FOR or AGAINST?
IEEE Constitution amendment: join the debate on pages 4–5

Region 8 Committee reps meet in Monaco

THE 106th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting was held on 19–20 March in Monaco, attended by volunteers from Opcom, sub-committees, Section chairs and delegates, and members and staff from IEEE headquarters.

Region 8 director Costas Stasopoulos opened the meeting with a review of the important events of the last year and re-addressed his three priorities as director. There were also high-priority items in the director's presentation covering issues such as dropping membership numbers, the membership fee for extremely low-income countries, IEEE in Africa, and the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria.

The director provided an update regarding the IEEE 2030 proposal regarding an amendment to the IEEE constitution. For more information, please visit the public webpage: **www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html**. You can find the IEEE governing documentation at: **www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance**. The single amendment will be presented to the IEEE voting members for approval as part of the 2016 IEEE annual election ballot. To adopt this amendment, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all ballots cast is required.

The IEEE president addressed the committee with statistics about Region 8, the roadmap for IEEE in Africa 2016–18, and areas of focus for the current year.

Candidates for the position of IEEE president-elect – Jim Jefferies and Wanda Reder – then had the chance to present their vision and plans before participating in a lively debate of what they would do if elected. There are also three candidates this time for the Region

Fourth IEEE ENERGYCON draws 380+ to Leuven

THE University of Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium, in collaboration with Benelux Section, hosted the fourth edition of the bi-annual Region 8 flagship IEEE International Energy Conference, ENERGYCON 2016, on 4–8 April.

The conference was well-attended with over 380 participants from 67 countries and covered various topics related to recent trends in transmission and distribution systems, energy conversion technologies, energy markets and ICT for power systems.

Some 270 papers were presented in more than 48 presentation sessions and a well-attended poster session. Conference participants had the opportunity to attend two outstanding keynote sessions by Goran Strbac (Imperial College, London) and Jos Delbeke (director-general of the European Commission's DG Climate Action), respectively dealing with the increased need for flexibility in power systems and challenges for the power sector after COP21 in Paris.

The conference also featured four tutorials and six high-level panel sessions. Among the multiple activities in parallel, a one-day special workshop, held in collaboration with Friends of the Supergrid (FOSG) and the FP7-project MEDOW, was dedicated to the integration of offshore resources and the development of the HVDC grid.

Out of all those submissions, a best paper award was presented to Andreas Venzke (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) for his outstanding paper entitled *Optimal Control of Wind Power Systems with Energy Storage*.

On the social side, the conference featured a welcome reception at the medieval town hall of Leuven, a conference dinner in the substation hall of the historic mining site C-mine in Genk, as well as a reception

The bronze plaque was unveiled in the School of Engineering, where Fermi worked in 1924–26.

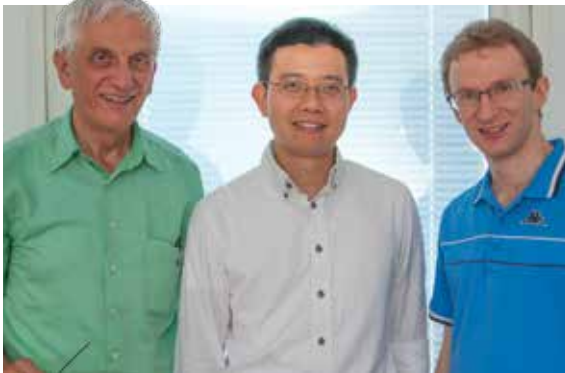## Fermi Milestone is dedicated at the University of Florence

ENRICO Fermi's fundamental contribution to semiconductor electronics has been memorialized with an IEEE Milestone plaque at the University of Florence, Italy.

Modern electronics is based on semiconductor transistors. The first prototype was built at Bell Laboratories in December 1947, but the theory behind semiconductor transistor operation dates to some 30 years earlier. In 1926, the statistics that applied to the electrons in a semiconductor were presented independently by Enrico Fermi and Paul Dirac. These statistics were a basis for the creation of the transistor and consequently, of all modern electronics. What is not

Your editors (from left): Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and Bojan Nikolic.

Volunteers: ask questions and then have your say

AS we go to press, the 'Amendment to the IEEE Constitution' is being discussed throughout IEEE and will appear on the 2016 IEEE ballot for your vote. It is being offered to us by the president's committee with the declaration that it will improve IEEE governance.

As part of the debate, here is an open letter from your *IEEE Region 8 News* editors:

We editors have spent a lot of time reading the amendment, analysing the arguments that are said to establish the need, the benefits and so on, to try to understand it. We got hold of as many of the source documents as we could. Many were kept secret for a long time by the IEEE president's committee. We found a lot of members discussing the statements given in the proposed ballot, and asking serious questions.

At this time, a number of volunteer leaders have spoken out against the amendment, and in some cases they have got their opposition statements to appear on the IEEE ballot.

When you receive the IEEE ballot, please read the proposition and the opposition. Please assess the arguments by finding the conclusions, the reasons and the assumptions behind them. Ask yourself how far you can believe the truth of the statements and think about your own knowledge. Your analysis might lead to a different conclusion.

Please explore the IEEE websites and the statements by your volunteer leaders. Then ask if IEEE needs this amendment or not, and cast your vote. Your vote is very very important.

Zhijia, Roland and Bojan

Region 8 Committee reps meet in Monaco

▶ *continued from page 1...*
8 director-elect: Tariq Durrani, Elya Joffe and Magdalena Salazar Palma.

Similar to the previous meetings, we were given reports and presentations on Student Activities led by Mona Ghassemian, who touched on the Student Branch revitalization programme, the new Student Branch formation process, the Student Paper Contest and most importantly the Region 8 SYP 2016 event to be held in Regensburg, Germany on 17–21 August.

From Technical Activities, vice-chair Igor Kuzle and team presented reports on Chapter coordination, conference coordination, Educa-

tion Activities, Action for Industry, and standards.

The Membership Activities team, led by Dusanka Boskovic, reported on their work on membership development, Professional Activities, Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering, History Activities, Humanitarian Activities and *Region 8 News*.

