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MEMBER AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

## Young Professionals Find Their Technical Haven within ComSoc

### Interview with Lola Awoniyi-Oteri, Chair of the ComSoc YP Committee

By Stefano Bregni, Vice-President for Member and Global Activities, and Lola Awoniyi-Oteri, Chair of the YP Committee

This is the seventh article in the series started in November 2016 and published monthly in the IEEE ComSoc Global Communications Newsletter, which covers all areas of IEEE ComSoc Member and Global Activities. In this series of articles, I introduce the six MGA Directors (namely: Sister and Related Societies; Membership Services; AP, NA, LA, EMEA Regions) and the two Chairs of the Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) and Young Professionals (YP) Standing Committees. In each article, one by one they present their sector activities and plans.

In this issue, I interview Dr. Lola Awoniyi-Oteri, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Committee on Young Professionals (YP).

Lola is currently a Senior Staff Systems R&D Engineer within Qualcomm Research, where she conducts research in particular on cellular and satellite networks and on 802.x LANs. Her primary focus is on mobile network and device enhancements for improving connectivity performance, reducing network and device power consumption, and enhancing user experience. Prior to joining Qualcomm, she worked at Texas Instruments (TI) developing chipsets for cellular handsets. At Qualcomm and TI, she has also worked on 3GPP standardization activities for HSPA and LTE technologies. Lola received a B.S. degree in electrical engineering at Georgia Tech, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University. She is also the author/co-author of 28 U.S. approved patents and 21 U.S. patent pending applications.

It is my pleasure to interview Lola and offer her the opportunity to outline her initiatives and plans about ComSoc Young Professionals.

**Bregni:** Hello Lola! Welcome to the Global Communications Newsletter. Would you please introduce the IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Committee to our readers? What are its structure and mission?

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** The IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Committee is made up of a technically and geographically diverse team who are committed to providing a “technical haven” within the IEEE community for the graduating ComSoc student transitioning into the larger ComSoc community, or the budding communication professional in their early to mid-career seeking avenues for technical and professional development. IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals are members of IEEE ComSoc and the IEEE Young Professionals network.

For those not familiar with the IEEE Young Professionals group, formerly known as Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD), the group’s charter is to foster the professional development of its members and enable them to build global professional networks. It comprises members and volunteers within IEEE who are at most 15 years out from their first technical/professional degree, which could be a bachelors or an associate degree in electrical engineering or a related field. It is also possible for others who do not meet the criteria to “opt-in” to the IEEE Young Professionals membership. Currently, IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals make up about 5 percent of the entire IEEE Young Professionals membership.

**Bregni:** Very good. And what are the main activities currently ongoing in the YP Committee?

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** Given the IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Committee’s charter, many of our activities and programs are geared toward providing opportunities for the technical and professional development of our members. Some of these activities and programs include:

- Organizing meetups at IEEE ComSoc flagship conferences.
- Recognizing outstanding IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals through award presentations.
- Providing networking and mentoring resources.
- Providing access to IEEE ComSoc and IEEE Young Professionals publications and opportunities to publish in these publications.
- Providing access to workshops, webinars, and continuing education resources.

**Bregni:** What are the most important events organized by the YP Committee?

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** Our signature events are ComSoc Young Professional events hosted at ComSoc conferences such as GLOBECOM, ICC, WCNC, and GREENCOM. These events feature panel discussions, award ceremonies, lightning talk competitions, and networking receptions. The attendees are typically IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals, other ComSoc members, Young Professionals from other societies, and corporate sponsors. Due to the growing popularity of these events, we have seen a significant uptick in attendance and participation from IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals in the past year.

We have received extremely positive feedback from the attendees of the panel discussions. The panels involve interactive sessions with seasoned communication veterans, such as accomplished experts from academia and industry leaders, and discussions of technical and career-related issues and challenges that are of interest to ComSoc Young Professionals. Some of the panel discussions held at past events addressed topics such as “Trends in the communications field and how ComSoc Young Professionals can position themselves to stay relevant,” while other panel discussions delved into the technical details of “Hot topics in communications” such as 5G and IoT.

