

# Member Relations

## Strategies and Report of Activities

NA RCCC 2014, Austin, TX, USA

**Stefano Bregni**

Vice-President for Member Relations

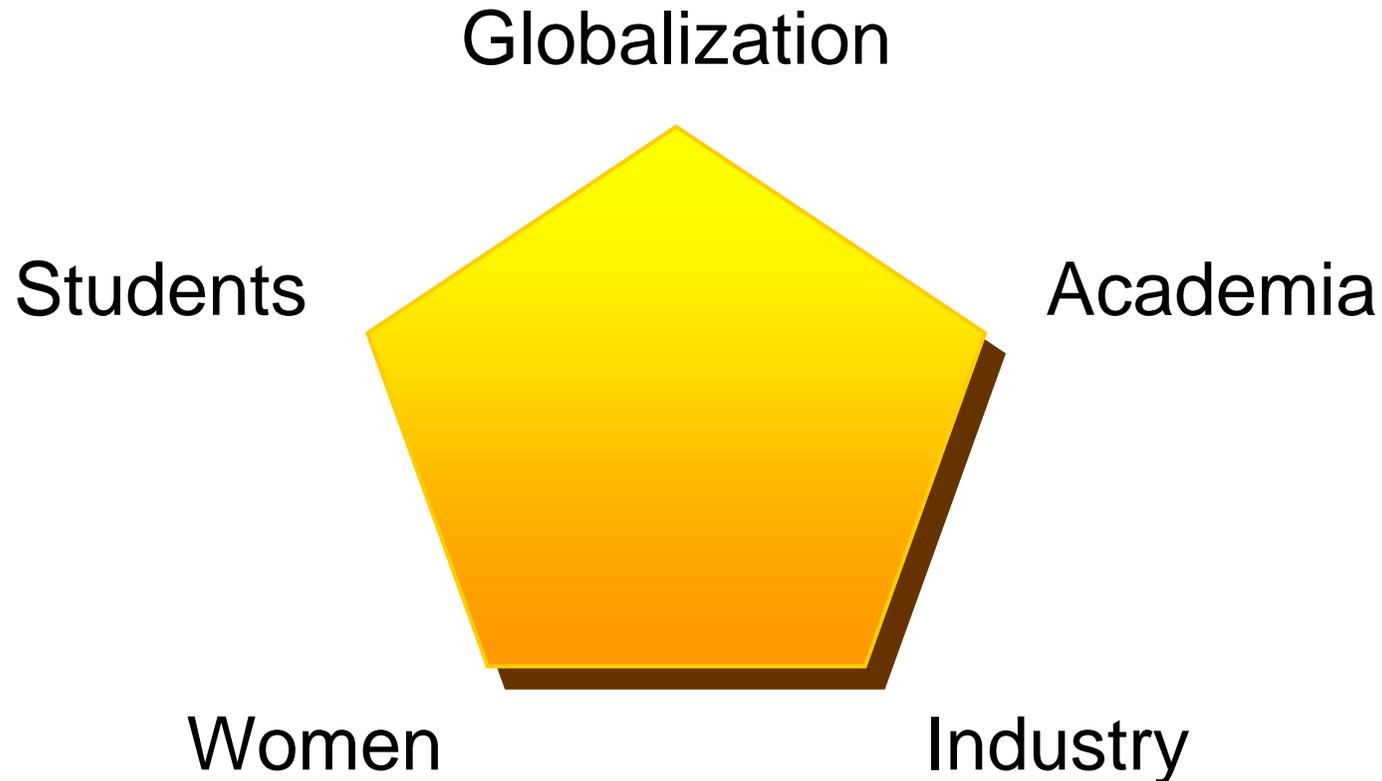
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

*bregni@elet.polimi.it*

# Composition of the Member Relations Council 2014-2015

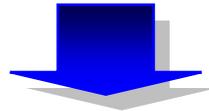
- Chair (Vice-President for Member Relations)
  - Stefano Bregni <bregni@elet.polimi.it>
- Members ex-officio
  - President: Sergio Benedetto <benedetto@polito.it>
  - Past President: Vijay Bhargava <vijayb@ece.ubc.ca>
  - Director M&IR: Ashutosh Dutta <ashutosh.dutta@ieee.org>
  - Director MPD: Koichi Asatani <asatani@ieee.org>
  - Director SRS: Curtis Siller <ca0404s@yahoo.com>
  - AP Director: Wanjiun Liao <wjliao@cc.ee.ntu.edu.tw>
  - EAME Director: Hanna Bogucka <Hanna.Bogucka@et.put.poznan.pl>
  - LA Director: Pedro Aguilera <paguilera@ieee.org>
  - NA Director: Merrily Hartmann <merrily@swbell.net>
- Up to 4 Members at Large
  - TBD (to be appointed for specific tasks)

