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CHAPTER REPORT

IEEE ComSoc Central Texas Joint Chapter

Winner of the 2023 Chapter Achievement Award for the NA Region

by Fawzi Behmann, Austin Chapter Chair, USA

On behalf of ComSoc Central Texas Joint Chapter Leadership, members, and community we wish to express our appreciation and thanks to ComSoc Awards Committee, Ana Garcia, VP Membership Development, and Sherman, President of ComSoc, for the 2023 Chapter Achievement Award (CAA) for North America and received during the Awards and Luncheon ceremony held on December 5th as a part of 2023 IEEE Globecom conference held in Kuala Lampur Dec. 4–8th, 2023. Fawzi Behmann, Chair of CTS ComSoc Joint Chapter, has accepted the CAA on behalf of Chapter Leadership consists of Norma Antunano, Semih Aslan, Daniel Lewis, Nitin Garg, and Francis Scott. This award represents chapter achievement among 95 chapters in North America. Recent awards by the chapter for CAA were in 2021, 2020, 2017 and 2015.

The ComSoc CTS Chapter has also previously won the Chapter of the Year Award (CoY) in 2015, 2017, and 2020. The CoY award is a global award over a total of 222 ComSoc chapters worldwide. This award represents the significant efforts expended by the officers and ComSoc members in Austin.

Austin is a technology hub with multiple high tech companies, famous universities (e.g. University of Texas and San Marcos University), multiple research, and innovation centers. This maddest challenging to variate theme from one year to the next. The theme of 2023: Smart Ecosystems empowered by enabling technologies, such as 5G/6G, IoT/Edge Computing, Cloud/AI, Security/Blockchain driving smart networking solutions and innovative use cases. Variety of activities were conducted to drive greater vitality and growth. These include:

- Strengthen local chapter for membership development by holding high-quality technical events that totaled 32 with relevant topics given by domain experts, and leveraged Distinguished Lecturer/Speaker program and multihost feature to expand coverage.

Some of the key topics included: The world of Exascale High performance Computing, "6G, XR and the Metaverse – A Silicon Valley View," "A Dual-Blind De convolution Perspectives of Integrated Sensing and Communications," "5G/6G Enable Edge Computing and Edge Intelligence," "Distilling AI," "Solving Global Grand Challenges with High Performance Data Analytics," and others.

- Initiate/support several students activities for membership development by inviting several Distinguished lectures. Examples having Mr. Scott Atkinson on March 30th to address the students on Space Communication (see photo), having Dr. Fabrizio Granelli from Italy on September 25 that talked about Digital Twins and Dr. Majid Butt on IEEE Day October 4 who talked about AI in wireless. These series of special sessions supported by collaterals about student membership and benefits and

Celebration of COMSOC ACC & COY awards at Globecom 2023

22 newly inducted IEEE HKN Eta Chapter Professional Members of IEEE-HKN Board of Government

Participation at ATLANTA ComSoc School Sept 21-23 leveraging one doll membership and IEEE Future 50 have generated great attendance and interest by students and many have signed as new member ComSoc members.

- Outreach activities: Participate and support ComSoc students activities including having more chapter members participate at ComSoc Student Competition (Sep.-Nov.) in judging, ComSoc Atlanta School (September 21-23) in having several talks, participate in student resume evaluation, and establish joint activities between Austin and Atlanta as sister chapter, and Student Leadership Summit (November 13-15) at Baltimore Future Networks World Forum. The summit was organized and led by Ashutosh Dutta and Fawzi Behmann the chairs of ComSoc Baltimore and Austin, offering three days training on Python offered by Dr. Semih Aslan, mentoring and interactive session between IEEE seniors and YP moderated by Fawzi Behmann and panel session on use case on agriculture along with diverse talks by distinguished speakers aimed at sharpening student soft skills, show potential market opportunities.
- Collaborate and support ComSoc Industry Board in building strong program to attract industry. Supported Texas State in building Industry Advisory Board and establish common set of activities.
- The chapter has been active with other major outreach activities, such as being part of Big 5G Panel and Event by Light Reading in Austin May 17, 2023, ICC 2023 supporting student career fare (Rome, May 27-29), being part of Reuters Momentum AI Summit held in Austin July 11-12, Section Congress networking with other leaders (Ottawa August 11-13), participate and support PIMRC as Sponsorship chair and engaged on a panel Future Networks INGR Roadmap (Toronto, September 5-8), mobile world Congress promoting ComSoc among industry (Las Vegas September 26-28), Fawzi also contributed to Future Networks Technical Communities and Forum, managed finance and education working groups, and contributed to advance INGR Roadmap for security and applications and services working groups.
- Collaborated with Central Texas Section and affinity groups for LM and Consulting Networking in joint events in Austin leveraging DL program and increase awareness of the brand (March 23)
- Outreach and support IEEE in multiple areas, such as being MGA Conference Committee voting member and sharing best of practices, contribute to Conference Committee - Adhoc committee on finance for next generation of tools, and being part of Convene on series of meetings on conference planning and sharing best of practices.