You can read these reports in detail at the R8 website: **ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2016-march-monaco**.

The next IEEE committee meeting will be hosted by the Portugal Section in Porto in September.

Zhijia Huang

University of Florence rector Luigi Dei addresses the attendees, accompanied by (from right): DINFO director Enrico Del Re, Gianfranco Manes, IEEE Region 8 director Costas Stasoupulos and IEEE Italy Section chair Ermanno Cardelli.

Fermi Milestone is dedicated at the University of Florence

▶ *continued from page 1...*
so well-known is that Enrico Fermi developed and published his statistics in the short period (1924–26) in which he was teaching mechanics and mathematical physics at the University of Florence.

The Milestone was dedicated on 4 December 2015 at the university with the following citation:

Nobel laureate Enrico Fermi developed the quantum statistics that would be named after him while teaching at the School of Engineering of the University of Florence. The Fermi-Dirac statistics were a fundamental contribution to semiconductor physics and to the development of electronics.

The plaque was unveiled in the main hall of the School of Engineering during a ceremony attended by the rector Luigi Dei, the president of the School of Engineering Renzo

Capitani, IEEE Italy Section chair Ermanno Cardelli and IEEE Region 8 director Costas Stasoupulos. A lecture 'From FERMI-DIRAC Statistics to the Invisible Electronics' was given by Gianfranco Manes.

Gianfranco Manes and Giuseppe Pelosi's book, *Enrico Fermi's IEEE Milestone in Florence, for his Major Contribution to Semiconductor Statistics, 1924-1926*, was distributed to participants. This book is available as a PDF free of charge and as print-on-demand at IEEE History Center Press.

The Milestone is the third in Italy, the others being in Como (dedicated to the invention of the battery by Alessandro Volta) and in Pontecchio Marconi, Bologna (dedicated to the invention of the radio by Guglielmo Marconi).

Find out more at: **ethw.org**

Enrico Del Re and
Giuseppe Pelosi

Peter Hill, IEEE Life Fellow, is pictured here making a visit to the IEEE Milestone commemorating the invention in the UK of public-key cryptography. The plaque, dedicated in October 2010, was originally located within the top-secret buildings of GCHQ. This copy was recently installed at The Wilson Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (www.thewilson.org.uk). Professor Hill was the originator and advocate for this Milestone.

Coming soon: smart tech events

IN an effort to increase member engagement and provide value to IEEE members, IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) will host a series of new two-day, multi-track events.

These will be focused on providing career assistance, professional networking, and education on in-demand and emerging technologies for practicing engineers and technical professionals.

The next of these two-day events to take place in Region 8 will be held on 21–22 October in Birmingham, England.

Email **mga-maw@ieee.org** for more information.

IEEE SIGHT gains visibility at IST-Africa workshop

IEEE'S Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT) gave a major presentation on 12 May at the IST-Africa 2016 conference in Uganda to provide details on its activities.

This was the 12th edition of IST-Africa, attracting more than 500 participants from 51 countries – including those from leading government, industry and research institutions around the world – to share their experiences related to information society, ICT and innovation adoption.

Miriam Cunningham opened the session by explaining how a SIGHT Group is set up and gave examples of current activities. Case studies from African groups were presented by Paul Cunningham, who outlined future plans within IEEE SSIT / IST-Africa.

Lwanga Herbert from Uganda then led a workshop with discussions about volunteer activities within the 14 countries represented. Topics included community engagement; volunteering with secondary schools and women's groups to teach digital literacy; voluntary software development for government departments; supporting ICT4D (Information and Communication Technologies for Development); training school teachers in rural communities; and tutoring on weekends and after work hours.

In an African context, humanitarian projects tend to be considered more as donor interventions around disaster relief than global

Apply for SIGHT project funding before deadline

THE Steering Committee continues to accept proposals for further SIGHT project funding, and can award grants of between US$500 and $20,000. However, to be considered, the activities that we fund must be completed by the end of 2016. The final deadline for proposals this year is 15 August.

For more information, email **sight@ieee.org**

development volunteer activities around ICT4D. Participants recommended that this should be considered in future IEEE publicity for both HAC and SIGHT.

Workshop participants were given contacts to help them to establish SIGHT chapters in their countries. For further information, go to the IEEE SIGHT Group Toolkit at **ieee-sight-toolkit.org**.

Lwanga Herbert
Uganda chair, IEEE SIGHT

Fourth IEEE ENERGYCON draws 380+ to Leuven

▶ *continued from page 1...*
after the special HVDC session featuring a selection of Belgian beers.

The conference would not have been possible without the tremendous help of the ten IEEE volunteers from the local organizing committee, as well as other crew and volunteers, adding up to over 30 helpers on-site. We would also like to thank all the participants in the various sessions who made the conference a success, and we are looking forward to the next IEEE ENERGYCON to be organised in 2018.

Jef Beerten
Chair, local organizing committee
jef.beerten@ieee.org

IEEE Region 8 has awarded Nihal Sinnadurai (pictured third left) the 2016 Outstanding Volunteer Award for "his outstanding services to the United Kingdom and Ireland Section". The award was presented during the Region 8 Committee meeting in Monaco. Also on-stage during the presentation were (from left): IEEE president Barry Shoop, Region 8 director Costas Stasopoulos and Region 8 Awards chair Marko Delimar.

Can't attend a conference for lack of funds? Get in touch...

THE IEEE Region 8 Voluntary Contribution Fund (IEEE R8 VCF) was set up to give financial support to members, especially students and graduate student members, and those Student Branches that have low income for their professional and technical activities.

This fund is fed by voluntary contributions donated by Region 8 members. In recent years, dozens of students have been offered support, mainly for travel and fees to attend conferences.

If you or a student you know

is facing a minor financial obstacle to presenting a paper at a conference, please don't hesitate to apply. While VCF funds are limited, their support is often enough to ensure you can attend that event.

More information can be found online at **www.ieeer8.org/category/voluntary-contribution-fund**.

