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RAB approves petition for Estonia Section

New Tanzania Subsection is also ratified

ESTONIA HAS become Region 8's 50th Section, ratified at June's Regional Activities Board (RAB) meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our aim to cover all the Baltic countries is now very much in advance: we now have Sections in both Lithuania and Estonia, while Latvia is also on track, at least for Subsection status according to new accepted bylaws.

There are still plenty of countries without IEEE Sections but which have enough members to form Subsections. Until recently, a Subsection had to belong to a Section within the same country, which is obviously a problem for all IEEE Regions if a country doesn't have a Section to start with. This was discussed in various committees, and it was agreed at February's RAB meeting to allow Subsections, Chapters, etc to be set up in an empty territory without any Section by having them 'belong' to the Region's committee office.

This paved the way for



Region 8's Operating Committee visits Oman IEEE members in February just before the creation of the Oman Section

June's RAB meeting to ratify the establishment of a Subsection in Tanzania.

Immediately prior to Estonia and Tanzania, IEEE approved new Sections in Morocco, Qatar, Lithuania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Oman Section was approved at February's RAB meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Region 8 conferences

Region 8 organises three major conferences: Eurocon, Melecon and Africon. The last Eurocon took place over 21–24 November last year, held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro. No less than 413 papers were accepted out of an original 507 from 54 countries, while an addi-

tional eight special sessions hosted 48 papers, not to mention four plenary lectures and a Region 8 student paper contest.

Melecon 2006 was held during 16–19 May in Benalmádena, near Málaga, Spain. You can read more details on Melecon 2006 in our special report (right).

The next Africon will take place in September 2007 in Namibia. Eurocon 2007 will be held in Warsaw, Poland, on 9–12 September 2007.

At the moment, we are preparing for the IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting on 14–15 October 2006 in Belgrade. Holding two meetings each year helps spread activity more uniformly through the year.

This will be immediately followed by the Education Chapter meeting, again taking place in Belgrade, on 15 and 16 October.

*Baldomir Zajc
Region 8 Director*

To read the Director's report in full, go to our web site at www.ieee.org/go/r8news



Left to right: Francisco Sandoval (co-chair of Melecon 2006), Manuel Navarrete (Benalmádena town council), Adelaida de la Calle (University of Málaga), María Gámez (Andalusian government) and Baldomir Zajc (R8 Director)

Melecon 2006 is declared a success

THE 13TH IEEE Mediterranean Electrotechnical Conference, Melecon 2006, was held very successfully over 16–19 May 2006 in Benalmádena, Málaga (Spain).

The conference was organised by IEEE Region 8, the IEEE Spain Section, the University of Málaga, the Telecommunication Technical School of the University of Málaga, and the University's Departments of Communications and Electronic Technology.

MELECON 2006 was a top international forum that brought together researchers and practitioners from diverse fields, such as Communication and Information Technologies, Circuits and Systems for Signal and Image Processing, and Power Systems, Control Systems and Renewable Resources.

The conference featured 296 papers: 67 were presented as a poster and 229 were scheduled for oral presentation, arranged in

45 technical sessions. From these, 70 papers correspond to 10 special sessions. There were also three invited conferences. More than 350 participants from 45 countries attended. Proceedings were edited onto CD, containing all the papers with more than 1,250 electronic pages.

The regular Student Paper Contest attracted six finalist papers, judged by a team chaired by Prof. Martín Bastiaans.



Region 8 student robotics contest ... turn to page 11

in brief

2006 IEEE Annual Election reminder

FULL MEMBERS, don't forget to place your vote in this year's elections. Full information is online at www.ieee.org. Biogs and a Q&A with the candidates for President-Elect are available on the *Region 8 News* website at www.ieee.org/go/r8news.

Innovation plans for ICC-2007

ICC-2007, due to take place on 24-28 June 2007 in Glasgow, Scotland, will include a CEOs Forum, a speed-networking event, an exhibition, business application sessions, specialised workshops on major European projects, and expert tutorials in addition to the usual technical sessions. Paper submissions are now invited. www.icc007.org

Design your own promo calendars

LOOKING FOR a way of promoting your Section/Chapter meetings and workshops? Try designing your own small give-away calendars for the wallet or desktop. Download a free PDF tutorial from www.bamag.com/email/du6ah3/BA0610Small-Calendar.pdf.

10-year calendar for IEEE members

SPEAKING OF calendars, IEEE has published an online 10-year calendar that gives the dates of major holidays by country. Use it to help you plan international IEEE events in the knowledge that you won't conflict with other countries' religious holidays. Go to www.ieee.org/web/volunteers/transnational/tools/all_tools.html#calendars.

Tallinn workshop paves way for Estonia Section

A MEMBERSHIP development workshop was held on 9-11 June in Tallinn, Estonia. It was attended by 24 participants, most of them from Estonia and Latvia.

The event started with presentations and discussions about membership and section development in Region 8, Baltic and neighbouring countries with special attention on Estonia and Latvia.

Experiences in the creation of Russia Northwest Section and Student Branch,



as well as the Lithuania Section were presented. Special attention was devoted to Section Operation.

As a result of the very intensive Membership Development campaign in Estonia during last spring, 54 members were able to start the procedure for the formation of the Estonia Section. In Latvia there is a possibility to start a Subsection or to make a significant step in getting more members to start with a section formation this year.

The petition for the formation of the Estonia Section was signed by 51 members and sent on 15 June to IEEE

Regional Activities by the Estonia Section Organiser, Vello Kuk.

As you know (see page 1), this application was successful.

The Workshop was prepared and presented by the Region 8 Officers Boris Levitas (Section Development) and Aleksandar Szabo (Membership Development and Section Operation). Vello Kuk has done an excellent job in local organisation.

*Aleksandar Szabo
a.szabo@ieee.org*

Increasing membership is everybody's business!

IF EACH of us recruited just one new member, we would double our size in one year!

We know that this unlikely to happen, but let us try to increase our membership by let's say about 10% by asking our non-member colleagues around us to join. Stress the benefits of IEEE membership listed at www.ieee.org/web/membership/benefits/index.html.

New members joining in September receive a bonus of four months of extra service beyond the 12 months: their membership is paid until the end of 2007.

You can make use of

the Member-Get-A-Member Program (<http://ieee.org/mgm>) in which members earn a US\$5 credit voucher for each new member they successfully recruit.

These vouchers can be used toward 2007 IEEE dues, IEEE Society fees or the purchase of IEEE products and services.

There is also a Student-Get-A-Student Program (<http://ieee.org/sgs>), run on similar lines.

Without new members we can't build the IEEE of tomorrow!

*Aleksandar Szabo
Region 8 Membership
Development
a.szabo@ieee.org*



A view of Istanbul and the Bosphorus during the event

Comms Society Chapter chairs meet in Istanbul

THE REGIONAL Chapter Chairs Congress (RCCC) was conducted alongside the International Communications Conference 2006 (ICC-2006) over two working days this year: 12 and 13 June.

ICC is one of the most important and largest annual conferences of the IEEE

Communications Society and took place this year in Turkey, at the Istanbul Hilton. The RCCC meetings were also conducted there.

The meetings with the ComSoc's Board of Governors and of Headquarters' senior staff at the ICC provided an excellent opportunity to have high quality presentations, panel, and discussions at the RCCC.

In a special session, the Chapter Chairs were invited to the podium to present their Chapters.

The RCCC participants were also invited by ICC to the Welcome Reception, Awards Luncheon and Keynote Addresses.

The Communications Society has in Region 8 the largest number of Chapters (42) and the largest number of members (about 9,200). The RCCC expenses were covered by Communications Society and by Region 8. There were about 35 participants.

