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GOSTAI founder Jean-Christophe Baillie has been recognised for his innovative work in field of smart machines, receiving the Alain Glavieux Award.

The Alain Glavieux Award is a prize jointly sponsored by IEEE and the French organisation SEE – La Société de l'électricité, de l'électronique et des technologies de l'information et de la communication (Company of Electricity, Electronics, and Information Technology and Communication).

The award was devised to promote the interaction between academia and industry as well as to help advance the sciences, technology and innovation. It is given every other year in the domain of information and communication sciences, automatics and system control, signal and image processing, and related areas.

Jean-Christophe Baillie was awarded the prize at the end of last year for the design of an op-



Mr Baillie collects his award from (left to right) Region 8 director Martin Bastiaans, JAN chair Daniel Pasquet, France Section award vice-chair Victor Fouad-Hanna and SEE president François Gerin

Smart machines entrepreneur collects Alain Glavieux Award

erating system for autonomous robots and its wide application in the industry and the digital society. He founded the company Gostai in March 2006 to foster the development of the growing smart machines industry, innovative software and hardware for service robotics.

The award ceremony was held in Paris at SEE headquarters on 9 December. A €4,000 prize and certificate were presented by SEE president François Gerin and IEEE Region 8 director Martin Bastiaans.

Prof Daniel Pasquet
IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund

To read more information on SEE, visit www.see.asso.fr

Sections Congress to discuss suggestions for IEEE's future



THE IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board, together with Region 8, is planning IEEE Sections Congress 2014 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, at the Rai Convention Center from 22 to 24 August 2014.

Sections Congress is a triennial gathering of IEEE volunteers and staff, comprising workshops, discussions and debates. The event makes it possible for IEEE volunteers from all over the world to come together with other Section leaders, attend training programs and develop recommendations to guide the future of IEEE.

The SC2014 theme is 'Inspiring Our Leaders of Tomorrow'. The three program tracks will be: Enhance Member Satisfaction, Improve Volunteer Experience and Reach Globally with Local Touch.

At meetings around Region 8 over the past few months, the following recommendations were drawn up and submitted to MGA for inclusion in the SC2014 debate:

1. IEEE should provide a collaborative platform (one point stop) for professionals and its own organisation

...continued on page 2 ▶



Date is set in Poland for R8's first SYP Congress



Join us at the Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza in Krakow

CALLING students and Young Professionals: the new IEEE Region 8 Student & Young Professional Congress 2014 is set for 6-10 August at the prestigious Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza of the University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland.

The five-day intensive programme comprises plenary sessions, workshops, industry visits, networking and social events at this UNESCO world heritage site.

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The incredible atmosphere created by 500 participants from more than 50 countries of our Region presents a unique opportunity to meet IEEE global leaders and representatives, to influence the future of IEEE, to find a future employer, and to exchange ideas with Region 8's Students and Young Professionals.

Krakow is great tourist destination, an educational hub with 25,000 students and a place where many global IT companies are established. This mix gives a strong connection between companies and our AGH UST. We look forward to meeting you!

For more details, visit www.sypkrakow.pl and join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sypprogress2014

Maciej Borówka
Congress chair

THE IEEE Awards Board is pleased to announce the 2014 IEEE Medal and Recognition recipients. The Honours Ceremony will take place on 23 August in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in conjunction with IEEE Sections Congress 2014. We highlight those from Region 8...

■ IEEE SIMON RAMO MEDAL, for exceptional achievement in systems engineering and systems science, sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corporation, to **Lyndon Evans** (non-member), director of Linear Collider Collaboration at the European Centre for Particle Physics (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland.

"For systems leadership of the Large Hadron Collider Project from conceptual design through completion of construction."

■ IEEE RICHARD W HAMMING MEDAL, for exceptional contributions to information sciences, systems, and technology, sponsored by Qualcomm, to two co-recipients:

Thomas Richardson (fellow), vice president of Engineering at Qualcomm, Bridgewater, New Jersey, USA.

IEEE honours outstanding achievement in Region 8

Rüdiger Urbanke (senior member), professor at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.

"For fundamental contributions to coding theory, iterative information processing, and applications."

■ IEEE/RSE WOLFSON JAMES CLERK MAXWELL AWARD, for groundbreaking contributions that have had an exceptional impact on the development of electronics and electrical engineering or related fields, funded by Wolfson Microelectronics, to **David Neil Payne**, (member), director of the Optoelectronics Research Centre, Southampton, Hampshire, United Kingdom.

"For ground-breaking contributions to optical fibre technologies and their application to optical communications."

