GCN GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER

IEEE ComSoc Central Texas Austin Chapter

Winner of the 2015 Chapter Achievement Award, North America Region; Winner of the 2015 Chapter of the Year Award

By Fawzi Behman, Central Texas Austin Chapter Chair, USA

As a senior member of IEEE, it has been a great privilege to work with a talented team of officers to serve the chapter professionals and community here in Austin, which has made it a rewarding year for all.

As a brief introduction: Austin is the capital of the state of Texas and home to the University of Texas (UT) and many high tech companies. Austin is known as the Live Music Capital of the World, and is one of America's fastest growing and most desirable cities. Over the years, the chapter has reached out and strengthened relationships with UT, as well as several of the local high tech companies including AT&T, IBM, NI, Freescale, HP, and others. As a result, we are grateful to be able to host our regular meetings at the nice facilities of AT&T. In addition, when the chapter brings a Distinguished Lecturer, it becomes a customary that not only does the DL addresses the IEEE but also visit and present at local companies such as IBM and AT&T.

2014 Planning: It all started with careful planning, articulating on the mission of delivering quality events to the membership/community and providing opportunities for education and networking. The theme for 2014 was Wireless & Networking Architectural Evolution and Services. Among the key objectives were: conducting more technical meetings, engaging with DLT/DSP, increasing membership by reaching out and participating in local activities, collaborating with other societies and young professionals, supporting GLOBECOM 2014, ensuring the chapter's financial health and ensuring that the chapter's website is updated

Left to right: DL Dr. Lin, Dr. Bob Dailey, Dr. Jason, Fawzi Behmann.

(http://sites.ieee.org/ct-comsp/) promoting meetings and special events, and growing social media content such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Technical Meetings/Topics:
• In 2014 the Austin chapter conducted 34 meetings, of which 21 were technical meetings representing the highest in CTS for 2014. All meetings were reported in vtools and L31.
• Among the key topics covered in 2014 included "Harnessing Electrical Demand Flexibility for a Sustainable Energy Future," "Heterogeneous Computing: Promises and Challenges," "ZPEG Video Compression," "Video Surveillance," "Geospatial Technologies," "Traffic Forensics," "Big Data, Cyber-Biological Systems," "UHD Technology Evaluation at AT&T," "IOE – Internet of Everything," "Engineering and Government," "Aging, Brain Science and the Future of Healthcare," among others.

Distinguished Lecturer/Speaker Program: In 2014 the chapter hosted Prof. Ying-Dar Lin, IEEE Fellow, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. During his visit to Austin, Dr. Lin delivered presentations to IBM, AT&T ,and COMSOC/SP and other joint chapters. Dr. Lin spoke on "Traffic Forensics: Capture, Replay, Classification, Detection, and Analysis," as well as "Software Defined Networking: Why, When, Where, and How."

Speaker Appreciation Award: The chapter values the time and sacrifice put in by the speaker in delivering quality content. As a token of appreciation, the chapter prepared and delivered a personalized plaque to each speaker.

Membership Development: The chapter took pride in participating in select events that helped recruit new members and generate awareness among the community. Among the events were National Instrument NI Week, Innotech, Texas Wireless Summit, IEEE Gold Event at SxSW, and IEEE Cybersecurity day.

As a chair of the chapter, I collaborated with the Chinese American Semiconductor Professional Association (CASPA) chapter chair in Austin and held a few joint sessions. CASPA has more than 100 engineers, most of whom are not IEEE members. Joint sessions provided a forum for a good exchange and to provide information about IEEE membership. Overall, according to SAMIEEE, more than 50 new members were added to the IEEE COMSOC/SP Chapter in Austin in 2014.

Collaboration with other societies/MGA/IEEE:
• The Austin COMSOC chapter collaborated with several other chapters/councils. These included DSP, CS, I&M, TMC, CTCN, and CEDA. Among the examples, COMSOC joined other chapters for a full-day educational program on career development, including a workshop with more than 65 attendees. The theme was "Skills

December 12, 2014: DL Prof. Lin presenting to ComSoc/SP Austin Chapter and meeting with AT&T technical staff.

