

IEEE ComSoc Central Texas Austin Chapter
Winner of the 2015 Chapter Achievement Award, North America Region;
Winner of the 2015 Chapter of the Year Award
By Fawzi Behmann, Central Texas Austin Chapter Chair, USA

As a senior member of IEEE, it has been a great privilege to work with a talented team of officers to serve the chapter professionals and community here in Austin, which has made it a rewarding year for all.

Just a brief introduction, Austin is the capital of the state of Texas and home to the university of Texas, and many high tech companies. Austin is known as the Live Music Capital of the World, and is one of America's fastest growing, and most desirable cities. Over the years, the chapter has reached out and strengthened relationship with UT, several of the high tech companies including AT&T, IBM, NI, Freescale, HP, and others. As a result, we are grateful in holding our regular meetings at AT&T nice facilities. In addition, when the chapter brings a Distinguished Lecturer, it becomes a customary that not only does the DL addresses the IEEE but also visit and present at local companies such as IBM and AT&T.

2014 Planning: It all started with careful planning articulating on the mission of delivering quality events to the membership/community and providing opportunities for education, networking. The Theme for 2014 was Wireless & Networking *Architectural Evolution and Services*. Among the key objectives were: conducting more technical meetings, engaging with DLT/DSP, increasing membership by reaching out & participating in local activities, collaborating with other societies, young professional, supporting GLOBECOM 2014, ensuring financial health and ensuring the chapter website is updated (<http://sites.ieee.org/ct-comsp/>) promoting meetings & special events, and growing social media content such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Technical Meetings/Topics:

- In 2014, Austin COMSOC conducted 34 meetings of which 21 were technical meetings representing the highest in CTS for 2014. All meetings were reported in vtools and L31.
- **Among the key topics covered in 2014 included** "Harnessing Electrical Demand Flexibility for a sustainable Energy Future", "Heterogeneous Computing: Promises and Challenges", "ZPEG Video Compression", "Video Surveillance", "Geospatial technologies", "Traffic Forensics", "Big Data, Cyber-Biological Systems", "UHD Technology Evaluation at AT&T", "IOE - Internet of Everything", "Engineering and Government", "Aging, Brain Science and the future of healthcare", and others.

Distinguished Lecturer/Speaker Program

In 2014, the chapter hosted Prof. Ying-Dar Lin, IEEE Fellow, National Chiao Tung University, TAIWAN. During his visit to Austin, Dr. Lin delivered presentation to IBM, AT&T and COMSOC/SP and other joint chapters. Dr. Lin spoke on "Traffic Forensics: Capture, Replay, Classification, Detection, and Analysis" as well as "Software Defined Networking: Why, When, Where, and How."

Speaker Appreciation Award: The chapter value the time and sacrifice put by the speaker in delivering quality content. As a token of appreciation, the chapter prepares and deliver a personalized plaque to each speaker.

Membership Development:

The chapter took pride in participating at select events that helped in recruiting new members and generating awareness among the community. Among the events National Instrument NI Week, Innotech, Texas Wireless Summit, IEEE Gold event at SxSW, and IEEE Cybersecurity day.

As a chair of the chapter, I collaborated with the Chinese American Semiconductor Professional Association (CASPA) chapter chair in Austin and held a few joint sessions. CASPA has over 100 engineers most that are not IEEE members. Joint sessions provided a forum for a good exchange and IEEE membership.

Overall, according to SAMIEEE, there were over 50 new members were added to IEEE COMSOC/SP Chapter in Austin in 2014

Collaboration with other societies/MGA/IEEE

- The Austin COMSOC chapter collaborated with several other chapters/councils. These included DSP, CS, I&M, TMC, CTCN, and CEDA. Among the examples, COMSOC joined other chapters for a full day educational program on Career development workshop with over 65 in attendance. The theme was

“Skills for a multi-faceted Career.” Among the speakers were Gary Black, IEEE-USA 2014 President, Bob Krause, IEEE-USA AICN and others.

- Among the other activities was to help Central Texas chapter chairs to take advantage of the IEEE PACE Program. As a section PACE chair, I organized several PACE projects which increased from 3 projects in 2013 to 7 projects in 2014. I also led PACE automation program that is expect benefit Regions 1-6.
- Among the new IEEE initiatives is Collabratec where I participated as a moderator representing Austin Community in the pilot study and engaged in creating messages and discussion to bring about building a community of interests for Austin.