■ IEEE JUN-ICHI NISHIZAWA MEDAL, for outstanding contributions to mate-

rial and device science and technology, including practical application, sponsored by The Federation of Electric Power Companies, Japan, to two co-recipients:

Franz Laermer (non-member), vice president at Robert Bosch Corporate Research and Advanced Development, Stuttgart, Germany.

Andrea Urban (non-member), senior expert at Robert Bosch GmbH, Reutlingen, Germany.

"For inventing and developing the Bosch deep reactive ion etching process that has impacted the micro-electro-mechanical systems field."

■ IEEE WRG BAKER PAPER AWARD, for the most outstanding paper reporting original work published in any IEEE archival publications, to three co-recipients:

Stephen J Wright (member), University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Robert Nowak (fellow), University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Mário A T Figueiredo (fellow), Instituto de Telecomunicações, Instituto Superior Técnico, Torre Norte, Lisboa, Portugal.

For their paper entitled: *Sparse Reconstruction by Separable Approximation*, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing.

THE 2014 IEEE Medal of Honour recipient is **Bantval Jayant Baliga** (life fellow), distinguished university professor at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, "For the invention, implementation, and commercialisation of power semiconductor devices with widespread benefits to society." The complete list of recipients and citations is available online at: www.ieee.org/about/awards/news/medal_recog_recipients_citationslist.pdf

The deadline for nominations for the 2015 round of IEEE Medal and Recognition awards is 1 July 2014.

For more information on how to nominate, please visit www.ieee.org/awards

Promote engineering with pre-university resources

DO you need to connect with pre-university educators, parents and students?

The IEEE Educational Activities Department offers several free online pre-university education portals that can help including: TryEngineering.org, IEEE Try-Computing.org, TryNano.org and [These websites are intended to raise interest and awareness about our professions. The types of content include: career preparation information, profiles of students and professionals, hands-on activities, accredited degree programme searches, involvement opportunities for students, and online games.](http://IEEE Spark.</p>
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IEEE members can easily get



involved, sharing the portals with local educators, parents and with schools. The lesson plans can also serve as hands-on activities for use during member outreach at schools, community events and outside programmes.

You can also submit a student or career profile, identify student involvement opportunities such as camps or scholarships, or suggest online computing resources. Your ideas for new lesson plans for students ages 8–18 are welcome.

Check out all of IEEE's online pre-university education resources: www.tryengineering.org/ssa www.trycomputing.org/ssa www.trynano.org/ssa spark.ieee.org/ssa

Questions? Contact Liz Kurzawa at e.kurzawa@ieee.org



TryEngineering

Sections Congress to discuss IEEE's future

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units in order to (a) enhance collaboration among members regarding research and professional issues, (b) magnify visibility of activities and best practices, (c) establish a virtual meeting point for innovators and entrepreneurs searching for talented professionals e.g. job posting, and (d) increase the impact of IEEE's activities, such as contests and recognitions.

2. IEEE should consider introducing a credit system to reward loyal members. There should be two reward programmes: one for academia and another for industry. Credits could be used, when collected, to pay for conference fees or to access IEEE standards. Special consideration may be given also to members from developing countries, such as offering of some extra credit points per year after membership renewal.

3. A bundle program for IEEE Xplore (IEEE/IET Electronic Library – IEL) should be introduced by IEEE for members who need few articles customised to their needs but do not have the ability to pay for multiple society subscriptions. Special discounts should be given for corporate bundles.

4. IEEE should support a regional distinguished lecturer programme including especially members from industry. The goals are (a) members' motivation from industry to provide knowledge (followed by collaboration potentials) to wider regional/sectional areas, (b) explicitly support section-level collaboration, and (c) enhance a section's visibility to national professional and technical organisations.

Thanos Skodras

SC14 coordinator for Region 8

Pick up free tips on how to run a technical publication

A WEBINAR entitled *Tips for a successful technical publication* was held in December by the IEEE Region 8 Educational Activities Sub-Committee, led by Niovi Pavlidou and George Papadopoulos.

The event was targeted at IEEE's Young Professionals in Region 8. After advertising on the IEEE e-Notice service, we received 126 registrations. The webinar was conducted on Web-Ex and attended by 50.

Niovi Pavlidou spoke about Region 8's initiatives for technical education. The main speaker was Prof George Karagiannidis, editor

of *IEEE Communications Letters*. Every month, *Letters* publishes about 25 short articles on the theory and practice of communications. The benefit to researchers is full review by experts and an editorial board usually within six months of submission.

It was recorded on the Web-Ex platform and is available to everyone for free on our IEEE R8 EASC webpages at www.ieeeer8.org/category/continuing-education-works/ce-webinars.

Stay tuned to our future events.

