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## One IEEE

A regular column by **Roger D Pollard**, IEEE Secretary, investigating the role of IEEE and its members



## Rediscover the value of IEEE membership

STUDYING THE most recent IEEE member survey made me think more deeply about why people join IEEE and why so many of those who join do not renew their membership.

IEEE membership at the end of 2010 was at an all-time high of 407,541 with the proportion outside the USA – regions 7-10 – increasing to 48.5% last year. However, the statistic that should give us the greatest cause for concern is that nearly a half have been members for five years or less and the overall retention rate is down by more than 10%. Although it is to be expected that there is poor retention of student members, this is now 50.5%, down from 72% in 1998. We have never retained as many as 50% of graduating students in IEEE membership.

In 2009, most of the decrease was from the group with two years or less of IEEE Membership; a trend that has been consistent for many years.

So what's the problem? What are we getting wrong? Take a look at this table which shows the response to the most recent survey of non-renewing members.

Top Reasons for Joining	What they will miss
1. Obtain IEEE Publications (55%)	1. IEEE Spectrum (35%)
2. Remain technically current (52%)	2. Nothing (25%)
3. Join IEEE Societies (42%)	3. Technical society membership (21%)
4. Enhance my career opportunities (37%)	4. Discounts on conferences (15%)
5. For continuing education (34%)	5. Opportunities to stay technically current (13%)

It's interesting that non renewing members give the same reasons as those who renew for joining in the first instance. When we ask the m what they will miss, it is

*[continued on page 2]*

## 400 descend on Gothenberg for smart grid conference



Participants in Gothenberg's City Hall in October 2010. (photo: Jan-Olof Yxell, Chalmers)

THE FIRST IEEE Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference (ISGT) in Europe took place on October 11-13 at Lindholmen Science Park in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The event was sponsored by the IEEE Power & Energy Society, and hosted by Chalmers University of Technology, gathering over 400 participants from 40 different

countries. Around 40% from universities and 60% from industry and government. Nearly 150 papers from 32 countries were presented.

The technical program also included tutorials, an IEEE Student Program and an IEEE Women in Engineering gathering.

No fewer than 20 sessions were held which included a wide range of topics such as: 'Standards for Smart Grid', 'Cyber and Physical Security Systems and Information and Communication Technology', 'Component Insulation and Diagnostics for Smart Grid', 'Advanced Metering and Metrology Infrastructure for Smart Grid', and 'Power Electronics and Energy Storage in Smart Grid Environment'.

Sustainability is a leading word for the development of the electric power system into a smart grid.

Lina Bertling  
[www.ieee-isgt-2010.eu](http://www.ieee-isgt-2010.eu)



TOPPLE: what are these guys trying to do? Find out on page 11

## Announcing the new IEEE Region 8 Committee for 2011–2012

IEEE Region 8 Committee consists of Section representatives, Operating Committee and Appointed Members.

### Section Representatives

In the IEEE Region 8 Committee, Sections are represented by their Chairs. Section Chairs may appoint an alternate representative to the Region 8 Committee. The most recent list of Region 8 Sections and their representatives to the Region 8 Committee may be found at: [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8) → **Committee**

### Operating Committee (OpCom)

**Director:** Marko Delimar (Croatia)

**Director-Elect:** Martin

Bastiaans (Benelux)

**Past-Director:** Józef Modelski (Poland)

**Secretary:** Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)

**Treasurer:** Brian Harrington (UKRI)

**Vice-Chair, Member Activities:** Ali El-Mousa (Jordan)

**Vice-Chair, Student**

**Activities:** Elias Nassar (Lebanon)

**Vice-Chair, Technical**

**Activities:** Saurabh Sinha (South Africa)

### Appointed members

**Awards & Recognition:**

Charles Turner (UKRI)

**Chapter Coordinator:** Daniel Pasquet (France)

**Conference Coordinator:** Carl Debono (Malta)

**Educational Activities:**

Bakr Hassan (Saudi Arabia)

**GOLD Activities:** Salima Kaissi (France)

**Industry Relations:** Ghaleb Dandan (Saudi Arabia)

**Membership Development:**

Dirk Van Hertem (Sweden)

**Professional Activities:**

Matej Zajc (Slovenia)

**Region 8 News:** Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang (UKRI)

**Sections Congress Coordinator:**

Pilar Molina Gaudó (Spain)

**Standards Coordinator:**

David Law (UKRI)

**Student Representative:**

Jorge Soares (Portugal)

For more information please visit the Region 8 website: [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

## One IEEE Rediscover the value of IEEE membership

[Continued from page 1]

clear that IEEE is not meeting their needs. Although IEEE's award-winning magazine Spectrum is highly valued, for many it alone does not justify the cost of membership. Perhaps most worrying is the large number who state that they will miss nothing!

Recall that one of the dictionary definitions of the word member is "... a constituent piece of a complex structure ...". IEEE membership should be two-way and we must not regard members as simply customers who have joined only to purchase products and services. Perhaps we should re-discover the meaning of membership in IEEE as sharing and advancing our technical knowledge and experience for the benefit of society.

IEEE's success is largely a result of the emphasis on being a volunteer-led organization. Volunteering can be a gratifying and memorable experience and you can contribute whether your skills and experience are suited for

providing leadership, organizing conferences and meetings, finance, communicating or maintaining web sites.

We all aim to help IEEE achieve its core purpose, which is to be the most recognized and respected global organization in our fields of interest and to foster the development and facilitate the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge that benefits members, the profession and humanity. If you are not already active in Section, Region, Chapter or Society activities, resolve to volunteer in 2011.

**Roger D Pollard**

*Roger Pollard is currently IEEE Secretary, having previously served as Vice-President for Technical Activities, MTT Society President and as a Chapter and Section Chair in Region 8.*

*In 2011, he is running for election as IEEE President and, if elected, would be the first from outside North America.*

## Membership Activities: focus on member needs and satisfaction

DURING 2010, R8 committee approved a proposal to change the title of the Vice Chair for Membership Activities (MA) to become Vice Chair for Member Activities (MA).

This has far reaching implications. It highlights the shift to clearly focus on member needs and satisfaction. To this end, and for the new MA team, we are emphasizing active involvement and refocusing on the changing needs of the different members in all categories.

The new Region 8 GOLD committee led by Salima Kaissi, the recipient of the 2010 MGA GOLD Achievement Award, is focusing on continuous involvement in increasing GOLD visibility. The committee aims also at playing a key role in helping local affinity groups to develop numerous local activities. Key issues for the committee are: Establishing new Affinity Groups, new initiatives, enhanced web communication and saving R8 GOLD history



Ali El-Mousa

in the GOLD Book.

Professional Activities (PA) focuses on career enhancement and non-technical professional skills. The PA Team led by Matej Zajc aims to increase the understanding and the extent of PA within R8 by providing support and expertise to Sections, Chapters, Societies and Student Branches, and add value to IEEE membership by creating a platform for members where they can learn how to improve themselves as individuals as well as experts in their respective fields.

The Membership De-

velopment (MD) committee led by Dirk Van Hertem will continue to help local volunteers reach members. The team hopes to help improve awareness, and make IEEE more visible. A big evolution for many members and potential members in developing countries is the e-membership offer ([www.ieee.org/emember](http://www.ieee.org/emember)). Concerning Life Members, the goal is to encourage Life Member activity and to increase the number of LM Groups.