EuMW offers reduced rates for IEEE

IEEE MEMBERS attending the 9th European Microwave Week (EuMW) at G-MEX/MICC in Manchester, UK, from 10-15 September 2006 can register at a significantly reduced rate.

Europe's premier RF & Microwaves event comprises four separate but complementary conferences: the European Microwave Conference (EuMC) on 10-15 September, the European Conference on Wireless Technology (ECWT) on 10-12 September, the European

Microwave Integrated Circuits Conference (EuMIC) on 10-13 September and the European Radar Conference (EuRAD) on 13-15 September.

Together, the four cover all aspects of RF, microwave, millimetre and submillimetre-wave engineering including microwave and photonic devices, component technologies, circuits and systems. IEEE members can register for one or a combination of the four conferences.

Alongside is the European

Microwave Week Exhibition over 12-14 September, and associated technical workshops and short courses. This Exhibition is free, and it attracts leading industry players worldwide. Visitors can see first-hand the latest innovations and new product introductions, discuss specific areas of interest with development engineers, and find the right products for their specific applications.

For more information and to register visit: www.eumw2006.com



Joint power electronics chapter meets

THE FIRST meeting of the German IEEE IAS/PELS/IES Chapter in 2006 was held at Lust Antriebstechnik GmbH in Wetzlar/Lahnau on 30–31 March.

After a guided tour of the city of Wetzlar, Prof. Andreas Lindemann, Chapter chair, opened the IEEE Business session of the meeting in the conference center of Wetzlar. Afterwards, attendees visited a show and dined together.

On the next day, the audience was welcomed by

Karl-Heinz Lust, the founder of Lust Antriebstechnik. Dr Andreas Bünthe of Lust Drive-Technics introduced technologies used for the pitch systems of sea flow turbines. Dr Christian Redemann of Levitec reported about high-speed drives with active magnetic bearings.

The last presentation was given by Joachim Achenbach of Sitec and Dr Jan Marien of Naomi Technologies about the applications of XMR sensors.

After the presentations, all participants were invited to a guided factory tour of Lust Antriebstechnik viewing the production of control units for electrical drives and magnetic bearings.

The event was a great success, which has been underlined by the high number of some 70 participants.

*Dr Ingo Hahn
IEEE IAS/PELS/IES
German Chapter
www.ewh.ieee.org/r8/
germany/ias-pels*



cartoon © Taylor Agul



WILGA hosts biannual IEEE-SPIE symposium

THE 18TH IEEE-SPIE Symposium was held on 29 May to 4 June at WILGA, part of the Warsaw University of Technology, Poland.

The week-long event included sessions on such topics as advanced photonic and electronic systems for biomedicine and advances in optical fibre technology. More than 200 research papers were contributed, plus around 20 invited digest papers. Chosen papers will be printed in a special issue of *Electronics Monthly*, a journal by the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers. The symposium is free, and attracted over 250 participants.

*Prof. Ryszard Romaniuk
Warsaw University of Technology
IEEE WUT SB Counsellor*

First Saudi Engineering Forum attracts over 700

THE FIRST Saudi Engineering Forum was held on 24–25 May at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The Forum was a Kingdom-wide, top-drawer event at which many notable experts spoke to an audience of over 700 professors, deans,

university administrators, and leaders in Saudi industry. The focus of the Forum was the future needs and directions for engineering in the year 2020.

This was a very interesting conference as the format was designed around a number of presentations on the theme, delivered by in-

ited keynote speakers from inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other selected speakers with specialist knowledge and experience.

The presentations and discussion at the forum will lead to specific recommendations that can be implemented to achieve results.

GOLD activities: regional round-up

Czechoslovakia

The fourth meeting of GOLD members together with student members took place on 11 May at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague. Monika Schmidtova lectured on 'How to prepare and execute a presentation'. We plan to organise similar meetings on general topics in towns outside Prague.

*Jan Machac
machac@fel.cvut.cz*

Denmark

Local IEEE GOLD events have included workshops on soft skills, such as 'Idea Development' and 'Coaching in the IEEE Region'. We recently started a new Virtual Community called IEEE Denmark Community and invited all Danish IEEE members to join. This web-service offers a rich set of tools to facilitate the communication among the IEEE members in a convenient way and we see an increasing number of users logging in.

*Petar Ljusev
pljusev@ieee.org*

Egypt

The GOLD team visited the new Morocco Section in April to deliver presentations about FOLD and the Industry University Link programmes in Egypt. The visit coincided with the NSAST forum. Our thanks to Dr Mohamed Essaaidi and all Morocco Section for their kind invitation and warm hospitality.

Mohamed Aboud

Nigeria

GOLD was strongly involved in the commissioning of the IEEE/HP Telecenter at the University of Ibadan in January. The two-day event included a Section meeting during which a new executive committee was sworn

in. The majority of the committee are GOLD members, reflecting the major role that GOLD plays in the Nigeria Section.

Hungary

The sixth BME-KTH International 24-hour Programming Contest took place at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) on 21–23rd April. Isolated from the world outside, 30 teams of three had to solve complex programming tasks in 24 hours. The Problem Set was created by PhD students from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. The winner and runner-up were from Poland, while four Hungarian teams finished in the top 10. More info at: www.challenge24.org.

Peter Nagy

United Arab Emirates

UAE-GOLD has launched its first website (www.eecs.umich.edu/~faloul/4/gold). The website contains the latest news on GOLD activities in UAE, a list of GOLD members, and a link for IEEE members to register in the affinity group. UAE-GOLD also co-organised a workshop at several sites in December 2005 entitled 'Developing Leadership Skills', given by IEEE Fellow Kurt Richter.

UAE's GOLD team also participated in a range of major events in March 2006 including the Water & Energy Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) and the IEEE 3rd Industrial Electrical and Electronics GCC Conference. We were involved in the First IEEE UAE Student Day on 4 May, and joined a group of 27 students on a study tour to Hungary.

Print is alive and kicking



WELCOME TO the September issue of IEEE *Region 8 News*. Congratulations, Region 8 is expanding: our 50th Section, Estonia, and our first Sub-Section, Tanzania, were approved in June. A new History Advisory Council is being organised by R8's Life Members Committee. Its purpose is to provide tools to collect and archive historical knowledge on the development of Electrotechnology in our Region.

Region 8 News has a redesigned web site and a new direct URL: please try out the link www.ieee.org/go/r8news and tell us what you think. Our intention is to maintain the printed newsletter compact (and cost-effective) by linking stories to "extended articles" on our web pages.

In June issue there was no time to expand the number of pages as I had hoped, and we received one or two complaints: H.A. wrote: "Although I was pleased with the new web site, I was very disappointed with the space left for Student News in the printed version! I understand the IEEE has been working on the migration online, but the value of Student Branch news published as a hard-copy should not be overlooked—its impact on local branch members as well as when organising events with external industry & government representatives."

M.D. wrote: "In previous issues, student news took as much as 50% of the printed version, and I was often bragging about that to our non-Region 8 colleagues. Region 8 was also receiving numerous commendations for that."

Our reply—We receive a lot of material, but much arrives after our deadline, so we have to do a lot of time-consuming extra work in editing and production which would be unnecessary if the material arrived on time. With a

few exceptions, late material covers events which happened long before the deadline, so authors should plan ahead – write up your event immediately after it happens. Unfortunately many articles sent in do not observe our directions to send in plain text, with separate photos.

To make things easier, we have created a special 'Information for Contributors' page on the Region 8 News website, which contains guidelines intended to help authors get their articles printed in a timely manner.