George Papadopoulos and **Niovi Pavlidou** Educational Activities

Record your experience for posterity with GHN

THE 20th century was characterised by tremendous technological developments, most of them in electronics and computers, many developed by persons who are now IEEE life members, scientists, engineers and technicians.

Several IEEE old-timers, supported by the IEEE Foundation, initiated IEEE Global History Network, which is sponsored by the IEEE History Center. GHN is a wiki-based platform dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of innovation in the fields of electrical engineering, its allied fields and its organisations.

The Global History Network website www.ieeeahn.org includes IEEE STARS, peer-reviewed articles on the history of major developments; first-hand histories; topic articles; oral histories, IEEE Milestones; an education portal; and archives.

It is a moral obligation for IEEE members and especially of IEEE life members to share their experience and historical knowledge by writing accounts and narratives of technological developments that they witnessed.

It is also our duty to initiate the setting up of IEEE Milestones in Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

A series of History of Technology Conferences provides an opportunity to present oral narratives. IEEE Region 8 and IEEE History Center will co-operate with the International Committee of History of Technology in holding HISTELCON 2015 at Tel-Aviv University on 16–21 August 2015.

Experience does not go upon retirement! It is our duty as veterans of this golden technological century to leave to our children and grandchildren a verbal account of how this was achieved. IEEE members are urged to use the tools provided GHN and IEEE History Conferences to leave their message to posterity.

Dr Jacob Baal-Schem
Region 8 Life Members
Coordinator



Latvia and Lithuania Sections join forces to hold multi-disciplinary workshop in Riga

THE First Workshop on Advances in Information, Electronic and Electrical Engineering was jointly organised by Latvia and Lithuania Sections on 26–27 November 2013 at Riga Technical University, Latvia. This was supported by Riga TU and Vilnius Gediminas TU, Lithuania.

The workshop brought together researchers and young scientists from information, electronic and electrical engineering. The aim was to promote cross-

fertilisation of ideas for many disciplines in automatic control, robotics, telecommunications and information systems.

A welcome by Andrejs Romanovs, Latvia Section chair, was followed by two interesting sessions. The technical program can be viewed at http://ieeetw/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Program_AIEEE_13.pdf

At the closing ceremony, certificates were given to 22 presenters representing five Latvian and Lithuanian universities.

Dalius Navakas, Lithuania Section chair, invited everyone to attend a second workshop that is planned to take place next year in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The workshop was followed by a gala dinner, discussions and a walking tour in the heart of Riga's Old Town.

Andrejs Romanovs
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Dalius Navakas
dalius.navakas@ieeetw.org



Smart Grid communications is focus for Univ of Seville lecture

PROF Gerald Sobelman, distinguished lecturer of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, visited the Institute of Microelectronics at the University of Seville, Spain on 18 November 2013 to deliver a talk on 'Communications in the Smart Grid'.

In attendance were the director of IMSE-CNM, Dr Santiago Sánchez-Solano, and chapter officers Teresa Serrano-Gotarredona, Jose M de la

Rosa and Bernabé Linares-Barranco, who chaired the lecture session.

The Smart Grid is an emerging technology that combines the traditional electric power grid with advanced communications and computing capabilities to facilitate metering infrastructure, demand response, renewable energy resources and grid reliability systems.

Jose M de la Rosa

MTT-S Ambassadors set up local chair meetings

A REGION 8 MTT-S Chapter Ambassadors meeting was held in Nuremberg during the European Microwave Week.

The main responsibility of the Ambassadors is to serve as mentors for Chapter chairs.

In attendance were Shmuel Auster, Andrey Baev (standing in for Yury Kuznetsov), Jan Macháč, and Dominique Schreurs. Mourad Loulou from Tunisia was appointed Ambassador responsible for the African Chapters.

A decision was made to organise local Chapter chair meetings, the first to be at the MICON Conference in Lviv, Ukraine in June.

Jan Macháč and **Daniel Pasquet**
Region 8 MTT-S Chapter co-ordinators

Microwave Week provides opportunity for MTT-S Chapters to get together

REGION 8 hosts 47 MTT-S Chapters, including three Student Branches. The annual meeting of Chapter representatives takes place at European Microwave Week. In 2013, EuMW was held in the Nuremberg Convention Center on 6–11 October.

Chapter representatives and MTT-S AdCom met to exchange experiences. They discussed support to the Chapters given by MTT-S, and the conditions. It was a good opportunity to learn how to run Chapters.

Representatives of all MTT-S chapters worldwide were also invited, together with those from the AP, ED, and EMC societies. The event was attended by 44 participants representing 19 Chapters from Region 8 and 4 from other regions.