# The Golden Pentagon of Member Relations

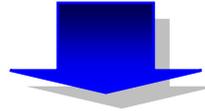


- Agenda
  - ◆ presentations by ComSoc leaders and staff
  - ◆ presentations by Chapter Chairs
  - ◆ discussion and fruitful opinion exchange
- An opportunity
  - ◆ for ComSoc leaders to hear from Chapter Chairs
    - what are the needs of Chapters
    - what more and better ComSoc can do to serve members at local level
  - ◆ for Chapter Chairs to compare their experiences

- Goal: engage inactive Chapters (210+ Chapters worldwide!)



- Action items after the MRC Sydney (1)
  - ◆ how to measure chapters' *performance* (i.e., merit figures)?
    - the merit figures used to select the *Chapter of the Year* have been demonstrated to be useful
    - the LA Region tried the *IEEE vTools Meeting System* for building reports of activity (*L31 Meeting Report*) and considers it as a valid and quick tool to assess chapter actual activity and performance
      - The Carols went through vTools and produced Excel files for the 4 Regions
      - developing analysis is a project to assign to members of the Regional Boards
    - reports submitted by Chapters yearly to request funding (Questionnaires)



- Action items after the MRC Sydney (2)
  - ◆ a simple questionnaire for Chapters at the end of the year (yearly report)
    - TBD (there is already one for requesting funding)
  - ◆ a plan to encourage Chapters to have a web site
    - moral suasion
  - ◆ get Chapter reports from IEEE and archive them (Carole)
  - ◆ get the watchlist of inactive chapters from the IEEE, which is distributed every year to IEEE Regional Directors (Carole)

- Chapters need to fill in and return the Questionnaire to ask funding
- 2014
  - AP Region: 15 questionnaires received (36% over 42)
  - LA Region: 8 questionnaires received (32% over 25)
  - EMEA Region: 15 questionnaires received (29% over 52)
  - NA Region: 21 questionnaires received (23% over 92)
- 2013
  - AP Region: 14 EMEA Region: 21
  - LA Region: 8 NA Region: 22
- 2012
  - AP Region: 16 EMEA Region: 12
  - LA Region: 6 NA Region: 24

# Chapter Activities

## Facebook Pages

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- Ting and Max help Chapters to set up a Facebook page linked to ComSoc
- 25 Chapters currently on Facebook
  - AP Region: 5 Chapters
    - Indonesia, Karachi, Thailand, Sendai, Hyderabad
  - LA Region: 6 Chapters
    - Chile, Centro-Norte Brasil, Colombia, Monterey, Ecuador, ComSoc R9 page
  - EMEA Region: 5 Chapters
    - Azerbaijan, Benelux, Jordan, Italy, Republic of Macedonia
  - NA Region: 10 Chapters
    - Toronto, Vancouver, North Jersey, San Diego, Newfoundland-Labrador, Santa Clara Valley, Austin Texas, Worcester, Oregon, Orlando

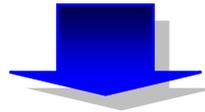
- Evaluation process well established
  - ◆ assigned by comparing objective merit figures
- Recipients of the *2014 Chapter Achievement Award*
  - ◆ Asia/Pacific      [Malaysia](#)
  - ◆ EMEA              [Republic of Macedonia](#)
  - ◆ Latin America    [Colombia](#)
  - ◆ North America   [New Jersey Coast \(ComSoc\)](#)
- Recipient of the *2014 Chapter-of-the-Year Award*
  - ◆ [Malaysia](#)
- Awards presented at the GLOBECOM 2014 Awards Luncheon

# Distinguished Lecturer Program

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- Action items after the MRC Sydney
  - ◆ The \$2000 limit per DLT has been extended to \$3000
    - less DLTs, but better DLTs!
    - the R & MPD Directors are entrusted higher responsibility in approving DLTs
    - the budget **can be** exhausted before the end of the year (advance planning is encouraged)
  - ◆ Koichi (D-MPD) drafted a new version of the P&Ps (helped by Carole)
- DL selection just completed, as reported by Khaled and Sherman
  - ◆ outstanding preparation and coordination work by Sherman
  - ◆ needless to say: a significant effort and workload
- My opinion: too many Distinguished Lecturers (**41!**)
  - ◆ 10 years ago DLs were much less
  - ◆ several DLs remain inactive or seem not well aware of the DLT "spirit"
    - we should approve a *sustainable* number of DL