If you have any questions or need help with the application, please contact the R8 VCF coordinator Peter Kadar by email at **peter.kadar@t-online.hu**.

Start planning now for the next round of Foundation Grants

THE IEEE Foundation Grants Program is a vital element of the Foundation's mission to enable IEEE programs that enhance technology access, literacy, and education.

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the IEEE Foundation, in 2016 the Foundation is investing approximately US$325,000 in grants funding specifically to innovative and promising IEEE grassroots projects that raise awareness and understanding of technology and its impact on society.

IEEE organizational units that have a project worthy of IEEE Foundation grant funding under the

theme "to increase the understanding of technology and its critical role in meeting global challenges and improving the human condition" are invited to apply for a grant.

Although the application deadline for the current round of proposals has already passed, now's the time to be developing ideas for the future. Well-prepared projects are the most likely to be selected to receive funding from the IEEE Foundation Fund or IEEE Life Members Fund. Decisions on current proposals will be announced in December.

For more information, visit: **www.ieeefoundation.org/grants**

IEEE EUROCON 2017
Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia · 6–8 July 2017
17th IEEE International Conference on Smart Technologies
eurocon2017.org

IEEE Constitution changes:

IN our April issue Editorial column, we wrote that last November, the IEEE Board of Directors endorsed revisions to the IEEE Constitution. The content of this proposed amendment has since then been the object of much heated discussion by volunteers from every corner of IEEE. Not only the content but the way it is being pushed through without debate in the normal IEEE way has drawn a lot of criticism.

The editors feel that it is wrong that this should happen, with members being asked to vote without all the information to decide.

The need for it has been seriously questioned. Real problems with the amendment provisions have been identified.

We would like to present enough information in these pages to get you interested in this debate, to convince our readers that it is worth exploring the issues, the responses and the doubts that have been voiced by leaders who serve our institute's technical societies, regional boards and volunteer committees.

How can I find out more about the proposed changes?
Visit **www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html** to access the documentation.

At its November 2015 meeting, the IEEE Board of Directors approved the presentation of proposed revisions to the IEEE Constitution. The revisions, in the form of a single amendment, will be presented to the IEEE voting members for approval as part of the 2016 IEEE annual election ballot.

To adopt this amendment, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all ballots cast is required, provided the total number of those voting is not less than ten percent of all IEEE's members who are eligible to vote. Ballots marked neither FOR nor AGAINST the proposed amendment will not be counted as votes.

Read the *Proposed Amendment* (PDF, 301 KB) showing the final approved changes in several formats, including a marked version showing additions and deletions, and a side-by-side comparison of only those sections that contain proposed revisions.

Read the *IEEE Board of Directors Statement in Support of the Amendment* and *Statements in Opposition to the Amendment* (PDF, 208 KB).

Read the *Timeline of Activities and Deadlines related to the Amendment* (PDF, 166 KB).

Read the *Institute* article about the amendment (PDF, 139 KB).

Read the announcement about the amendment provided in the *Society Sentinel* (PDF, 116 KB).

Read the announcement about the amendment provided in *SCOOP/MGA News* (PDF, 173 KB).

Also see: **http://is.gd/IEEE2016_voteNo**

Views from the membership: what

The following comments have been made in response to the Constitution Amendment:

● My concerns are more on the principles of the proposed changes, rather than the details.

1. The Board will put forward the list of new proposed directors. This sounds like a conflict.

2. 400k + members will vote for every individual director. It is unrealistic to expect all members to spend time educating themselves on the merits of so many candidates. In the US people from Texas don't elect Senators from Florida.

3. Regions, Divisions and the Assembly have no control of the Board. Kind of dictatorship.

4. All important changes are pushed in the ByLaws and the Board has the final decision what those are.

In other words, the Board will control who gets on the list of the new Board, and what would be the process, without any

oversight. Even if this Board is well intentioned, there is no guarantee that a future Board will not be self serving.

Tony Ivanov
2016 Washington DC Section chair

● We do not need an IEEE Constitutional Amendment, since we can't easily go back if we aren't happy.

Marc Apter
2013 IEEE-USA president,
2004-5 IEEE VP Regional Activities,
2001-2 Region 2 director

● It is premature to change the constitution when we have no clear plan by the Board of what will replace the current structure, or when. This is truly a case of getting the cart before the horse.

During its 25 March 2016 meeting, the **Signal Processing Society**'s Board of Governors carefully reviewed and considered the proposed IEEE Constitutional Amendment change that will be put forward to IEEE

are you sure you're getting all the facts?

A personal view from a former Region 8 director

THERE is agreement that IEEE has been outstandingly successful since its formation in 1963, and to maintain this in future, it will no doubt need to adapt and change, as it has been able to do well in the past.

A plan to put a Constitutional Amendment on the IEEE 2015 Election Ballot was removed at the last moment by a Board of Directors decision. However, the plan has returned, and appears likely to be on the 2016 Election Ballot. Moreover a committee called 'IEEE2030' has been formed, charged with proposing the future governance of IEEE.

The Board of Directors is now required to operate on a confidential basis, and its members are forbidden to reveal the discussions or their own opinions about them.

Those in high positions in IEEE are supporting the proposals, speaking and writing only about the supposed advantages and are silent about possible disadvantages and dangers. No proper platform is allowed for opponents to explain their opinions. This is in conflict with IEEE election customs, where the electorate is supposed to be able to hear the pros and cons of any issue or any candidates for election. Statements by opponents have

been censored and changed, and IEEE's legal advisors have encouraged these practices. IEEE funds have been used to support those speaking in favour of the changes while use by those against has been forbidden.

At least 21 IEEE Societies and at least one Region have passed motions opposing the changes but no publicity about this has been allowed.

It has not been revealed that many past IEEE presidents and others who have held high-level volunteer positions in IEEE are strongly opposed to the changes.

Even if all this is legal in USA, IEEE is required to comply with the law in all the countries where it operates, which encompass the whole world, and such kinds of censorship are surely illegal in some of these countries.