MTT-S AdCom was represented by president Madhu Gupta, by Tim Lee and Dick Snyder. MTT-S Membership and Geographic Activities was represented by its Bela Szendrenyi and Jim Weiler.

Chapter activities create opportunities for skill improvement, interpersonal interaction, motivating others, and managing events, resources and people.

Daniel Pasquet explained the relationship between Chapters, Sections and Societies.

Alaa Abunjaileh, MTT-S AdCom, introduced the new IEEE MTT-S 2014 Outstanding Chapter Award.

Jan Macháč, Region 8 Chapter coordinator, and Chapter representatives reported on major events. An exhibition of posters pro-



vided an interesting insight into the lives of Chapters.

A reception and dinner brought participants together with AdCom members.

Jan Macháč and **Daniel Pasquet**
Region 8 MTT-S Chapter
co-ordinators



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

Sections Congress comes to Region 8 – at last!

FOR the first time, IEEE Sections Congress will be held in Region 8.

This is a triennial gathering of active members from all over the world to meet with leaders and IEEE staff, to get some training and to develop recommendations to set the direction for IEEE for the next three years. It will be held in Amsterdam, at the Rai Convention Center, from 22–24 August.

The IEEE Awards Board will run the annual Honours Ceremony for the 2014 IEEE Medal and Recognition winners during the Congress. This year many from Region 8 will receive the awards. We congratulate

late them and encourage you to consider nominees for 2015.

The most important event for students and Young Professionals will be SYP2014 Congress in Krakow, Poland, from 6–10 August. More details are on our front page.

Please enjoy reading about the many events featured in this issue and write to us with your news. IEEE membership in Region 8 is growing, helped by our many activities. Give your support to local events and volunteer to help spread the knowledge of our profession.

Zhijia Huang
Editor



Experienced engineers reveal the secrets of their success

THE IEEE Council on Electronic Design Automation, Tunisia Chapter continues its series of technical seminars entitled 'Success Stories'.

These events invite young graduates to speak about their work. It also invites engineers who have had a successful career to speak about their experience, how they built their career and how they overcame problems.

Future engineers can learn a lot from such experiences and are encouraged to develop their own projects. They make contact with a guest who will assist them to achieve their project.

This third seminar was held on 12 February at the National School of Electronics and Telecommunica-

tions of Sfax, Tunisia (ENET'Com). The guest was Zouheir Koubâa, manager of the STEPEAV Group, an expert in the fields of smart buildings, acoustics, networks of wired television, and audio-visual techniques.

More than 120 people attended – more than there were seats in the amphitheatre – making it a real great success.

Zouheir Koubâa answered a wide variety of questions. The event was extremely beneficial, not only for the undergraduates, but also for the teachers who also attended the event.

Mourad Fakhfakh
CEDA TN chapter chair
<http://sites.ieee.org/tunisia-ceda>

IEEE region 8 news

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Submitting articles

We welcome news, articles and letters from any member of the IEEE. Please send these to the editor as plain text by email to r8news@ieee.org, remembering to type 'Region 8 News' in your email subject line. If sending photos or graphics, please make sure they are high-resolution files. Read our full guide to writing and submitting articles at www.ieeer8.org -> R8News Newsletter -> Tips for contributors.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

July 2014 issue.....deadline: 1 May 2014
October 2014 issue.....deadline: 1 August 2014
January 2015 issue.....deadline: 1 November 2014



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MODS'13 workshop features reports at top technical level

THE 14th IEEE Annual Joint Lithuania-Belarus Workshop 'Microwave and optoelectronic devices and systems' (MODS'13) took place in Vilnius on 6-7 December.

The workshop was organised by Lithuania Section, MTT/ED/AP and Education Chapters and Belarus MTT/ED Chapter, together with JSC Geozondas and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. The workshop gathered around 40 participants from industry, academia and research institutes.

Oral presentations were given during the first day at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, while demonstrations of working equipment were held on the second day

at JSC Geozondas. All technical reports were made at high technical and scientific level.

Such joint international workshops provide opportunities not only to exchange experiences and best practices but also to promote friendship between neighbouring countries.

The first day of the workshop concluded with a dinner, and the second day ended with a sightseeing tour of Vilnius.

Participants from both countries are looking forward to the 15th workshop, to be organized next year in Minsk, Belorussia.

Dalius Navakauskas
Lithuania Section chair

Bruno Meyer visits Tunisia to talk about power systems

ON 16-18 November, the Tunisia Chapter of the IEEE Power & Energy Society welcomed Prof Bruno Meyer, IEEE Fellow, CEO of Arteria France and 2013 IEEE PES President-Elect nominee. Bruno was the first IEEE distinguished lecturer in the power and energy field.