R8 Women in Engineering (WIE) efforts are led by Barbara Obryk. She will focus on enhancing WIE activities during conferences and highlighting WIE role models in addition to supporting local affinity groups.

We look forward to hear your suggestions and feedback. The main MA web page is located at our link [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8) → **Member Activities**.

**Ali El-Mousa**

R8 VC Member Activities  
[a.elmoua@ieee.org](mailto:a.elmoua@ieee.org)

## Educational Activities: library of winning projects

If you're an instructor looking for hands-on projects for your first-year electrical engineering and computer science classes, the search is over.

IEEE's Real-World Engineering Project (RWEPE) has a growing library of winning projects covering assignments such as designing a prosthetic hand and developing error correction codes for wireless communication systems available online for free.

RWEPE is changing how first-year engineering is

taught by introducing real-world problems whose practical solutions benefit society. The two-week projects are designed worldwide by engineering faculty.

Materials include background and summary lectures, project descriptions, and student assignments with solutions. New projects are solicited too.

**Sadiq Mitchell**

*Education Program Manager,  
University Programs  
[www.realworldengineering.org](http://www.realworldengineering.org)*

The IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) is once again seeking nominations to recognize and honour individuals, companies and IEEE Sections for their contributions to engineering and technical education. The deadline for the 2011 nominations is 30 April 2011. For further information, please visit [www.ieee.org/eab-awards](http://www.ieee.org/eab-awards) and send your questions to [eab-awards@ieee.org](mailto:eab-awards@ieee.org).

## Student Branches and GOLD groups go EPIC

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES is developing an Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program.

The idea was originally conceived by IEEE's 2007 President Leah Jamieson, and it has become a program that organizes university and high-school students to work on engineering-related projects for local humanitarian organizations.

The purpose of EPICS in IEEE is to help Student Branches and GOLD groups to work with high school students on EPICS community service-related engineering

projects, by transferring the program worldwide within IEEE. Educational Activities will build a mechanism for supporting and spreading the EPICS model to other sections.

Several IEEE Region 8 student branches already benefit from sponsorship (ranging US\$ 3,500–5,500). The call for entries is open!

For more information, please visit the website at [iee.org/education\\_careers/education/preuniversity/epics\\_high.html](http://iee.org/education_careers/education/preuniversity/epics_high.html) or send an email to Yvonne Pelham at [epics-high@iee.org](mailto:epics-high@iee.org).

## Free webinars explain tech for humanitarian purposes

THE IEEE announced a program of free, publicly available humanitarian technology 'webinars' – lectures or workshops presented on the web by illustrious individuals.

The purpose of this series is to explain new technologies, business models, and social entrepreneurship initiatives that help improve the lives of the underprivileged.

Four essentials for development – water, energy, transport and communication

– have been identified as subjects for the webinars, along with the four application areas of health, education, agriculture and innovation.

The IEEE hopes that a worldwide community will develop whose priority is to develop technology for sustainable human prosperity.

Join the on-line forum and register for webinars and view recordings of past webinars. Please visit: [humanitarian.ieee-elearning.org](http://humanitarian.ieee-elearning.org).

THE IEEE Region 8 Technical Activities committee is accountable to IEEE Region 8 members for coordinating the activities of technical Societies' Chapters, conferences, educational activities, standards and industry relations.

About 160 IEEE affiliated conferences are registered to take place in Region 8. Our subcommittee for conference coordination works with sections and technical societies to reach out widely to members. Its leader is Carl Deono (Malta).

Our Chapter coordination subcommittee, led by Daniel Pasquet (France), receives direct support from IEEE societies and councils. We try to achieve an integrated approach that will bring IEEE entities together to benefit

## Technical Activities: co-ordinating conferences, publications and more

members at different stages of their lives.

We have also created two ad-hoc positions:

1. Technical publications coordinator, Stefano Zanero (Italy), who communicates with IEEE Sales and Marketing to boost access to the



Back row, left to right: Don Wright, Terry deCourcelle, Steve Mills, Karen Bartleson, Wael Diab, Chuck Adams, David Law, Susan Tatiner, Marko Delimar (2010 IEEE R8 Director), Judith Gorman, Karen McCabe and Karen Kenney.

Front row: John Kulick, Ghaleb Dandan, Benito Palumbo and Andreas Luca.

## SASB meets in Berlin to discuss standards approval and events

THE IEEE-SA Standards Board (SASB) held its September meeting series in Berlin, Germany. The SASB coordinates the development of IEEE standards which includes approving the initiation of IEEE standards projects and reviewing them for consensus, due process, openness, and balance before final approval of an IEEE standard prior to publication.

While the SASB was in Berlin the IEEE-SA 2009-2010 President Chuck Adams and IEEE-SA 2011-2012 President-Elect Steve Mills led a team of SASB members and IEEE-SA staff in a meeting with a number of the IEEE Region 8 Industry Relations Subcommittee (IRSC) members. Two IEEE Region 8 conferences that IEEE-SA had visibility at were discussed. There were also discussions

about the Standards Speakers Bureau and other educational programs, as well as the IEEE-SA Corporate Program.

Outreach meetings were also held with several key German standards development organizations and government institutions devoted to informing them of IEEE-SA standardization practices and programs and to learn more about similar activities in Germany.

IEEE-SA leadership also had the opportunity to meet with the European Patent Office to continue ongoing collaboration in the areas of green energy, in particular smart grids, and patents.

**David Law**

IEEE R8 Standards Coordinator,  
SASB member and IEEE Standards  
Education Committee Chair

Law (UK&RI) will continue to lead our IEEE standards activities.

Bakr Hassan (Bahrain) is in charge of our Educational Activities subcommittee. He also leads a regional accreditation program in the Gulf.

To give them more support, a position for pre-university and continuing education has also been created assisted by Eva Lang (Germany) and the IEEE Educational Activities Board staff and volunteers.

From this overview it may be clear that our members expect much from the IEEE, and my TA team will do its best to deliver!

**Saurabh Sinha**

Vice-Chair for Technical  
Activities, IEEE Region 8  
[ssinha@iee.org](mailto:ssinha@iee.org)

IEEE/IET Electronic Library -IEEE Xplore and to the IEEE eLearning Library;

2. Liaison to Technical Activities Board, Vladimir Kati (Serbia and Montenegro), who coordinates work of groups such as IEEE Committee on Earth Observations

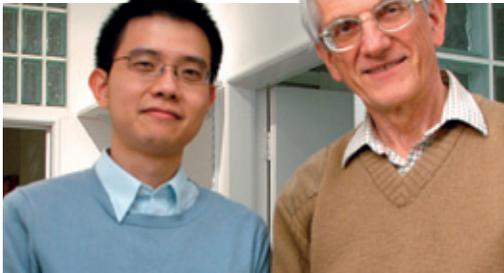
Every IEEE Section is encouraged to appoint a representative for educational activities. The person will promote pre-university education, university-level activities (such as accreditation), continuing education, and elevating the profile of engineering or scientific education/educators. Please refer to the Region 8 webpage (*Technical Activities -> Educational Activities*). If you are interested in this volunteer work, please contact your section chairman, or me.

**Bakr Hassan, IEEE R8 EASC,**  
[bakr.hassan@gmail.com](mailto:bakr.hassan@gmail.com)

(ICEO), Cloud Computing, and Smart Grids.

Ghaleb Dandan's leadership of the successful IEEE EnergyCon in December 2010 will be followed by the renewal of our Energy initiative. We expect greater support from our members in industry. While the initial focus may be in technical areas relating to Energy, we need to reach other areas -all levels of industry and all sizes of companies.