Currently, all ten Region directors and all ten Division directors serve on the Board of Directors, which inevitably brings in Society and geographical expertise. In the proposed governance this would no longer be the case – a much smaller Board is proposed, with the claim that it will be more 'nimble' in decision making. Nimbleness and wisdom are of course not identical. Being smaller, it will have much less expertise and be more likely to follow staff rather than member advice. It is even proposed that the executive director (= top staff person) be a member of this board

– i.e. a salaried employee in what should be a volunteer-led member-organisation. There was even a serious suggestion that this employee should be a voting member!

The 2030 Committee membership perhaps reflects the future proposed: among its 15 members there is one person only from each of the four Regions outside USA, and three staff persons, altogether 11 people from USA including the president, known already to be wholly in favour of the plans. For a worldwide organisation, that looks unrepresentative and unbalanced, yet they are charged with recommending the future structure of IEEE.

The IEEE electorate in Region 8 are strongly advised to inform themselves of the pros and cons of the proposed changes, discuss these matters widely and be sure to vote: the future of IEEE is at risk, now is the time to act.

My personal conclusion is that the Constitutional Amendment is a small part of a mistaken and misguided process which might destroy IEEE as we know it, and it is my intention to vote against it and not vote for election candidates who have indicated their strong support for it.

Anthony C Davies
Life Fellow, former
Region 8 director, former
vice-president of Circuits
and Systems Society

do IEEE volunteers say about the proposed changes?

member ballot with the stated objective to "create a nimble, flexible, forward-looking organization."

As a result, the SPS Board of Governors unanimously passed this motion:
The BoG of the SPS is not in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment and optimized board structure.

Their reasoning included the following:

1. The problem statement that the proposed amendment is attempting to solve is not well-defined;

2. The existing IEEE Constitution offers alternative, less complex ways of accomplishing the intended improvements;

3. There are considerable unknowns associated with still-to-be-written bylaws under the proposed constitution; and

4. The risk associated with a major constitutional change is not clearly outweighed by its possible benefits.

● In response to the TAB request to provide comments on the IEEE proposed Constitutional Amendment, the **Computer Society** Board of Governors (BOG) passed the following motion:
MOVED, that the Board of Governors of the Computer Society votes against the proposed constitutional amendment.

Our comments are as follows:

1. The proposed constitution changes remove membership control of the IEEE structure;

2. The still-to-be-written bylaws under the proposed constitution have considerable unknowns but more importantly the bylaws will document the Board structure which the Board solely can approve without membership approval;

3. The structure of IEEE, which the TAB assembly strongly disagreed with in the February 2016 meeting, is still being developed and the benefits of that

structure are not well-defined;

4. The significant risks associated with a major constitutional change without knowledge of the associated bylaw changes do not justify approving the proposed constitutional change.

There is no succinct rationale for the proposed constitutional change.

● The leadership of the IEEE **Power Electronics Society** (PELS) has carefully reviewed the proposed IEEE Constitutional Amendments. While appreciating the intention to "better define the roles of the IEEE Assembly and its delegates," we have found that the proposed changes may threaten the very existence of IEEE as a volunteer-driven technical professional society.

The main reasoning for our position includes the following:

1. The current Constitution provides for guaranteed geographical diversity by requiring that volunteers from each

geographic Region are represented by one Director on the BoD;

2. The current Constitution provides for guaranteed technical diversity by requiring that volunteers from each technical Division are represented by one Director on the BoD;

3. The proposed change replaces the above requirements with the statement that "The number of Directors … shall be specified in the Bylaws taking into consideration various diversity factors including, but not limited to, geographic and technical diversity."

4. The proposed changes transfer responsibilities to Bylaws but the intended Bylaws changes are not known at this time, so the full impact of the Amendments is unknown.

Therefore, the PELS leadership will not advise IEEE members to vote for the Constitutional Change Amendment.

Braham Ferreira
IEEE PELS president

Magdalena Salazar Palma with HAC members and staff, the Region 8 director and other members attending the HAC/SIGHT event during Region 8 Committee meeting in Monaco on 18 March.

Region 8 steps up commitment to humanitarian activities

THIS year Region 8 established a Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Subcommittee to inspire professionals and engineers to become socially responsible and engage in developing technological solutions that are cost-effective and sustainable to improve the living conditions and livelihood of people, thereby making a difference in people's lives.

The committee is chaired by Alexandros Osana (Greece), acompanied by Lebogang Madise (South Africa), Dino Jakovljevic (Croatia), Lee Crudgington (UK and Ireland) and Heind El-Rawy (Egypt). You can contact any of the team via **sight@ieeer8.org**.

Region 8 HAC organized a special HAC/SIGHT event during the recent 106th Region 8 Committee meeting with the participation of HAC members Laura Jacob, Kartik Kulkarni (also chair of the SIGHT Steering Committee), and staff members Holly Schneider Brown and Jackie Halliday (both of them also supporting the SIGHT Steering Committee).

During the meeting, future plans were drawn up for forming several SIGHTs in various Region 8 Sections in Africa, Europe and Middle East. Joint SIGHTs projects were encouraged with several IEEE Technical Societies SIGHTs, such as Antennas and Propagation, Microwave Theory and Techniques, Power and Energy, and Robotics and Automation, which have active SIGHT projects in different areas of the world. Focused education activities were also encouraged as well as participation in several humanitarian events such as the 2016 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference in Seattle, Washington, USA, on 13–16 October, which includes a student competition (**www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities**).

I would like to encourage you to spread the word about Region 8 HAC and SIGHT initiatives. Please consider forming a SIGHT in your Section or join an existing one and help people in your own section or others through SIGHTs projects. Find out more at **www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/humanitarian-activities**

Magdalena Salazar Palma
MTT-S SIGHT Committee member
IEEE SIGHT Communities of Practices
Subcommittee member
m.salazar-palma@ieee.org

NASA hails Space Apps Cairo as 'exemplary site'

CAIRO joined more than 170 cities globally on 23–24 April to find solutions for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as part of its Space Apps incubator innovation program, during which Space Apps Cairo was selected as an exemplary site.