The good collaboration between the Tunisia Chapter, PES Student Chapter at the National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS) as the only PES student chapter in both Tunisia and Africa, and the student branch of the National Engineering School of Monastir (ENIM) was the primary key for the success of his visit.

Two meetings were organised: in ENIS (Sfax) on 16 November and in ENIM (Monastir) on 18 November.

Prof Meyer presented the Society and its benefits for members, and especially for students, and presented his technical talk on R&D for

transmission systems operators as the key challenge in Europe. He explained the challenges of designing transmission systems with the new technologies in power electronics, IT, and renewable energy.

He emphasised the importance of smart grids in the current model market of the energy industry. Some projects of the European network of transmission system operators for electricity were presented as well as the French operator RTE.

These talks attracted more than 120 graduate and undergraduate students as well as faculty members in the two venues. They were preceded by a visit to the research laboratories in ENIS with Professors Nabil Derbel and Ahmed Masmoudi, and Professors Abdelmajid Benamara and Anis Sakly of ENIM.

Rami Messaoud, ENIS
Hatem Chaabouni, ENIM
Habib M Kamoun, PES Tunisia



Bruno Meyer with the Student Chapter board of the PES at ENIS

Amateur radio specialist travels through India on lecture circuit

MY journey to India began in September 2013, in Udaipur, Rajasthan state. The National Workshop on Amateur Radio and Software Defined Radio was organised at Techno India NJR Institute of Technology. It was my second visit to that part of the country, and this time extended our workshop from two to three days.

We wanted to offer students practical opportunities with real electronics, such as to build devices partially driven by computer CPUs. With the help of the National Institute of Amateur Radio, and its enthusiastic leader Ram Mohan of VUJZMYH, students had an exciting chance to learn how to design, assemble and test various subsystems of more complex radio devices.

Among the young participants it was good to see so many female students.

The next event was the 2nd International Conference on Computing and Systems at the University of Burdwan, Department of Computer Sciences, opened by the state minister of Research and Human Resources. Compared to the complex workshop in Udaipur, the amateur radio lecture was constrained as that part of West Bengal state does not have active amateur radio enthusiasts.

My next talk was at the 2013 IEEE International Conference on



Techno India NJR Institute of Technology

Signal Processing, Computing and Control at JayPee University of Information Tech - JUIT, in Shimla area of Himachal Pradesh. This gave another opportunity for lectures and practical demos on assembling antenna cables and connectors to simulate radio transmissions. The future of the hobby at JUIT seems to be bright.



It was good to see so many female students

My India journey concluded in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with another three-day tutorial at the Indian Institute of Technology at Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU). The lack of practical opportunity was also evident in Varanasi but the enthusiasm of Prof SP Singh, the head of the Electronics Engineering Department and his colleagues gave hope that more amateur radio activities would be possible in years to come.

Miroslav Skoric
Austria Section

German, Austrian and Swiss Chapters partner to investigate electric drives

ON 4-5 July last year, the IEEE IAS/PELS/IES German and Austrian Chapters met together with PELS Swiss Chapter in Graz, Austria. Their hosts were the ELIN Motoren GmbH and the Electric Drives and Machines Institute of Graz University of Technology.

Dr Brandstaetter, head of R&D at ELIN, introduced us to their products and manufacturing processes. The product range comprises motors from 37 to 35,000kW, induction generators and synchronous generators. Electrical machine manufacturing is fascinating, especially the coiling process, the electric isolation, and the techniques to construct such machines.

At Graz University, Prof Annette Muetze, showed the participants their new facilities. These include a laboratory to introduce 300 first-year students to the basics of power electronics and electric drives. Multiple

power supplies up to 690V 500kW and a variable DC link up to 1000V 300kW are used for education and research.

The first day closed with dinner at Brasserie Bruno, located in the center of the old historical city of Graz, a UNESCO world heritage site.

The second day of the meeting featured two keynote lectures. Prof Ralph Kennel from Technical University Munich commented on the recent achievements on encoderless control of AC drives. Prof Maarten Kamper from Stellenbosch University, South Africa gave us a detailed insight into synchronous reluctance machines, and areas where they may provide a viable alternative to conventional.

<http://iee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels>
Ingo Pletschen
Joint IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter



TELSIKS celebrates 20 years of successful telecoms conferences

FOLLOWING its 20-year tradition, the 11th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable and Broadcasting Services (TELSIKS 2013) was held in Niš, Serbia, on 16–19 October.

This is one of the leading scientific conferences in the region in the field of information and telecommunication technologies, systems and services. The conference proceedings are now available in the digital IEEE Xplore database.

