visited the exhibition. The IEEE-PSI guys on campus were present at the gate to give them the IEEE forms as a souvenir for the exhibition.

We also exhibited Spectrum Magazine, which really interested a lot of students. Software for designs and analysis of circuits were also at hand. This is the beginning of the first IEEE Student Branch in West Africa. I must confess it has not been easy but with determination to survive no matter the odds, we surely will. Any ideas on how to grow faster and be more effective will be most welcome. ♦

*Agabi O.E
Branch Chair
agabi@ieee.org*

Student Travel Grants

The IES Student Activities Committee offers financial aid for students to attend IES Major Conferences. For the running year we have allocated 20 grants of US \$500 each to be distributed in the following way:

- 8 to participate in IECON'2000
- 6 to participate in IROS'2000
- 6 to participate in ISIE'2000

In order to participate in this program the applicants must fulfill the following conditions:

- ♦ Be an active IEEE-IES Student Member
- ♦ Reside outside the city in which the conference is held.
- ♦ Have a paper accepted at the Conference and be the person who will

present it.

- ♦ No more than one grant will be allocated for one paper, or the one person in the same year.
- ♦ In case the number of applicants exceeds the budget, preference will be given to:
 - ♦ Students with the best qualified papers according with the review of each conference.
 - ♦ Students who have not benefited from this scheme in the last two years.
 - ♦ Students coming from developing countries

Students interested in this program should submit a Resume together with a copy of the accepted paper. They should

indicate their IEEE membership number and the reference number of the paper. Submit all the material before August 28, by e-mail (e-mail is preferred in ps or pdf formats), or air mail to:

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The Puzzling Art of...

"Networking the Region 8 Student Branches"

From a mathematical point of view, a Student Branch Congress is a highly complex problem, that is, if you want to come up with the ideal one from the large number of possible route combinations. Without realizing it, you in fact face one of the most difficult optimization problems on earth.

The task in itself does not even sound all that complicated: Find the shortest route through all the student branches, making sure that you never contact any of the Region 8 Student Branches more than once.

The basic problem of route optimization also crops up in several practical

applications, e.g. in the design of modern processors. The tiny track conductors inside a microchip have to connect millions of individual transistors. The motto is: the shorter the path, the faster the processor works. We need an electronic engineer. Is there anyone?

The evident thing is that the more Student Branches, the more complex the problem becomes. On one of today's high-performance computers would need billions of years to calculate all the possibilities. We need a computer engineer. Is there any one?

Thus, the solution to the problem of route optimization does not lie in obstinately exploring the various alternatives, but in formulating "mathematical" algo-

rithms. IEEE SB Eindhoven has set a world record in solving the problem: "Bringing Branches Together" in 2000. With their algorithms, they hosted one of the most successful IEEE events.

The math guys in Eindhoven are probably among the few actually capable of solving the Student Branches route problem. Moreover, beyond the results of the optimization experiments, there is one thing you should remember to get along with the next Student Branch Congress: a good pocket calculator, a PDA or, even better, an IEEE team. Who will be the next? ♦

Jorge-Luis Sanchez-Ponz

IEEE Region 8 Student Representative

j.s.ponz@ieee.org

Workshop Reports

ROBOSHOP (First ROBOTics and Automation Workshop)

More than 750 participated in this workshop (30 May - 1 June 2000). It started one day after the "Iranian ROBOT Contest" (May 29th), which our branch helped the faculty and executive committee in organizing. We received an honorary diploma from the contest executive committee

During the workshop, an industrial exhibition was also organized. Thanks to the efforts of one of our active branch members, Targol Rezaei, leading companies took part in the exhibition. Our main sponsors were SAIPA, Ministry of Industry, TAM Corp., and FARINEH Automation corp, where the Faculty of Engineering and the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering co-sponsored us.

The lectures were presented in two main categories: Robotics and Automation. Expert professors and engineers from academy and industry were invited to present the lectures.