This issue we welcome Mike Shallcross' review of David A. Grier's book *When Computers Were Human*. Tony Davies offers this month's *Opinion* commenting upon the change of the Institute of Electrical Engineers in the United Kingdom into a new organisation called IET. Levent Sevgi continues his challenging *Number Literacy Quiz* series with a tutorial that you can download from our website (look for the article entitled 'Numerical Fourier Transforms DFT and FFT'). Our *Photo Quiz* returns—the winner receives an IEEE T-shirt! And this issue includes reports of activities of members in our region Melecon 2006, WILGA symposiums, Standards workshops, and more.

Enjoy this issue and continue sending in your articles, news, opinion and comments.

Roland Saam, Editor
Başak Yüksel, Assistant Editor



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Bylaws and descriptions of the committee offices — refer to www.ieee.org/r8

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Extra copies If you would like extra copies of *Region 8 News* for distribution at your IEEE events, please email a request to the editor before the deadlines below, specifying quantity and delivery address. Please put *R8 News Extra Copies* in your email subject line.

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, 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.

Deadlines for upcoming issues

December 2006 issue *deadline: 1 October 2006*
March 2007 issue *deadline: 1 January 2007*
June 2007 issue *deadline: 1 April 2007*
September 2007 issue *deadline: 1 July 2007*

Celebrating Nikola Tesla in Croatia

CELEBRATING THE 150th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth, an international event, 'The Life and Work of Nikola Tesla', was held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 27–28 June. The meeting was organised by the Croatian Academy of Engineering and co-sponsored by IEEE History Centre, IEEE Region 8, and IEEE Croatia Section.

The opening ceremony in the Concert Hall was attended by more than 1,100 including many guests from Croatia and other countries. During the meeting, 26 presentations were given on the work and life of Nikola Tesla. This was followed by a visit to Nikola Tesla Memorial Park



Prof. Zlatko Kniewald, President of the Croatian Academy of Engineering

in his birth place in Smiljan, Croatia. A programme about Nikola Tesla featuring the event organisers was broadcast on national television. www.hatz.hr/tesla/index_enu.html

Education starts on ETRAN Conference

FOR THE first time, topic of education was included in the 50th jubilee Serbia-Montenegro national conference ETRAN, held in Belgrade on 6–8 June. This was the result of the initiative of the Education Society Chapter, founded last year as the ninth Chapter of the Serbia-Montenegro IEEE Section.

Papers on education were presented on one dedicated education session and several sessions on other EE topics. Participants of the education session expressed their delight on starting the new conference topic and were so interested in the presented papers and the topic itself that the discussion lasted

long after the session was over. Everybody agreed to continue their support and contribution to the education topic on future ETRANs.

*V Petrovic
Chair, Serbia-Montenegro
EdSoc Chapter
http://ewh.ieee.org/r8/serbia_montenegro/education*



Chairmen of the first education session on ETRAN, professors V Petrovic and B Radenkovic

in brief

Sweden Section elects new chair

AT THE Sweden Section AGM in April, Lars Svensson of the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg was elected as the new Chairman. lars.svensson@ieee.org www.ieee.se

Project management workshop

IEEE STUDENT Branch of Macedonia organised a workshop on 'Project management as a part of IT in engineering studies' on 19 May. The dean of faculty of Electrical and Informatics Technology, Dr Vangel Fustic, was the main presenter. Student Branches of Nish and Belgrade also participated, as did visitors from the faculty of Tourism and Insurance in Ohrid and students from private colleges.

Do you have a bigger cup?



MARKO DELIMAR and Jaafar Al-Ibrahim (Vice-Chair Student Activities and Vice Chair Membership activities) try to 'think big' during a tea break at the GOLD meeting in Munich.

Membership trend is positive

IEEE MEMBERSHIP rose to 330,128 in May, bringing the total to within 0.3% of 2005's figure. If the current month-on-month rises continue, we will exceed the 2005 level before the end of this year.

IEEE RoEduNet ends national tour

THE FIFTH RoEduNet IEEE International Conference was held in Sibiu, Romania, over 1–3 June. The conference had already travelled around Romania, completing its tour in the heart of the country.

The quality of the papers submitted to the conference confirms the level of achievements in the narrow and closed field of Computer Networks, and the RoEduNet IEEE 2006 status as its flagship conference. We are proud that more than 100 participants from over 10 countries attended the Conference. The Technical Program Committee accepted 68 of the 100 or so submitted papers to be presented in regular and special sessions. These contributions cover a wide variety of topics, from Network Security,

Network Management to Web Engineering and Web Applications, from Networking in Education and Research to New and Alternative Technologies, as well as Networking in Today Economy which are of special current interest.

Additionally, the conference featured invited experts including Peter Reichl (Telecommunications Research Centre Vienna, Austria), Voicu Groza (University of Ottawa, Canada) and Peter Corcoran (NUI Galway, Ireland) as plenary lecture speakers.

The conference program included two special sessions and three workshops on topics as Home Networks, Anti-Virus and Firewall Software. RoEduNet IEEE 2006 also hosted a Student Paper Contest, held in parallel with the regular paper sessions.

Our special thanks to IEEE Romania Section for co-sponsoring for the first time the RoEduNet Conference. This is a credit to the efforts of the Romanian Section Chair, Prof. Dr Nicolae TAPUS.

The Conference was organized by the Romanian

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

*Remus Brad
RoEduNet IEEE 2006
General Chair
<http://roedu2006.ulbsibiu.ro>*

Global impact of standards

THE PAST R8 Standards Coordinator, made a presentation concerning standardisation in the Morocco Section on 10 June in Tangier.

This took place during the First Workshop on New Technologies of Information and Communication at the University of Abdelmalek Essaadi.

Approximately 100 attendees, including engineering students and postgraduates, took part in this one-day workshop.

Some questions at the end of the plenary presentation underlined the importance of standardisation as a market opener for new technologies for the benefit

of manufacturers, users and society at large. Once more it was stated that the IEEE Standardisation Organisation (IEEE-SA) is one of the leading multinational standards developing organisations (SDO) and its standards are used worldwide.

IEEE-SA cooperates with international SDOs such as IEC, ISO, JTC1 and ITU. It also offers different market-driven processes for developing standards and specifications and is at the edge of using electronic tools for standards development.

*Mohamed Essaaidi
IEEE Morocco Section Chair
Yang Yang
R8 Standards Coordinator*



*Left to right:
Conference Chairs
Eduard Andrei,
Remus Brad and
Nicolae Tapus
(IEEE Romania
Section Chair)*



Theodore Deliyannis (right) receives the award from Prof. A Skodras

Greece honours head of Electronics Lab

ON 26 May, IEEE CAS/SSC and SP Chapters honoured Prof. Theodore Deliyannis, an outstanding contributor to the technical fields covered by CAS/SSC and SP societies.

Recently retired, Deliyannis both founded and led the Electronics Laboratory of the University of Patras. He has been an active researcher and teacher for over 33 years in the areas of circuits, systems and signal processing, and has published important results, at the same time giving the spark to young researchers. Those who work in the circuits area are familiar with

the 'Deliyannis Circuit'.

The ceremony took place at the main hall of the University of Patras and was well attended. Among the participants were Professors A Fettweis (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany), A Antoniou (University of Victoria, Canada), D Haigh (Imperial College London, UK), I Sahalos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), C Chamzas (Democritus University of Thrace) and C Goutis (University of Patras, Greece).

Prof. A Skodras
Vice-Chair Greece Section
CAS/SSC Chapter Chair

Call for IEEE mentors!

IEEE IS offering its members the opportunity to participate in an online programme to facilitate the matching of IEEE members in a mentoring partnership.