IEEE ComSoc Ecuador Chapter
Winner of the 2015 Chapter Achievement Award, Latin America Region

By Hernán A. Samaniego Armijos, Ecuador Chapter Chair

The Ecuador Chapter of the IEEE Communications Society has 147 active members (as of Sept. 2015) between professionals and students in the area of telecommunications. The objective of the ComSoc Ecuador Chapter is to strengthen the professional growth of its members, creating spaces for sharing knowledge and technological advances in the area of communications. ComSoc Ecuador has four technical student chapters at the Technical University of Loja – UTPL, the Polytechnic School of the Coast – ESPOL, the National Polytechnic School – EPN, and the Technical University of the North – UTN.

The executive committee is composed of:

Chair: Hernán Samaniego Armijos, Master in telematics and telecommunication networks, Manager of the National Telecommunications Corporation CNT-EP in Loja, and Visiting Professor at the Technical University of Loja – UTPL.

Vice-Chair: Vanessa Cuesta, Engineer in Electronics and Telecommunications, works for the Bank of Loja as a telecommunications technician.

Treasurer–Secretary: Eduardo Suarez, Engineer in Electronics and Telecommunications, works as an independent professional.

Organized Events: ComSoc Ecuador participated as the moderator in a workshop about Basic Infrastructure in the Plan of Territorialization and Innovation, integrating university, government, and industry, in the city of Loja in the south of Ecuador, proposing several projects taking advantage of Loja is an IEEE Smart City Affiliate. In addition, ComSoc Ecuador participated with a lecture on Smart Cities by Hernán Samaniego Armijos.

ComSoc Ecuador participated in the International Smart Grid and Smart Cities International Seminar in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador, where experts from prestigious appointments, professionals, and renowned companies in the field of Smart Grid and Smart Cities, are gathered to show expertise, practical experience and the progress that has been achieved so far in these fields. Hernán Samaniego Armijos gave a conference about wireless sensor networks for smart cities.

In Ibarra City in the north of Ecuador ComSoc participated in the High Tech–Smart Cities: New Opportunities for Telecommunications Professionals in Ecuador, an event that had the participation of CNT EP, the Ecuador telecom company, and ARCOTEL, the telecommunications regulatory entity. Hernán Samaniego participated with a lecture on Sensor Networks for Smart Cities.

In addition, we took this opportunity to encourage the creation of the ComSoc technical chapter in the Northern Technical University – UTN Student Branch.

Summer Course on IP Telephony Systems: In order to prepare the professionals in communication multimedia services, ComSoc Ecuador made two webinars. "Introduction to the IP Telephony Systems" reviewed aspects related to the systems of traditional tele-

Hernán Samaniego moderating workshop.

Participants in the International Smart Grid and Smart Cities International Seminar.

ComSoc Ecuador recognition by the UTN for the conference.

phony, voice over IP and operating platforms for IP telephony systems, dictated by Daniel Guevara, who has several years of experience in this type of communications systems. "Protocols of VoIP" reviewed the protocols used in VoIP systems such as SIP/SDP/RTP/RTCP/IAX, and was dictated by Hernán Samaniego Armijos, Master in telematics and telecommunication networks.

Chaskieee Project: Chasqui is the term used at the time of the Incas to identify the person responsible for the comunication between different tribes, and likewise a project called Chaskieee has been initiated. Professionals in ComSoc travel through different cities of Ecuador, giving lectures at the universities where ComSoc technical chapters have assets. This project is managed by Eduardo Suarez, Treasurer–Secretary of ComSoc Ecuador.

Internet Day: With the purpose of commemorating the International Day of Telecommunications and Information Society, ComSoc Ecuador organized an event named Internet Day, with joint activities in Ibarra and Loja in collaboration with the UTPL and UTN ComSoc student technical chapters. Vanessa Cuesta, ComSoc Ecuador Vice-Chair, participated with a lecture about corporate social networks.

DLT Program: We are expecting the visit of ComSoc Distinguished Lectrurer Sonia Aissa in October 2015 in the cities of Guayaquil and Ibarra, discussing the topics: "Cognitive Radio" and "Energy Harvesting Communication Networks."

Hernán Samaniego at the conference on Wireless Sensor Networks for Smart Cities.