**Bregni:** Would you mention any other significant initiatives and meetings organized by the YP Committee?

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** Other event features worth noting include award ceremonies that provide an avenue for recognizing outstanding members by presenting them with awards such as the

*(Continued on Newsletter page 4)*



Stefano Bregni



Lola Awoniyi-Oteri

## Ottawa IEEE ComSoc/CESoc/BTS Joint Chapter: Winner of the 2016 Chapter Achievement Award Best Practices and Activities

By Wahab Almuhtadi, Chapter Chair, Ottawa, Canada

The IEEE Ottawa ComSoc/CESoc/BTS Joint Chapter (<http://www.ieeeottawa.ca/comsoc>) is one of the most active chapters in R1-R10. This is the reason why the Chapter was selected from among all ComSoc chapters worldwide to be the winner of the 2010 ComSoc Chapter of the Year (2010 CoY), as well as the winner of the 2010 Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award (2010 CAA) in the North America Region (R1-R7).

Last year on December 5, 2016 in Washington, DC, USA at GLOBECOM 2016, the Communications Society announced that the Ottawa Chapter is the final winner of the 2016 Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award (2016CAA) in the North America Region (R1-R7).

The Ottawa Chapter's main focus is "Serving the Members Profession, and Community." The best practices used by the Chapter to organize its activities and initiatives for serving members every year include: hosting DL seminars/tours; organizing local meetings and workshops; conferences; holding activities for YP, WIE, and student members; relationships with the community; and membership and development. Following are some of the activities that led the Chapter to win the 2016 ComSoc Achievement Award.

### DL Seminars/Tours

The Chapter organized five successful distinguished lectures:

- March 18, 2016, "Joint Symposium on Optical Communications," by DL: Prof. Bhaskar D. Rao, University of California, San Diego, USA.

- November 26, 2015, "SDN/NFV Technology Trends and Academic Research in Canada," by DL: Prof. Bhaskar D. Rao, University of California, San Diego, USA.

- November 18, 2015, "Terrestrial Broadcast vs. LTE-eMBMS: Competition and Cooperation," by DL: Marco Breiling, IEEE BTS distinguished lecturer, chief scientist of the Broadband & Broadcast Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS), Erlangen, Germany.

- November 12, 2015, "Agility for an App-centric Network: Integrated Management of Software Defined Infrastructure," by DL: Prof. Bhaskar D. Rao, University of California, San Diego, USA.

- March 30, 2015, "Self-Organizing Small Cell Networks," by DL: Dr. Ekram Hossain (IEEE Fellow), Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

### Local Meetings and Workshops

The Chapter organized 15 successful technical seminars, including the following as examples.

- April 5, 2016, "IEEE Standards Development Ecosystem and ComSoc Standards and Standards-Related Activities," by Dr. Alexander D. Gelman, Director-Standardization Programs Development, IEEE Communications Society.

- April 16, 2015, "Applications of Petri Nets in Communications-Calculation of Probability Distributions of Performance Variable in Petri Net Models," by Dr. Faruk Hadziomerovic, Independent Consultant, Ottawa.

- March 26, 2015, "Challenging Problems and Opportunities in Semiconductors and Microsystems," by Kenneth D. Wagner, ITAC Semiconductor Microsystems Council Chairman, Distinguished Engineer, PMC-Sierra, Inc.



Wahab Almuhtadi, Ottawa Chapter Chair (2nd on the left) receiving the ComSoc Chapter Achievement Award (2016CAA) in North America Region from Stefano Bregni, Vice President, Member and Global Activities(1st on the left) and Lajos Hanzo Awards Standing Committee Chair (3rd on the left).

- March 20, 2015, "Challenges in the Next Wave of Connectivity," by Dr. Patrice Gaman, Ph.D., RF Fellow and Technology Manager, Corporate CTO office, NXP Semiconductors.

- February 4, 2015, "An Overview of the Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP)," by Helen Braiter, Director, Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP), Ottawa Canada.

### Conferences

The Chapter, along with the Ottawa Section, submitted in 2013 a bid for IFIP/IEEE IM 2015 and presented at the IM 2013 in Ghent, Belgium. The chapter won the bid to host IM'15 in Ottawa in May 2015. The Chapter was heavily involved in communication with local industry, academia, Ottawa Tourism, and the City of Ottawa in the preparation for hosting IM 2015 in Ottawa in May 2015 (<http://im2015.ieee-im.org>).

### Holding Activities for Young Professional, WIE, and Student Members

The Ottawa Chapter held meetings, seminars and workshops at Algonquin College, the University of Ottawa, and Carleton University. Many students attended these events, which were co-organized with the student branches of these academic institutes. The Ottawa Chapter held meetings of young professionals (formerly GOLD) and WIE. Many students also participated as volunteers in IM 2015.