IEEE Standards Association also helps our Industry Relations Subcommittee which is led by Ghaleb Dandan (Saudi Arabia). David



Your editors: Zhijia Huang and Roland Saam

## Make your vote count next time – by using it

IT IS the last day of January and the news media are filled with reports of the social and political unrest in the Middle East. Many IEEE members who read this newsletter have been caught up and affected in one way or another. This made me think how lucky we are to have the IEEE with its open systems of governance that can give opportunities to advance in our work.

In this newsletter you can read about regular changes in leadership of the region, the sections and the chapters. The processes of voting in IEEE should be familiar to all. You voted in our new director (Marko is from Croatia) and director-elect (Martin from Benelux section). At the region committee meeting attended by your section chairmen (and women), they elected VCs for Member, Student and Technical activities, who give their introductory reports on these pages.

And you will surely have

noticed the prominent place achieved by Roger Pollard from UK&RI section, who is 2011 IEEE Secretary and one of the candidates for IEEE president-elect.

What is so bad in Region 8 is that very few members vote: last year it had the lowest voting percentage of any IEEE region. But you can see from the statistics that very small margins separate the candidates, so you know therefore how important every single vote is needed to help your choice to win.

So my message is a call for your involvement.

We are lucky to have such talented volunteers to stand for leadership positions, and they need your support in whatever activity that interests you. Give some of your time to write to them. Help them make ours a better organization by volunteering, and don't hesitate to commit to doing something to help.

**Roland Saam**

## Congratulations to record number of new Fellows

EVIDENCE OF our Region's continuing achievements is IEEE announcement of a record number (73) of new Fellow members for 2011. The highest numbers were from UK&RI, Germany, Benelux and France Sections.

This grade is given by the IEEE Board of Directors to a senior member of IEEE with an extraordinary record of accomplishments (see [www.ieee.org/fellows](http://www.ieee.org/fellows)). The statistics indicate its prestige: on 1 Janu-

ary 2011, IEEE had 321,617 voting members, of which 6,383 are Fellows. In 2010, 813 nominations were considered, but only 321 (39%) were elevated.

I would like to encourage members to nominate and support eligible candidates. A complete list of our region's new Fellows with their contributions may be found on [www.ieee.org/r8-2011Fellows.doc](http://www.ieee.org/r8-2011Fellows.doc)

**Jozef Modelski**  
Region 8 Past Director

# region8news

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### REGION 8 OPERATING COMMITTEE

Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to [www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

### EMAIL ADDRESSES OF REGION 8 COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2011-2012

#### Operating Committee (OpCom)

**Director**  
Marko Delimar (Croatia)  
[m.delimar@ieee.org](mailto:m.delimar@ieee.org)

**Director-Elect**  
Martin Bastiaans (Benelux)  
[m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org](mailto:m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org)

**Past-Director**  
Past-Director: Józef Modelski (Poland)  
[j.modelski@ire.pw.edu.pl](mailto:j.modelski@ire.pw.edu.pl)

**Secretary**  
Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus)  
[costas@ieee.org](mailto:costas@ieee.org)

**Treasurer**  
Brian Harrington (UK&RI)  
[b.harrington@ieee.org](mailto:b.harrington@ieee.org)

**VC Membership Activities**  
Ali El-Mousa (Jordan)  
[a.elmousa@ieee.org](mailto:a.elmousa@ieee.org)

**VC Student Activities**  
Elias Nassar (Lebanon)  
[enassar@ndu.edu.lb](mailto:enassar@ndu.edu.lb)

**VC Technical Activities**  
Saurabh Sinha (South Africa)  
[ssinha@ieee.org](mailto:ssinha@ieee.org)

#### Appointed Members

**Awards & Recognitions**  
Charles Turner (UK&RI)  
[charles.turner@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:charles.turner@kcl.ac.uk)

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Daniel Pasquet (France)  
[d.pasquet@ieee.org](mailto:d.pasquet@ieee.org)

**Conference Coordinator**  
Carl Debono (Malta)  
[c.debono@ieee.org](mailto:c.debono@ieee.org)

**Educational Activities**  
Bakr Hassan (Saudi Arabia)

**GOLD Activities**  
Salima Kaissi (France)  
[ksalima@ieee.org](mailto:ksalima@ieee.org)

**Industry Relations**  
Ghaleb Dandan (Saudi Arabia)  
[dandangb@aramco.com.sa](mailto:dandangb@aramco.com.sa)

**Membership Development**  
Dirk Van Herthem (Sweden)  
[dirk.vanherthem@ieee.org](mailto:dirk.vanherthem@ieee.org)

**Professional Activities**  
Matej Zajc (Slovenia)  
[m.zajc@ieee.org](mailto:m.zajc@ieee.org)

**Region 8 News**  
Roland Saam (UK&RI)  
[r.saam@ieee.org](mailto:r.saam@ieee.org)  
Zhijia Huang (UK&RI)  
[zhijia.huang@ieee.org](mailto:zhijia.huang@ieee.org)

**Sections Congress Coordinator**  
Pilar Molina Gaudó (Spain)  
[pimolina@ieee.org](mailto:pimolina@ieee.org)

**Standards Coordinator**  
David Law (UK&RI)  
[David\\_Law@ieee.org](mailto:David_Law@ieee.org)

**Student Representative**  
Jorge Soares (Portugal)  
[jorgesoares@ieee.org](mailto:jorgesoares@ieee.org)

#### Ad Hoc Members

**Electronic Communications**  
George Michael (Cyprus)  
[xeirwn@ieee.org](mailto:xeirwn@ieee.org)

**Jubilee Book Coordinator**  
Kurt Richter (Austria)  
[k.richter@ieee.org](mailto:k.richter@ieee.org)

**Publications Coordinator**  
Stefano Zanero (Italy)

**Women in Engineering**  
Barbara Obryk (Poland)

**Technical Committees Liaison**  
Vladimir Katić (Serbia & Montenegro)

#### Information helpdesk

[member-services@ieee.org](mailto:member-services@ieee.org)



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
3 Park Avenue, 17th Floor  
New York 10016  
USA

#### News & articles

[r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org)

#### Student News email

[r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org)

#### IEEE Region 8 website

[www.ieee.org/r8](http://www.ieee.org/r8)

#### Editors

Roland J. Saam  
[r.saam@ieee.org](mailto:r.saam@ieee.org)

Zhijia Huang  
[zhijia.huang@ieee.org](mailto:zhijia.huang@ieee.org)

#### Editorial production

Alistair Dabbs  
[ali@bento-media.net](mailto:ali@bento-media.net)

#### Printing & mailing

Theresa Smith  
[tlsmith@ieee.org](mailto:tlsmith@ieee.org)

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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](mailto:r8news@ieee.org), remembering to put *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.ieee.org/go/r8news](http://www.ieee.org/go/r8news).

#### Deadlines for upcoming issues

June 2011 issue ..... deadline: 1 April 2011  
September 2011 issue ..... deadline: 1 July 2011  
December 2011 issue ..... deadline: 1 October 2011  
March 2012 issue ..... deadline: 1 January 2012

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For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html>.



Daniel Pasquet opens the Chapter Chairs' meeting, with Region 8 Past Director Józef Modelski (left) among those on the front row.

