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CHAPTER REPORT

Collaboration Among Texas ComSoc Chapters and IEEE Section

by Fawzi Behmann, IEEE ComSoc Central Texas Chapter Chair, USA

On March 30, 2023, several chapters in the IEEE Central Texas Section led by Fawzi Behmann, chair of the Communications, Signal Processing and Consumer Technology joint chapter in organizing a special talk about “Space Communications, a Review” collaborated with Computer & EMBS joint chapter, Life Members group and Consulting Networks in promoting and hosting the talk in both San Marcos and Austin. The talk was delivered by Scott Atkinson, Treasurer, Life Lone Star Section, Chair, Life Members Affinity Group, IEEE Lone Star Section, and Chapter Treasurer: San Antonio Com/SP, Computer & TEMS. Mr. Atkinson retired from a career as a Communications Engineer and Project Manager. Now a full-time volunteer at IEEE providing presentations on Space Communications, major telescopes, and Home Automation. Resides in San Antonio with his wife and two daughters.

The talk covered NASA’s reliable space communications and navigation (SCaN) networks as the backbone of all of NASA’s space missions, providing the critical communications services for all earth, space science, and human space missions. This included all the telemetry, tracking, and commanding required by each spacecraft to transfer key data to the ground systems to manage space operations.

At San Marcos, the talk was held at Texas State University Ingram School of Engineering and was locally organized by Prof. Semih Aslan and was presented to students and faculty (11:30 am – 1:30 pm). Over 29 persons have registered and 20 attended. Students engaged in Dialog with Mr. Atkinson during and after the talk. Some of the students are currently engaged with Nasa in Senior Design projects and use the opportunity to ask specific questions about the communications mission in space.

At the end of the talk, Fawzi Behmann shared his experience, opportunities received and benefits he received of being a ComSoc member. He presented the special promotion being offered by ComSoc and IEEE for students. Students that were present at the talk have expressed interest to be members.

There was networking opportunity where Piazza and beverages were offered along with promotional items from ComSoc.

In the afternoon, both Fawzi and Scott travelled to Austin and had evening function at Asia & America Resource Center in Austin from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The evening session was a hybrid event started with networking with meal boxes and beverage followed introduction and talk by Mr. Atkinson. There were 28 persons registered for the talk, and a total of 18 that attended (12 in-person, 6 virtual).

In total, for both events, we had 57 registered in vTools and 38 in attendance.

At both events, Mr. Atkinson was presented with an appreciation certificate for his presentation

This event was a great example of collaboration among chapters within Central Texas Section.



Luis Basto, Kai Wong, Scott Atkinson, Fawzi Behmann.



Prof. Semih Aslan, Scott Atkinson, Fawzi Behmann.



Luis Basto, Kai Wong, Scott Atkinson, Fawzi Behmann.

Being Part of the IEEE Sections Congress 2023

by Kayoum Djedidi, IEEE ComSoc Tunisia Chapter

SC2023: A WORLD OF INSIGHTS AND CONNECTIONS

The anticipation was palpable as I embarked on a journey to the prestigious IEEE Sections Congress 2023. From August 11th to 13th, Ottawa, Canada, played host to this remarkable event that brought together passionate minds from around the globe to celebrate innovation, unity, and the power of collaboration. The Congress offered an array of enlightening sessions that expanded my horizons on a range of subjects. Engaging with thought leaders and industry experts, I delved into topics that resonated with my passion for technology and innovation. What struck me most was the unity that pervaded the atmosphere – a reminder that despite our diverse backgrounds, we all share the same goal of advancing technology for the betterment of society.

A highlight of the Congress was the chance to interact with esteemed IEEE ComSoc leaders. Engaging with figures like Dr. Shashank Gaur and Dr. Celia Desmond, former IEEE ComSoc president, was an enlightening experience. These interactions underscored the importance of ComSoc's impact in our region and the value of engaging graduate student members.

Encountering Mrs. Susan Brooks, the former ComSoc executive director, was an honor. Her warmth and appreciation for ComSoc's student volunteers showcased the society's dedication to nurturing the next generation of technology leaders.

Among the many memorable encounters was a conversation with Mr. José Roberto de Marca, Chair of the Governance Committee of IEEE Communications Society and former IEEE president. His inspiring words resonated deeply, emphasizing the role of the newer generation in shaping the future of technology. Despite the event's bustling atmosphere, I seized the opportunity to connect with Mr. Raed Abdulah, the ComSoc North America Region Board secretary. These interactions provided me with valuable insights into ComSoc initiatives and introduced me to a network of dedicated ComSoc volunteers.

While Dr. Ashutosh Dutta's schedule prevented a direct meeting, we connected later via LinkedIn and scheduled a discussion on various ComSoc initiatives, as he is the founding Co-Chair for the IEEE Future Networks Initiative that focuses on 5G.

