

Levent Onural's work is recognised with IEEE award

THE IEEE has honoured Levent Onural with the Haraden Pratt Award in recognition of his leadership in the worldwide promotion of the values embraced by the organisation.

An active and dedicated IEEE volunteer, Levent Onural has expanded IEEE's mission



of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity around the world.

Professional Activities Summit at SBC attracts nearly 100 participants

THE second Region 8 Professional Activities Summit was held at SBC 2012 congress in Madrid during the summer. Several Professional Activities Workshops centred on the professional topics for training students and GOLD members in non-technical, 'soft' skills essential for engineering careers.

Margaretha Eriksson (with workshops presented by Ali El-Mousa) led sessions on 'Effective communication' and 'From idea to product'; Han van Loon led 'STARS thought leader workshop', and Byron Soulopoulos from JCI led 'Take back control of your own future'.

Nearly 100 participants came to the half-day training sessions, including students, GOLD repre-



sentatives and some senior members from all over Region 8. More than 30 participants joined each workshop. The atmosphere was set in the beautiful surroundings of San Lorenzo de El Escorial.

Affirmative feedback from the workshops motivates the PASC team to organise local events all over Region 8, so please join us!

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EAB honours EPICS founders with Meritorious Service Citation

SAURABH Sinha from the South Africa Section and Kapil Dandekar from the Philadelphia Section were awarded the Educational Activities Board's Meritorious Service Citation at the IEEE Board meeting in November 2012. The citation reads "For spearheading the incorporation of the Engineering Projects in Community Service program in IEEE's educational activities, and expanding the program to Africa and South America."

The Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program brings together university students with high school students to do engineering projects that benefit their local communities. Sinha and Dandekar introduced EPICS into IEEE with two pilot projects started in 2009 and have been expanding it with Student Branches around the globe ever since.

Between 2009 and 2011, they started 27 new projects with the assistance from the IEEE Educational Activities staff.

The social impact has involved thousands, and the importance was expressed in the words of one of the students recruited to an EPICS project in South Africa, who wrote:



Kapil Dandekar (left) and Saurabh Sinha

"Personally it gives me immense pride to have contributed to something that has had a positive and lasting impact on my community. Based on surveys after the programme for high school learners and the network I have built as a young engineer through the programme, I can confidently state: this programme not only helps communities, it builds them. I strongly believe it is fitting that Dr Dandekar and Dr Sinha are given the recognition for an accomplishment that stands at the heart of the IEEE's motto: Advancing Technology for Humanity."

Sinha teaches at the University of Pretoria, Dandekar at Drexel University.

Yvonne Pelham, Manager
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Join the editorial team of IEEE Region 8 News

AS you will have noticed, *IEEE Region 8 News* features a great many articles from all across the region. This is a very good sign of how we are developing. At the same time, it demands an ever greater amount of work from the editors.

To enhance the quality and the quantity of articles we publish, we are putting out a call for volunteers to join the *IEEE Region 8 News* editorial team. Starting straight away, we need several people to help us prepare the Jubilee issue of the newsletter. In the longer term, we are searching for on-going associate editors.

Any IEEE member in Region 8 can apply. The kind of people we

are looking for are passionate about IEEE and volunteering. They need to have good English writing skills, of course, but verbal communication is just as important for dealing with other editors and members.

Some previous experience in writing or editing, such as for a school or university newsletter, would be useful. Volunteers will also need to be available for Skype sessions in order to work with the team, and may have the opportunity for travel if necessary.

If you are interested, please email the editors at r8news@ieee.org with your CV, expectations and any questions.

Zhijia Huang

From fuzzy logic to electric vehicles – webinars in R8

TWO continuing education webinars on very different subjects were conducted on 3 July.

The organising team comprised Saurabh Sinha (Region 8 vice-chair of Technical Activities) and Niovi Pavlidou (Region 8 Educational Activities). George Michael, Electronic Communications coordinator, provided technical support.

The first webinar, 'Fuzzy logic systems in educational assessment', was introduced by Niovi Pavlidou. He outlined the technical and education activities that have volunteer committees in Region 8.

The central speaker was Dr Riadh Besbes, an educational supervisor for secondary schools in Tunisia. The webinar was com-

pleted within one hour, including Q&A discussion.

Apart from some technical problems with the voice quality and lack of toll-free telephone connections, the WebEx process was a success.

The second webinar was 'Introduction to electric vehicles', and the speaker was Vladimir Katic, IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section. This was promoted for members of IEEE Vehicular Technology Society in Region 8 and others.

Voice connections on WebEx can be achieved in parallel with Skype, and a VTS-affiliated webinar will be offered again. Please contact me for further assistance on continuing education.

Niovi Pavlidou

IEEE life insurance deal for the rest of us? It's here at last!

IEEE has announced a new global term life insurance plan offered in partnership with Clements Worldwide.

Many life insurance policies impose coverage limitations, making them inadequate for highly mobile IEEE members.

The new global term life insurance plan offers worldwide all causes coverage with no medical or blood tests required. This is guaranteed for active IEEE members. Limits of up to US\$500,000 are available.

Visit www.clements.com/ieeelife to find out more details. If you enrol early, you can receive 60 days complimentary coverage!