## Region 8 MTT-S Chapter Chairs meet in Paris to share best practices

REGION 8 has 42 IEEE Microwave Theory & Techniques Society (MTT-S) Chapters. Every year, the chairpersons meet in conjunction with the 2010 European Microwave Week (EuMW), held in Paris at the CNIT-La Défense.

Chapter representatives and MTT-S officers met at the Pullman Hotel on 27 Septem-

ber 2010 to exchange experience, to share best practices, to clarify what the Chapters want from the officers of the society, and to explain the support available. Representatives of all Chapters worldwide were also invited, and Region 9 sent Silvio Barbin.

Undergraduate student Yuan Gao from the University

of Manchester (UK&RI AP/ED/MTT/PHO Joint Chapter) was awarded the 2010 IEEE MTT-S Undergraduate Scholarship which was presented to him by MTT-S President Samir El-Ghazaly.

**Daniel Pasquet and Jan Macháć**  
Region 8 MTT-S Chapter Coordinators



## Germany hosts 2010 workshop on Impedance Spectroscopy

THE 3RD International Workshop on Impedance Spectroscopy took place from 13–15 October 2010 at the Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany. It was a part of the technical activities of the German chapter of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society and was organized by Olfa Kanoun.

More than 70 participated, mainly from different parts of Europe. Tutorials were delivered on the fundamentals of impedance measurement. 45 papers were presented including two plenary presentations. The technical program can be viewed at [www.tu-chemnitz.de/etit/messtech/is/seiten/pdf](http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/etit/messtech/is/seiten/pdf).

The topics included principles and fundamentals of impedance spectroscopy (IS), IS for energy storage, batteries and fuel cells, IS for biomedical and biological applications, signal processing and modeling for IS, instru-

mentation and data acquisition, and so on. To touch IS measurements, an exhibition of seven companies were organized in parallel.

Highlights were 'EIS – challenges and limits' by Professor MM Lohrengel, Physical Chemistry, Heinrich-Heine-University Dusseldorf, and 'Impedance spectroscopy of planar electromagnetic sensors for environmental monitoring' by Professor

Subhas Mukhopadhyay, Massey University, New Zealand.

The IS workshop was launched in 2008. Since 2009, it has addressed fundamentals and applications of impedance spectroscopy. The next is planned 28–30 September 2011 in Chemnitz, Germany. Please see: [www.tu-chemnitz.de/is](http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/is)

**Olfa Kanoun**  
Chair, IEEE I&M Society Germany Chapter

## Two IEEE CSS Transition to Practice Awards for Greece

GREECE IEEE Section is proud to announce that Professors M Papageorgiou and I Papamichail have been awarded the 2010 IEEE CSS Transition to Practice Award.

This prize is given by the IEEE Control Systems Society to recognize outstanding university-industry collaboration that enables the transi-

tion of control and systems theory to practical industrial or commercial systems.

The award was officially presented during the IEEE Multi-Conference on Systems and Control (MSC), in Denver, Colorado, USA on 28–30 September 2010, with a special plenary lecture.

**Thanos Kakarountas**

## Optimization techniques highlighted in Tunisia

ON 6 October 2010, the Tunisia Council on Electronic Design Automation organized the first ENG-OPTIM'Contest 'Engineering Applications of Optimization Techniques'.

The contest took place in El-Mouradi Hotel (Gammarth, Tunisia) during the 11th International Workshop on Symbolic Methods, Modeling and Applications to Circuit Design.

From the submitted works, six were presented and judged by an international jury, with the following awards:

1. Amira Kheriji, for her work: 'GGP approach to solve non convex min-max robust model predictive controller for a class of constrained MIMO systems'
2. Dorra Mellouli, for her work: 'Graphical method for

the optimization of CMOS quadrature VCOs'.

3. Mouna Kotti, for her work: 'A novel multi-objective algorithm: application to the optimal sizing of current conveyors'.

**Mourad Fakhfakh**  
SM, CEDA TN Chapter Chair

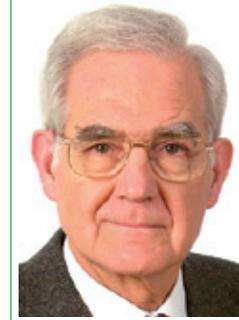


**Dr. Mourad Fakhfakh** (IEEE CEDA Tunisia Chapter Chair), and Miss Amira Khrijji, 1st winner of the 2010 CEDA's ENG-OPTIM'Contest

## SB organizes workshop on Nano/micro-electronics

ON THURSDAY October 22, 2010, a workshop on nano/micro-electronics and embedded computing systems was held at the University of Central Greece, organized by the IEEE Student Branch.

JOAN PERACAULA has been honoured with Academic Merit for knowledge transmission in the field of Electronic Technology and Power Electronics. As the principal investigator he led more than 30 large research and R&D projects and published extensively on variable speed electric drives, renewable energies and control systems.



Co-organizer of the event was the Greek Technology Clusters Initiative, Corallia, whose objective is to improve competitiveness, entrepreneurship and innovation, through cluster-development support activities in Greece. It focuses on knowledge sector with export direction.

Students in the Department of Computer Science and Biomedical Informatics at the University and the students of Technological Educational Institute of Lamia could attend lectures held by entrepreneurs, by members of the IEEE Greece Section and by academics. The main thrust of the workshop was entrepreneurship among students and at the research level.

The contribution of the IEEE to develop skills and knowledge through participation in competitions, by state-of-the-art technology, by contact with people from all around the world was underlined. The event attracted more than 100 attendees.

**Eleni Sapountzi**



## Telecoms, energy, environment and development symposium in Greece

A SYMPOSIUM on Telecommunications, Energy, Environment, and Development was held on 25 November 2010 at the Faculty of Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece.

The event was supported by the IEEE VTS & AESS Joint Greece Chapter, the IEEE CAS Greece Chapter,

the IEEE PES Greece Chapter and the IEEE Communications Society Greece Chapter.

The symposium was very successful, gathering an audience of about 300 students and academic staff. Six Student Branches met: IEEE SB Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, IEEE SB University of Western Macedonia, IEEE SB Democritus University of

Thrace, IEEE SB Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, IEEE SB International Hellenic University and IEEE SB Technological Educational Institute of Serres.

The symposium speakers represented industry (Nokia-Siemens Networks) and academia. More events in various capital cities of Northern Greece are being planned by the dissemination committee of the Chapter. Visit us online at [ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc](http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/greece/avtc).

**George Papadopoulos**  
Secretary & Webmaster,  
VTS & AESS Joint Greece  
Chapter  
Counselor, UoWM SB



## Lebanon Section establishes new Chapter and Student Branch

ON 8 July 2010, the joint Antennas and Propagation/Microwave Theory and Techniques/ Magnetics Chapter was established in IEEE Lebanon Section.

The committee which includes Elias Nassar, Usamah Farrukh, Ernst Huijjer, Faysal Yatim, Walid Kamali, Mohamad Husseini, and Hussein Al Asadi, welcomes all members in Lebanon to its technical activities.

Lebanon Section established a Student Branch at the American University of Science and Technology. The interim Chair is Jabak Abed Ali and the Branch Counselor is Michel Ouyayan. It is the seventh Student Branch in Lebanon.

The Sixth Radio and Mixed Signal Integrated Sys-



Attendees at the summer school on Next Generation Mobile Communications, held at Notre Dame University.

tems summer school took place on 12–14 July 2010 at Notre Dame University – Lebanon campus.

