



From the left: Hashem Zare-Hoseini, Mike Perrott and Peter Kennedy at CSR, Cambridge

## ToM visits Ireland to take a close look at microelectronics

FOR the past six years, the IEEE Italy Solid-State Circuits Chapter has organised 'Topics on Microelectronics' short courses at the University of Pavia. They attract academic and industrial participants, primarily PhD students and design engineers from the south-Milan area.

The IEEE UK&RI SSC Chapter adopted the 'ToM' model in Ireland to serve the need for professional development in the microelectronic design industry. The first of two three-day ToM-IE courses took place at Tyndall National Institute, Cork, on 3–5 July.

Speakers included Tim Cummins of Silicon Labs, Analog Devices Fellow Colin Lyden, and IEEE Distinguished Lecturers Franco Maloberti and Mike Perrott. The program attracted over 40 participants from Analog Devices, Cypress Semiconductor, Microelectronic Circuits Centre Ireland, On Semiconductor, Powervation,

## Finalists battle in thesis competition focusing on wireless communications

THE IEEE Vehicle Technology TS & AESS Joint Greece Chapter organised a Final/Diploma Thesis Competition (Academic Years 2009–2011) in the scientific field of advanced wireless communication systems with great success. There were 19 submissions from institutes all over Greece.

The final-round presentations and the awards ceremony took place on 17 February, with over 60 participants, students and academics, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). Two of the final round participants were not able to attend, so they presented their papers via Skype.

The winner of the Competition, Kampionakis Eleftherios from the Technical University of Crete, was awarded with an iPhone 4 by event sponsor Cosmote Mobile Telecommunications.

The finals can be watched online at



<http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc/events/eventsen67.html>. The symposium received congratulations from all the participants of the event, the students-candidates and their Thesis supervisors.

Stay tuned for our next events at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc>.

Kampionakis Eleftherios from the Technical University of Crete collects his winner's prize

**Athanasios Iossifides**  
**George Papadopoulos**

VTS & AESS Joint Greece Chapter

S3 Group, Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork, and Xilinx.

On their way to ToM-IE, Maloberti and Perrott stopped over in the UK to present seminars to SSCS members at CSR Cambridge, Imperial College, and the University of Westminster in London. Local arrangements were made by Hashem Zare-Hoseini, Alex Casson, and Izzet Kale.

A second ToM-IE course was held on 15–17 October. For details, see [www.microelectronicsevents.com](http://www.microelectronicsevents.com).

## Ghana Section enjoys a very busy autumn

ESTABLISHED in 2008, IEEE Ghana Section now has 216 active members, five Student Branches and a Joint Communications & Computer Chapter.

The Section has also established the IEEE International Conference on Adaptive Science (ICAST), with events held in Ghana (Accra 2007 and 2009, Kumasi 2012), Nigeria (Abuja 2011) and South Africa (Tshwane 2013).

Recent events have included the launch of Joint Communications/Computer Chapter. A launch event at Fiesta Royale Hotel in Accra on 28 September attracted the co-sponsorship of Ericsson Ghana.

The 4th IEEE ICAST, held on 25–27 October, focused on the themes of safety and security, education and training, ICT/technology, energy (electricity & oil/gas), environmental protection, road network and transportation, and genetic engineering. For details, see [www.icast-conference.org/icast2012](http://www.icast-conference.org/icast2012)

IEEE Ghana Students Congress ran alongside ICAST at the Campus of KNUST in Kumasi. Every student in Ghana had the opportunity to present his/her ideas for evaluation and the chance to win an award.

Ghana Section's five student branches are at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Pentecost University College (PUC), Regional Maritime University (RMU), Methodist University College (MUC) and All-Nations University College (ANUC). A technology innovation conference was recently held by the Student Branch at Pentecost University College in Accra.

In collaboration with the National Association of Black Engineers (NABE), Ghana Section is currently engaged on an EPICS project in two villages in the Bekwai of Ashanti Region of Ghana in an attempt to provide portable water and electricity.

**Amaokoh Gyasi-Agyei**  
Ghana Section Chair

## Past presidents lecture on engineering education at University of Pretoria



Back row (from the left): Sunil Maharaj (DEECE), Saurabh Sinha, Roelf Sandenbergh (Dean of Engineering), Ian Craig (President IFAC) and Gerhard Hancke. Front row: Leah Jamieson, Jan Malherbe and Michael Lightner

THE University of Pretoria, South Africa, was privileged to host two prominent IEEE volunteers on 22 May: past-presidents Michael Lightner and Leah Jamieson.

Michael Lightner, IEEE VP Educational Activities delivered a talk entitled 'Evolution or revolution? The pressures on engineering education'.

He suggested that boundaries are fading and that new specialties compete in an already over-

crowded curriculum. Computer tools challenge basic, traditional skills, while theories change and lab classes need to reflect modern engineering.

Online classrooms offer variety and possible economy with more personalised learning, he said, which challenges the role of the engineering professor. In many places, state support for higher education is decreasing.

The nature and form of higher

education in the USA and elsewhere is changing, and Prof Lightner offered his suggestions for the coming decade.

Leah Jamieson, President of the IEEE Foundation, spoke on 'Engineering education research: The growth of a discipline'

This talk explored the research agenda that grew out of the education research Colloquies, sponsored by the US National Science Foundation in 2006.

Prof Jamieson described the process of creating the infrastructure that is needed for a new field, and gave her account of a recent survey of engineering faculties and deans in the United States.

**Sunil Maharaj**