The global organizers attended their Hackathon held at Zewail City for Science & Technology and co-organized by IEEE Egypt Section.

Superb organizing efforts were evident as 55 Egyptian teams competed in six category challenges – Aeronautics, Solar System, Earth, Mars, Space Station and Technology. Six local winners and two global nominees, along with the People's Choice team, were chosen to join the global challenge.

This year's SpaceAppsCairo16 local winners were: Ultra-light Space Shuttle (Technology), Aurora Game (Space Station), Moon Challenger (Earth & Solar System), Neon (Earth & Solar System), Sky Raptors (Aeronautics) and The Martians (Mars).

Check out the fabulous views at **2016.spaceappschallenge.org**

The two teams that go forward as global nominees in the international Space Apps Challenge are: Blue Flame (**goo.gl/5sHZzq**) and Orion (**goo.gl/o2A7wW**)

QMUL event invites drop-ins

FOLLOWING its highly successful 2015 Research Showcase, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) organized a 2016 edition at its university site on 27 April.

The showcase attracted professionals, academics, and students to find out about the latest research within the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science. There were many opportunities to meet staff and research students and to connect with partners from industry.

The demonstration "drop-in" day was an interactive event to discover the work and passion behind the research and include links to research group leaders, to show some recent research achievements. The showcase was also a unique opportunity to bring together the engineering, theory, music, vision and multimedia communities to review our latest research outcomes and their applications.

This year, the IEEE poster competition was sponsored by UK and Ireland Section, with first prize going to Nishtha Chopra for 'Understanding and Characterising Nano networks for Healthcare Monitoring Applications'. Second prize went to Yiming Wang for the poster 'Coalition formation for distributed tracking in wireless camera networks', and third prize was won by Sandeep Katragadda on the topic 'Neighbour consensus for distributed visual tracking'.

Discover more at **www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk**

Tony Davies

Magdeburg workshop talks power system stability

A JOINT workshop was organized by IEEE Power and Energy Society German Chapter and Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany on 28 September last year. Some 70 industry and research experts discussed the fade-out of conventional power generation in the transmission layer on system security and stability.

Considering the recent decommissioning announcements of German power plant operators, this issue is of vital importance to the continental European interconnected network. The loss of bulk power generation leads to a significant increase in network dynamics.

Professor Wolter, head of Electric Power Networks and Renewable Energy (LENA) at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, explained that distributed generation, by feeding the grid via power

Panel discussion at the workshop, (from left): H Weber, M Wolter, R Sikora, R Krebs, M Zdrallek and E Wieben

electronics, cannot completely replace the stabilizing effect of large synchronous generators. These producers are located in low and medium voltage levels which are usually not fully monitored. A grid to support control of these devices is practically impossible under today's circumstances.

The workshop looked for solutions to safe and stable grid operation under changing requirements.

Martin Wolter
IEEE PES Germany Chapter

Looking back on a year of celebration for Sweden Section's 50th

ON 29 January 1965, J Torkel Wallmark, an IEEE Fellow and a new professor in solid state physical electronics at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, submitted a petition to IEEE. Just a few weeks afterwards, on 20 March, the IEEE Executive Committee approved the establishment of IEEE Sweden Section, "to encompass the entire country of Sweden".

Almost exactly 50 years later, on 27 March 2015, Sweden Section received its IEEE 50-year anniversary banner during the IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting in Limassol, Cyprus. The banner was presented by Region 8 director Costas Stasopoulos and Wai-Choong Wong, director and vice president of MGA (Member and Geographic Activities), to Mats Edvinsson, Sweden Section's chair.

Looking back over Sweden Section's half-century anniversary year reveals a long list of events that took place during 2015. The anniversary was celebrated at seminars and meetings hosted by Chapters throughout Sweden, as well as during IEEE Day events organized by Student Branches, YP and WIE.

Sweden Section itself organized a major celebration event that combined a number of activities in Stockholm. The celebration seminar, open to all IEEE Sweden members and friends, was inaugurated by KTH president Peter Gudmundson, followed by a reflection on the history of IEEE and Sweden Section, presented by Mats Edvinsson.

In-depth insights from industrial and academic perspectives were provided by Distinguished Lectures sponsored by two chapters. A PE/PEL Chapter lecture on the state of the art of power system control and protection was delivered by Hans Björklund of ABB HVDC group and the 2014 Polhem Prize winner, and a Photonics Chapter lecture on photonics and medical technology was given by IEEE Fellow Michael Huels. Martin Bastiaans, Region 8 director 2012–14, then inaugurated IEEE Nordic SYP 2015.

Nordic SYP 2015 congress was an opportunity for participants to learn new skills during workshops, hear about new trends in science and technology, as well as share experience. The congress was well prepared and organised by the NSYP organizing committee together with the Region 8 YP leadership.

A much appreciated interactive panel session was held on 'Engineering Networks and Innovative Ecosystems:, with Mark Smith of KTH bringing the academic perspective. Manoj Pradhan of ABB Corporate Research brought the industry perspective and Mats Edvinsson moderated and brought the commercial perspectives.

Find more details about NSYP at www.facebook.com/nordicsyp15

Adding to the celebration, Samarth Deo, chair of the NSYP organizing committee, received the Region 8 Young Professionals Exceptional Volunteer Award 2015 for this well-organized event.

Mats Edvinsson
Sweden Section chair
mje@ieee.org

Nigeria Section chooses new committee

NEW officers have been elected for Nigeria Section for 2016–17. The immediate past vice chair Raph Onoshakpor *(pictured)* is now Section chair. He replaces Gloria Chukwudebe, who completed a two-year tenure last November.

The secretary of the immediate past executive committee, Funso Adebayo, was elected Section vice chair. His previous post has been filled by Ifeyinwa Achumba, assisted by Kingsley Ukaoha.

Kennedy Okafor is the new Section treasurer, replacing Chidimma Ibeh-Dimnwobi, who has taken on the role of chair of the Women in Engineering Society.

Ahmad Opeifa was elected to the position of the Section's public relations officer, assisted by Yekini Asafe.