- Need to
  - ◆ improve awareness of GCN among Chapters
  - ◆ make it more
    - **interesting** (better content)
    - **widespread** (wider distribution)
    - **appealing** (new graphical design)



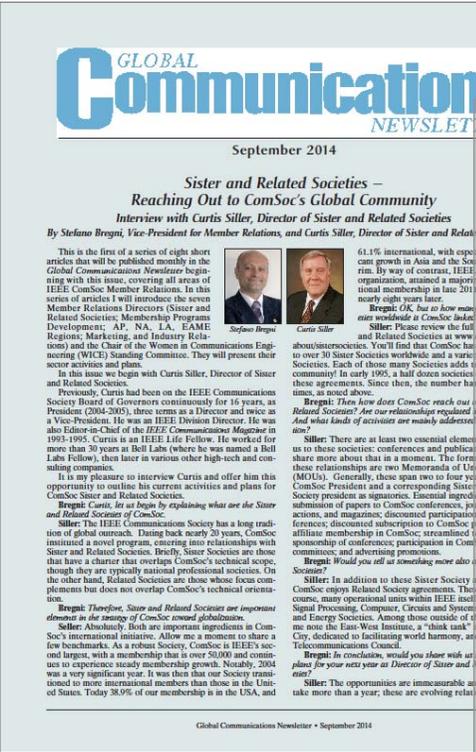
- Three lines of actions to revamp GCN and make it the

*Voice of the Chapters*

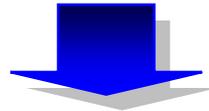
- **New series of articles on Member Relations**
  - ◆ monthly interview of the VP with a MR Director or Committee Chair
    - Stefano & Curtis, SRS Sep 2014
    - Stefano & Koichi, MPD Oct 2014
    - Stefano & Wanjun, AP Nov 2014
    - Stefano & Merrily, NA Dec 2014
    - Stefano & Pedro, LA Jan 2015
    - Stefano & Hanna, EAME Feb 2015
    - Stefano & Ashutosh, M&IR Mar 2015
    - Stefano & Octavia, WICE Apr 2015
- **New GCN Regional Coordinators** were appointed
  - ◆ kudos to Mrs. Ewell Tan (IEEE APO Office Singapore)
  - ◆ select key events and solicit contributions by organizing Chapters
- Curtis requested **Sister Societies** to contribute regularly with one article per year reporting best activities
  - ◆ mixed results

# Global Communications Newsletter

## New series of articles on Member Relations



- Since the origins, the GCN
  - has been included in the IEEE Communications Magazine (insert)
  - has been posted on [comsoc.org](http://comsoc.org) as PDF with public access



- Since July 2014, now the GCN
  - is distributed also by [email](#) (PDF) to all Chapter Chairs as soon as published (*push*, not *pull*)
  - has been assigned two [ISSN](#) numbers (thanks to Joe Milizzo who insisted with IEEE per my request)
    - [Print](#): ISSN 2374-1082      [Online](#): ISSN 2374-1090
- Plan to set up an [Online GCN](#) version in 2015 (in progress)

- The 2014 graphic layout of GCN dated back to many years ago
  - colours are also varied month by month
- I requested the Publishing Staff (Joe Milizzo and Jennifer Porcello) to design a new modern layout and Max Loskutnikov to propose his ideas for a new logo and colors
- Requirements for the new GCN
  - the new style should be *compatible* with the publishing software, that is not introduce any big change effort for the publishing staff
  - it should look totally *different* from the past, *contemporary* looking, colourful, yet in agreement with IEEE publications
  - it should pop out to the eyes of ComMag readers!

# Global Communications Newsletter Traditional GCN Design

## GLOBAL Communications NEWSLETTER

April 2014

### 2013 IEEE Latin America Conference on Cloud Computing and Communications

By Carlos Kamienski (UFABO), Stenio Fernandes (UFPE), Lisandro Zambenedetti Granville (UFRGS),  
and Antonio Tadeu Gomes (LNCC), Brazil

The 2013 IEEE Latin America Conference on Cloud Computing and Communications (LatinCloud 2013) is the second edition of a conference that aims at becoming the premier forum for discussions of recent advances in cloud computing and communications, virtualization, utility computing, grid computing, service-oriented architectures, and software-defined networks for the datacenter in this region of the world. The Cloud Computing and Communications paradigm has defined unprecedented business models, promoting on-demand computing resource allocation, elastic scaling, and elimination of up-front costs. Capitalizing on paradigms such as virtualization, utility computing, grid computing, and service oriented architectures, cloud computing and communications has already changed the way we compute and communicate. To cope with technology challenges for the support of diverse services and applications, the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), Latin America Region, with the support of the IEEE Cloud Computing Initiative, supported the 2013 IEEE Latin America Conference on Cloud Computing and Communications (LatinCloud 2013). The conference has the goal of establishing a scientific forum for the discussion of the rather relevant topic of cloud computing and its critically associated aspects of communications in the Latin American context.