### Relationship with the Community

The Chapter was heavily involved in a strong relationship with local industry, academia, Ottawa Tourism, and City of Ottawa in preparation for hosting workshops, symposia, and conferences in Ottawa. The local high tech and communications industry (more than 1800) and academia (4) in Ottawa are very supportive in providing funding, sponsorship, speakers, and advertisements, as well as making their facilities available for the seminars, workshops, and field tours.

### Chapter Membership Development

The Ottawa Chapter works closely with the Ottawa Section Membership Development Committee with the objective to recruit new members to ComSoc. The Ottawa Chapter is also maintaining membership retention by contacting the members to renew their membership. At the beginning and/or during coffee breaks of each technical seminar or social event, the Chapter promotes membership development and encourages non-members to become IEEE ComSoc members. Also as part of retention and membership development, the Chapter encourages members to apply for Senior Membership and for IEEE Fellow grade. The Chapter also inspires active members to be volunteers with the Chapter or in ComSoc conferences.

## Activities of the Kerala Chapter in 2016

By Sreevas Sahasranamam, Secretary, IEEE Communications Society Kerala Chapter

### Distinguished Lecture Program

Pradeep Ray - University of New South Wales, Australia

The IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section organized two Distinguished Lecture Programs (DLPs) in March 2016 on the topic "Cooperative Service Management in the Healthcare Sector: Emerging Trends and Future challenges." The first session was held on 30 March 2016 at CDAC Trivandrum from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, with participation of around 35 people. The second session was held on 31 March 2016 at the Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology (RSET), Kochi from 12 noon – 1.00 pm, with participation of over 50 people. The sessions were handled by Professor Pradeep Ray from the University of New South Wales, Australia. Professor Ray is the Director of WHO Collaborating Centre on eHealth. His talk extensively discussed the role of technology in e-health and m-health initiatives, and its impact on rural areas. The sessions were organized in collaboration with IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) and IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT).

Anura Jayasumana – Colorado State University, USA

The IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section organized two Distinguished Lecture Programs (DLPs) by Anura Jayasumana in September 2016 on the topic "IoT-A Pervasive Technology for Innovation." Anura Jayasumana is a professor of electrical and computer engineering, and computer science at Colorado State University, USA. The first session was at the Adi Sankara Institute of Engineering and Technology in Kochi on 26



DLT Lecture of Pradeep Ray.



Shannon Centennial Workshop on communications and information theory.

September 2016. The event was attended by around 50 people. The second session was organized at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut on 27 September 2016, with a participation of around 70 people.

### Technical Workshops

#### Amateur Radio Workshop

The IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section, in association with the IEEE Society for Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), the Internet Society Trivandrum Chapter, the Trivandrum Amateur Radio Society, and the Kerala State Science and Technology Museum, organized a one-day workshop to focus on new  
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## MEMBER AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

## IEEE ComSoc Latin America Regional Chapter Chair Congress 2016, Medellin, Colombia

By Carlos Andres Lozano-Garzon, IEEE ComSoc Director of Latin America Region

The 2016 Latin America Regional Chapter Chair Congress (LA-RCCC 2016) of the IEEE Communications Society was held in Medellin, Colombia on 14–15 November 2016, in conjunction with IEEE LATINCOM 2016.

In this edition of the congress, we had the participation of: Stefano Bregni, IEEE ComSoc Vice President of Member and Global Activities; Susan Brooks, IEEE ComSoc Executive Director; Zhensheng Zhang, IEEE ComSoc Director of Membership Service; Scott Atkinson, IEEE ComSoc Director of North America Director Region; Javier Gozávez, President of IEEE Vehicular Technology Society; five members of the ComSoc Latin-America Board; and 17 Chapter Chairs of the Latin America Region.

According to the Regional Chapter Chair Congresses (RCCC) aim, the agenda encouraged the information sharing, feedback, and networking among chapter chairs, staff, and ComSoc officers. As a result of the work done by the participants, it was possible to establish a work plan for our region focused on the following points:

- Promote the nomination of regional candidates to the Distinguished Lecturer Program. At this moment there is only one Distinguished Lecturer in the region.

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2016 Latin America Regional Chapter Chair Congress attendees.



LA RCCC 2016 Working Session (Stefano Bregni presenting ComSoc MGA initiatives).