Authors of the papers came from more than 100 different institutions all over the world. The most important events were:

- Round table on 'Digitisation: Rational use of the radio frequency spectrum'.

- Conference on 'Development and implementation of advanced cable services and effective business models – DIACAS 2013', with the topic 'Financial models in realisation of redistribution of media contents and development and implementation of advanced

cable services in the country and region'.

- Workshop on 'The Appropriate Design of the Reconstruction Filter and its Influence on the Output Power and Efficiency of Class-S and Quasi Class-S Power Amplifiers', given by Dr Kurt Blau, Ilmenau University of Technology.

- Round table on 'Women's participation in science and technology – opportunities, challenges and way forward'.

The TELSIKS conference organising committee has established the level of the conference to connect scientists with professionals, encourage students and young professionals to do research and support the transfer of research results into industry and supporting activities. They want to keep an appropriate environment for development of national ICT industry and society in general.

Bratislav Milovanovic
TELSIKS 2013 chair

bratislav.milovanovic@elfak.ni.ac.rs



HIS and IAS events organised to run in partnership in Tunisia

FROM 4–6 December, the 13th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems and the 9th International Conference on Information Assurance and Security were jointly held by the REGIM-Lab from University of Sfax (Tunisia) and MIR-Labs (USA), in co-operation with IEEE Sfax Subsection, in Laico Hotel at Yasmine Hammamet.

The conferences were technically co-sponsored by the soft computing technical committee of the IEEE SMC Society and the Tunisia Chapter of the IEEE SMC Society.

The technical programme included three plenary talks from world-renowned speakers: Imre J Rudas (Hungary), Constantinos S Patichis (Cyprus) and Farhat Fnaiech (Tunisia)

It also featured four oral sessions related to the IAS field, nine oral sessions related to

the HIS field and a tutorial on 'Machine vs Human Intelligence' presented by Tarek M Hamdani (Saudi Arabia).

More than 80 participants enjoyed the high quality of the presentations. The conferences were a good opportunity to share skills, methods and insights; to exchange ideas, experiences and thoughts; and to create values by implementing new ideas.

During the conference, an IEEE stand was organised by the IEEE Sfax Subsection in order to encourage and help participants to join IEEE.

In the gala dinner, awards were delivered to the best paper and best student paper in each conference.

Adel M Alimi and Habib M Kammoun
www.mirlabs.org/his13

Academic Core Team meets to discuss initiatives and strategy

ON 7–8 February, the IEEE Academic Core Team organised its first face-to-face meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

The team members discussed the current status of the local initiatives, future strategies and goals to be achieved.

This innovative student-driven project which started in Region 8 has successfully kick-started 16 initiatives in four different IEEE Regions around the world, with a lot of participating Student Branches and universities.

To cope with the need of having relevant educational contents available to students locally, IEEE is trying to create the first truly multi-language online platform to be available for every student, professor or enthusiast, for free.

By setting ambitious goals and defining a well-planned strategy for achieving those goals, 2014 is the year IEEE Academic will certainly make the difference in improving education worldwide.

Efthymia Arvaniti

Student session at ELMAR

CROATIA Section is planning a student session at the 56th IEEE International Symposium ELMAR-2014.

The topics are image and video processing, multimedia, communications and navigation. All prospective BSc and MSc students are invited to submit their papers.

Papers accepted by two independent reviewers will be published

in proceedings available at the symposium. Authors of the best student paper will be awarded with the Best Student Paper Award during the opening session. Croatia Section and ELMAR Society offer financial support. The deadline is 14 April.

David Diaz

www.elmar-zadar.org/2014/student_session

Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman

Cloud computing guest lecture

CALEDONIAN College of Engineering (CCE) Student Chapter organised a guest lecture on 25 November on 'Cloud Computing and recent Track in IT sector'.

The event started with a welcome address and the introduction of the guest speaker by Dr Dharmasa. Nearly 40 students and staff attended the talk.

Mr Amrithajit presented the various applications of Android, its sources and their principles of

operation. In the later part of his talk, he mentioned the significant technical edge of mobile over web applications. He also elaborated on software applications needed in the area of native language like Arabic Designer as per the market survey.

He completed his talk with the topics of software certification and the development of the software/IT Sector in Oman.

Dr Dharmasa

CCE- IEEE Branch Counselor

Call for contributors to WIE's interactive online chat series

IEEE Women in Engineering started an initiative in 2013 whereby live chats hosted by various presenters are broadcast on a regular basis.

The chat series gives members the opportunity to listen and engage with presenters on a wide variety of topics. Following the success of the first online interactive sessions, WIE would like to hear from you.