This experience illuminated the expansive scale at which our society operates and the diversity of our members from regions, fields, and age groups. IEEE truly embodies a global family, a realization that empowers me to excel in my field, with unwavering support from fellow members.

A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

Throughout the Congress, diverse topics took center stage, ranging from groundbreaking technological advancements to strategies aimed at invigorating member engagement and fostering the growth of emerging professionals. As a dedicated student eager to carve a career within ComSoc's dynamic realm, these discussions resonated deeply, infusing me with a sense of purpose and enthusiasm. Among these discussions, one theme emerged as a focal point – the convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) within communication systems. The discourse around AI-driven optimization and IoT's potential for unprecedented connectivity was captivating. As an engineering student in the field of IoT, the realization that AI and IoT are set to reshape communication networks profoundly excited me. Notably, the revelation of ComSoc's commitment to this through its Emerging Technologies Initiative, introduced to me during these dis-

cussions, indicates a promising avenue for innovation. Sharing this initiative with fellow members can undoubtedly ignite enthusiasm and engagement.

Shifting towards the student perspective, the dialogue addressed the unique needs of aspiring communication professionals within ComSoc's vibrant community. Exploring the challenges student members face – accessing crucial resources, securing mentorship, and guidance for a successful career – underscored ComSoc's dedication to nurturing the next generation of communication trailblazers. In response, discussions circled around pivotal initiatives bolstering student support. Notable concepts included comprehensive mentorship programs, pairing students with seasoned experts to exchange knowledge and cultivate career pathways. Student-centric technical webinars and workshops emerged as potent tools for bridging theoretical education and practical applications. Elevating ComSoc's commitment to student support will undoubtedly strengthen its capacity to attract and retain young talents. Offering accessible resources, networking platforms, and mentorship will empower students to navigate their careers with resilience.

Some promising potential initiatives emerged:

- The "ComSoc Student Hall of Fame" award, recognizing outstanding student contributions. This award could foster a culture of excellence within the ComSoc community.
- The "ComSoc Call for Student Initiatives" proposition garnered interest. This platform could empower students to propose projects aligned with the society's goals, fostering hands-on experience in project management, event organization, and technical innovation.
- Encouraging academic prowess and research emerged through "ComSoc Student Paper of the Year" and "ComSoc Project of the Year" notions.
- ComSoc meetup event featuring sessions and engaging activities to foster connections and share experiences.
- Thought-provoking discussions surrounded another collaboration with IEEE HTB and SIGHT, aiming to bring the "Internet for All" program closer to student members, and involving SB and section SIGHT groups. By pooling resources, ComSoc, HTB, and SIGHT could bridge the digital divide, fostering connectivity and empowerment, all while empowering students and YPs.

It's important to mention that Enthusiasm surrounding the ongoing ComSoc student competition was palpable. A suggestion of implementing such a program at the Student Branch or Section Chapter level resonated well, fostering local innovation, knowledge exchange, and camaraderie.

These insights from the IEEE Sections Congress 2023 underscore ComSoc's potential to redefine budding professionals' trajectories. By tailoring discussions, orchestrating skill-building events, and fostering intergenerational exchange, ComSoc can sculpt an ecosystem that empowers students to thrive. The potential for ComSoc to guide young professionals is tangible, and I'm excited to contribute actively to this vision. The



Myself with Dr. Celia Desmond, former IEEE ComSoc president, Mrs. Susan Brooks, the former ComSoc executive director, and Mrs. Julia Upton, the Maine Section Chair, during the SC23.

Congress indeed shed light on the transformative path ahead, inspiring a shared commitment to enhancing IEEE's impact on the next generation of leaders.

SC23 was undoubtedly an exhilarating experience, where the booths, sessions, and activities were captivating. But what truly stood out was the incredible community – one that's welcoming, collaborative, and open to new ideas. At IEEE, every member's voice matters, making it a thriving ecosystem to nurture

professional growth and innovation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the IEEE Communications Society for enabling me to attend the IEEE Sections Congress 2023. Their support not only enriched my experience but also continues to empower countless volunteers and members within IEEE to shape their careers.

Kayoum Djedidi <djedidikayoum@ieee.org>

CONFERENCE REPORT

Amateur Radio Tutorial and Experimentation CITS 2023, Genoa, Italy

by Miroslav Skoric, IEEE Austria Section

The 2023 International Conference on Computer, Information and Telecommunication Systems (CITS 2023) was held at magnificent Aula Magna of the University of Genoa, Italy, from 10th to 12th July 2023. The international forum was supported by IEEE Communications Society, and was intended for scientists, engineers, and practitioners to present their latest research and development results in all areas of computer, information, and telecommunication systems. Topics of interest were divided in several tracks: Computer Systems, Information Technology, Web Technologies, Networking Systems, Telecommunications Systems, and Security Systems. The conference featured technical paper presentations, distinguished keynote speeches, and a tutorial. Having in mind that the event was organized during the peak of tourist season, CITS 2023 allowed remote (on-line) presentations for authors who were not able to arrive in Italy on time because of flight disruptions, visa issues, or similar reasons.