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS/Continued from page 1

“The Best IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals” awards in Academia, Industry and the Startup Community, the “IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Best Paper” and the “IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Best Innovation” awards. These awards serve the dual purpose of rewarding members who are making outstanding contributions as well as inspiring our membership to greater achievements. The criteria for these awards are typically the distinguished technical accomplishments and volunteering activities of the recipients.

Some of these events also include thematic networking receptions where academia and industry domain experts in various areas of communications such as 5G, IoT, and smart energy are stationed throughout the reception floor to facilitate discussions related to the latest technologies in the field. Networking based on areas of interest makes it easy to form connections with people of similar technical interests, and some of these interactions have led to technical collaborations and the formation of mentoring relationships.

**Bregni:** Are those meetings well attended? They are organized in conjunction with major ComSoc conferences, which are organized rotating among all Regions.

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** While our signature events at conferences have been very successful, we are aware that a significant population of our demographics may not be able to attend these conferences. Therefore, we have a renewed focus going forward to host local and regional events such as workshops, lecture series and meetups. Our regionally diverse IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals Committee is excited about driving these efforts in their various regions and sections.

**Bregni:** Is it possible for more ComSoc members to be involved in the various activities organized by the YP Committee?

**Awoniyi-Oteri:** It is worth highlighting that in addition to our conference events, there are numerous volunteering opportunities for ComSoc Young Professionals interested in serving on ComSoc technical committees, conference organizing committees, and organization committees for webinars, workshops, lecture series, paper competitions, ComSoc Young Professionals meetups, etc.

These opportunities serve not only as laboratories to polish professional and technical skills, but also a means of increasing peer recognition. Therefore, we encourage ComSoc Young Professionals to take advantage of these opportunities.

For more information about IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals, visit our website (<http://cyp.committees.comsoc.org>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IEEEComSocYP>).

## KERALA CHAPTER/Continued from page 3

developments in amateur radio. The workshop was conducted on 17 September 2016 at the Kerala State Science Technology Museum. The trainer was Miroslav Skoric, a Serbian Ham (YT7MPB), with wide-ranging, global experience and expertise in the domain of amateur radio.

### 5G Workshop

A 5G workshop was organized by the IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section as part of the Kerala IEEE Technical Exhibition and Symposium (KITES) on 21 October 2016 at the LBS Institute of Technology for Women, Trivandrum. The workshop, which was attended by 35 students, was conducted by Mr. Anand Mohandas, Senior Research Engineer, Centre for Development of Telematics.

### LiFi Workshop

A LiFi workshop was organized by the IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section as part of the Kerala IEEE Technical Exhibition and Symposium (KITES) on 22 October 2016 at the LBS Institute of Technology for Women, Trivandrum. The workshop, which was attended by 35 students, was conducted by Mr. Anand Mohandas, senior research engineer, Centre for Development of Telematics.

### Shannon Centennial Workshop on Communications and Information Theory

A two-day Shannon Centennial Workshop on Communications and Information Theory was organized by the IEEE Communications Society Kerala Section at CDAC Trivandrum on 13-14 December 2016. The workshop included sessions on the evolution of information theory, power transfer in wireless systems, remote diagnostics, and Shannon inequalities in distributed storage. There were also poster presentations and student presentations from research scholars. There were more than 65 participants at this workshop.

## LA REGIONAL CHAPTER/Continued from page 3

•Increase the diffusion of the ComSoc LA Regional Awards, in order to increase the members’ participation.

•Develop a virtual Regional Student Chapter meeting to identify the main problems and propose a support plan to its activities.

•Create a ComSoc Student Congress co-located with the IEEE Latincom with the aim of training our young members and increasing their participation in society activities.

•Set up an Industry Committee LA Board, with the main objective to increase the interest of industry professionals to participate in ComSoc activities. The first task proposed is to conduct a survey in LA ComSoc chapters to identify potential industry relations field.

•Promote the development of communication projects with a higher social impact, partially supported by ComSoc chapters.

•Continue with the development of ComSoc-Computer Webinars for the LA region, with the goal of at least one webinar per month.

•Start a cycle of talks for non-engineers to demystify technology.

•Promote the member elevation of at least 50 Senior Members and one Fellow Member.

•Establish a joint work plan with other Societies in the LA Region, e.g. Computer, VTS, Signal Processing, PES, among others.

On the last day of our congress, Eng. Carlos Eugenio Martínez Cruz received the Latin America Region Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the development of IEEE Communications Society activities in the Latin America Region.

More information about the LA-RCCC 2016 may be found at: <http://www.comsoc.org/about/chapters/rccc>

**GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER**

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