IEEE ComSoc Sweden Vehicular Technology/Communications/Information Theory Joint Chapter
Winner of the 2015 Chapter Achievement Award, Europe, Middle East, Africa Region

By Tommy Svensson, Sweden Chapter Chair, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

Chapters are important activity centers within the IEEE. It is in the chapters where the technical and scientific daily life takes place for our members. To this end, on the IEEE ComSoc Sweden VT/COM/IT joint chapter board, we have focused on creating value for our members via networking opportunities in Sweden in conjunction with high quality technical/scientific seminars and workshops, and by catalyzing important information flows from IEEE to our members. There are only about 9.6 million people in Sweden, so we are proud of our 599 unique VT/COM/IT members (797 memberships: VTS-117, Comsoc-583, ITS-97).

In 2014 we organized 13 IEEE Technical seminars by distinguished speakers: Dr. Nicola Marchetti (Trinity College Dublin); Prof. Linda Doyle (Trinity College Dublin); Prof. John Thompson (The University of Edinburgh); Prof. Ali H. Sayed (University of California); Prof. Maïté Brandt-Pearce (University of Virginia); Dr. Matthieu Bloch (Georgia Institute of Technology); Prof . João Hespanha (University of California–Santa Barbara); Assoc. Prof. Serdar Yuksel (Queens University); Prof. Virgil Gligor (Carnegie Mellon University); Prof. Gene Tsudik (University of California–Irvine); Prof. Ness Shroff (The Ohio State University); Prof. Merouane Debbah (Supelec); and Dr. Laurent Schmalen (Alcatel-Lucent Stuttgart). The seminars were hosted by the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, and Linköping University.

We have initiated two annual Swedish workshops. The Swedish Communication Technologies Workshop (Swe-CTW) was first organized in 2011; the Workshop on Wireless Vehicular Communications was first organized in 2010. The Swe-CTW brings together researchers and research students in the general

Swe-CTW'2014, Västerås, June 2-5 2014.

Workshop on Wireless Vehicular Communications 2014, Halmstad, Nov 11, 2014.

Tommy Svensson, Sweden Chapter Chair.

area of communication technologies and related areas. It is a three day workshop that provides an opportunity for researchers and research students in Sweden to gather in a largely informal setting to share ideas, make contacts, and foster new collaborative links for their future careers. The 2014 edition of Swe-CTW was organized June 2-5 2014 in Västerås in collaboration with Mälardalen University. In addition to the poster presentations by young researchers, there were two tutorials: "Sparse Systems" presented by Dr. Saikat Chatterjee (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), and "An Introduction to Wireless Sensor Networks," presented by Dr. Carlo Fischione (KTH Royal Institute of Technology). Swe-CTW'2014 attracted 62 attendees. The 2014 edition of the Workshop on Wireless Vehicular Communications was organized, as traditionally, in Halmstad, this year on Nov 11 2014. There were 40 participants listening to seven presentations, including the invited speech on "Dependable Vehicular Communications in Non-Stationary Propagation Conditions," given by Thomas Zemen, FTW Telecommunications Research Center, Vienna.

We are also acting as technical sponsor for IEEE conferences and workshops organized by others in Sweden, where we help to advertise the event in our online media (our IEEE web site, LinkedIn and Facebook, see links below). In 2014 we sponsored The 18th International Conference on Optical Networking Design and Modeling (ONDM'2014), and the IEEE International Workshop on Signal Processing Advances in Wireless Communications, (SPAWC) 2015.

To promote the visibility of young talented researchers, we have initiated two annual best paper awards for young researchers in Sweden: the IEEE Sweden VT-COM-IT Joint Chapter Best Student Journal Paper Award, and the IEEE Sweden VT-COM-IT Joint Chapter Best Student Conference Paper Award. These awards are given to the winners during the annual Swe-CTW. We are also catalyzing nominations to awards programs within our societies, such as the ComSoc EMEA Regional Young Researcher of the Year Award.

It seems that we do a couple of things right. On the board we are proud to have received six awards: the IEEE Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015, and the Chapter of the Year Award 2013 from the IEEE Information Theory Society. In addition, we received the IEEE Communications Society Special recognition award "For long-time achievements in chapter activities and ongoing excellence serving its members" in December 2013. We think that the composition of our board is an important enabler, comprising very committed persons who span competencies across our technical/scientific areas within the scope of the Vehicular Technology, Communications and Information Theory Societies; academia and industry; senior and younger professionals; as well as a geographical span in Sweden. We have been quite efficient in creating activities for our members. We think the key there is to distribute responsibilities among the board members, taking opportunities when they appear, and working with minimal administrative overhead. For instance, we promote individual initiatives, and we meet using regular telephone conferences (around once per month) where we try to sort out most things, to avoid lengthy email discussions. We also store all our documents on a common server, so that all board members can always be up-to-date even if they cannot attend a telephone meeting.