By volunteering as a mentor, individuals use their career and life experiences to help other IEEE members in their professional development. 'Mentees' then select a mentoring partner from among these volunteers. We ask that you review the time and effort commitment to the programme to ensure a successful mentoring partnership.

Presently, IEEE is offering potential mentors the opportunity to enter the programme early. IEEE has partnered with The Training Connection, a vendor that has developed a web-based mentoring system, to facilitate the matching process. Participation is voluntary and open to all IEEE members above the grade of Student Member.

If you are interested, please go online to www.ieee.org/mentoring for information on the roles and responsibilities of each mentoring partner, the programme, and your likely time and effort commitments. To access the mentoring connection site, visit the IEEE Membership Benefits page and click on the *IEEE Mentoring Connection* link.

If you have any questions about the scheme, just get in touch.

Cathy Downer
IEEE Mentoring Programme Coordinator
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BOOK REVIEW: When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier

Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford, 2005

I PICKED up Grier's book thinking it might be a dry account of an irrelevant chapter in the history of computation, but within the first few pages I became fascinated by the stories of the individuals who were computers before (electronic) computers arrived.

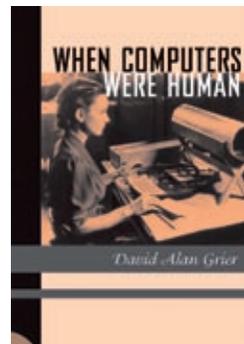
Astronomical tables take pride of place in the first section of the book (up to 1880), which deals with the division of labour (following Adam Smith) and the use of teams of computers to perform the necessary calculations. Their labours were responsible for the British and the American Nautical Almanac, as well as for processing data from surveys and meteorological intelligence.

Various themes make their appearance during this first section of the book. One is the interweaving tale

of the development of calculating machines, starting with Babbage's celebrated, but ultimately unsuccessful, Difference Engine (also satirised by Swift). Later chapters introduce the Brunsviga calculating machine, the Hollerith punched card tabulator, Atanasoff's machine, and the ENIAC computer.

The second section of the book covers the period from 1880 to 1930, when computers became involved in the statistical calculations needed to support the development of mass production and new sciences. And the greatest computing effort of all during this period was driven by the First World War, for which accurate ballistics tables, covering high-altitude and long-range fire, were an essential requirement.

The third and final section deals with the development of professional computers and an independent

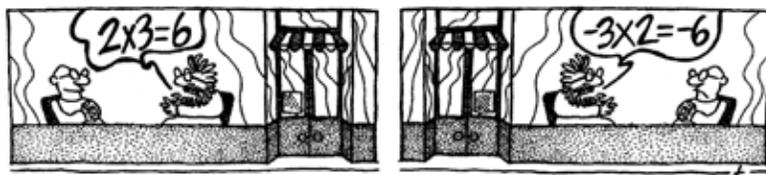


discipline during the period from 1930 to 1964.

Ultimately, the role of the many human computers was left largely unrecognised as the electronic computer took centre stage. Grier's book aims to redress the balance in telling the neglected story of these human computers. It is a valuable work which deserves to be widely read.

Mike Shallcross

Read the full review online at www.ieee.org/go/r8news



HISTORY: New R8 Advisory Council

AT ITS recent meeting in Vilnius, the IEEE Region 8 Committee has approved a series of programmes to strengthen activities related to the history of electrical and information technologies in Region 8.

These include the forming of a UKRI Life Members Group, serving as focal point for History related activities, and the setting up of a History Advisory Council to guide the Regional projects.

IEEE History Committee and History Center have organised in the past several Conferences on the History of Electrical and Information Technologies (including a Conference in UK) and are

planning a Conference in the US in 2007 on the subject of the History of Power Technologies. It is suggested that an IEEE History Conference should be held in Region 8 for 2008 and this suggestion will be discussed at the first History Advisory Council, to meet in Belgrade in October 2006 (before the R8 Committee meeting).

1 July 2008 marks 210 years of the first Telegraph line between Paris and Strasbourg. On the other hand, the actual Internet was shaped by researchers from CERN in Switzerland. It would therefore seem interesting to devote the conference to the transmission of signals,

from the Chappe telegraph to the actual Internet, and hold it possibly in Strasbourg.

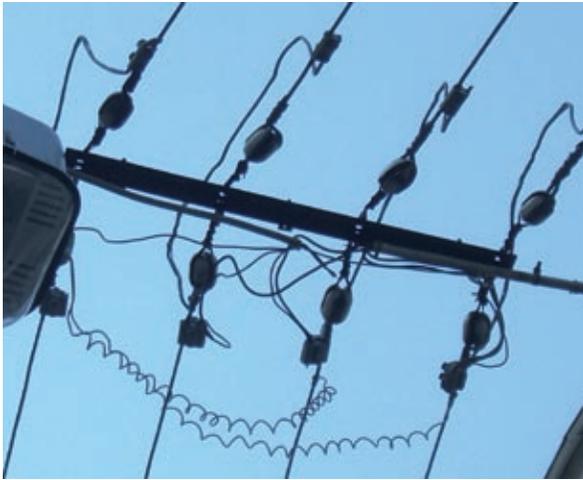
Such a conference could draw 250-350 participants if held on an adequate date and venue, including visits to Historical sites. It might be interesting to have at the same time an IEEE Milestone on the first telegraph channel established.

The conference could be held in association with the History Group of SEE or any professional group interested in History of Electrical and Information Technologies in Central Europe.

Dr Jacob Baal-Schem
R8 Life Members Coordinator
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September photo quiz

WHILE WALKING down a picturesque street in a historic city, our photographer (Tony Davies) looked up at the sky and snapped this photo of electrical apparatus. The four wires extended the length of the street and were supported at intervals by a crossing support as shown. Here are your questions:



- 1) Name the electrical components.
 - 2) Why are there four wires?
 - 3) Why is the device on the left attached by only two wires?
- Please email your entry before 1 October to R8News@ieee.org with the subject line *Photo Quiz Sept06*. Please include your name, membership number and postal address. Answers will appear in the next issue. The winner will receive a nifty blue IEEE t-shirt!

OPINION: Farewell, Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE)

ON 1 April 2006, the UK's Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) ceased to exist, as a result of a merger with the much smaller Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE), to form a new Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

There is now no learned society or membership organisation for engineers in UK which has 'electrical' or 'electronic' in its title (except for the IEEE UKRI Section, of course).

Shortly before the merger, on 22 March 2006, a Special General Meeting of IEE took place as a result of a petition by the membership to propose the formation of a Working Party with the aim of restoring some of the past member-oriented services and membership involvement in governance which

were characteristics of IEE until a few years ago. This was the first time in the history of the IEE that a Special General Meeting had been called by the membership. The formation of the Working Party was strongly opposed by the IEE management, and the IEE President stated on the Ballot Paper that he would use all his proxy votes to vote against the proposal. In the event, he announced at the opening of the Special General Meeting that he had changed his decision and would use all his proxy votes in favour.

The proposal was carried by an overwhelming majority (19,900 to 6,145), and the only effect of the President's change of heart was to place him on the winning side, since his votes were insufficient to affect the outcome.

The Working Party has now been set up, and may have a significant effect on the style and governance of the new Institution. Its remit includes such matters as the restoration of Council and Branches into the Bye-laws, the restoration of Branch representation on Council, the role of Council in relation to the Trustees, and aiming to ensure that the Institution is governed by its professionally qualified members.

It may be of interest to note that the Chief Executive of IEE (formerly entitled the 'Secretary') was, and for IET is, a paid member of the staff, whereas the head of IEEE is, in effect, the IEEE President, who is an unpaid volunteer, elected by the whole voting membership of IEEE.