The Women in Engineering organisation has many talented

members whose experiences and knowledge could prove to be of great interest and value when shared with others.

Please view recordings of the past online live discussions which are listed as links here:

www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/women/women_events.html

If you are interested, please email Keyana Tennant at keyana.tennant@ieee.org.

Joyce Mwangama



University of Thessaly, Greece

UTH Student Branch leads TISP 2 events

FOR the second year, IEEE Student Branch of University of Thessaly (Lamia) got involved with the Teacher in Service Program 2.0. During November, a team of volunteers organised two workshops at the Fourth High School of Lamia and three at the First High School of Lamia.

Students were asked to perform the 'Tall Tower Challenge' activity. They were provided with simple materials such as straws and paper clips, and they tried, by using them, to build the tallest and strongest tower they could.

Students also conducted the 'Arduino Blink Challenge' activity. Each team was supplied with an Arduino Uno board, a breadboard, an LED and a 220ohm resistor. They built a program and a circuit to turn the LED on and off via the Arduino Uno.

At the end of the workshops, all had managed to achieve the goals of the activities and had their first exposure to the field of engineering.

Ioannis Mousmoutis

UTH (Lamia) Student Branch



Faschang wins Smart Grid student video competition

AT the IEEE SmartGridComm Conference in October, held in Vancouver, Canada, the IEEE Student Video competition took place. The winner of best Smart Grid application video was Mario Faschang (pictured below) for his *Electric Vehicle in Smart Grid Showcase*.

Mario is a member of the Energy&IT research group, at the Institute of Computer Technology at the Vienna University of Technology. His research topics focus on voltage control in low voltage distribution grids with high density of distributed, alternative power generation and electromobility.

Congratulations!

sgc2013.ieee-smartgridcomm.org



SYP Congress 2014 in Poland is one not to be missed, so keep up to date

DEAR IEEE student friends!

2014 is well under way and we are all looking forward to the biggest student event – the IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress. This time we invite you to join us in the beautiful city of Krakow, Poland, from 6–10 August.

The organising team of the IEEE AGH-UST Student Branch is working hard to make this event memorable, preparing an agenda with a variety of technical, professional and social activities. Highlights include an extraordinary gala dinner in the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a barbeque on the Piłsudski's Mound, interesting workshops and keynote presentations from IEEE officials.

SYP Congress is a great opportunity for all students and Young Professionals to meet, learn about IEEE and engineering, exchange ideas and engage with professionals and industry from all around Region 8. Visits to scientific centers and the famous multicultural dinner are planned, so this is also a call to prepare your traditional delicacies, your nice outfits, a lot of energy and your best smile.

More to be announced on the official congress website <http://syprakow.pl> and interesting information and facts can be found on the facebook page of SYP Congress 2014 at www.facebook.com/sypracongress2014.

New IEEE Region 8 SAC member

We are glad to announce a new addition to our team, the Electronic Communications coordinator, Youmna El Bitar. Welcome Youmna!

You can always visit us in our webpage www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities and facebook page www.facebook.com/ieee.r8sac, or send us your news and awesome activities at r8sac@ieee.org. We are eager to hear from you and share your news with the world.

Keep up the excellent work and thank you for being part of the IEEE family. See you all in Krakow!

Your R8 Student Activities Committee:

*Christian, Djordje, Efthymia, Elias,
Pablo, Piotr and Youmna*
r8sac@ieee.org



University of Alexandria, Egypt

Eight months of Protons reaches its conclusion

ON 2 November, Alexandria Student Branch in cooperation with the Faculty of Engineering, Science club and Ideas Gym, celebrated the closing of one of its latest programmes, 'Protons'.

Protons is a non-profit programme initiated by the Student Branch that adopts the organisation's vision to improve humanity through technology. Launched in March 2013, it targeted school students aged between 13 and 17, guiding them through three phases with the help of mentors and instructors, and introducing them to different fields of technology through interactive sessions and workshops.

Participants also received sessions about soft skills, where self-learning was strongly emphasised and encouraged.

The second phase of the programme marked the selection of the different projects the students were to work on. There were 11 teams, which consisted of three to seven participants each, working on three main fields of technology: Home Automation, Programming and Robotics.

The programme lasted eight months and was completed with a projects fair, in which the participants got the chance to demonstrate their projects.

The winning teams were awarded some valuable prizes along with a scholarship from Ideas Gym to participate in international competitions.

Raghda Ibrahim Mohammed
Alexandria Student Branch
secretary

Student Chapter activities report

THE number of Student Branches increased last year as more became aware of the benefits of IEEE membership.

