

Supporting Membership

By Stefan Mozar

As part of our membership drive, we are developing communities for the various interest groups in our Society. We have been setting up Student Branches and are developing activities to engage them. Such activities will include summer schools and other activities, including awards. For IEEE Young Professionals (formally known as IEEE Graduates of the Last Decade), we have a function at each of our conferences. These include fun activities and educational opportunities. There are also training sessions on personal efficiency, interviewing skills, and career planning. This year, we have one-day training courses on project management, and we will add a number of other programs. We generally combine IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) events with the Young Professionals events. Carsten Dolar is our Young Professionals chair, and Takako Nonaka is our Society's WIE chair.

When I meet members of our Society, they often tell me they have trouble finding referees to support their senior membership application. I have established senior membership support opportunities at our conferences since 2007. Currently, we have formed a committee to support IEEE Consumer Electronics (CE) Society members who need help with their senior membership application. If you have been thinking about

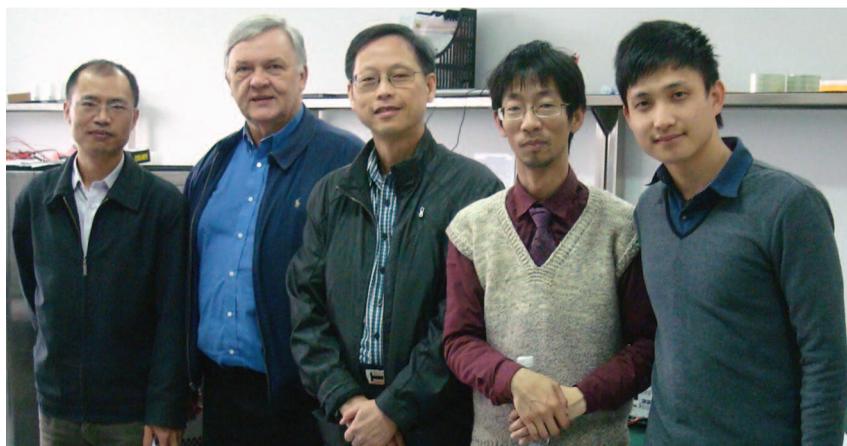


FIGURE 1. From left: Weiguo Zeng, Stefan Mozar, K.F. Tsang, Wing-Kuen Ling, and Zhihao Zhang.

becoming a Senior Member and do not have enough referees, please contact me or Charlotte Kobert, and we will help you with your application.

Our Society is actively growing Chapters and expanding our conference and workshops. We are in the process of establishing a new Chapter in South China and are working with Guangdong

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University of Technology (GDUT), which is located in Guangzhou Province. The province is also known as Canton and is located in an area known as the Higher

Education Megacenters because this suburb hosts ten universities. What makes Guangzhou and the Pearl Delta area of interest to the CE industry is that about 70% of the world's CE products are manufactured there (including cell phones). The university's staff was actively involved in organizing this year's International Conference on Consumer Electronics—China (ICCE—China). ICCE—China is held in Shenzhen in conjunction with the China Information Technology Expo (which was held 9–13 April 2014). GDUT has offered to work with the CE Society and help connect our Society to local industry. Jointly, we will start a new CE conference. Our activities will get us to engage with local industry and a number of start-ups. The GDUT incubates a number of start-up companies, and Figure 1 shows me visiting one of these companies, designing RF ICs for mobile products.

Similar interest exists in India. We are in the process of establishing a regular conference or two in Hyderabad and Bangalore. Later this year, we will conduct a workshop in Hyderabad in conjunction with the local section under the leadership of Dr. Srinivas and his team. In Bangalore, we are still in the early planning stage. We are working with Prof. Ravikiran and the CE Chapter chair, Mr. Koushik.

We also have plans for expansion of CE activities in Europe. Toward the end of this year, we will host a workshop in London with the support of Prof. Ezendu

Ariwa. Last year, the University of Reading established a chair in CE, and none



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other than our editor-in-chief of *IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics*, Simon Sherratt, has been appointed to this position.

While we are expanding, some members will not be able to participate in these activities due to where they are located. We are planning the establishment of a Virtual Chapter. Thus, members will be able to have the benefits of networking and participating in CE Society events, no matter where they are located.

If you have any suggestions about what kind of membership activities you would like to see, please e-mail me at s.mozar@ieee.org. I look forward to receiving some feedback from you.



Notes from the Editor *(continued from page 6)*

PRODUCT REVIEWS

We have a lot of great products that are reviewed in this issue. These are products that were first spotted at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2014 by William Lumpkins, our senior editor. The relevant manufacturers sent these on to Will for review. He has diligently tested each new product/technology, many in his own home; hopefully, some of them will also appeal to you and your lifestyle. Read on and enjoy his insights and commentary on the latest and greatest in CE technologies.

CALLS FOR ARTICLES

INTERNET OF THINGS

The IoT refers to uniquely identifiable objects and their virtual representations in an Internet-like structure. The term *Internet of Things* was first proposed by Kevin Ashton in 1999 [6], though the concept has been discussed in the literature since at least 1991 [7], and in the context of CE and home networking since 1996 [8]–[10]. Today, research into the IoT remains in its infancy. For this call, our principal theme is focused on how IoT will integrate with, change, and disrupt different sectors of the CE industry.

A special issue is planned for the January 2015 edition of *IEEE Consumer Electronics Magazine* to coincide with CES 2015, and I would like to encourage readers to submit relevant articles.

SOCIETAL IMPACTS OF CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Following the launch of a special section titled “Impacts,” a call for articles is announced and will continue on a rolling basis. Articles are sought that facilitate a broadening of our perspective on the world of CE and of our understanding of the various impacts of CE on society. This special section is introduced in partnership with the SSIT.

This is a continuous call for content for the “Impacts” section of the magazine, and further details can be found in a full call for articles, which follows later in this issue.

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