

Bundeswehr University reveals unique approach to accelerated courses



IEEE JOINT IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter met on 6–7 August 2009 in Munich, Germany. Our hosts were the Bundeswehr University Munich, the University German Federal Armed Forces, and FEAAM GmbH.

The meeting started with a guided city tour in Munich. At Weisses Bräuhaus we enjoyed typical Bavarian beer, food and much cosiness. This evening was a good opportunity to talk and discuss fields of interests with each other in a friendly atmosphere, to meet old friends and to make new ones.

The next day we were welcomed by Ingo Hahn and heard Dieter Gerling describe the Bundeswehr University, one of the two universities in Germany which are financed by the ministry of defence. Electrical Engineering and

Information Science is one of seven departments of the university, along with the Institute for Electrical Drives and Actuators. 3,700 students are registered, including 360 women, 150 foreign officers and 50 civil students.

Some things differ from other German universities and seem to be really special for the chapter members. To accelerate courses, students study in trimesters, so that they can achieve their masters degrees after 3.75 years. The studies must be finished after 4 years, and on average 80% finish successfully.

While typically the bachelor and master students are members of the German Bundeswehr, there is only a limited number of military PhD students. PhDs graduate after 3 years.

Prof. Gerling mentioned that discipline and punctuality seems to be natural for his students, which leads to high efficiency and makes the short study times possible. Unusual for a German university, it is organised as a campus, where all facilities for living, studying, shopping are present.

The lessons and the research issues are free, as in a civil university. The professors are not members of the German Bundeswehr. This

means that not only military research projects are at hand, but many projects with industrial partners too.

The institute can offer special laboratory equipment for research and development, due to the good financial support by the ministry of defence.

For more information please visit our website at: www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/germany/ias-pels.

**Stephan Beineke
and Ingo Hahn**



Peter Magyar tests a Segway vehicle.

IEL academic consortium set up in South Africa

IEEE SALES and Marketing, in cooperation with IEEE South Africa Section, hosted an event in June 2009 that led to the establishment of a new academic consortium in Southern Africa.

The consortium partners are the universities of Johannesburg, Pretoria, the Witwatersrand, South Africa (UNISA), Botswana, Cape Town, Tshwane Univ. of Technology, North-West Univ.,

Stellenbosch Univ. and the Polytechnic of Namibia. The partners now have access to IEEE's largest online collection, IEL (www.ieee.org/iel).

IEEE South Africa Section Chair, Saurabh Sinha, EBSCO Publishing and South African National Library and information Consortium (SANLiC), are the local promoters of this effort.

**Judy Brady
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Educational collaboration with Northern Greece groups

THE IEEE Joint Vehicular Technology and Aerospace & Electronics Systems Greece Chapter is collaborating with groups from educational institutions in Northern Greece. In December 2009, Joint Chapter Chair Fotini-Niovi Pavlidou visited the

Technological Educational Institute of Serres. 150 participants heard about plans for chapter and IEEE activities and future events in Northern Greece.

For more details, see: ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc.

Fotini-Niovi Pavlidou

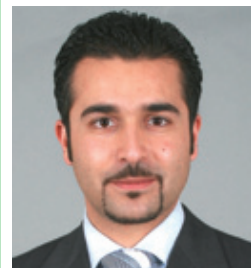
University of Porto, Portugal

Test-driving electronic vehicles at IECON 2009

THE IEEE Student Branch from the University of Porto, Portugal, welcomed a group of visitors from Japan led by Yoichi Hori, IEEE Fellow (University of Tokyo), and Hiroshi Fujimoto (Yokohama National University).

They gave an interesting presentation of their research on motion control of electric vehicles (EVs). Visitors were given a test drive in one of the EV prototypes. An EV culture has emerged among our student members.

**Rui Araújo
Student Branch Chair**



UAE GOLD Chair wins Khalifa Award for Education

FADI ALOUL, IEEE UAE GOLD Chair, has been declared the 2008–9 winner of the prestigious Khalifa Award for Education. A special presentation ceremony was held at the Center for Documentation and Research in Abu Dhabi. The Khalifa Award was established to reward the efforts of all who excel in the educational field, to celebrate their efforts and creativity, and to recognise their work in research, projects and programs everywhere.

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