The second edition of LatinCloud was held in Maceió, Brazil, in 09-10 December 2013 at the Ritz Laga da Anta Urban Resort. In this second edition, LatinCloud received 25 submissions from nine different countries, and 38 TPC members selected 10 papers for oral presentation along four technical sessions. The topics of accepted work included applications, services selection, middleware platforms, and testbeds, among others. In addition, two keynotes (From Cloud Computing to Cognitive Computing: Challenges and Opportunities - Marco Netto, IBM; Mobile Cloud Computing - Guy Piñolle, Pierre et Marie Curie University - Paris 6), two panels (Industry Perspective of Cloud Computing and Communications; Research Trends in Cloud Computing and Communications), and one lab tools session were presented. The success of the LatinCloud 2013 was possible due to the submission of high quality research papers from the authors, as well as



Industrial panel session.

Keynote speaker session.

the careful work done by the TPC members and reviewers in the review process.

The success of the second edition of the conference was a reality because of the efforts and critical support and help from key people. LatinCloud is now a reality because of these people. We thank Doug Zerkman for his invaluable support and also Kathy Grise from the IEEE Cloud Computing Initiative and Bruce Worthman from ComSoc. Organizing a conference like LatinCloud was only possible because of the support of sponsors and the volunteer work of general and local organizing committees. Because they made the second LatinCloud edition possible, we would like to thank CAPES and CGLbr for their financial support as well as Aloo Telecom for the infrastructure support. We also thank the precious contribution of the organizing committee members, namely: Jose Neuman de Souza (Keynote Chair); Nelson Fonseca (Steering Committee and Discussion Panel Chair); Heitor Ramos (Local Arrangement Chair); Marco Aurelio Stelmar Netto (Cloud Tools Lab Chair); João Henrique Kleinschmidt (Financial Chair); and Javier Baliosian (Publicity Chair).

Finally, because we believe the success of the first two editions of LatinCloud paved the way for the next editions to come, we also need to thank the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL), the Federal University of the ABC (UFABC), the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), and the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC) for their invaluable support. Last, but not least, we want to thank the great team of students from the Scientific Computing and

(Continued on Newsletter page 4)

## GLOBAL Communications NEWSLETTER

July 2014

### Activities in 2014 of the ComSoc Harbin Chapter, China

By Weixiao Meng, Chair of IEEE ComSoc Harbin Chapter

The IEEE Communications Society Harbin Chapter, PRC, was founded on 24 February, 2012. It has already been two years since approval. In the past year we have held many activities to make our community life much more colorful and acquire something that cannot be learned outside the activities at the same time. The activities are presented as follows.

We hold seminars to promote academic exchanges among scholars, both domestic and from overseas, as well as provide an interactive platform of academic exchanges to boost new ideas. Our teachers and students participate in these activities actively, and many of them are inspired by the scholars we invited.

The first lecture was by Dr. Wei Xiang from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia from January 2 to 12, 2014, concerning his studies in wireless communication. Dr. Xiang currently serves as Associate Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and is also a Doctoral tutor, postdoctoral advisor, and IEEE senior member. He has made great contributions in the area of wireless communication theory, wireless broadband multimedia communications, Shannon information theory, and information source channel coding in more than 10 years of research. He has also presided over a number of Australian projects and international cooperation projects. The topic concerned "Rate-Distortion Optimization Theory and Practical Applications for 3D Video Communications" (Part 1: Rate-Distortion Optimization, and Part 2: Practical Applications). In order to make the minimum distortion of the transmission of time-frequency signals under the condition of the target data rate, we must choose a good compromise between image distortion and the coding bit rate. Then Dr. Xiang introduced the practical applications of this method in 3D Video Communications.



Dr. Cheng Li presenting his lecture.



Dr. Wei Xiang presenting his lecture.

Dr. Xiang also talked about research activities on wireless networks in Tohoku University, providing valuable information for our teachers and students.

