

V/C Student Activities

Mona Ghassemian

Goals

IEEE R8 SAC is focusing on the following points:

- 1) Monitoring SB activities through the Student Branches revitalization program and the new Student organization units' formation process and pre-approval forms.
- 2) Maintaining a lively community of IEEE Students across the region through Cross-Sectional Congresses and Region 8 SYP Congresses.
- 3) Promoting excellence and competition spirit through the annual Awards and Contests, Mind the Gap! Contest launch and the Student Paper Contest.
- 4) Getting closer to students through the social media channels such as website, Facebook page and mailing list.
- 5) Monitoring our Industry Relations as a start for more engagement to come.
- 6) Having an Africa focus group to find solutions and come up with ideas for more engagement from the African countries.

Status and Past Contributions

1) Student Branch Revitalization Project

- **Officer appointment and reporting:** One of the key steps we took in reaching this goal was to make contact with all Section chairs who do not have a Student Activities Chair Officer (SAC) or Section Student Representative Officer (SSR) reported. We found that:
 - 38/56 Sections had appointed SAC officers.
 - 15/56 Sections had appointed SSR Officers and only 12 Sections have appointed both SAC and SSR Officers.
 - 2/10 Subsections, have an appointed Student Activities officer, 1 has an appointed Student Representative officer, and 1 has appointed both a Student Activities officer and a Student Representative officer.
 - Out of 52 Sections and Subsection chairs that were contacted, only 10 responded to the call for them to appoint the required Officers for their Section
- **Newly approved units in 2015:** 37 Student branches, 20 new Student branch chapters and 12 new Student branch Affinity Groups as of September 2015.

2) Student and Young Professional congresses

- **Cross-Sectional Congresses:** This year the number of the Cross-Sectional (as well as Sectional) Congresses is significantly higher than the previous years. These Congresses take place in odd years and the benefits for students and Young Professionals are various:
 - ISBC (23-25 of April 2015): <http://www.ieee-isbc.org/2015/#registration>
 - CEUSYP (8-10 of May 2015): <http://www.ceusyp2015.org/registration.html>
 - WESYP (20-24 of May 2015): <https://www.wesypcongress.nl/registration.html>
 - MESYP (4-7 of August 2015): <http://mesbc2015.ps/registration>
 - UK and Ireland SYP (9-11 of October 2015): <http://sites.ieee.org/uki-sc>
 - HSYP (31/10-2/11 2015): <http://www.ieee.ee.auth.gr>
 - Nordic SYP (6-8 of November 2015): <http://www.nordicsyp15.com>
- **Region8 Student and Young Professional Congress 2016:** The selection process has been done over two stages:
 - First Stage, a two-A4 page proposal, Deadline: 15th of April 2015
 - Final Stage, Proposals Max. of 25 A4 pages, Deadline: 30th of June 2015
 - Evaluation Process: R8 SAC members and R8 YP members
 - Winning Proposal: Germany (Regensburg/Passau)
 - Proposed dates: 17th to 21st of August 2016
 - Location: Regensburg

3) Awards & Contests We have evaluated submissions for the awards and here are the announced results:

- R8 Larry K. Wilson Student Activities Award went to Uzay Kas from IEEE METU Student Branch (Turkey). He was awarded for his effort in organizing 1st IEEE PES Student Congress which set foundation for next iteration of PES congresses.
- We have awarded 13 student branches with R8 Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award. Website link: <http://www.ieeer8.org>
- For Region 8 website contest we have nominated 3 student branch websites for finals:
 - 1st place: Alexandria Uni. SB (Egypt) <http://alexeb.org>
 - 2nd place: Boaziçi Uni. SB (Turkey) <http://ieee.boun.edu.tr>
 - 3rd place: Passau Uni. SB (Germany) <https://ieee.uni-passau.de/en>

4) *Mind The Gap!* (MtG) IEEE Region 8 Contest Initiative

- **Jury members:** In collaboration: SAC, Life members, EPICS-in-IEEE and IEEE Educational activities teams.
- **Budget:** Phase I (project idea and winners selection) budget is currently under study. The smallest required amount is 1500 USD (prize money); other expenses to be determined. Phase II (project realization) budget is under discussion with EPICS-in-IEEE.
- **Pilot runs:** Two pilot contests were conducted, during the International Conference on Communications - ICC (London, UK, 8-12 June 2015) and during the Middle-East Student and Young Professional Congress - MESYP 2015 (Amman, Jordan, 4-7 August 2015).
- **Website and related links:**

- Webpage: <http://www.ieeer8.org/?p=21127>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MtGR8SAC>
- Prezi: <https://prezi.com/qbuicketxz6f/ieee-region-8>

5) Student Paper Contact (SPC)

- Below are the results from the SPC 2015 oral finals during EUROCON'15 in Salamanca, Spain.
 - 1st Prize, Diploma and 800 USD award: **Wouter Diels** (93270483), **Alexander Standaert** (93270504): "Design of 1Mbit RRAM memory to replace eFlash", KU Leuven, Belgium.
 - 2nd Prize, Diploma and 500 USD award: **Ian Kavanagh** (93179403): "Developing a Method of Moments Based Indoor Propagation Model", Dublin City University, Ireland.
 - 3rd Prize, Diploma and 200 USD award: **Quentin Cappart** (93213500), **Adrien Thonet** (93269007): "The World Migration Network: Rankings, Groups and Gravity Models", Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
- First call for SPC 2016 has been launched in August 2015, 5 finalists will present in the oral final during MELECON'16 in April in Limassol, Cyprus.

6) Getting closer to students

- Communication channels: [Region 8 Website - Facebook page - R8sac@ieee.org mailinglist].
- New Regional events calendar on the website is up-to-date with regional, cross-sectional and major sectional Student events. <http://www.ieeer8.org/?p=21005>
- Reminders for the A&C deadlines, MtG updates and SPC calls via direct email and through our website and Facebook page.
- Up-to-date database of SB officers and counselors to keep in touch whenever needed.

7) Industry Relations

- Student - Industry Pilot Survey (student side) prepared with collaboration of Action for Industry Team and released in MESBC 2015 and EED 2015. Waiting for further actions.
- Joint presentation by IEEE R8 Industry Relation team and IEEE R8 SAC at IEEE MESBC 2016 to support industrial proposal preparation within a student contest.

Outlook

- The SB stats will be verified using the IEEE SAMIEEE tool to match the records from the pre-approval process.
- We are conducting campaigns for IEEEExtreme 9.0 programming contest which takes place on 24th October 2015.
- Regional Mind The Gap! contest 2016 Milestones: March 1: Promotion campaign ; May 15: Idea submission deadline ; June 15: Idea evaluation and winners selection. The winner teams can start preparing Phase II proposal for EPICS-in-IEEE. They may also be invited to SYP 2016 ; August, during SYP: Winners announcement and start of Phase II ; February 2017: End of Phase II.
- SPC 2016 peer revision is supported by the R8 technical activity team to advance the process. Webinars on how to "write a first academic paper" is prepared by the IEEE R8 Education Activity team to support the contest.
- Student Branch Reporting campaign will be held to promote SB reporting mindset.
- Ideas from Africa Focus Group brainstorming session:
 - Establishing an African SYP.
 - Promoting the membership discount for students in developing countries.
 - Encouraging more EPICS-in-IEEE and SIGHT projects in Africa.
 - Forming an "Africa revitalization team" from specific African regions to focus on the main problems and barriers in their countries and help finding solutions.
- Getting closer to industry:
 - Activating IEEE R8 SAC LinkedIn account and advertising related activities on a professional platform.
 - Intel Challenge ME Competition community partnership.