Contributed by Tony Davies
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Enter the Collegiate Inventors Competition

THE COLLEGIATE Inventors Competition is a national contest that recognises and rewards innovations, discoveries and research by college

and university students and their faculty advisors.

The Competition encourages students who actively pursue invention. Students

frequently come from science, engineering, mathematics, and technology studies but creative invention can emerge from any course of

Test your scientific numeric literacy

by Levent Sevgi of Dogus University, Istanbul
(lsevgi@dogus.edu.tr)

Because of the sampling and finite duration problems, the fast Fourier transform (FFT) makes the signal and its Fourier transform periodic in both time and frequency domains. The time signal sampled at every Δt during a period of T has spectrum samples at every Δf between $\pm f_{\max}$ with the relations of $\Delta f = 1/T$ and $f_{\max} = 0.5/\Delta t$.

- 1) At which frequencies do you observe the signal if $\Delta t = 10\text{ms}$ and $T = 1\text{s}$ for
 - (a) $s(t) = \sin(100\pi t) + \sin(70\pi t)$
 - (b) $s(t) = \sin(86\pi t) + \exp(-j206\pi t)$
 - (c) $s(t) = \exp(j104\pi t) + \sin(104\pi t)$
 - (d) $s(t) = \sin(120\pi t) + \sin(206\pi t)$
- 2) At which frequencies do you observe the signal if $\Delta t = 5\text{ms}$ and $T = 5\text{s}$ for
 - (a) $s(t) = \sin(100\pi t) + \exp(j70\pi t)$
 - (b) $s(t) = \exp(j32\pi t) + \sin(86\pi t)$
 - (c) $s(t) = \exp(j90\pi t) + \sin(104\pi t)$
 - (d) $s(t) = \exp(j120\pi t) + \exp(j206\pi t)$

Don't panic, there's help available! Go to our Web site at www.ieee.org/go/r8news to read the article *Numerical Fourier Transforms DFT and FFT* by Levent Sevgi for more information. You can even download and run the supplied Matlab codes of FFT and DFT transformations and check your answers.

Send your answers to Levent's email (see above) with the subject line: *R8 News Sept Literacy Test*.

Answers to last issue's literacy quiz

(see *Region 8 News* June 2006 page 11 for the questions)

- 1) John Allen Paulos, the famous writer on scientific literacy said in page 159 of his book *Innumeracy* (Hill & Wang, a division of Forrow, Straus & Giroux, NY, 1988) that a third factor, the age distribution of that region, points toward an explanation. Older married couples are less likely to divorce and more likely to die than younger married couples.
- 2) *Science* asks the question of *why*, but *technology* concerns with the answers of *how*.
- 3) Today, the most important criterion of the scientific status of a theory is its *falsification*.
- 4) "Not just facts, but relevant facts" as AF Chalmers mentioned in his book *What is this thing called science?* (Open University Press, 1999, Ch 3, p27). For example...
Fact: The colour of the walls of the church is blue.
Scientific fact: Water boils at 100° on the sea level.
- 5) (a) $f_{\max} = 1/2\Delta t$, $\Delta f = 1/T$

study. The Competition also recognises the working relationship between a student and his or her advisor.

The program was introduced in 1990 and is operated by the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation.

It has rewarded and encouraged hundreds of students to share their inventive ideas with the world.

For full details on how to enter, visit the website: www.invent.org/collegiate/overview.html#objectives

FROM 31 August to 4 September, representatives of most student branches will meet in Paris at the IEEE Region 8 Student Branch and GOLD Congress. This Congress will bring together over 300 IEEE volunteers from all over the world. RAB decided to hold its Student Activities Committee and GOLD Committee meetings in conjunction with the Region 8 Congress. Several other IEEE committees will also be meeting in Paris, such as the IEEE Women in Engineering Committee and R8 Industry Relations Committee. This mega event is

truly a unique opportunity for volunteers to exchange their ideas and learn about the many aspects of the IEEE. Please see <http://ieee.org/sbc2006> for more details.

Region 8 maintains a continuous growth of student membership while student activities keep growing exponentially. It is hard to keep track of all newly formed student branches, branch chapters, and affinity groups. If you do not have a branch at your university (or your branch is dormant), give us a howl and we'll help you.

In May, by R8 SAC initiation and support, this Re-

gion's first Student Robotics Competition is organised by R8 SAC and hosted by IEEE University of Twente Student Branch, while at about the same time Student Paper Contest finalists competed for first prizes in Malaga at IEEE MELECON 2006. We also had several very interesting student professional activities (so called "soft skills") throughout the Region, such as career development, leadership skills, etc.

If you are a graduate student member, by now you should have received a voting ballot for the IEEE 2007 Annual Elections. Among

others, you will be voting for a future leader of the IEEE: the 2007 President-elect, who will become the IEEE President in 2008. The two candidates are Lewis Terman and John Vig. Visit their web pages to learn more.

Remember: it is the best time to introduce your friends and colleagues to the IEEE. Those joining early will enjoy up to four months of free IEEE services, and you also get a small reward for encouraging them to join. For more details see <http://ieee.org/sgs>.

To keep in touch with student activities in the Re-

gion please visit the SAC web (<http://ieee.org/r8sac>) site and subscribe to the r8student@ieee.org list. Contact us at r8sac@ieee.org. We'll be happy to help you!



Marko Delimar
IEEE Region 8 Vice-Chair
Student Activities
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Alexandria University, Egypt:

Alex Scope series kicks off

ALEX SCOPE is a series of technical events organised by IEEE Alexandria University Student Branch, hosted by Bibliotheca Alexandrina that began on 13 April and have been held fortnightly or

monthly. The meetings focus on different topics of interest to engineers and knowledge seekers.

The opening event on 13 April included a ceremony to honour the co-operative managing efforts of the Alex IEEE staff and the technical efforts of the Alexandria University professors of the Electrical

Engineering Department, plus the organising efforts of the library's employees. At the end of the day, all bodies might have been kind of tired, but minds must have been eager for more knowledge.

Mohamed Wahba
Student Branch Secretary
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Students hit high scores in Web comp

YOU PROBABLY know about the results of IEEE Region 8 Web Site Contest 2006! You could easily have called it the Student Branch Website contest: more than 20 of our branches entered this year, such as our friends from the University Politechnical of Valencia Student Branch who ended up listed as having one of the best sites worldwide, and the University of Jordan and Istanbul Technical University who were rated among the best in Region 8.

Region 8 News would like to congratulate all of our participants and our judging team for working so hard and showing again that we at the IEEE have the coolest student members!

Ricardo Varela
R8 Student Representative



University of Jordan, Jordan:

Seminar success at UJ

THE LAST three months have been full of events. To begin with, we held a Nanotechnology Seminar, delivered by Dr Ali Matar, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering.

Engineering students enjoyed a valuable MEMS (Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems) Seminar led by Dr Ra'a Said, associate professor of Electrical Engineering.

We held an intensive course in programming skills

using Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 (C#), led by Ruba Shafi, a former UJ graduate. 20 student members successfully completed the course (see photo) and moved ahead in the world of programming!

Not least, we took part in the IEEE Region 8 Website Contest, and ranked 2nd in the Region 8 finalists.

Mohammed Kharbat
Chair
mkharbat@yahoo.com

Abdelmalek Essadi University, Morocco:

Egypt's GOLD chair explains industry links

THE ASSOCIATION of the students at the National School of Applied Sciences of Tangiers (NSAST) in Morocco organised the 3rd NSAST Forum on 4-5 April 2006. Being a member of the Organising Committee, as a first step of our work, we looked for official, cultural, mediatic, and scientific sponsors.