IEEE ComSoc Kolkata Chapter
Winner of the 2015 Chapter Achievement Award, Asia Pacific Region

By Iti Saha Misra, Kolkata Chapter Chair, India

It is our great pleasure to share the ComSoc Kolkata Chapter activities for the year 2014, which led to our Chapter Achievement Award this year. The Chapter activities start with executive meetings in the first week of February, when members decide the next year's activities and make their commitment to volunteer for various programs. We the members of Chapter executive committee thought of conducting a DLT/DLP event, technical seminars, student activity programs, technical programs involving industry, along with membership development and awareness generation programs. Our chapter hosted an "Algomaniac Student Contest Event," one of the major events under Convolution-2014, organized by the students of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, on 14–15 Feb. 2014. Interdepartmental Engineering students participated the contest to test their programming capability along with algorithmic design.

The next big event was the Distinguished Lecturer Tour: DLT 2014. The Chapter organized two DLT tours in the months of March and December involving engineering students from Jadavpur University and the neighboring Institutes, Ph.D. scholars, and young faculty members.

Mobile health care, sensor networks, and automation have become very popular areas of research in the recent years. The Kolkata ComSoC Chapter conducted two very successful DLTs on these areas. One of the DLT programs was on the topic "Towards an Intelligent and Ubiquitous Healthcare Infrastructure: Challenges and Trends." The DLT speaker was Prof. Pradeep Kumar Ray, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on eHealth, Asia Pacific Ubiquitous Healthcare Research Centre (APuHC), University of New South Wales, Australia. It was a very nice experience to

DLT interactive session: Pradeep K. Ray with Iti Saha Misra, ComSoc Kolkata Chapter Chair.

DL speaker Prof. Gourav Sengupta with the audience.

Dr. Arijit Mukherjee of TCS, delivering his lecture on "Grid, Cloud, Fog and Beyond."

3-day workshop on Android Program, students of ETCE have joined the program.

gather 104 participants from Jadavpur University itself and the other Institutions, as well as industry, for this DLT, which included extensive interaction with the speaker. The Chapter Chairperson, Iti Saha Misra, highlighted the various activities of the Kolkata Chapter and invited young professionals and students to join IEEE as part of their career growth path. The second DLT program was on the topic "Robotics, Automation and Machine Learning," delivered by Prof. (Dr.) G. Sengupta, Masse University, Newzeland, on 22 Dec. 2014. It was a mesmerizing lecture event with 70 enthusiastic participants.

The year 2014 was the year of industry and R&D interaction in the Kolkata Chapter. Several technical lectures and interactive session were organized for the academic benefit of the student community and researchers. The Chapter invited ISRO Senior Scientist, Tosicul Wara (Scientist-SF) to deliver the video of the ISRO Satellite for Navigation Application in Indian Context on 13 May 2014. A series of lectures was organized with industry Interaction in a program involving TCS Innovation Lab of Kolkata Centre, where the current industry research activities were discussed on the topics of Internet of Things (IOT), Security Aspects and Signal Processing aspects on 29 Auguat 2014. The one-day seminar program was very special to the young professionals and students of ECE, inspiring them in their research activities. This also helped the young students to develop their interest in recent research beyond their curricula. A technical training program from Industry personnel for PG Communication Specialization students held on April 3, 2014, ETCE Department, Jadavpur University. These types of technical programs help students link their subject of study with the application domains.

There was a wonderful program for the three-day workshop on the topic "Introduction to Android Operating Systems for Touch Screen Smart Phones" for the undergraduate students of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering in the midst of summer vacation, under the auspices of TEQIP Phase–II of Jadavpur University on 11-13 June 2014. The Dean of the Engineering Faculty and also theTEQIP Coordinator inaugurated the workshop. CASS Chapter Chair, Prof. S.K. Sanyal, delivered a won-

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for a Multi-Faceted Career." Among the speakers were Gary Black, IEEE-USA 2014 President, Bob Krause, IEEE-USA AICN, and others.