The second lecture was given by Prof. Cheng Li from Memorial University of Canada from February 16 to 19, 2014. Professor Li is a senior member of IEEE, a registered engineer of Canada, a member of the IEEE Communication Society, and a member of the IEEE Computer Society. He has made outstanding contributions in the field of broadband communications, wireless networks, and intelligent communication system. He has a high academic status and international influence on the research and application of wireless sensor networks. During the visit he gave three academic lectures: "Opportunistic and Cooperative Forwarding in Mobile Ad-hoc Networks with Light-Weight Proactive Source Routing"; "Routing Based Time Synchronization Protocol for Multi-hop Wireless Networks"; and "An Improved Localization Method Using Error Probability Distribution for Underwater Sensor Networks". At the beginning of the lecture Professor Li introduced the local conditions and customs of Canada, and the general situations of Canada Memorial University. In the following three days Professor Li gave wireless communication related academic lectures. First he introduced an opportunistic and cooperative routing forwarding method which uses relay nodes to choose the next-hop node autonomously according to the routing protocols rather than the fixed routing. He introduced the importance of time synchronization, the commonly used method, and the time synchronization protocol. Professor Cheng Li further introduced the positioning method based on underwater sensor networks. This method adopted the error probability distribution method. In addition, at the end of the lecture Professor Li also shared his experience and methods to write a good article with classmates. Dr. Li gave directions to students in his

(Continued on Newsletter page 4)



Cheng Li exchanging ideas with students.

# Global Communications Newsletter

## New Design of GCN

- Accolades to Joe Milizzo and Jennifer Porcello!
  - ◆ for their patience in following me and making my ideas real
  - ◆ for their professionalism
- Max designed the logo and provided several suggestions
- Long process started in August and completed in September
  - ◆ many versions of graphic design
  - ◆ different fonts
  - ◆ various colour combinations
- This design is compliant with the *IEEE Visual Identity Guidelines*



# GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER



October 2014  
ISSN 2374-1082

### MEMBER RELATIONS

## Membership Programs Development: Toward Better Services for Members and Future Members Worldwide

### Interview with Koichi Asatani, Director of Membership Programs Development

By Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Member Relations, and Koichi Asatani, Director of Membership Programs Development

This is the second article in the series of eight, introduced in September and published monthly in the *IEEE Global Communications Newsletter*, which covers all areas of IEEE ComSoc Member Relations. In this series of articles, I introduce the seven Member Relations Directors (Sister and Related Societies; Membership Programs Development; AP, NA, IA, EAME Regions; Marketing and Industry Relations) and the Chair of the Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) Standing Committee. In each article, one by one they present their activities and plans.

In this issue I interview Koichi Asatani, Director of Membership Programs Development. From 1974 to 1997 Koichi was with NTT, engaged in R&D on optical fiber communication systems, high-definition video transmission systems, FTTH, ISDN, B-ISDN, ATM networks, IP Networks and their strategic planning. From 1997 to 2014 he was a Professor at Kogakuin University. Currently he is a Professor at Nanhai University, Tianjin, China, and Professor Emeritus at Kogakuin University. He is a Fellow of IEEE and a Fellow of IEICE.

Koichi is a founder of the series of symposia on Communications QoS, Reliability and Performance Modeling at ICCs and Globecom. He was Chair of the IEEE Technical Committee on Communication Quality and Reliability (CQR-TC). He was Feature Editor on Standards (1993-1999) and Senior Technical Editor (1999-2005) of *IEEE Communications Magazine*. He served as Executive Chair of ICC2011, Kyoto, and as Distinguished Lecturer for 2007-2008, 2011-2012 and 2013-2014.

It is my pleasure to interview Koichi and offer him this opportunity to outline his current activities and plans for ComSoc Membership Programs Development.

**Bregni:** What are the main programs of ComSoc Membership Programs Development? What is your responsibility in ComSoc?

**Asatani:** The goal of Membership Programs Development is to promote and further the interests of individual members worldwide and to increase member retention, renewal, recruitment, and recognition. To achieve this goal, we are focusing on the following programs.

**Chapters Funding and Awards:** Each local Chapter may request funding to support chapter activities/initiatives including membership development, and inviting and organizing Distinguished Lecturer Tours (DLTs) and Distinguished Speakers Programs (DSPs).

**Membership Development Support Grant (MDSG):** The grant is offered to initiate, promote, and support activities of ComSoc members, local Chapters and Regions aiming at the following targets: IEEE ComSoc membership growth, member professional development, local Chapter growth (currently there are 213 Chapters worldwide, forming four Regions: Asia/Pacific, Europe, Middle-East and Africa, Latin America and North America). Each local Chapter is encouraged to advertise local programs for services to members through GCN, local chapters' web sites, etc.

**Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP):** The DLP is provided as a service to local Chapters. It is organized to benefit existing members and chapters. It can also be used in generating new membership and new Chapter formation. It is invited and organized by local Chapters including student Chapters. Each Distinguished Lecturer Tour (DLT) is organized by providing at least three lectures in different locations.

More than 20 tours are organized annually. Candidates are nominated by Technical Committee chairs and are selected by the DL Selection Committee annually. The current DL pool numbers 42 (see <http://www.comsoc.org/about/memberprograms/distinguished-lecturers>).

In some cases it has not been easy to organize a DLT, due to increasing airfares and/or geographical constraints. This year the budget for each tour has been relaxed, by decision of the Member Relations Council, and made more realistic and flexible to meet today's demands and environments. I hope this increased flexibility will be welcomed by Chapter Chairs, who are the biggest engines for planning and organizing DLTs.

**Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP):** The objectives of the DSP are similar to those of the DLT, but it supports only one lecture and covers only local expenses. Expenses can include airfare, which was not covered before. In some regions the neighboring chapter proposing the DSP is not in convenient distance with terrestrial transportations. This increased flexibility will give more chances to host DSPs in some local chapters in such environments. Distinguished Speakers may be any current and former DLs, IEEE Fellows, and prominent leaders.

**Bregni:** How is Chapter funding granted and regulated?

**Asatani:** Chapter funding is proposed/requested by each Chapter Chair to the appropriate Region Director. The Region Director approves or modifies each Chapter request, taking into account the balance in the Region. Each Region proposal is submitted to the MPD Director for final approval, taking into account possible modifications for overall harmonization and balance if necessary.

**Bregni:** There are Awards to recognize the most deserving Chapters. What Awards are assigned? What is the selection process?

**Asatani:** The Chapter Achievement Awards (CAA) are given annually to one chapter from each Region. The nomination is  
(Continued on Newsletter page 4)



Stefano Bregni



Koichi Asatani

- Plan to set up an [Online GCN](#) version in 2015 (in progress)
- Appealing, contemporary graphic layout with lively colour combination
- Contents
  - the official monthly issue of GCN
    - basically the same content as the monthly printed issue, but as HTML with different layout adapted to the web, links, etc.
  - an additional section with public fresh content, provided asynchronously by Chapter Chairs or their reps. (moderated?)
    - e.g., announcements, calls, etc.
  - an additional Forum/Blog section accessible (read/write) only by Chapter officers (unmoderated)
    - to provide a venue where Chairs can freely discuss and exchange experiences and updates
  - linkage with social media
    - not just to collect "likes", but to facilitate the contacts for information exchange with Chapter Chairs

- Ongoing industry initiative in India
  - ◆ the India ComSoc Chapters are organizing workshops aimed at industry
  - ◆ leader: Bangalore Chapter
- Industry engagement at Chapter/Section level
  - ◆ documented in [www.ieee-industry.org](http://www.ieee-industry.org) including Industry Day Tools
- High Impact One Day Summit (e.g., 5G, SDN/NFV)
  - ◆ A. Dutta and J. Pape are organizing one HIOD in Spring 2015 in New Jersey at Princeton University with high-profile speakers
- Future Skillset Workshops
  - ◆ opportunity for collaboration among Industry, Academia and IEEE
  - ◆ students meet industry seeking young talents
- Industry Initiative with Start-Up Community
  - ◆ reaching out to New Jersey Technology Council and collaborate on topics of interest to organize a career fair aimed at start-ups

- Action items after the MRC Sydney (M&IR, Marketing Dept.)
  - investigate specific marketing campaigns targeted to regions with highest growth potential (meet local demands)
  - evaluate whether it is feasible and how to implement a (ComSoc) "member get a member" strategy

- *Member Relations: relations not only with Academia Members*
  - ◆ membership programs development should regain focus on industry
- Action items after the MRC Sydney (Director M&IR)
  - ◆ set up a Task Force
    - example: my 2011 work “New Industry-Oriented Education Products and Services”
    - involve recognized experts from industry
    - involve people willing to contribute
  - ◆ goals of the Task Force
    - propose, collect and select ideas for industry outreach
    - survey of needs of telecom start-ups
    - look at other Societies with strong industry ground (e.g., PES)
    - prepare a credible plan in no more than 6 months
  - ◆ start implementation of best ideas before ...
- Update from Ashutosh