During the Morocco e-Week 2006 activities which our student branch co-or-

ganised, we had met IEEE Morocco Section Chair, Prof Mohamed Essaadi, where he agreed that IEEE Morocco Section would be the scientific/technical sponsor.

One suggestion from the Section Chair was to invite Mohamed About, IEEE Egypt GOLD Chair, to give a talk about the Egyptian experience of linking university directly to industry since this subject was related to our forum's subject, 'Engineering



Mohamed About (left) and Mounir Berberi

Jobs in the Service of the National Economy Emergence'.

We will never forget this meeting with Mr About. We

learned a lot about how to profit from the IEEE, the aspects of working in group, and how to be well organised in general. IT left me feeling that I want to meet more IEEE members around the world to learn more about everything!

Thank you, Mohamed About, for your contribution to the NSAS Forum.

Mounir Berberi
Chair, AEU IEEE SB
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Arab Academy for Science & Technology, Alexandria, Egypt:

WIE workshop feeds minds

THE WOMEN In Engineering group held a two-day workshop on the topic of Accelerated Learning on 21–22 April.

One of our goals is to widen the spectrum of topics tackled in different workshops, thus widening the scope of information and knowledge conveyed to students through our branch activities. With that in mind, an enormous effort was exerted in the planning and arrangement of an interactive workshop aimed to improve one's learning process.

Throughout the workshop, the learning process was divided into various chronological steps, discussed one after the other. During the workshop, the ultimate state of mind required for studying is discussed and how to reach it is explained. The importance of setting specific goals and creating an action plan is also elaborated.

After this, a quiz was taken by each attendee to determine what type of personality each attendee possesses and how to make the best out of it when it comes to studying. Another test conducted throughout the workshop was

one used to explore the seven intelligences owned by each one of us, and the different methods of acquiring, developing and increasing these intelligences were described after the test.

After this test came memorising, in which a selection of memory enhancement techniques were covered and tried out by the audience. The most famous and effective technique explained was that of 'mind maps'. To ensure that the audience understood the concept, a mind map competition was held at the end of this section where the best Mind Mapper won a token of appreciation for his efforts.

In the last part of the workshop, several approaches were explained for effective studying as well as the ways used for testing one's studying and understanding of the subject at hand were illustrated.

In an effort to reach an extra-high level of interactivity, the workshop was concluded with a challenging Sudoku competition. Sudoku was chosen due to the strong influence of the 'Sudoku Science' article in *IEEE Spectrum*. A copy of this article along with other articles containing the rules of the game, FAQs about the game and Sudoku websites were distributed along with a copy of the Sudoku puzzle itself. The winner won an honorary prize from the SB.

Audience feedback was excellent, including comments such as "This workshop was an experience that changed my whole life and my way of thinking!"

Special thanks go to the professors who helped us carry out this event and to everyone who attended.

Sara El Kady
WIE Chair, AAST IEEE SB
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The WIE workshop organising team



American University of Sharjah, UAE:

AUS hosts student day and visits Budapest

WE HOSTED our 1st IEEE UAE Student Day on 4 May. This event aimed to exchange experiences between members of the various IEEE student branches located within different educational institutions in the UAE.

A total of 170 students representing nine universities participated in the event. The universities were Ajman University of Science & Technology, American University in Dubai, American University of Sharjah, BITS Pilani-Dubai Campus, Etisalat University College, Higher College of Technology, Petroleum Institute, United Arab Emirates University, and the University of Sharjah.

During the day, representatives from each of the institutions competed against each other in three

events: Common Design Project Competition (Intelligent Traffic Control System), Senior Design Project Poster/Demo Competition, and the IEEE UAE Section Web page Design Competition. These events enhanced the culture of competition among engineering students and helped in creating interaction between them. Furthermore, 16 students representing all nine universities participated in a Leadership Workshop that turned out to be a great success.

The organising committee would like to thank Ducab for sponsoring this premiere event. The 2nd IEEE UAE Student Open Day will be held at Etisalat University College. Hope to see you there!

Trip to Hungary

ON 20 May, 26 engineering students (see photo above) took off to Budapest, Hungary, for a 10-day technical tour, organised by the IEEE AUS SB, a professor at AUS and the IEEE AUS GOLD.

Throughout their stay at Budapest, this group of students visited various international engineering industries such as IBM, GE, Oracle, Nokia, Audi, as well as the Technical University of Budapest.

In addition to the technical benefits of this tour, students spent their time sightseeing and learning about Hungarian culture.

The students found the trip very formative, influential and pleasurable.

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UNAD, Nigeria:

SB visits major telecom site

OUR STUDENT Branch organised an introduction ceremony for new Student Members on 23 May. 19 students joined within 6 weeks.

We arranged a technical visit to a Vmobile site at Lokoja, Kogi State. 31 students and a lecturer attended. It was really fulfilling because we were able to appreciate the application of VSAT technology in telecom operations. Also, we saw the largest cement factory in West Africa, still under construction. We would like to thank Nigeria Section for their support.

Ayokunle Opeseitan
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University of Ljubljana, Slovenia:

Investigating curved space

AS WELL as attracting three new student members—a great success for such a small country—our Student Branch has organised several workshops this year. Here are details on two of them.

'From the electric charge to the Curved Space' was presented by Dr Andrej Košir of the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering. The workshop was held on 4 April, and attended by 30 students from different fields.

Another workshop, 'Laser monitoring of the overhead transmission lines', was delivered on 23 May by Matjaž Lušin from a local company

called C&G. The workshop was oriented more in power engineering but the topic was also interested for other fields especially for telecommunications since the research is based on camera usage and signal analyses.

Beside workshops and local activities, our members have attended several conferences, such as IPSI Slovenia in Bled, held in December 2005. The meeting brought together 20 students from Ljubljana and 20 from Belgrade.

We plan to continue organising workshops with the intention of providing young generations with new knowl-

edge beside that obtained through our regular educational programme at the faculty. Based on the success of the recent events, we are pleased to continue with our work.

Our IEEE Student Branch is strongly involved in organising the international conference ERK as well. Each year a student contest is organised, at which the best technical papers are awarded prizes, with the possibility of continuing the competition on the IEEE Region 8 level.

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Rudolf Sušnik
Iztok Humar

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria:

NAU hosts 'explosive' Student Branch week

IT WAS indeed another explosive week of IEEE activities at Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU), Awka, South East of Nigeria, as IEEE NAU SB held its Student Branch Week on 1-6 May.

Highlights of the week's activities included a membership promotion campaign, the 3rd Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC), a technical visit, a technical evening/movie night, and various social activities including a picnic.

To promote IEEE student membership, our Student Branch members visited all the Electro-tech departments of the institution, explaining the benefits of the IEEE to the students and distributed promotional material supplied by Women in Engineering (WIE) and the IEEE HQ. As part of the promotion, there was a 40% discount for new members.

We also visited Anambra State University of Science and Technology, Uli and Federal Polytechnic Oko, Oko in Anambra State of Nigeria

where we are trying to establish a student branch.

In the SPAC event, we welcomed speakers from Italy, USA, Nigeria and Pakistan. Over 500 students attended.

The Technical Visit was held to the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), South-East Territorial Headquarters, Enugu State. The team from the NAU SB visited the Operations and Maintenance Center, the studio and the Outside Broadcasting Van.

During the event, IEEE NAU SB signed up 43 new student members and obtained the support of the school authority and some individuals to sponsor at least two student members to attend Student Branch Congress in Paris, France.