•Among other activities, the chapter helped Central Texas chapter chairs take advantage of the IEEE PACE Program. As a section PACE chair, I organized several PACE projects, which increased from three projects in 2013 to seven projects in 2014. I also led a PACE automation program that is expected benefit Regions 1-6.

•Among the new IEEE initiatives is Collabratec, for which I participated as a moderator representing the Austin Community in the pilot study, and engaged in creating messages and discussions to bring about building a community of interest for Austin.

Activities with Young Professional/Students:

•COMSOC co-sponsored a young professional mixer in Austin during SxSW in 2014. The event attacted more than 100 attendees. The chapter organized an information table. During that event, presentations were made by Glenn Zorpette, Executive Editor of *IEEE Spectrum*, and Dr. Robin Murphy, an expert on search and rescue drones.

•The chapter supported GLOBECOM 2014 (Dec. 8-12) and secured more than 100 students from the University of Texas, San Antonio, State University of San Marcos, and others who volunteered as room monitors and at the registration desk. As the chair of marketing and publicity for GLOBECOM, I sent an appreciation note to the students for their dedication and exemplary performance at the event.

Visibility at the Community Level: As part of our efforts to promote GLOBECOM 2014, we reached out to:

•Austin Chamber of Commerce. We engaged the Austin Chamber of Commerce with promotional activities for GLOBECOM 2014 for several months prior to the event targeting the technical community and startups. The Chamber of Commerce provided $2500 for the Conference.

•City of Austin. We engaged with the Mayor's office in Austin and succeeded in obtaining a Proclamation declaring December 8-12 to be IEEE week in Austin. Later, the Mayor's office issued a quote that was used in a press release issued by COMSOC promoting GLOBECOM 2014

Collaboration IEEE/Hilton/AT&T for GLOBECOM 2014 IT Infrastructure:

•The chapter successfully led an infrastructure IT project in delivering an enhanced WiFi/Cellular signal and coverage that supported more than 3300 client devices and 2500 persons attendees. With the upgrade of the Wifi network by Hilton and the cellular network by AT&T, the peak traffic reached only 30 percent of total bandwidth capacity.

•This was the first time ever in COMSOC that a feasibility assessment followed by implementation of upgrading equipment was undertaken for an international event.

Financial Health: The chapter continued enjoying good financial health due to careful budgeting and spending on meetings and events. Collaborating and joining with other chapters helped share expenses, and at the same time enabled us to add more meetings for the year. We do not charge for meetings. Regarding food and beverages (F&B), officers helped in ordering catered food and carrying them to the meeting facilities. Promotion of events, printing of feedback forms and transportation were done at no cost to the society. The appreciation plaques were typically purchased at a 50 percent discount at the beginning of the year, and personalization and execution were typically done by the chapter chair.

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We are proud of our achievements so far, but there are important grand challenges for the future, such as improving the quality of life for all people, sustainability, and maintaining the interest for engineering among young people. IEEE is a fantastic organization of talented and knowledgeable people! Together we can tackle these challenges. In the IEEE Sweden section we are currently discussing suitable initiatives that could address these important future challenges.

http://sites.ieee.org/sweden-vtcomit/
http://www.linkedin.com/groups/
  IEEE-Sweden-VT-COM-IT-5070706
https://www.facebook.com/IeeeSwedenVtcomit
http://www.ieee.se/chapterindex.php?code=vt_com_it
http://www.es.mdh.se/swe-ctw2014/Welcome.html
http://www.hh.se/english/schoolofinformationtechnology/
  eventsandseminars/
  workshoponwirelessvehicularcommunications2014.65442012.html

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derful lecture to the students on how the technology is changing and encouraged the students to adapt in this ever changing environment of technology. The workshop was a great success with the fantastic delivery of the speaker, Mr. Dipanjan Biswas from a local company, SkyBits Kolkata.

The Chapter is also aware of its membership development program. During each program, the Chairperson, Prof. Iti Saha Misra, addresses the audience, inviting them to be a part of the IEEE programs through their membership, and she discusses the benefits of IEEE. She encourages young researchers to volunteer for the organization of the programs as a way to improve their organizing capabilities, as well as for the added opportunitiues to network with others in the field. They will be the future torch bearers of IEEE societies. In return, volunteers are given a certificate from the Chapter Chair.