# Existing Industry Outreach Programs

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- Some work was done
  - ◆ *Industry Promotion Committee (IPC)*, chaired by Bob Shapiro
  - ◆ *Industry Service Committee (ISC)*, chaired by Harvey Freeman
  - ◆ *Workgroup on New Industry-Oriented Education Products and Services*, chaired by Stefano Bregni, Director Education
- Some of those Committees did not produce any report
  
- New Standing Committee (2014-15)
  - ◆ *Industry Content & Exhibition (ICEC)*, chaired by Heiner Stuetzgen

- J. Pape is coordinating a trial of Career Center Portal with IEEE
  - job positions in communications industry from the IEEE Media/Spectrum job site can be advertised on the ComSoc web site
  - usually the vast majority of positions is in USA, but it can be developed
  - the number of open positions is on the order of hundreds
- The trial went online on 20 May 2014
- Ideas to move further (J. Pape)
  - add a career guide
  - link the IEEE USA Salary Survey
  - add more features to help communications engineers to get employment
  - offer a webinar about employment in the communications industry
  - offer a webinar about boosting career for Women in Communications Engineering
- Update from John

## *Communications Technology Changing the World*

- Co-Chairs: Stefano Bregni and Nelson Fonseca
- The 2014 Call for Submissions went online in May
- Massive advertising on social media and mail lists
- 72 submissions, but only 42 are valid
  - ◆ 30 non valid because not by ComSoc Student Members
- Significant workload for staff, evaluation committee and chairs
- Increased number of Selection Committee members (+30%)
  - ◆ 14 various officers and volunteers of IEEE ComSoc
  - ◆ 28 members nominated by 25 TCs and subTCs
  - ◆ 1 TCs and 10 subTCs never responded
    - nearly the same set which did not respond to the call for ICC2016 symposia
  - ◆ 2 members (TC reps) were not responsive and were removed

- Besides serious requests for information, this year we received also many SMS-style silly inquiries
  - Some examples (exact citations in *italic*, including spelling)
    - *"We are not clear about the details mentioned about, so can u please let us know the event date and also the location of the event to be head"* 🤖  
(no signature, nothing more than that)
    - *"Can you guide me about the procedure of getting the Membership so that I can participate in the competition?"* 🤖
    - *"How can I enroll in ComSoc"* 🤖
    - *"How to become a member?"* 🤖
    - *"I want to participate. Please explain me how to be member?"* 🤖
    - *"What is member?"* 🤖 🤖
    - *"I want to participate, but not now after you tell me that I have to pay to be a member"* 🤖
- Facebook generation?

# Student Competition 2014

## Selection Procedure

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- 40 committee members evaluated 42 submissions
- **Phase I:** members evaluated the projects (3 subsets) by scoring
  - ◆ social impact
  - ◆ technical content
  - ◆ originality
  - ◆ practical applicability and results
  - ◆ quality of presentation
- projects were ranked
- **Phase II:** committee members voted for the best 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> among the top 9 projects ranked out of Phase I
- Stefano and Nelson examined the top 5 projects out of Phase II and selected the winners

### • First Prize

- *AVATARS: A Software Defined Radio based Teleoperating Cyber-Physical System for Disaster Environment Exploration*  
by Li'an Li, Wenbin Yu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, P.R. China

### • Second Prize (ex aequo)

- *Nature-inspired Molecular Diffusion Communication Test-Bed for Harsh Communication Environments*  
by Siyi Wang, University of South Australia, Australia, Nariman Farsad, York University, Canada, Song Qiu, University of Warwick, UK
- *A System for Affordable Internet Access in Rural Developing Nations*  
by Esther Jang, MIT, and Jessica Fujimori, Tanzania

### • 6 Honorary Certificates

# Sister and Related Societies

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- Director: Curtis Siller <ca0404s@yahoo.com>
- Board members
  - ◆ Africa Jude Ugo Onukwu
  - ◆ Asia/Pacific (AP) Madhukar Pitke
  - ◆ Europe, Middle-East, & Africa Marko Jajodic
  - ◆ Latin America (LA) Araceli Garcia
  - ◆ North America (NA) Yigang Cai
  - ◆ Director - MIRB Ashutosh Dutta
  - ◆ Director - MPDB Koichi Asatani
  - ◆ Past President Vijay Bhargava
  - ◆ Vice President - Member Relations Stefano Bregni