*Mkpume Sylvanus U, Chair
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LEOS Benelux Student Chapter:

Annual workshop held in Ghent

THE IEEE LEOS Benelux annual workshop took place in the Campus Ardoyen of the University of Ghent on 19 May. This was the second time it has been organised by the Student Chapter.

Attended by 25 participants, the one-day workshop on optical solutions in the user and access domain comprised eight lectures, two by invited speakers. Dr Gerlas van den Hoven from Genexis gave a complete overview and some prospects about fibre to home technology. Maria Garcia Larrodé from Eindhoven University of Technology gave a talk about wireless access employing radio over multimode fiber.

The other six lectures were given by speakers from

Ghent University, Eindhoven University of Technology, Twente University and Mons Faculty of Engineering. They spoke on various fields such as light on silicon for mass-market photonic ICs, SOI waveguide circuits, operation in a DWDM PON, optical transmission over multimode fiber, quasi distributed sensing using the OTDR technique, and broadband e-services and home access.

Forthcoming activities

- Visit to ASTRON and LO-FAR, 19 October
- Pre Annual Symposium Activity, 30 November

*Bas Huiszoorn
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student*



University of Karlsruhe, Germany:

Members test DVB-T

DVB-T HAS started to operate in Germany—and we know how it works!

DVB-T stands for Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial. This is a technology to transmit digital video and audio data for television and is currently being launched all over the world. The first transmitter in Germany started operating in November 2002, and a couple of weeks ago we were able to receive the first signals in Karlsruhe, where our Student Branch is located.

We were happy to welcome Walter Fischer from Rohde&Schwarz who is an expert in this field and speaks on this topic worldwide. Lecturing to more than 50 electrical engineering and computer science

students on 27 June, he illustrated the basic setup of DVB-T and the technologies involved. In order to illustrate his remarks, Mr Fischer set up a DVB transmission system in the auditorium, which he used to simulate specific scenarios, such as multi-path reception.

After the talk, we ran a quiz with five of Mr Fischer's books awarded as prizes to the winners (see photo above). At a small reception, an overview about employment and internship opportunities at Rhode&Schwarz was given.

Our on-going series will be continued this autumn by a talk on radar cartography of TeraSAR-X.

*Oliver Prinz, Chair
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University of Passau, Germany:

In memoriam Winfried Hahn

THE IEEE University of Passau Student Branch and the IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee honour Professor Winfried Hahn who passed away on 6 May in Munich at the age of 69.

He received of his doctorate in Electrical Engineering in 1968 from the Technical University of Munich, and retired as an associate professor from the University of Passau in 2002.

Prof. Hahn was the founding father of our Student Branch and associated with it for many years, even after his retirement. He was an extraordinary counsellor, an incredible volunteer and an exceptional leader.

We thank him for his excellent work and his constant commitment to the IEEE and his students.

*Andreas Koltes, Chair
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Matthias Kneissl, Vice-Chair
Eva Gutsmiedl, Past Chair*

Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Nigeria:

Focusing on communication skills

THE SECOND half of the 2005/2006 academic session began with a series of lectures and workshops. The first lecture was on Paper Presentation. This aimed to encourage members to participate in paper contest both in the branch and in the region, and also to improve their communication skills.

A second lecture on 'Review on satellite communication' was also held. The OAU workshop series began with the IEEE mission 'Networking Africa'. The design of printed circuit boards (PCB) has been thought to assist final year students in the presentation of their project. Training in Linux and Java will round up activities for the session.

As this report goes to press, the branch has been busy preparing to host the



quarterly meeting of the Nigerian Section on 12 August. It's the major event of the year and the branch's first time of welcoming all members of the IEEE Nigerian Section to the most beautiful campus in Africa.

*Adeniji Tolulope, Chair
Oguntoyinbo Oludayo,
Vice-Chair
Bello Taofeek, Secretary
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WIE gets approval

On 8 June, the OAU Student Branch was given approval to form a WIE Student Affinity

Group, being the second-branch in Nigeria with a WIE SAG. Many thanks to the Region 8 WIE Coordinator.

Other activities planned for 2006 include a seminar on career opportunities opened to women in the engineering profession, as well as workshops to expose the younger generation to what the engineering profession entails and give them an opportunity to make a decision in the right direction.

*Fatudimu Tosin
OAU SB WIE Coordinator
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University of Twente, The Netherlands:

Turkey scoops top prize in robo comp

THE FIRST Region 8 Student Robotics Contest took place on 25–29 May, hosted by the University of Twente Student Branch.

The contest was founded by the IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee as a method of getting Student Branches to improve cooperation, communication and knowledge/experience sharing; to motivate branches to organise international events in addition to local activities; and to increase the participation of student members to technical events in addition to social ones. The Student Branch at the University of Twente has run its own robotics contest for a long time and so was the obvious choice to organise this event.



The winning team and robot

make last-minute updates to the robots. Unfortunately, the Italian team had severe problems with their robot, and could not perform in the contest, but they gave a presentation about their robot design, which was very impressive.

The day before the official contest, the participants visited the robotics research projects that are currently active at the University of Twente, such as Dribble, microSPAM and LOPES.

The day of the contest



started with a very interesting lecture on Probabilistic Robotics by Prof. Wolfram Burgard. This was followed by two lectures: one on robotics projects in the Control Engineering group of the University of Twente by Gijs van Oort, and the other on robot soccer by the University of Twente Robot Soccer Team

supervisor, Albert Schoute.

After lunch, the contest began. At the end, the team from Turkey won the competition, followed closely by the Dutch team. The team from Italy won the prize for the best robot design. All winning teams received a SRC2006 trophy and a programmable robot sponsored by RBZ robotdesign. Everyone received a certificate of participation.

The contest was followed by a trip to Amsterdam and a visit to Vanderlande Industries. Lots of photos of the entire event can be found at www.ieee.utwente.nl/gallery/albums.php

The contest was sponsored by the IEEE R8 SAC, IEEE Robotics & Automation Society, IEEE Financial Advantage Program and local sponsors. Thank you to everyone involved for making this event a success.

Stefan Henzen
University of Twente
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Başak Yüksel
IEEE R8 SAC Robotics
Contest Coordinator
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Biysk Technological Institute, Russia:

SB takes part in all-Russian youth expos

BTI STUDENT Branch members took part in all six 'Scientific and technical creativity of the youth (NTTM 2006)' events held over 20–24 June in Moscow. The series was organised by the Department of Education, the government of Moscow, the state joint-stock company All-Russian Exhibition Centre, and the Moscow Chancellor Soviet.

This year, two BTI projects were awarded with medals for success in scientific and technical creativity (Sergey Terentiev and Alexander Novikov under the supervision of Evgeniy Sypin), while another two were awarded certificates (Maxim Khmelev and Sergey Levin). Also, Alexander Novikov (pictured above) received a First Degree Russian Federation President Grant, awarded to support talented youth. Konstantin Tunin, chairman of the Student Branch, presented an out-of-competition project, 'The participation in the international organisations as a one of a student innovation activity form'.

Evgeniy Sypin, head of our delegation, was awarded a special diploma in recognition of his tireless work in the science committee of the exhibition.

The Student Branch was also nominated for the best project in the field of IEEE. The exhibition science committee handed the Student Branch a special certificate 'For development of the student and post-graduate student science-research and experimental-design work'.

Irina Uskova, Secretary
irus@ieee.org

The challenge

Teams had to build robots that could autonomously detect and extinguish fires. Five national teams participated: Egypt, Serbia, Italy, Turkey, and the Netherlands.