As a distinguished Lecturer, I participated in several VDL and DLT sessions that were held virtually and physically, such as a VDL session held at Rode Island April 20, San Marcos April 21; DLT San Antonio, Denver, and Atlanta on September 19–23; and several sites at Tunis, December 13–18.

I'm pleased to report that I was along with 22 newly inducted IEEE HKN Eta Chapter Professional Members of IEEE-HKN Board of Governors. Later on, I participated Eta Kapa Nu Students Leadership Summit and interacted with many students inviting them to joint activities with ComSoc and Future Networks.

CHAPTER REPORT

IEEE ComSoc Jordan Chapter

Winner of the 2023 Chapter Achievement Award for the EMEA Region

by Sami Aldalahmeh, IEEE Jordan Joint ComSoc & SPS Chapter Chair

I must thank our team in the IEEE Jordan Joint ComSoc & SPS Chapter for their extraordinary efforts and commitment. The gratitude is extended to all our members, especially the students, who always play a vital role in the success of our events and activities. To us, the IEEE in general and the ComSoc in particular is a source of inspiration and a great motivation to achieve excellence. In fact, the ComSoc provides the means for that via the Distinguished Lecturer Program, webinars, and the top-notch publications of course.

Driven by that, our main goal has been to add tangible value to our members in the field of communication and signal processing. Fortunately, we're able to achieve this goal in several ways, such as engaging the members needs directly in the form of holding technical and networking events (in-person and virtual) as well as hands-on workshops and tutorials. This has resulted in a 50 percent increase in the members numbers from 2018 to 2022. We held more than 10 technical events discussing 6G technology, NOMA, AI role in 5G & 6G, Deep Learning, Autonomous Cars, and Graph Signal Processing. All of which has been given by distinguished lecturers in an in-person or virtual manner. We also, held two hands-on workshops in the use of Software Defined Radio (SDR) in modern communication technology, in addition to an introductory seminar on Wireless for IoT and Cognitive Radios.

IEEE ComSoc-SPS & Mathworks Deep Learning for Communication Competition

To provide our members with networking opportunities, we have started our local annual events for our members titled IEEE Jordan ComSoc Congress (JCSC), which is an opportunity for our members to come together and participate in a vibrant technical program, usually including an IEEE distinguished lecturer talking about the current trends in communication and signal processing. Starting from 2018, we were fortunate to hold the JCSC in 2018, 2019, and 2020, in which we host a distinguished lecturer to discuss the current and future trends in communication and signal processing. In those events, we hosted distinguished lecturers in-person, including Prof. Halim Yanikomeroglu, Prof. Mohammed-Slim Alouini, Prof. Sinem Coleri, and Prof. Dimitri Van De Ville.

Local industry engagement occupied a significant place in our activities. In particular, we hosted industry leaders from Umniah (a mobile service provider), Jordan Engineering Association, and Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. In many cases, we provided the platform to initiate serious discussion about the role of the private and public sectors in the communication technology.

In the student engagement front, we have successfully supported the establishment of five (of the currently six chapters) student chapters: the University of Jordan ComSoc Chapter, Princess Sumaya University for Technology ComSoc Chapter, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan ComSoc Chapter, Al-Huson University College ComSoc Chapter, and Al-Balqa Applied University ComSoc Chapter. We were able to convince students to establish those branching by first actively participating in student activities and promote the ComSoc membership there. Recently, the Princess Sumaya University for Technology ComSoc Chapter has won an award for members recruitment, which demonstrates that the students believe in the added value of the ComSoc membership.

In the end, I would like to thank the ComSoc in general and the current staff in particular, ComSoc VP Prof. Ana Garcia Armada and ComSoc Member Services Board Chair Prof. Ricardo Veiga for their wonderful role and efforts in the support and engagement of ComSoc members all over the world. Thank you.

COMSOC CONFERENCE

WICE Panel at IEEE LATINCOM 2023

Empowering Women in Technology for Latin America's Future

by Yessica Sáez Barrios, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá

The WICE Panel held withing LATINCOM 2023 on November 17, 2023, at Hotel Riu Plaza in Panama City, was a groundbreaking event that illuminated the exceptional contributions of women in the technology sector. The panel, titled, "Spotlighting Women Career Excellence," featured distinguished speakers who shared their journeys, insights, and expertise, offering a wealth of inspiration and knowledge.

The panelists, representing diverse backgrounds and expertise, showcased the breadth and depth of women's influence in technology. From Susana Lau's entrepreneurial journey, to Michele Nogueira's adventures in STEM, and Muriel Médard's non-obvious approach to research, each presentation provided unique perspectives and invaluable insights. Yessica Sáez emphasized the importance of empowering women in communications engineering and highlighted her path to leadership within ComSoc.

The discussions underscored the significance of fostering diversity and inclusion in the tech industry. The panelists' achievements demonstrated that women play pivotal roles in shaping the future of technology, contributing to innovation, and driving positive change.