- Standing Committee, aligned under VP-MR
  - Chair: Octavia Dobre <odobre@mun.ca>
- Committee members
  - Vice-Chair: Maite Brandt-Pearce, University of Virginia, USA
  - Publicity: Zahra Ahmadian, Telus Mobility, Canada
  - Past Chair: Shalinee Kishore, Lehigh University, USA

# Women in Communications Engineering Recent Activities

- New WICE Awards (2015)
  - ◆ WICE Outstanding Service
  - ◆ WICE Outstanding Achievement
  - ◆ WICE Mentorship
- Second Women's Workshop on Communications & Signal Processing, Princeton University, July 16-18, 2014
  - ◆ reported on the GCN

## Second IEEE ComSoc Women's Workshop on Communications and Signal Processing: Already a Tradition

By Octavia A. Dobre, Chair of the WICE Committee, Memorial University, Canada,  
and Shalinee Kishoree, Past-Chair of the WICE Committee, Lehigh University, USA

*Foreword by Stefania Bregni, IEEE ComSoc Vice-President for Member Relations*

The authors of this article, Octavia Dobre and Shalinee Kishoree, are the Chair and Past-Chair, respectively, of the IEEE ComSoc Standing Committee on Women in Communications Engineering (WICE).

The mission of the WICE Committee is to promote the visibility and roles of women communication engineers and to provide a venue for their professional growth. Octavia and her Committee are working on a number of new initiatives coherent with such goals. Updates and information are posted regularly on the WICE web site, located on [comsoc.org](http://comsoc.org).

As VP for Member Relations, I attach utmost importance to improving the visibility and the representation of women engineers in our sectors of professional activity and in ComSoc, in particular by guaranteeing equal opportunity regardless of gender and by providing support for specific needs. Indeed, this is one of the five strategic directions I set in *Member Relations* at the beginning of my term: globalization, industry, academia, students, and women (a.k.a. the Golden Pentagon, featured in the President's Page of the April 2014 issue of the IEEE *Communications Magazine*).

With its second edition taking place this July at the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University, the IEEE ComSoc Women's Workshop on Communications and Signal Processing has already become a tradition. This event provides a unique venue for junior and senior women researchers to interact regarding recent developments in their fields, and facilitates both formal and informal mentoring and networking between the attendees. Senior women present technical talks, while poster sessions are organized for junior women. A warm and fruitful environment is created, where ideas originate and develop and mentoring occurs organically.

This year cutting edge results were presented from the areas of wireless communications, information theory, video compression, data storage, applications of signal processing to marine life, astronomy, visible light communications, and several others. In addition to the technical sessions, social components were included in the agenda, such as discussions focusing on the role of women in STEM and IEEE ComSoc, panel discussions driven by junior attendees to address their questions regarding career development in both industry and academia, but also mentoring the senior attendees who were looking for guidance in shaping the next phase of their career, e.g. advice on promotion to full professor, balancing service and work, and serving in major administrative positions. Furthermore, a presentation was given to both junior and senior participants on how the assembled researchers could employ social media tools to become leaders and influencers in the broader communities.

In total, the workshop was attended by 19 junior and 14 senior participants and two ComSoc staff, from the USA,



Mohi Abdellatif (Virginia Tech) explains her research to Nicole Nichols (U. of Washington) (center) and Anu Meenan (Arizona State).



O. J. Femi-Jesuohan (U. of Essex) (left) and Sarah K. Wilson (Simon Fraser U.) after meaningful technical discussions.



Technical discussions (left to right): Binur Aydın (Farmingdale State), Shalinee Kishoree (Lehigh U.), and Nativ Ariaspoo (UBC).

# Women in Communications Engineering

## Short-Term Plan

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- Social networking
  - ◆ Update the WICE web site and Facebook page
    - [http://cms.comsoc.org/eprise/main/SiteGen/Comm\\_WICE/Content/Home.html](http://cms.comsoc.org/eprise/main/SiteGen/Comm_WICE/Content/Home.html)
  - ◆ Revitalize the LinkedIn WICE group
  - ◆ Update the WICE mailing list
- Nominate candidates for the ComSoc DLP
- Child Care Program at ComSoc conferences!

# Young Professionals Committee

F.K.A.: Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD)



- Ad-Hoc Committee, aligned under VP-MR
- Mission
  - ◆ Provide a networking and education platform for ComSoc young professionals to advance their career and education
- The new Chair has been appointed on 3 Nov 2014
  - ◆ **Yixin Diao**  
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, USA
  - ◆ selected among 7-8 other candidates
- Yixin is selecting the members of the YP Committee
  - ◆ hopefully ready to start with 2015