University of Patras, Greece
EMB Chapter launches at Patras with fascinating biomedical seminar series

THE strong interest of students in Engineering in Medicine and Biology has led to the establishment of the IEEE EMB Chapter of the University of Patras, Greece.

The Chapter began activities by organizing a series of seminars on Biomedical Engineering.

The first seminar, 'Bioinformatics and Genomics' on 28 November was delivered by Dr Zoi Lygerou, from the Biology department at the Medical School. The event attracted 80 students from different scientific fields. Further information visit: http://emb.ieee-upatras.gr

George Papadopoulos
IEEE Patras EMB Student Chapter Chair

Investigating the use of advanced robotics in surgery

THE second seminar organized by the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Chapter at the University of Patras was 'Robotics in Surgery', held with great success on 16 December.

More than 220 students and professors from different scientific fields attended the seminar. Dr Tzes, Head of Electrical & Computer Engineering, gave a very interesting presentation on medical robotics. Dr Konstantinidis, chief of the General Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgical Clinic of Athens Medical Center, presented the Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System, using video material of operations from his personal archive.

Eirini Kaisari
Vice-chair, IEEE Patras EMB Chapter

University of Niš, Serbia
Student project conference attracts 200 participants and plenty of support

IEEESTEC, the 4th International Student's Projects Conference, was held on 30 November at the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš, Serbia. Hosted by EESTEC LC Nis, the IEEE Student Branch at Niš offered a platform for students to discuss and exchange research ideas and projects.

IEEE Electron Devices/Solid-State Circuits Chapter and IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Chapter, also supported the event.

The opening speeches were delivered by Danijel Danković, chairman of the conference; Vera Marković, secretary of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section; and Zoran Perić, the vice-dean of the Faculty of Electronic Engineering at Nis.

The conference was very successful, gathering an audience of about 200 students and academic staff with 34 papers. The member reviewers selected the best projects for the three top prizes.

Read more at: http://ieee.elfak.ni.ac.rs.

Danijel Danković

Isfahan University of Technology, Iran
Workshop explains benefits of joining IEEE

A workshop entitled 'IEEE Introduction and its Benefits' was held at Isfahan University of Technology Student Branch on 21 October.

Prof Moallem talked about the benefits of joining IEEE and gave an impressive lecture on 'The Ways to Achieve Career Success' as our special guest. The chair, Ms Eftekhari, reported past activities and the future plans of the IUT Student Branch to its members.

Farzaneh Abdollahi
IEEE Iran Section Editor

University College Cork, Ireland
University College Cork sets up Student Branch

HISTORY was made on 30 November, when an IEEE Student Branch was established at University College Cork, Ireland.

The UCC Student Branch is the second in Ireland, with 25 student members. The elected officers are: chair Kilian O'Donoghue, vice-chair Cian Cassidy and treasurer Philip Marraccini. Nabeel Riza is the branch counselor. Domenico Zito has played an active role in developing the SB.

At its first event on 14 December, the branch co-sponsored a short course on power electronic devices by Ettore Napoli of the University of Naples. The SB looks forward to an active program of activities at UCC and engaging with the global IEEE network.

Nabeel A Riza

Hellenic Open University, Patras, Greece
HOU is the place to learn about microcontrollers

ON 17 December, the final examination was held for the first 'Blended Learning' course on microcontrollers. The Digital Systems and Media Computing laboratory (dsmc2.eap.gr) of the Hellenic Open University in Patras provided the venue.

The five-week course had 20 participants working remotely on modern microcontrollers, sponsored by IEEE's Circuits and Systems Society and the Hellenic Open University.

Students were able to access and to program a number of Arduino systems equipped with sensors, LEDs, LCD and servos. They were available 24/7 to students and monitored through a web camera.

A learning management system at www.edu20.org was set up and each week an electronic lecture was delivered as well as the homework.

All students travelled to Patras for the final examination and also conducted a number of original experiments, thus gaining hands-on experience. Certificates were awarded. The follow up course comes soon. Until then, participants can practice with the system installed on the servers at 194.24.226.108, freely accessible for the CAS engineering community.

Vassilis Fotopoulos