While planning the travel to Genoa, I considered a set of technical tests related to radio signal propagation in a coastal area. Thankfully to Italian radio amateurs Gian Leonardo Solazzi, IW2NKE and Carlo Paroldi, IK1QKU, I booked a hotel room with terrace, in order to make ad-hoc experiments with APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting System) and Winlink (global radio email system) during a 10-day stay in the city. For that purpose, an Alpha MIL 2.0 antenna was installed on a tripod, and guyed by Mastrant rope & carabiners to survive coastal winds. The rest of the equipment (SCS pactor & packet-radio controllers, RIGblaster sound-card interfaces, MFJ antenna tuner and power supply unit, YIC and BadElf GPS receivers, Radioddity and Retevis radios, etc) was in the apartment room. The experimentation was performed under the special amateur radio identifier ('call-sign') I11CIT, celebrating the conference. It was also possible to activate nearby voice repeaters at Mount Fasce.

The 1.5-hour tutorial session, entitled "Advantage of Winlink Global Radio Email® infrastructure and APRS™ positioning tool from Italian coastal perspective" was delivered by Miroslav Skoric, from IEEE Austria Section. It was an opportunity to inform the conference audience with achievements in exploring Winlink radio email service, capable to workaround the shortage of commercial telephony networks and Internet services after natural disasters and similar emergency situations. The results of aforementioned local tests were compared with experimentation done earlier at other locations (E.g. Greece and Mauritius). It was concluded that both Winlink and APRS resources were more developed in some other areas of northern Italy, such as in Milan than it was in Genoa. Having in mind high maritime activities at Genoa port facilities and ever increasing tourist & commercial traffic over the sea, it might be imperative for local ham community to establish alternative communication options to be ready in case when it might be of vital importance.

The conference chair, Prof. Franco Davoli (first from left in the photo), recalls using ham radio topics in some of his early research papers. His two researcher colleagues joined him in the audience, and both of them were Italian licensed hams who



Miroslav Skoric, I11CIT, during his tutorial lecture on amateur radio topics. The Alpha MIL 2.0 HF antenna is displayed on the left.



From left to right: Prof. Franco Davoli, Sandro Zappatore IW1PTR, Miroslav Skoric I11CIT, Alberto Giordano I1TD.

co-authored those papers: Sandro Zappatore, IW1PTR, and Alberto Giordano, I1TD.

Besides the amateur radio tutorial as part of the official program, CITS 2023 welcomed a technical display arranged the second conference day. It included several VHF and HF radio stations, an antenna tuner, GPS/GNSS receivers, various packet-radio and pactor modems, the vertical 'whip' antenna exposed in the conference room, as well as a plenty of ham radio literature.

Miroslav Skoric <skoric@ieee.org>

Activities of the Xi'an ComSoc Chapter in 2023

by Rong Sun, Bin Song, and Jiandong Li, Xidian University, Xi'an, China

During the past year, the Xi'an ComSoc Chapter has actively organized multiple academic seminars covering topics related to 5G/6G technology, communication security, and machine learning for students and members. These seminars have been held both online and offline, attracting hundreds of participants.

In addition to the seminars, we cosponsored "The 2023 International Conference on Ubiquitous Communication (UCOM2023)." The conference was held from July 8th, 2023 to July 9th, 2023. Over 300 participants including almost 100 IEEE members and student members attended this conference. IEEE Fellow, Prof. ZHANG Ping from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, gave the lecture named "Wisdom-Emergent Ubiquitous Systems." IET and IEEE Fellow, Prof. WANG Jiangzhou from the University of Kent, presented the report named "Network-Assisted Integrated Sensing and Communications for 6G." IEEE Fellow, Prof. Arumugam Nallanathan from Queen Mary University of London, shared his idea on "Federated Learning for Energy-limited Wireless Networks" research.

The UCOM2023 focused on the frontier science and technology in the field of information and communications. Twelve sub-forums were set up around the topics of "Communication Theory and Technology," "Machine learning and Optimization of Wireless systems," "Polymorphic intelligent Network technology and its application," "Machine learning and optimization of wireless systems," "Signal processing and image processing," and "Joint communication, perception and Computing in Next Generation Network." Face-to-face academic exchanges and discussions were effective in this conference.



Prof. Arumugam Nallanathan.



Prof. Wang Jiangzhou.



Prof. Zhang Ping.



The organizers

GCN

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