Motivation of students is evident in their Chapter activities and their organisation and attendance at student branch congresses: IEEE Turkey SBC February 2013, Izmir, Turkey; IEEE Iberian SBC March 2013 Porto, Portugal; IEEE Central Eastern SBC May 2013, Opole, Poland; IEEE Middle East SBC May 2013, Beirut, Lebanon; IEEE UK&RI SBC Sept. 2013, Bath, UK; IEEE Hellenic SBC Nov. 2013, Nicosia, Cyprus.

A project management workshop series was delivered by Simay Akar, Region 8 co-ordinator. Students designed specific projects based on their technical interests which were presented during these workshops. More than 70 participants from 37 Sections presented their projects.

The most important benefit was the opportunity for participants to share ideas with their colleagues from other student branches and developing them within this inspiring environment.

Simay Akar
Region 8 Student Branch
Chapters co-ordinator

Discover concepts behind our brand new YP logo



SINCE the beginning of the year, the Young Professionals logo has been updated to give the group its own brand and a new identity to grow with.

The group's new identity is based on an illustration that represents the sum of the whole being made up of individuals while they are connected to build something great together. The three separate parts of the icon each represents an individual in the group. The negative space formed between the three individual shapes forms a 'Y' to help identify 'Young'. The use

of colour in the logo is meant to represent a colourful, energetic, vibrant and timeless icon. The colours that make up the icon have the following representations:

Gold: a tie to the roots of the original GOLD group.

Blue: connects the group to the IEEE master brand colour.

Green: signifies growth and youth.

Templates are available from our website yp.ieeeer8.org for all volunteers to download and utilise freely.

Rafal Sliz, R8 YP

SBC presents initiatives for activities in Croatia



THE third IEEE Croatia Student Branch Congress was held on 28–29 September in Zagreb, Croatia. Representatives of all Student Branches in Croatia attended. It was also an opportunity for all Student Branches of the Croatia Section to gather and celebrate the IEEE Day on 1 October.

Our goal was to present new programmes and initiatives related to student activities both on Regional and Section level. Opening remarks by Marko Delimar, long-term advisor of the Zagreb Student Branch, were followed by a presentation about development of student memberships, given by Aleksandar Szabo.

IEEE Young Professionals presented their work to promote their collaboration with the student branches.

The new Region 8 student competition IEEE madC (mobile application development Con-

test) was introduced by the team from Osijek Student Branch. They started the madC competition and are organising the first Regional edition of the contest.

Rui Costa told us how to start the IEEE Academic programme in the Croatia Section which helped us to plan those activities. TISP was presented with a workshop during which participants developed a robot arm made of common office materials.

The Congress wound up with presentations about recent activities and forthcoming events of all the participating student branches. Many exciting ideas were born, new friendships were made, and what is most important, the enthusiasm for organising IEEE activities in the new academic year has never been higher.

Ivana Stupar
Croatia Section Student
Activities chair



University of Cyprus, Nicosia

Hellenic SBC helps develop skills and takes a close look at TISP 2.0

THE Hellenic Student Branch & GOLD Congress 2013 was hosted by the University of Cyprus IEEE Student Branch in Nicosia, from 1–3 November. The participants were students and Young Professional members from Greece, Cyprus and other countries of Region 8, and its purpose was for participants to socialise, exchange experiences and ideas, and to develop new skills.

The Congress programme included keynotes from IEEE distinguished lecturers, Student Branch presentations, technical workshops and presentations of current IEEE programmes. Among others, a Teacher in Service Program training workshop was presented by Ioannis Mousmoutis, chair of the University of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch and his team. The workshop aimed at increasing participants' involvement.



TISP 2.0, a Region 8 initiative, was announced. Educational portals were demonstrated and guidance to the participants was given in order to conduct TISP workshops in their local areas.

Overall, the response from the participants was positive and we expect them to organise TISP workshop in their local areas in the future.

For more information, please contact us at r8puw@ieee.org

University of Pavia, Italy

Microsoft and PhD students speak at Pavia Student Branch events



UNIVERSITY of Pavia Student Branch again proved itself to be one of the most active in Italy in 2013. Several recent events brought young students closer to the world of research and encouraged them to meet and to share their ideas with each other.

On 12 November, three speakers from Microsoft were invited to the Engineering Faculty of the University of Pavia to discuss the latest hi-tech.

Another meeting was organ-

ised on 27 November to address the latest scientific innovations for the modern treatment of diabetes.

At this event, three PhD engineering students showed their current research activities to help characterise with high accuracy the chemical processes for the diagnosis of diabetes. Another project was a design for an artificial pancreas able to replace humans.

*Stefano Moscato and
Andrea Giannini*
Student Branch, UNIPV