The chairs of the PES, YP and Computer Societies were retained by Kehinde Temikotan, Aliyu Abdullateef and Bamidele Oluwade respectively. Likewise, Isaac Adekanye remains chair of the Awards Committee while Tunde Salihu continues in the role of Membership Development chair.

Left: the Women in Industry panel.

Right: Adel Alimi's talk on 'How Can Open Innovation & Living Labs enhance University-Industry Partnership'.

Industry and academia come together at popular forum in Tunisia

THE first IEEE Tunisian Forum for Industry-Academia Partnership (TFIAP'16) took place on 23 April. More than 130 researchers, engineers and students came from Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan, Canada and Mexico, along with representatives from the national media.

Two panels in the forum very well attended by students and women in civil society were 'How to enhance partnership between industry and academia' and 'How to promote women in industry'. A number of popular workshops were also organized during TFIAP'16, most notably on the themes of 'Leadership', 'Lean manufacturing' and 'Enhance your technical and soft skills'.

This brought positive feedback from all participants and the ENIG Student Branch was encouraged to organize more such activities and events.

A talk given by Meliha Selak from the Power and Energy Society on 'The Importance of Understanding the Research Implementation in the Electrical Utility Industry' proved to be an outstanding feature of the forum.

This technical talk was both relevant and useful. Ms Selak communicated effectively and gave a great impression by sharing her life experience, which encouraged and motivated the audience.

Messaoud Amairi
General chair of TFIAP'16

Creative minds meet up in Jordan to tackle climate change with innovation

JORDAN Innovation MeetUP brings together entrepreneurs, students, environmentalists, professionals, financiers and academics to explore how young professionals are using marketplace models to create change. Each MeetUP features expert guest speakers, lively discussion among inventors and time for networking.

The first MeetUP gave Jordanian young professionals and senior students the opportunity to learn more about the energy and climate situation in Jordan and the world and how they could make a difference. Participants contributed to discussion with information about

the climate situation in Jordan and the world.

We invited success stories from the local community, introducing a specialist from an investment and development company to explain investment and incubation opportunities for such solutions. This gave participants solid steps to turn their creative ideas into business ideas.

Jordan Young Professionals is on a mission to build success stories from our group and to create new businesses, opportunities and jobs in Jordan.

Jordan's greatest power is its youth, and they have what it takes

to innovate in the renewable energy and climate field. Our Young Professionals group is dedicated to developing technological opportunities for youth participation and community engagement.

We are very concerned about the global issues that intersect with our social responsibility, mission and vision. Among these, climate change is one of the biggest threats that face this generation and their children. We are on a mission to inform and excite Young Professionals about this issue and to be part of the solution.

Mustafa Almomani
Jordan YP chair

Leadership learning for professional women

GERMANY Section's WIE Affinity Group took part in the IEEE Women in Engineering International Leadership Conference (ILC) in San Jose, California on 23–24 May, represented by chair Ana Cigarán Romero.

Plenary sessions, workshops, discussions and pitch competitions organized during the conference gave attendees the opportunity to explore subjects of innovation, empowerment and leadership.

The ILC focused on providing leading-edge professional development advice to mid-level and senior women. Around 50% of attendees had more than ten years of work experience, the rest being students and Young Professionals. No less than 43 countries were represented this year, turning this into a really international and multicultural event. The highly interactive activities provided enriching experience of networking with everyone, exchanging lots of experiences and impressions during the sessions.

Ana Cigarán Romero
WIE Germany Section chair

THE Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand in collaboration with the Student Branch organized an Information Theory Day as part of a global initiative led by IEEE Information Theory Society to commemorate Claude Shannon's centenary.

Shannon (1916–2001) was a world-renowned engineer, researcher and inventor whose pioneering work led to the development of digital communications, forming the knowledge-based society we live in today.

Ten secondary schools from North Lebanon accepted the university's invitation to participate in the event, with more than 75 students participating. Opening the event, the dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Michel Najjar, spoke about the impact of Shannon's

University of Balamand, Lebanon
Information Theory Day celebrates Shannon

achievements on today's world and stressed the importance of engaging in excellence in scientific research.

Walid Karam, Jihad Daba and Chafic Mokbel from the Department of Computer Engineering contributed brief presentations, shedding light on the most notable of Shannon's achievements and their influence on the information age and digital communications. Further observations were given by Rima Hleis from the Lebanese University and Bashar al-Hassan who represented IEEE Lebanon Section.

Participants were able to browse various 'stations' prepared by Telecommunications Engineering students, consisting of posters, displays and circuitry that highlighted various aspects of Shannon's work. At

each station, graduate students guided visitors on a comprehensive overview of the topics. This gave participants the chance to see in practice the significance of information theory. They were also able to ask questions and to exchange their scientific thoughts.

An information theory-themed competition wrapped up the day, prepared by the event organizer, Chafic Mokbel, in which participants were divided into teams and assigned coaches. The day wrapped up with prizes

being awarded to the winners.

Those attending expressed their great appreciation of the opportunity they were given to participate in this event. For many, it was a chance to truly understand the basis of information technology. Balamand is proud to be the only university in the Middle East to have commemorated Shannon's Centenary. Students were delighted to have been given the chance to tell others about their field.

Michael Salem
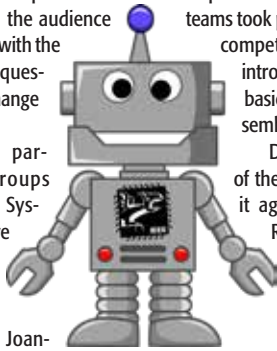
University of Klagenfurt, Austria

Klagenfurt is taken over by robots for a whole week

AS part of last year's European Robotics Week, dedicated to robotics activities and networking amongst robotics enthusiasts, a major event was organized by the the the Student Branch at Klagenfurt.

Researchers at the University of Klagenfurt, Lakeside Park presented their robotic activities from 23– 26 November 2015. Presentations were followed by an Open Lab in session which the audience could interact with the robots, pose questions and exchange ideas.