The theme was 'Next Generation Mobile Communications: chipset design and applications' including mobile, biomedical, traffic

management, navigation and positioning, and seamless data access on-the-go. 50 people attended from Lebanon and abroad.

Go to our website at [www.ewh.ieee.org/lebanon](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/lebanon) to find out more about events coming up in 2011.

## Seminar on IEEE sees member boost in Iran

A SEMINAR on membership development was held in Shiraz University on 27 October 2010 to introduce IEEE and its activities.

More than 200 students attended where Dr Shabaninia, the chair of the membership development committee of IEEE Iran Section, and Dr Kazemi, counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch at Shiraz University of Technology, prepared a panel discussion on the benefits of the IEEE for students on getting famil-

iar with electrical engineering challenges. At the end, almost 100 applicants registered as new members of the IEEE.

At the Iran Telecommunication Research Center on 9–10 October, a workshop on 'The 4th Generation of Advanced MIT' was given by Dr S Mohammad Razavi-Zadeh, and 'Satellite Systems and Their Applications' by Dr M Hakkak, Dr MS Ghasemian, Dr Sh Amiri and M Shebani. Certificates were given to 24 persons who attended.



Workshop at the Iran Telecommunication Research Center.

## Varied program attracts participants to Romania

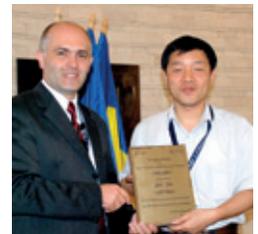
THE NINTH RoEduNet IEEE International Conference was held in Sibiu, Romania, 24–26 June 2010 on the theme 'Emerging Paradigms for Educational Computer Networking'.

More than 100 participants from over 10 countries attended the Conference. 74 papers covered a wide range of topics, from network security to web engineering and web applications; and from networking in education and research to alternative technologies, computer vision and signal processing.

Distinguished invited experts Hai Jin, Bernd Wolfinger and Wolfgang Hommel were plenary lecture speakers. Four workshops were given on such topics as High Performance Computing and Cloud Computing. A student paper contest was held in parallel with the regular paper sessions.

The social agenda offered a visit to the Brukenthal Palace, one of the most remarkable monuments in late baroque style in Romania.

The Conference was organized by the Romanian



Conference Chair Remus Brad with plenary speaker Hai Jin.

Education Network: the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with IEEE Romania Section and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania.

For more details go to: <http://roedu2010.ulbsibiu.ro>

**Remus Brad**  
RoEduNet IEEE 2010  
General Chair, Lucian Blaga  
University of Sibiu



Plenary speaker Bernd Wolfinger.



## Young scientists have their say at Patras Univ

IEEE GREECE Section ([www.ieee.gr](http://www.ieee.gr)) launched the first of a series of events called 'i-YSC: Young Scientists' Corner' on Friday 17 December 2010.

The invited speaker was Dr Konstantinos Mammassis from the National Research Council of Italy in Pisa, who delivered a talk on Wireless MIMO Spatial Characterization at the Conference Centre of the University of Patras.

This initiative is an opportunity for young researchers to present interesting topics of their recent work. The ben-

efits are to help the speakers kick-start their careers in Greece, and to show new subjects to participants (students / researchers / entrepreneurs).

All talks are streamed over the Internet, to attract participation from various places: Greece and globally. This particular event, which was attended by more than 20 on-site and 40 online people, can be accessed at <http://dsmc2.eap.gr/index.php/lecct-arch>.

**Dr A Kakarountas**  
Greece Section  
Newsletter Editor

## AFRICON 2011

[www.africon2011.co.za](http://www.africon2011.co.za)

13–25 September 2011 • Victoria Falls, Zambia

IEEE AFRICON presents a forum for electrical, electronic and IT research with related mechanical and civil engineering activities in Africa.

## Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award hails blended learning course

THE IEEE Greece Circuits and Systems Chapter has won the 2010 Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award. The prize was

received by Professor Athanassios (Thanos) Skodras, past chairman, at the IEEE BioCAS 2010 Conference

held in Cyprus on 3–5 November 2010.

One of the major activities of the chapter was the successful blended learning (on-site and online tutoring) intensive course on digital systems. This was implemented in co-operation with the Digital Systems and Media Computing Laboratory (DSMC – see <http://dsmc2.eap.gr>) of the School of Science and Technology of the Hellenic Open University, and targeted at IEEE student members from different Greek universities.

The course will run again the Spring of 2011.

**Dr A Kakarountas**  
Greece Section  
Newsletter Editor



IEEE SOUTH Africa Section hosted two Senior Member workshops: one on 14 January 2010 in Pretoria and another on 5 March 2010 in Stellenbosch.

Senior Member is the highest grade for which IEEE members can apply. To be eligible for application, candidates must be experienced and show significant performance within the IEEE-designated fields.

As a direct result of the workshops, at least 25 IEEE members were raised to senior grade. This led to a rise in the IEEE South Africa Section Senior Member count, where the Section now has around 70 Senior Members, rep-

resenting around 7% of the total higher grade members (as at December 2010). The workshops were coordinated by Professor Gerhard Hancke, who is the 2010/2011 Chair of the IEEE Admission and Advancement (A&A) Com-

mittee. It is also for the first time in southern Africa that an IEEE A&A ad-hoc committee assembled to evaluate senior member applications.

For more details, contact Denise Maestri by email at [senior-member@ieee.org](mailto:senior-member@ieee.org)



*A&A Ad Hoc Meeting: Evaluation of Senior Member Applications at the Courtyard Hotel, Pretoria.*

## Bahrain Section shows its appreciation to hard-working officers and members



AT ITS meeting on 6 January 2010, the IEEE Bahrain Section presented plaques of appreciation to its officers and distinguished members for contributing to the development of the organization in Bahrain.

After thanking everyone for their achievements, chairman Isa Qambar stated that the new website ([ewh.ieee.org/r8/bahrain](http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/bahrain)) will promote section and chapter activities as well as other links of interest.

Another purpose of this meeting was to call

members together and intermingle in order to throw ideas and suggestions to each other. These ideas will provide a cornerstone for members to establish projects that will benefit all the IEEE members here in Bahrain.



## EUROCON 2011

[www.eurocon2011.it.pt](http://www.eurocon2011.it.pt)

27–29 April 2011 • Lisbon, Portugal

Computer as a Tool: telecommunications, IT, circuits and systems, power systems and renewable resources, industry-oriented technical applications

## Appearance of new theory in Stockholm

DR JUAN Hernández of the IEEE Sweden Section has developed a theory called the Society Bridge, dedicated to the interplay between engineering professionals, particularly seniors, and the society and labor market at large. The theory was first formulated a few years ago and steadily refined.

On 15 November 2010, we organized a colloquium dedicated to Society Bridge which attracted 20 experts from related fields, with Juan Hernández as the keynote speaker.

Igor Gazdik  
Sweden Section Chairman

## Learning the ropes from industry pros

THE SECOND IEEE Greece Section 'i-MSL: Meet a Successful Leader' initiative took place on 19 November 2010 at the Conference Centre of the University of Patras.

The invited speaker was Professor Costas Balas from the Technical University of Crete, who is founder and CEO of Forth-Photonics, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dr Balas talked about his research on Dynamic Spectral Imaging and its use for the non-invasive diagnosis of precancerous lesions. He also introduced the students to patenting, as opposed to publishing, which can be a very effective way to prototype and market a product derived from scientific research.