At the end, a panel discussion was held and we thanked our executive committee, totaling more than 60 branch members and lead by Mohammad-Javad Samadi Rad. Although the preparation took more than two months, we almost didn't get any sleep during the last week, but it was really fascinating. We did enjoy ourselves and especially after seeing the attendees content, it was just like having the whole world.

Azad Shademan

Chair, University of Tehran IEEE SB

e-mail:shademan@ieee.org

Wireless Communications Workshop at University of Tehran IEEE SB

Our branch organized a very successful workshop on "Wireless

Communications" in 26-28 April 2000.

Thanks to the support of the Iran Telecommunications Inc., six other cities

attended the workshop through video-conferencing. It was the first time that an event like this was carried to the cities by video-conferencing and also the first time that this technology had been used out of the telecommunications centers in our country. More than 550 persons attended this three-day workshop, including 330 participants in our main auditorium. I would like to give thanks to all who had kindly sponsored this workshop.

A total of 11 lectures were delivered by 10 specialist professors from leading universities and industries in this field. It was a great opportunity to introduce our branch to industry chief leaders and also a great experience for organizing a workshop utilizing video-conferencing.

The opening ceremony started with the words from the Holy Qoran, followed by our national anthem. During the first session, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Chair, Dr.Mahmoud Kamarei, welcomed our

guests. Then Dr.Safavi, Vice-Chair of Research and Development of P.T.T Ministry, gave the next speech and notified the fast pace of improvement in mobile communications throughout the world and in our country. Our Student Branch Chair, Azad Shademan, was the other speaker and the last one was the Workshop Chair, Sanaz Mehdizadeh who had asked the other sites (the other six cities who were participating this workshop) to talk about their student branches, at the end of her speech.

The lectures were planned to be useful for B.S. students of telecommunications but also the other participants, who were students of other branches of electrical engineering, engineers from telecommunications companies, and M.S. as well as Ph.D. students, found sufficient benefits in the lectures referring to poll questionnaires.

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Late News from IEEE

IEEE XPLORE ROLLS OUT TO ALL MEMBERS

Following several months of extensive testing of IEEE business rules and communications to members, IEEE Xplore(tm) is now ready for member access.

Visit IEEE Xplore at www.ieee.org/ieeexplore to search and view abstract/citation records starting from 1988 as well as full-text view of personal subscriptions. Both services were formally provided by Bibliographies Online and OPeRA, respectively. IEEE Xplore currently offers more than 630,000 documents. New content is added weekly.

IEEE members must have an IEEE Web Account to access Xplore. To establish an account, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts/>.

Access permissions are determined by a member's society membership. In general, basic rights include:

Browsing tables of contents of journals,

magazines, conferences standards starting from 1988

- Searching and viewing all abstract/citation records starting from 1988
- Full-text access of "IEEE Spectrum" content starting from 1988
- Full-text access of personal subscriptions based on society rules

In the near future, new enhancements will further expand IEEE Xplore's offerings. Document references will be available in the abstract/citation records. Those references will include links to IEEE-referenced content within IEEE Xplore as well as to referenced content of other publishers. Linked references highly improve the navigation of IEEE Xplore. Additional enhancements are planned for later this year and in 2001.

For more information about IEEE Xplore, contact Barbara Lange, IEEE Publishing Business Development, at MailTo: b.lange@ieee.org.

Deadlines and Upcoming Events

November 1 - Annual Plan of Activities due to student services

November - Party at the IEEE SB Passau, as a successor to the 10 th anniversary party which has been a huge success last year. Check out the details at <http://ieee.students.uni-passau.de>

December 15 - Student Paper Contest deadline

February 28 - Outstanding Counselor Award nominations due to Student Services

March 1 - Half—Year dues cycle begins

March 1 - Outstanding Student Award recipient should be named to Student Services. Allow 4 weeks for preparation of certificates (and additional time for mailing)

If you want your local student branch activity listed here, just drop us an email.