The four participating groups were Mobile Systems, Pervasive Computing, Control of Networked Systems, and Joan-

neum Research Labs. A robotics workshop for youngsters was also organized by the Informatics and Didactics Institute.

The week concluded with a robotics competition on the Friday. Two leagues (junior and senior), developed their Mindstorm Robots and programmed them to compete in three challenges. Four teams participated in Junior league while five teams took part in the Seniors. The competition was designed to introduce general public to basics of the design and assembly of robots.

Due to the great success of the event, we hope to do it again during European Robotics week in 2016.

Samira Hayat
Student Branch
Klagenfurt
ieee.aau.at

Nile University, Egypt

Information Security evenings

NILE University Student Branch is helping the university's Information Security program, offering evening sessions to promote knowledge and awareness about computer and information security among students.

The first session of the event was held on 28 March and a series of sessions will be held on

the last Monday of each month. The sessions will mainly cover all related topics to information such as security, privacy, integrity, risk management and more.

Cairo University, Egypt

Want that perfect job? CUSB introduces 'The Dream Chair'

THIS year's theme for the annual EECE day at Cairo University organized by Student Branch was 'The Dream Chair'. The event hosted multinational and national companies which gave attendees tips and tricks to reach their dreams, while also offering job vacancies and internships.

Through technical and nontechnical sessions, the speakers shared their secrets to achieving a prosperous and established career.

One of the participating companies, 1SHEELD.com, held a workshop that helped partici-

pants learn how to turn objects around them into smart objects. Moreover, an online recruitment company, Wuzzuf.net, conducted mock interviews for attendees to help them prepare for presenting themselves to real recruiters.

Entertainment and outdoor activities were provided during the whole day and a football tournament was held at the end.

Mansoura University, Egypt

Career Insider 2.0 reveals more opportunities in engineering

MANSOURA Student Branch hosted the second edition of Career Insider to continue the achievements of the previous year by introducing various specializations to students of Engineering, Computer and Information.

Career Insider 2.0 was held on 28–30 April at Mansoura University, hosting 16 speakers from several technology fields.

The purpose of the event was to promote the building of an innovative, intel-

lectually mature engineering community which is aware of market requirements and can contribute to the world's development.

The event aimed to connect academic study to the professional market, by enhancing students' knowledge about the different careers in many fields to help them decide their own path.

Mohamed Fawzy
Public Relations, Mansoura Student Branch

Caledonian College of Engineering, Oman

Student Branch chair is honoured with Citizenship Award

ABDULRAHMAN Jaradat, chair of Caledonian College of Engineering Student Branch, has been presented with the Late Mohammed bin Rashid Al Fannah Al Arimi award for the academic year 2014–2015 during the college's 21st graduation ceremony.

The award was sponsored by one of the college founders, Mohammed bin Rashed Al Fannah Al Arimi, and is given to two students annually in recognition of their academic standing and contribution to the college and the student community.

Mr Jaradat was selected to receive the award in recognition of his engagement in college societies. Accepting the honour, he expressed thanks to his mentor and Chapter coordinator, Dharmasa Pawar. Mr

Jaradat also made clear that IEEE membership has helped him with technical as well as soft skills, both of which which are essential for a modern engineer.

Dharmasa Pawar

Misr University for Science & Technology, Egypt

Finding out what employers need

FOR the fourth year in a row, MUST Student Branch organized Skillfest'16, Cairo's most promising educational event for undergrads and fresh graduates, on 12–13 May at Nile University.

Skillfest continues its mission of preparing youth to be the force, hope and leaders of tomorrow by bridging the wide gap between education and what employers need.

This year's event included topics and offered valuable skills needed to make it into business, hosting a wide range of inspiring speakers. Lectures delivered during the two days included 'How to win at Monopoly', 'Writing a Winning CV', 'Career Coaching', 'The art of Criticism', 'Cornell Method | Lectures' and 'Note Taking'.

Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt

Appx event looks at wearable technology

ZEWAIL City Student Branch organized an event focusing on wearable technologies – clothing and accessories incorporating computer and advanced electronic technologies. It has become a vital field of applied research, not only for accessories like watches and clothes but also for saving human lives.

The event, titled 'AppX: From Humans to Cyborgs', was held at Zewail City's Sheikh Zayed campus on 6–7 May. It was divided into four main sections.

The first hosted nine speakers whose talks showed the importance of wearable technology through links between different science and technologies that build any wearable technology.

Then, using their knowledge from the sessions, participants collaborated to build a prototype of a T-shirt sensing the humans vital signs.

The third section was an exhibition area that hosted projects related to wearable devices. The fourth section comprised augmented reality and virtual reality areas.

Cairo University, Egypt

Youth development days teach coding, electronics, soft skills and ethics

TWENTY volunteers from Cairo University Student Branch organized youth development workshops on 8–11 February, focused on programming. We believe in the importance coding study from the very beginning, and have run a youth development project since 2014. The workshops included both technical and non-technical sessions to improve participants' knowledge and skills.

The Programming Team introduced programming and C++ basics: variables, If and switch statements and 'for' loops. The Electronics Team gave an introduction to binaries; electrical components such as resistance, capacitors, diodes, rectifiers and transformers; the difference between DC and AC; rule of voltage divider; and so on. The Soft Skills Team touched on the seven habits of highly effective people: Presentation Skills, Critical Thinking, Negotiation Skills, Creative Thinking, and Subconscious Mind. Finally, the Ethics Team touched on the importance of kindness towards society, the true meaning and causes of happiness, conscience, self-censorship and bad daily habits.

CUSB: catch 'em at start of academic year

THE Cairo University Student Branch booth at the Faculty of Engineering helps CUSB spread among all the engineering students at the beginning of every academic year, and to introduce them to our activities and benefits. It also provides an opportunity for more volunteers to work in an IEEE Student Branch. Not least, the CUSB booth is a great way for us to introduce our technical workshops to all audiences and to talk about student membership benefits.

Last year, our busy beginning-of-year booth ran for seven days, starting from Sunday 18 to Monday 26 October.