Activities with Young Professional/Students

- COMSOC Co-sponsored a Young Professional Mixer in Austin during SxSW in 2014. The event had over 100 persons in attendance. The chapter had information table. During that event, two presentations were made by Glenn Zorpette, Executive Editor for IEEE Spectrum and Dr. Robin Murphy, expert in search and rescue drones.
- The chapter supported GLOBECOM 2014 (Dec. 8-12) and secured over 100 students from University of Texas, San Antonio, State University of San Marcos and other and industry volunteered who volunteered as room monitor and at registration. As the chair marketing and publicity for GLOBECOM, I sent an appreciation note to the students for their dedication exemplary performance at the event.

Visibility at the community level

As a part of support promoting GLOBECOM 2014, we reached to:

- **Austin Chamber of Commerce.** Engaged the Austin Chamber of Commerce with promotional activities of GLOBECOM 2014 for several months prior to the event to the technical community and startups. The Commerce provided funding \$2500 for the Conference.
- **City of Austin.** Engaged with the City of Austin – The Mayor’s office and succeeded in obtaining Proclamation declaring December 8-12 to be IEEE week for Austin. Later, the Mayor’s office issued a quote that was used in a press release issued by COMSOC promoting GLOBECOM 2014

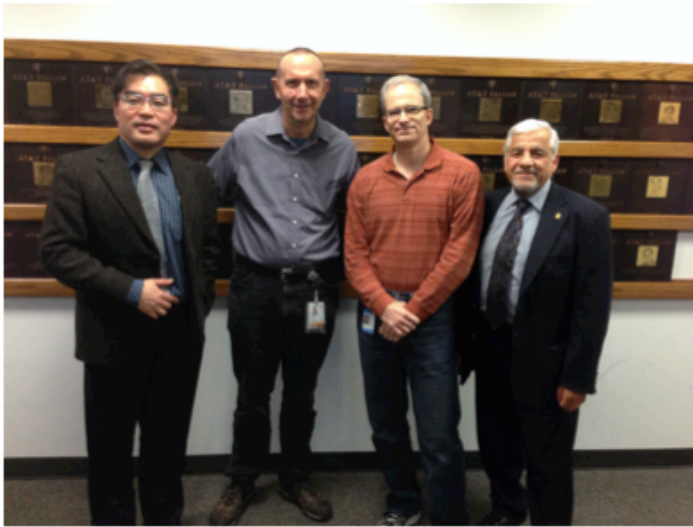
Collaboration IEEE/Hilton/AT&T for GLOBECOM 2014 IT Infrastructure

- Successfully led an Infrastructure IT project in delivering an enhanced WiFi/Cellular signal and coverage that supported over 3300 client devices and 2500 persons in attendance. With the upgrade of WiFi network by Hilton and Cellular network by AT&T, the peak traffic reached only 30% of total bandwidth capacity.
- This was the first time ever in COMSOC that a feasibility assessment followed by implementation of upgrading equipment was undertaken for an international event.

Financial Health: The chapter continued enjoying a good financial health due careful budgeting and spending on meetings and events. Collaborating and joining with other chapters helped to share expenses but at the same time enabled us in adding more meetings for the year. We don’t charge for meetings. Regarding Food & Beverage (F&B), officers helped in ordering catered food and carried them to the meeting facilities. Promotion of events, printing of feedback forms and transportation were done at no cost to the society. The appreciation plaques were typically purchased on 50% sales at the beginning of the year and personalization and execution were typically done by the chapter chair.

December 12, 2014: DL Prof. Lin presenting to COMSOC/SP Austin Chapter and meeting with AT&T Technical Staff

Below. Left-Right: DL Dr. Lin, Dr. Bob Dailey, Dr. Jason, Fawzi Behmann

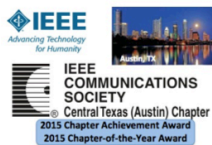


CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES



IEEE Communications Society Austin Chapter Appreciation Event
November 6, 2015, 5:30-9:30 pm
The Park @ The Domain
Snacks, Drinks, Giveaways and Celebration Cake





**IEEE Communications Society Austin Chapter
 Appreciation Dinner**

**November 7, 2015
 7:00 - 10:00 pm
 The Daily Grill @ The Domain**

Event is sponsored by IEEE COMSOC