Over the first two days of the contest, the team members worked hard to

Student Activities Committee, Jordan Section:

Jordan's new SAC gets up and running

THE IEEE Jordan Section has formed a Student Activities Committee (SAC). Rana Ramadan, Hanan AlTous and Khaled Rayyan had the initiative to establish this committee in order to interconnect between student branches in Jordan, and to discuss difficulties, future plans and pitfalls which stand in the way of establishing effective and successful branches.

SAC held its first meeting on 22 June at the Industrial Outreach Unit at the University of Jordan, hosted by the IEEE University of Jordan Student Branch. Several representatives from student branches were in attendance, including those from the University of Jordan, Jordan University of Science and

Technology, Balqa' Amman University, Amman Ahliyyeh University, and Yarmook University. Student Branches from the Princess Sumaya University of Technology and the Hashemite University apologised for being unable to attend.

The meeting started with a welcoming word from IEEE University of Jordan Student Branch Chair, Mohammad Kharbat, followed by an introduction to the goals and aims of IEEE Jordan Section SAC by Rana Ramadan, WIE Jordan Section Chair and SAC Chair, followed by a word from Prof. Mohammad Kamel Abdelazeez, Jordan Section Chair, in which he spoke of the history of the Jordan Section and co-op-



eration opportunities open for student branches, and of funding abilities and new perspectives to promote the IEEE.

Afterwards, Khaled Rayyan introduced the meeting agenda. Every branch submitted an annual activity report of the academic year 2005–2006 within a given deadline and conducted a presentation of most important highlights of each and every experience.

The meeting resumed after the coffee break where-upon future action plans and the process by which the student branches would work and communicate were discussed.

The winning branch of this evaluation process will host a training workshop for the other branches on how it maintains its level of performance.

Tala Nimri
IEEE Jordan Section



Karadeniz Technical University, Turkey:

KATU achieves full SB status

THIS YEAR a new student branch has become a member of IEEE family: IEEE Karadeniz Technical University Student Branch. We finished the formal procedure to establish the branch in April. The SB team is constituted by the electrical and electronics students who are also in the management of KTU Electrical and Electronics Computer Club under the guidance of Assistant Prof. Dr Ismail Hakki Altas.

The drive to formalise the SB began after elections were held last November. After many IEEE presentations, membership reached 36.

We set up an Experiments-Projects and R&D Group aiming to help the students to improve their practical knowledge and finding an ambience to arrange the research activities; a Press and Publication Group for the introduction, presentation and provision of resources and publications, and to take care of the library; a Public Relations Group for arranging social activities; and a Web Designing Group to look after our web site (visit us at www.ktueecclub.com).

We plan to participate in IEEE activities and workshops in Turkey and worldwide. At the same time, we want our own innovative and original projects to prove beneficial to Student Branch members.

Under the structure of KTUEECCLub, we have already organised a number of activities and seminars. One such was Information Technology and Developments in Software Technology, in cooperation with Microsoft Turkey and the Informatics Association of Turkey.

Mustafa AYDEMIR
IEEE KTU SB Secretary
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Conference calendar

Workshops, conferences & symposia in Region 8

SEPTEMBER

ICEM 2006

17th International Conference on Electrical Machines
Chania, Crete Island, Greece
2–5 September 2006
www.ntua.gr/ICEM2006

UPEC 2006

41st International Universities Power Engineering Conference
Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK
6–8 September 2006
www.upec2006.org

ECWT 2006

European Conference on Wireless Technology
Manchester, UK
10–12 September 2006
www.eumw2006.com

IWSSC 2006

2nd International Workshop on Satellite and Space Communications
Leganes-Madrid, Spain
14–15 September 2006
<http://iwssc2006.tsc.uc3m.es>

Nano-Net 2006

1st International Conference on Nano-Networks
Lausanne, Switzerland
14–16 September 2006
www.nanonets.org

PWC 2006

11th IFIP International Conference on Personal Wireless Communications
Albacete, Spain
20–22 September 2006
www.i3a.uclm.es/pwc06

eChallenges e-2006

Barcelona, Spain
25–27 October 2006
www.eChallenges.org

7th World TPV Conference

Thermophotovoltaic Generation of Electricity
El Escorial, Madrid, Spain
25–27 September 2006
www.ies.upm.es/TPV7/index.html

ICL2006

9th International Conference on Interactive Computer aided Learning
Villach, Austria
27–29 September 2006
www.icl-conference.org

OCTOBER

VALUETOOLS 2006

First International Conference on Performance Evaluation Methodologies and Tools
Pisa, Italy
12–14 October 2006
www.valuetools.org

You and the Future

Workshop on the aging phenomenon
Stockholm, Sweden
13–14 October 2006
www.ieee.se/you-and-the-future

ITRE 2006

4th IEEE International Conference on Information Technology: Research and Education
Tel Aviv, Israel
16–19 October 2006
www.afeka.ac.il/itre2006

EuroSSC 2006

1st European Conference on Smart Sensing and Context
Enschede, Netherlands
25–27 October 2006
www.eurossc.org

NOVEMBER

IECON'06

32nd Annual Conference of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society
Paris, France
7–10 November 2006
www.iecon06.iut-amiens.fr

SoC 2006

International Symposium on System-on-Chip
Tampere, Finland
14–16 November 2006
www.cs.tut.fi/soc/soc2006.html

Electricity 2006

24th IEEE Conference in Israel
Incorporating: CCNSI 06 Consumer Communications and Networking Symposium 2006
Eliat, Israel
15–17 November 2006
www.eng.tau.ac.il/~iee/events.html

Pervasivehealth 2006

1st International Conference on Pervasive Computing Technologies for Healthcare
Innsbruck, Austria
29 Nov – 1 Dec 2006
www.pervasivehealth.org

LEOS Benelux Symposium 2006

11th Annual Symposium of the LEOS Benelux Chapter
Eindhoven, Netherlands
30 Nov – 1 Dec 2006
www.leosbenelux.org/symposium

DECEMBER

eScience 2006

2nd IEEE International Conference on e-Science and Grid Computing
Amsterdam, Netherlands
4–6 December 2006
www.escience-meeting.org/eScience2006

Bionetics 2006

1st International Conference on Bio-inspired Models of Network, Information and Computing Systems
Madonna di Campiglio, Italy
11–13 December 2006
www.bionetics.org

ICENCO 2006

2nd International Computer Engineering Conference: New Technologies for the Information Society
Cairo, Egypt
26–28 December 2006
www.icenco2006.eng.cu.edu.eg

JANUARY 07

ESPW 2007

10th European Systems Packaging Workshop
Como, Italy
29–31 January 2007
www.packagingworkshop.polito.it

MARCH 07

SETIT 2007

4th International Conference on Sciences of Electronic, Technology of Information and Telecommunications
Tunisia
25–29 March 2007
www.setit.mu.tn

APRIL 07

ICDE 2007

23rd International Conference on Data Engineering
Istanbul, Turkey
16–20 April 2007
www.icde2007.org

MAY 07

AICCSA 2007

ACS/IEEE International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications
Amman, Jordan
13–16 May 2007
www.philadelphia.edu.jo/aiccsa2007

EFTF & IEEE-FCS Joint Meeting

Joint Meeting of the European Frequency and Time Forum & IEEE International Frequency Control Symposium
Geneva, Switzerland
29 May – 1 June 2007
welcme@timenav07.org

JUNE 07

IEEE ICC 2007

IEEE International Communications Conference
Glasgow, Scotland
24–28 June 2007
www.icc007.org

Note to Organisers Only IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops in Region 8 are eligible for free publicity here. Send details as a plain text message to r8news@ieee.org, putting *R8 News Calendar* in your subject line. Remember to state the event's full title, location, date and URL.