This series of events aims to offer the opportunity for young members to meet and discuss face-to-face with well-known professionals, thus paving their way to success. The talks are broadcast live over the internet. Recorded talks can be downloaded from <http://dsmc2.eap.gr/index.php/ieccct-arch>.

Dr A Kakarountas  
Greece Section  
Newsletter Editor



## STEP event celebrates graduation in Lebanon

THE IEEE GOLD Affinity Group Lebanon organized a STEP event to celebrate the graduation of IEEE members of the five major engineering universities in Lebanon.

It was held on Thursday 7 October at the American University of Beirut with the help from AUB-SB, which coincided with the IEEE Day worldwide event.

The event hosted speakers from the industry and

from the IEEE. The program included: IEEE GOLD Benefits & IEEE Lebanon Section Activities and Overview; Presentation about the benefits of the order (syndicate); Up-to-date information on the current mobile application market and trends; and a general knowledge competition with lots of prizes.

Michel Khayat  
Chair, IEEE GOLD  
Lebanon AG



AUB Student Branch Committee and Volunteers

IEEE GOLD Finland organized a Professional Presentation Workshop on 'Improving your Presenting Skills'.

The first day consisted of introductory talks led by Chibuzor Eneh, the Activity Chair of IEEE GOLD AG Oulu. Professor Olli Silvén, the vice rector of University of Oulu encouraged the audience regarding self-development. Then Rafal Sliz, chair of IEEE GOLD Finland, gave a presentation about IEEE's activity including the STEP program.

This was followed by the CEO of innovative keynotes Victor Arroyo who gave an

## Workshop on improving presentation skills

excellent presentation on the fundamental works regarding the delivery and preparation process of a presentation, il-

lustrating the 'six W's': Who is the audience; What is the topic (what I want the audience to remember); Why am I



## Introducing your new GOLD Committee...

FOLLOWING THE great work done by João Figueiras and his GOLD team during 2009–2010, the recently appointed committee has an ambition to keep the momentum and further improve the activities for our GOLD members.

In 2011, we will focus on continuously increasing the GOLD visibility in the region. In addition, the committee will try to create an environment where inspired project and event ideas can

be shared. Under this vision, the key projects in our plan are to establish new Affinity Groups, new initiatives, web communication and record R8 GOLD history in the "GOLD Book".

Finally, the committee would like to thank all IEEE members for their great contribution and trust. We will take the opportunity to enhance the management and teamwork, and provide better experience for the GOLDies.

SALIMA KAISSI (*right*) has a background of communication and computer engineering and works as an application officer at Europcar Headquarters. In addition, she studies the Strategy and Management of International Business at ESSEC Business School, Paris. Salima was the initiator and the project leader of IEEE Day. She was a member of the 2010 R8 GOLD committee and recently she has been appointed as the Region 8 GOLD coordinator of 2011.



RAFAL SLIZ (*left*) is a research scientist at University of Oulu, Finland. His research focuses on organic/inorganic flexible electronics, especially photovoltaics. He is the chairman of IEEE Finland GOLD AG since 2010 where his team increased the visibility of IEEE GOLD in Finland significantly within one year.

NELE REYNDERS (*right*) is working as a research assistant at the Department of Electrical Engineering of the K.U.Leuven, Belgium, towards a PhD degree on ultra-low-power sub-threshold digital circuit design. She was a member of the organizing committee of the Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress 2010 in Leuven.



doing this (motivation); Where will it be done (venue); When how much time I have for preparing; and the Way in which the message is delivered (flip-chart, projector, etc).

On the second day, participants demonstrated different forms of a presentation using personal, marketing undertone, and corporate ready-made style. This was followed by group discussion on both the strengths and weaknesses of them. The event ended with a dinner and sauna at VTT's Research Center facilities.

Chibuzor Eneh  
[chibuzor@ieee.org](mailto:chibuzor@ieee.org)

## Super Action Combo: what the new R8SAC holds in the pot for you in 2011

THE 2011 Region 8 Student Activities Committee includes Elias Nassar (Lebanon) as Chair, Jorge Soares (Portugal) as Student Representative, Eva Lang (Germany) as Past Chair, George Paunovic (Serbia) as Student Paper Contest Coordinator, Muhammad Mustafa (Jordan) as Student Branch Coordinator, and two newcomers: Hossam Fahmy (Egypt) as Web Activities Coordinator and Jef Beerten (Belgium) as Awards and Contests Coordinator.

Amélie Anglade (France) and Pablo Herrero (Spain) are leaving to pursue new adventures, after many years of great and hard work. Thank you!

The new team welcomes suggestions for the year. If you have an idea – any idea – of how to improve student activities in R8, please send it to us!

### R8 student congresses

Depending on how lucky you are, these pages will arrive in your mailbox shortly before, during or shortly after the two cross-Section student

congresses Region 8 is receiving this year. They are the Iberian Student Branch Congress in Madrid ([ieee-isbc.org](http://www.ieee-isbc.org)), and the Middle East Student Branch Congress in Doha ([tamu-mesbc.com](http://www.tamu-mesbc.com)).

If you have/had the chance to attend one of these, enjoy the experience and take advantage of the valuable lessons you'll learn to improve your personal, professional and volunteering experiences!

### Pre-University Programs

IEEE is all about engineering and science. But wait, how do you become an engineer or a computer scientist? And why?

Pre-University Activities focus on raising awareness for our profession through various programs, such as the Teacher In-Service Program, Engineering Projects in Community Service, accreditation, outreach programs and platforms such as [tryengineering.org](http://www.tryengineering.org). You want to tell kids why you have studied in an IEEE-related field and pass on what you have learned? Check out [www.](http://www.)

[ieee.org/education\\_careers/education/preuniversity/index.html](http://www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/preuniversity/index.html) for how to get involved or shoot an email to Eva as our Pre-University Activities Coordinator ([eva.lang@ieee.org](mailto:eva.lang@ieee.org)).

The next big TISP event in Region 8 will be held in Saudi Arabia around April/May.

### Online reporting

Don't forget that Student Branch reporting now takes place online (<http://sbr.vtools.ieee.org>), being much easier and quicker, and is only done once per year. You are advised to submit your report in May or in the two months after your academic year ends. In order to make sure you receive the rebate/allotment, make sure to report your activities! Don't forget to also report your officers (<http://ewh.ieee.org/forms/scs/interactofficerform.php>) after you hold elections.

### Award time!

As IEEE volunteers, you and your fellow branch members are putting a lot of time and energy into making your

branch activities what they are... Now is the time for getting an award for your achievements! Every year, one student receives the prestigious Larry K Wilson Student Activities Award for extraordinary accomplishments associated with student activities. The deadline for nomination is 31 March.

As a winner, you will receive an award plaque and three years IEEE membership! Also, keep in mind that the deadline of the student branch website contest is approaching fast, so if your branch has an awesome website, do not miss the deadline of 15 April.

### Last but not least

Every morning, we anxiously open our mailboxes, waiting to receive feedback from you. Send us your remarks, suggestions, opinions, complaints... Have you organised an activity in your branch? Are you organising one in the next few months? We'd love for you to write an article on it to be published on our website. Visit our website at [www.r8sac.org](http://www.r8sac.org) or shoot us an email at [r8sac@ieee.org](mailto:r8sac@ieee.org).

Thanks for being a member of the IEEE family!