University of Thessaly (Lamia), Greece

Student Branch raises funds for Greenhouse Project charity

ON 19 January, UTH (Lamia) Student Branch decided to organize a charity party at a local club called 'Level' to raise funds for the Greenhouse Project, a challenging endeavor set up by Elpis Chrysovergis and Dora, a passionate couple from Greece.

Nepal was hit by an earthquake in April last year, killing 9,000 people, destroying houses and throwing life into disorder. The goal of the Greenhouse Project was to build a greenhouse in which plants such as avo-cados and coffee trees could be grown and distributed to villagers. The greenhouse will be the stepping stone for future agricultural development in Takure, which will help them generate money on a regular basis.

Fortunately, the fundraising event was met with a huge acceptance: More than 120 people attended and gave a helping hand to such a great cause.

Klara Eleftheriadi, chair
Ilias Xanthopoulos, secretary

IEEE Day events go on all day (and all night too)

UNIVERSITY of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch celebrated IEEE Day on 6 October last year with a full programme of special events in conjunction with the university itself.

The day began with Greek Section and the Student Branch presenting their activities to 150 student participants. This was followed by a Coffee & Cake Session, during which participants had the chance to get to know the branch, our goals and activities better, and to sign up to become IEEE members.

We also organized a party at the local cafeteria 'People Café – The House Project' later in the day to create a more relaxed atmosphere between us and the new members, as well as to raise funds for planned activities.

Klara Eleftheriadi, chair
Ilias Xanthopoulos, secretary

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

144th IAS SB Chapter opens

CONGRATULATIONS are due to the Institute of Radio Physics and Electronics at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IRE NASU) Student Branch Industry Applications Society (IAS) Chapter and their leaders.

Interim chair Kateryna Kazanovska, branch counselor Alexander Nosich and branch chapter advisor Mikhail Balaban are responsible for setting up this newest IAS Student Branch Chapter.

It is also something of a numeric winner, becoming the 144th Student Branch Chapter of IAS. Since the IAS has 144 Technical Chapters, the number of the IAS Student Branch and the Technical Chapters became equal on 24 March.

Peter Magyar
IAS liaison at Region 8 ChCSC

TISP 2.0 volunteers take challenges to high schools

IEEE University of Thessaly (Lamia) Student Branch organized two Teacher-in-Service Program (TISP) 2.0 events at local high schools in Lamia at the end of last year.

On 16 December, TISP volunteers visited the High School of Moskohoriou and led the 'Ship the Chip' challenge which focuses on engineering package designs that meet the needs of safe shipping. The students were divided into four teams of six people. At the end, the weight and the volume of the boxes were calculated and their resistance at drops and hits was tested.

The second TISP 2.0 activity took place on 18 December at the 2nd High School of Lamia, where students had the opportunity to program an Arduino board. Teams were given the required guidance and help to build the circuit, write and execute the code for the 'Arduino Blink' challenge. In this case, they required to turn on and off a LED light. Because of the students' interests, they were also guided to build the 'Love-O-Meter' Arduino tutorial which uses a temperature sensor to measure the warmth of your skin in order to turn on (or off) the LEDs.

Not only did all the students actively participate at the activities, they were also very excited about getting to study more about engineering in the future.

Klara Eleftheriadi, chair
Ilias Xanthopoulos, secretary

Students get stuck in with the technical fun at two high schools in Lamia.

ISSAT Sousse, Tunisia

Students get into programming with Arduino workshops

THE IEEE ISSAT Sousse Student Branch, in Collaboration of IEEE RAS Tunisia Chapter, have organized a series of Arduino Workshops. They involve a set of tutorials in which participants are coached to handle and run the Arduino Uno Board, requiring basic C programming skill for embedded systems and basic knowledge in electronics.

All the workshop's sessions have been held in ISSAT Sousse. The first two sessions took place on 6 and 27 February in cooperation with TunArduino Community and attracted 12 participants. A third session was organised on 9 March by IEEE ISSATSO Student Branch and IEEE Signal.

Houdheyfa Abbes
SPS ISSAT Sousse SB Chapter chair

Yervant Zorian was invited to speak at CTU in Prague in March.

The 3th Prague Embedded Systems Workshop, held last July.

Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

CTU enjoys rejuvination in Student Branch activity

THE Student Branch at CTU has been rejuvenated over the past year and has more than ten active members who are involved in a variety of different activities.

Firstly, we co-organized the Pargue Embedded Systems Workshop (PESW 2015). Afterwards, we organized invited talks from three Czech and worldwide experts in the fields of electronics and informatics.

In March, we enjoyed a lecture by Yervant Zorian, president of IEEE Test Technology Technical Council.

The Student Branch has been preparing summer school for secondary-school students, as well as excursions as a benefit for Student Branch.

As in the past year, we will also co-organize the 4th Prague Embedded Systems Workshop.

Jan Belohoubek

University of Bahrain

Learning to tackle modern problems at Green Energy workshop

BEING a part of the initiative of building a better and more sustainable tomorrow, the University of Bahrain Student Branch organized a Green Energy workshop on 9 March.

The workshop discussed solar energy and its applications and benefits for us today. It also touched on the topic of pollution and played a documentary that helped in broadening the attendees' knowledge about such an important issue and gave them an understanding about how to tackle it as a problem in today's world.

Speakers in the event included Student Branch chair Bassem El Meleegy, who inserted brief breaks for refreshments in-between talks to allow further discussion on the presented topics.

Seminar shows you how to influence the lives of other people

THE leadership guru John Maxwell once said: "Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

For this reason, Tosin Arowojolu, another certified leadership coach who happens to have been trained and greatly influenced by Maxwell, came to speak at the Leadership and Influence seminar organised by the University of Bahrain Student Branch.

What was fruitful about the seminar was the fact that it was an interactive session with the attendees, made up of faculty members and students.

They took personality tests, set goals on paper, asked questions and realised that great potential lies within them with every minute passing.

The seminar was really successful where after the event participants approached Tosin, asking her and the organisers for more similar skill-improving events.

Khulood Dief

Participants at the Leadership and Influence seminar, organised by University of Bahrain Student Branch.