This panel holds profound importance for Latin America's tech industry. It serves as a catalyst for change, challenging traditional norms, and stereotypes. By showcasing the accomplishments of these remarkable women, the event inspires the next generation of female leaders in technology. The insights shared contribute to breaking down barriers, promoting gender equality, and creating a more inclusive industry landscape.

Stephanie Black, ComSoc Panama Chapter Chair, as the moderator, brought her wealth of experience as an Electronic Telecommunications Engineer and Information Security Consultant. Susana Lau's entrepreneurial spirit and leadership in IEEE Panama Section added a dynamic perspective. Michele Nogueira, with her expertise in wireless networks and security, provided global insights from her position at Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. Muriel Médard, a distinguished professor at MIT, brought a unique non-obvious approach to research. Yessica Sáez Barrios, an accomplished researcher and coordinator in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Technological University of Panama, highlighted the importance of women's empowerment in communications engineering.

Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) emerged as a driving force for positive change in the industry. The panel demonstrated the significance of creating platforms like WICE, which provide visibility, mentorship, and a sense of community for women in technology. WICE events play a crucial role in dismantling gender stereotypes, fostering collaboration, and creating an ecosystem where women thrive and contribute meaningfully to the technological advancements of the region.

This WICE Panel stands as a testament to the transformative power of women in technology. Its impact resonates not only in the individual achievements of the panelists but also in the collective inspiration it provides for a more inclusive, diverse, and innovative future for Latin America's tech industry.

From left to right: Stephanie Black, Yessica Sáez, Muriel Medárd, Susana Lau, Michele Nogueira.

CHAPTER REPORT

IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter

Panel Discussion on Cutting-Edge Technology and Celebration of IEEE Day 2023

by Umair Ahmed Korai, MUET, Vice Chair IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, Pakistan

IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc) Karachi Chapter in collaboration with IEEE IES Karachi Chapter, IEEE IES Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Student Chapter, IEEE ComSoc MUET Student Chapter, IEEE MUET Student Branch, and other student chapters of MUET organized a technical seminar, "Panel Discussion on Cutting-Edge Technologyand Celebration of IEEE Day 2023," at the Hyderabad Tonight Restaurant, Hyderabad Pakistan, on October 8, 2023.

The total number of participants in this seminar was 60 out of which 50 were IEEE members and 10 were non-IEEE members. The event started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by the National Anthem of Pakistan. Afterwards, Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, SAC Chair IEEE Karachi Section and Vice Chair IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter, delivered the welcome speech, providing a briefing about IEEE Day. The panel discussion on Cutting-Edge Technology began, featuring prominent speakers from various fields of technology. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, worthy Vice Chancellor, MUET, Pakistan, and Prof. Dr. Bhawani Shanker Chowdary, Chair IEEE Karachi Section and Advisor MUET Pakistan.

The event featured a panel discussion on Cutting-Edge Technology, aiming to provide valuable insights and networking opportunities for the participants.

Following members participated as a panelist in this seminar: Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, Vice Chancellor, MUET; Dr. Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry, Advisor MUET; Dr. Aftab Ahmed Memon, Chairman and Meritorious Professor, Telecom., MUET; and Dr. Faisal Karim Shaikh, Professor, MUET,

Dr. Fahim Aziz Umrani, Associate Prof., MUET; Dr. Umair Ahmed Korai, SAC Chair IEEE Karachi Section and Assistant Prof., MUET; Dr. Abi Waqas, Chair IEEE IES Karachi Section and Assistant Prof., MUET; Dr. Badar Muneer, Chair IEEE MTT Karachi Chapter, Engr. Moiz Rehman Memon, Treasurer IEEE Karachi Section; Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Associate Professor MUET, Engr.; and Aamir Ali Patoli, Assistant Professor, Electronic Engineering Department, Mehran UET Jamshoro, Engr. Permanand Soother, Instrumental Engineer, MUET.

IEEE Day 2023 Ambassador Shield distribution

After the technical panel discussion, following activities were performed in the event:

- Award Distribution Ceremony: Recognition was extended to three exceptional ambassadors of IEEE Day 2023: Aamir Ali, Zohaib Qadir, and Muzzamil Ahmed Qazi. Additionally, organizers Shahzad Shaikh, Qasim Raza, and Daniya Abbasi were honored with Shields of Appreciation.
- Cake Cutting Ceremony: Symbolizing the sweetness of IEEE Day 2023's success.
- A delightful dinner was served to all attendees, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie.
- Group Photo and Networking Session: A memorable group photo session marked the end of the event. Participants, guests, and panelists engaged in a lively networking session, fostering valuable connections.

The event concluded on a high note, fostering a spirit of knowledge sharing and collaboration among the participants. The Celebration of IEEE Day 2023 not only provided valuable insights into cutting-edge technology, but also offered a platform for networking and learning from esteemed professionals in the field. In the end, the panelist and organizers acknowledged the efforts of IEEE IES and IEEE ComSoc for providing the financial support to make this event successful.

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