Your Student Activities Team,

**Elias, Jorge, Eva, George, Hossam, Jef, Muhammad**

### AAST-Cairo, Egypt

## Smart cars explained at introductory meeting

ON 11 December 2010, the Student Branch of AAST-Cairo organized an event introducing the new committee of the branch with invited talks with more than 60 students.

Ahmed Haitham from CUSB shared his experience of events held in Cairo University and attending SBC2010 in Leuven.

Amr Adel, expert of em-

bedded systems from Valeo Egypt, talked about the application of embedded systems in automotive industry. This covered a variety of topics, including the evolution of the system, standards applied, development trends and recent innovations, such as PARK4U, 360VUE, Cross traffic alert, blind spot detection and E-Valve.



Attendees meet the new committee and learn from experts.



Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal

## Nationwide representatives attend First Portuguese Student Branch Meeting

AROUND 20 representatives from active IEEE Student Branches in Portugal got together for the first Portuguese Student Branch Meeting hosted by the Universidade de Aveiro Student Branch.

The full-day event was attended by of both the Portugal Section Chair and the GOLD Chair, as well as the

Portuguese members of the R8 SAC, GOLD and PA Sub-committees.

Among the several topics in the agenda was a wrap-up session for the Portuguese presence in the SBC 2010, in which the experience gained was shared. One rather special guest was Jan Verweck, one of the congress

organisers, who flew in from Leuven to attend the session. Attendees had a better idea of each Student Branch's activities after the one day event and cross-branch partnerships were already starting.

The new Portugal Section Student Representative, Ivo Raposo, was also elected by public vote.



**Hamburg University of Technology, Germany**

## Students meet up to discuss and exchange ideas in Hamburg

FROM 20–21 May 2010, over 70 Students from 13 universities all over Germany convened at the campus of the Hamburg University of Technology to attend the 2010 IEEE Germany Student Conference.

Hosted by the Student Branch Hamburg University,

the event offered a platform for students of electrical and computer engineering to discuss and exchange research ideas and projects.

The opening speech was delivered by professor Rohling, Communications Society Chapter Chair for the IEEE Germany Section.

The conference schedule contained a total of 32 oral and poster presentations within five subject sessions: Network and Simulation; RF-Systems; Power Electronics and EMC; Integrated Circuits; and Signal Processing. The conference also featured a social get-together for attendees and industrial partners.

At the end of the conference, best paper awards were given to: 1. Sebastian Ernst, Hamburg University of Technology; 2. Florian Mueck, University of Stuttgart; and 3. Tobias Hahn, University of Rostock.

For more information, please visit us online at [www.ieee-student-branch.de](http://www.ieee-student-branch.de).



**University of Bedfordshire, UK**

## Student Branch is formed at Luton inauguration

THE INAUGURATION of IEEE University of Bedfordshire Student Branch took place on 17 December 2010 at the Cafe Talk located at the new university centre Luton campus.

The Inauguration had in attendance notable staff of the department of Computer Science and Technology.

The ceremony began with Paul Sant, who is the branch adviser giving the welcome address emphasizing the importance of student branch in the university.

This was followed by presentations by Yong Yue, Head of Computing Technol-

ogy department and director of Institute for Research in Applicable Computing and invited guests Osei Adjei, and Edewede Oriwoh staff member of the Computing and Technology department facilitating the event.

Afterwards, the official inauguration of the branch was performed by the Andreas Koltes, the Chair of University of Cambridge Student Branch. Finally, the newly inaugurated SB Chair Kesiena Chris-Iwuru presented his inaugural address speech.

**Kesiena Chris-Iwuru**  
*Chair, Student Branch*

THE IEEE Student Branch of the University of Patras organized a one-day event on 'Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Abroad (USA)' with over 110 participants.

The event was held on 10 December 2010 in the amphitheatre of the Science and Technology Museum Greece.

Its main purpose was about studies and academic opportunities in the USA. Eleni Sapountzi student and the vice chair of the University of Central Greece SB and Elena Chadjidimitriou student of University of Patras shared their experiences with the audience.

Anastasios Bezerianos, Greek Section Educational Activities, presented the pros and cons of studying in a foreign country. Finally, Athanasios Kakarountas counse-

**Technical University of Catalonia, Spain**

## Celebrating 30 years of Student Branch in Barca

ON 27 November, the Technical University of Catalonia held a commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona's IEEE Student Branch.

After Elisa Sayrol (Dean of the School of Telecommunications Engineering of Barcelona) welcomed the audience, Margarita Cabrera (treasurer of Spain Section), introduced general aspects of the IEEE. The most special moment took place when José A Delgado-Penín, founder of the branch, explained the branch's origins and encouraged new members to

keep the current momentum.

Former and current counsellor, Ángel Cardama and Adriano Camps both gave engaging talks to motivate students to join the branch. Antoni Homs, a former member of the students' branch, described his experience as a member and skills gained from branch activities.

The event concluded with a presentation by the new branch chair Carlos Ciller Ruiz, who introduced recent activities of the branch and outlined several future activities.

**Agusti Solanas**

**University of Central Greece**

## Lecture on epilepsy surgery

ON 19 November 2010, Vasileios Kokkinos was invited by the University of Central Greece IEEE Student Branch to give a lecture on 'Engineering in presurgical evaluation for epilepsy surgery'.

The event was held at the Department of Computer Science and Biomedical Informatics, Lamia and attended by approximately 90 students. Kokkinos's research

interests include epilepsy and pre-surgical techniques, sleep monitoring, electronic systems and methodologies for medical applications.

The presentation provided a short overview of the brain, outlined the basic principles of the applied techniques for the treatment of epilepsy, and discussed their role in the clinical epileptology setting.

**University of Patras, Greece**

## Investigating the options for taking your post-grad courses in the USA



lor of University of Central Greece SB introduced the art of writing a successful CV.

For more information,

please visit our website at [www.ieeesb.upatras.gr](http://www.ieeesb.upatras.gr) or send an email to [ieeesb@upatras.gr](mailto:ieeesb@upatras.gr).



## Training the trainers at Portugal workshop

ON NOVEMBER 13–14 2010, the IEEE Spain/Portugal Teacher In-Service Program Workshop was held in Porto, Portugal.

The objective was to motivate and co-ordinate trainers from different Universities and Educational Centres in Portugal and Spain to start TISP activities in their geographical areas. The experienced Region 9 TISP team, led by Corali Ferrer, guided us through the fun activities (see above!) and helped us get into the spirit of this intergenerational educational project.

With a total of over 90 at-

tendees including members from both Sections and many non-members representing secondary schools and universities, all gathered around a common goal: sparking interest in engineering among children and pre-university students.

Finally, a representative from the Portuguese Ministry of Education was also in attendance, and presented their views on Educational Pre-University Programs for Science and Technology.

**German Carro Fernandez**  
Chair IEEE SB UNED

**Jorge Soares**

R8 Student Representative



### Answer to The Puzzler on page 12

THE DEVICE is explained in US Patent 4,135,472. A tilt or inversion indicator comprising a clear, plastic vial having two chambers and a funnel. The lower chamber of the vial is filled with a granular material such as sand. The funnel is inverted and retained between the two chambers of the vial. When an article to which the indicator is attached is tilted or inverted, the material will spm through the opening in the funnel and become trapped between the funnel and the walls of the upper chamber of the vial to provide a permanent indication of the tilt of the article.

## Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran

# After fight for recognition, Iranian Student Branch gets back on track

SINCE 2008, the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad student branch has undergone many challenges to gain its recognition from university offices. At last we can see the growth of its activities, in both quality and frequency of the meetings and event-holdings.

