

### Alexandria Student Branch, Egypt

IN November last year, the Student Branch organised a technical session in co-operation with Bibliotheca Alexandrina under the title 'Hardware Emulators Technology', given by Khaled Salah.

He touched on the intro to integrated circuits, electronics design flow, FPGA and emulators used to simulate and test behavioural prototypes. At the end of the session, a Q&A was held regarding research directions for hardware emulators.

Rana Aly Mohamed  
Rana.aly93@ieee.org

### University of Central Greece

FOR the fifth year in a row, UCG Student Branch in collaboration with the University organised the annual two-day Workshop, 'Biomedical Engineering: Trends, Research and Technologies'.

The workshop covered topics on fMRI and MRI technologies, Brain Computing, Near Field Communications in Biomedicine, Image Processing for people with Visual Disabilities and Techniques for Activity Recognition to identify Emergency. A brief presentation on the newly formed UCG Computer Society Student Chapter and the UCG WIE Affinity Group was given. More than 200 attended.

Ioannis Mousmoutis  
Secretary, Student Branch

### Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Nigeria

AS part of the campaign to improve education quality and employability of graduates in Nigeria, the Student Branch launched a hands-on, three-day training course on printed circuit board production using a Computer Aided Design approach. The training was held on 5-7 December 2012, attracting more than 215 attendees, comprising faculty staff and students of different schools. The programme combined team work, practical sessions and exchange of ideas.

Chimezie Eguzo  
cveguzo@akanuibiampoly.edu.ng

### Hellenic Open University, Greece

## Remote micro course ends with a contest

ON 16 December 2012, the final presentations were given from the participating teams of the 2nd Blended-learning Course on Microcontrollers/Team contest, which was a five-week course.

The participants were tutored remotely on modern microcontrollers, sponsored by IEEE's Circuits and Systems Society and the Hellenic Open University. Students were able to access and program Arduino systems connected to a variety of equipment such as sensors, LED, LCD, TFT screens, Ethernet modules etc. The systems were located at the DSMC Lab, were available 24/7 and the students could observe the results of their experimentation through a web camera connected to each of the systems. Each week an e-lecture was given from the course tutor Vassilis Fotopoulos.

Students formed teams based on Student Branch and three teams presented their projects in a parallel session of the 1st IEEE Greek Student Branches congress, held in Patras. The projects included a GSM alarm system, a galvanic skin response monitoring application and an Ethernet controlled home automation system.

Each participating Student Branch in the final contest, received a 7in android tablet, a hardcopy of *Arduino cookbook, 2nd ed*, an Arduino UNO board and a starter kit containing various test components. For more information on our lab, visit: <http://alturl.com/tjwg7>

Vassilis Fotopoulos  
Hellenic Open University



### Technical University of Lisbon (IST), Portugal

## Pitch that idea and get to present it in Silicon Valley

IN November last year, the Student Branch organised a big entrepreneurship event, attracting more than 60 participants.

This event was a team competition on mobile applications, where each team would be composed of three participants, one of each area. The first prize was a travel for the whole team to Silicon Valley, where they could get in contact with companies such as Google, Facebook or Microsoft, and with international investors.

The first part of the event is the 24-hour Kick-Off Day, which took place at the Catolica-Lisbon University. This started at 11am with the 10 Lessons Pitch, where we had the pleasure of presenting a great panel of speakers. Later, at networking/lunch time, the partici-

pants formed the teams and the game began!

At the end of the 24 hours, they had to give a two-minute pitch, presenting the idea of their mobile application, and all the work they developed, to a panel of investors. Almost every team had at least one investor interested in their application.

But the game wasn't over yet. In the second part of the event, the teams, now with the investors' support, would have just two weeks to develop a MVP proposal for the application, and to prepare the final pitch (at the University Institute of Lisbon) to be presented to a panel of jurors, representing the final competition for the amazing prize.

Catarina Martins

### University of Niš, Serbia

## Online voting picks winner of Students' Projects Conference

IEEE STEC 5th International Student's Projects Conference was held on 29 November 2012 at the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš, Serbia.

The welcome and opening speech was delivered by conference chair Danijel Danković. The opening address was followed by Dragan Janković, dean of Faculty of Electronic Engineering Niš; Dobrica Živković, the vice rector of University of Niš; Vera Marković, the vice president of IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section; and Zoran Perić, the vice dean of Faculty of Electronic Engineering Niš.

The conference proceedings contained a total of 37 papers which covered a wide range of topics. Based on evaluation of the quality of the papers, three Best

Paper Awards were presented. This year, awards were assigned to the winners of online voting.

The full-day event ended with the handing of the special awards for the best projects according to the choice of the authors of papers. The conference was very well received by the attendees, numbering some 300 people.

More information about the IEEE STEC Conference can be found at: <http://ieee.elfak.ni.ac.rs>

Danijel Dankovic



### German Jordanian University

## Dragsters on the track

ON 11 October 2012, the Student Branch sent its first CO2 Dragster competition team to a public high school in Al-Mafraq, Jordan. The aim was to have a 10th grade class participate in producing its own dragsters by utilizing aerodynamics principles.

A week later, dragsters with striking designs were crafted and ready to race. They were tested in a wind tunnel and the car with the least drag coefficient won the 'Best Design' award. During the races, it was found that the high school students had crafted dragsters that reached speeds of 90km/h.

This competition has been sold to private schools and the income generated is directed towards holding the competition in public for less fortunate schools.

Fatema Hussein