For example, weekly discussions are held on educational subjects and workshops and study-groups are formed.

Recently, the branch has acquired a dedicated office within the faculty and is holding its second election, in



which eight candidates were competing for four positions. Students cast their ballots on 20 and 21 December, which

were counted immediately after the end of election in the presence of R Lotfi, the faculty advisor, and MR Akbarzadeh, ex-advisor of the branch.

We also managed to collect over US\$1,600 for IEEE membership in 2011, not only from the students and other faculty members, but also from applicants from our city by simplifying the payment process.

One of the most valuable strategies was ensuring that we and our activities become better known among the electrical engineering activists in the city.



## Zagreb & Osijek, Croatia

# STEP events organized at different sites lead up to Christmas cheer

TWO PARALLEL STEP (Student Transition and Elevation Partnership) Christmas events were organized in Croatia.

The first was organized in Zagreb where Marko Lackovic, Croatia Section industrial Relations Chair, talked about 'The Importance of Social Networking'. He explained why social networking is so important in every person's professional life. Furthermore, he gave some tricks and tips for successful networking and pointed out some common mistakes of which should be avoided.

Motivated by the successful workshop in Zagreb, IEEE GOLD Croatia AG and Osijek SB organized another STEP event in Osijek. It gathered around 20 young members looking for an answer to one of the most important questions and decisions: should one work in big or small com-



pany? Invited speaker Tomislav Pokrajcic talked about benefits and drawbacks of a small start up company, sharing his experience of both being an employee in a private company and starting his own business.

Meanwhile, Ana Katalinic shared her experience from a big company, giving also some thoughts about the onset in a career.

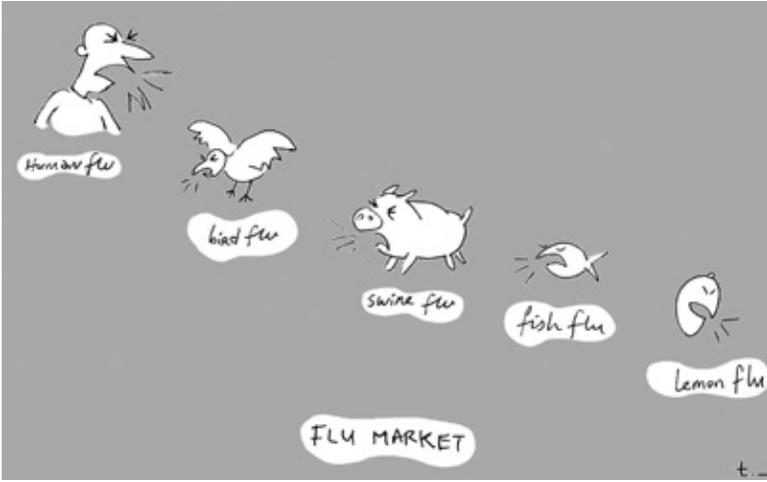
Both STEP events were followed by Christmas party where students and young

professionals had an opportunity to meet GOLD members and to learn more about IEEE.

We are looking forward to organizing the next STEP workshop in Osijek, scheduled for the first half of 2011.

**Ana Katalinic**  
IEEE Croatia Section  
GOLD AG Chair  
[akatalinic@gmail.com](mailto:akatalinic@gmail.com)

**Josip Balen**  
IEEE Student Branch  
Osijek Vice Chair  
[josip.balen@etfos.hr](mailto:josip.balen@etfos.hr)



## The Puzzler

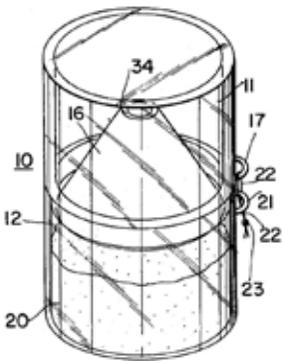
### What is it?

Can you identify what the patent diagram below is supposed to represent?

Here's a hint: it can be made of plastic.

And another: it is mechanical, not electric.

Turn to page 11 for the answer...



UNED, Spain

## Joint meeting of SB and Education Society

ON DECEMBER 10, in connection with the renewal of its committee, UNED SB organized a joint meeting with the Education Society Spain Chapter. The President of the

chapter, Inmaculada Plaza, explained the activities planned for 2011 with special emphasis on the IEEE's TISP Project. It also presented to make the next Congress and invited everyone to participate in the next FINTEI 2011.

It was followed by the General Meeting of the UNED SB with the new committee elected for the first time using IEEE vTools Election System. German Carro was elected as the new Chair, who explained his plan for 2011. Finally, Albert Prieto, the new Vice-Chair, gave a talk on a robotic hand prosthesis. For more information go to [www.ieee-uned.org](http://www.ieee-uned.org).

**German Carro Fernandez**  
UNED SB Chair

## University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa Johannesburg hosts visiting lecture by Moshe Kam

IN SEPTEMBER 2010, the IEEE Student Branch at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partnership with the IEEE South Africa Section, hosted a guest lecture by 2010 IEEE President-Elect Moshe Kam. The topic was the Decision Integration and Robot Navi-

gation Research at Drexel University's Data Fusion Laboratory.

The event was well attended by students and faculty as well as members of the IEEE South Africa Section.

**Andrew Paverd**  
2010 Chair, Student Branch

## University of Western Macedonia, Greece

### Greece Section takes its Student Branch tally to nine

A NINTH Student Branch has recently been established in the Greece Section. It was set up under the Department of Informatics & Telecommunications, University of Western Macedonia.

The Interim Chair is Peter Sideris and Counselor is George Papadopoulos with 22 student members.

The setup of the branch

was inspired and given all the necessary guidance by Niovi Pavlidou, who is serving as VTS & AESS Greece Joint Chapter Chair and Membership Development in Greece Section.

For more information, visit <http://iee.uowm.gr> or email [ieeesb@uowm.gr](mailto:ieeesb@uowm.gr).

**George Papadopoulos**  
Counselor, UoWM SB

## Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal

### Lisbon marks IEEE Day with STEP event

THE INSTITUTO Superior Técnico (IST) Student Branch decided to celebrate the IEEE Day by organising the first STEP event in Portugal with around 30 students.

The first speaker, Duarte Correia from EFACEC, talked about the beginning of his career and the difficulties of transitioning from school to work. He also noted the importance of extra-curricular activities for the development

of soft skills. The second speaker, João Figueiras, an IST alumni and at the time Region 8 GOLD Coordinator, presented the GOLD program and explained how being an IEEE volunteer helped him get a job.

Other activities also took place throughout the day, including a Spaghetti building contest and a presentation on IEEE by Rui Cruz, the Portugal Section Chair.



## Looking for the conferences?

We no longer advertise the Region 8 conferences at the end of the news letter.

This decision was taken partly because it has not always been easy for us to verify and select conferences that were organized and supported by IEEE. However, our main reasoning is that detail on IEEE conference and events information can already be obtained from the Conference and Events section of the main IEEE website ([www.ieee.org/conferences\\_events](http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events)). At the site, members can filter conferences

by date, region and country.

Instead of providing a duplicated service, we decided to advertise only the Region 8-supported key conferences, such as Eurocon 2011 and Africon 2011.

Furthermore, the extra space can be dedicated to report more member activities, useful information and editorial submissions. We will keep promoting the link to the online calendar system and hope that you will benefit from this change.

**Zhijia Huang**  
Editor Region 8 News