

being developed by EI. A second area of collaboration involves the joint operation of a local conference targeted at the electronic and IT sector.

Overall, it was a very productive visit, and, given that there is a parallel effort within the Irish IEEE membership to improve local

organization and coordination, I am optimistic that we will see a lot more IEEE activity in Ireland during 2016.

Battle Royale: The Annual Gaming Console Tournaments and the Large LAN Party

By Jeffrey Arcand and Wahab Almuhtadi

One of the largest and most anticipated events in Ottawa, Canada, is the annual Battle Royale LAN Party involving various computer games and gaming console tournaments. The goal of Battle Royale is to bring together future engineers and scientists from across the Ottawa region to share their gaming passion in a relaxed environment. The event has become an annual tradition for the students, who are studying not just engineering, computer science, and electronics but also other engineering disciplines. Battle Royale offers a unique opportunity for high-tech companies to introduce themselves to over 100 engineering and computer science students from the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, and Algonquin College.

The event began in 2007, and it has been successfully organized as a joint venture among three IEEE Student Branches (Algonquin College, the University of Ottawa, and Carleton University) with support from the IEEE Ottawa Section. The event aims to gather Ottawa's post-secondary institutions in a large hall to network and play computer video games for a 24-h period. The games vary each year, but there are generally five major PC tournaments and five console game tournaments, with up to 230 people competing to



Battle Royale is organized as a joint venture among three IEEE Student Branches (Algonquin College, the University of Ottawa, and Carleton University) with support from the IEEE Ottawa Section.



Equipment used at 2015 Battle Royale to support the quality of gaming.

win cash prizes and gaming equipment. Battle Royale donates a significant portion of the surplus made to Child's Play, a gaming industry charity dedicated to improving the lives of sick children with toys and games worldwide.

Battle Royale is mainly organized by IEEE student volunteers from the three Student Branches, and the new organizers each year quickly learn about the various

(continued on page 23)

traveled in double kayaks to put them in a one-to-one networking scenario as they enjoyed the scenery and historical Berlin canal. The canal is located right in the center of Berlin, the vibrant capital of Germany, and runs through Kreuzberg, one of the most diverse parts of the city. As a side note, the world's first computer, Zuse Z3, which was developed and presented by Konrad Zuse in 1941, was built in Kreuzberg. Unfortunately, the original Z3 was destroyed during World War II.

As we paddled along the canal, our tour guide told us about Kreuzberg. When the Berlin Wall split the city into two halves, Kreuzberg was virtually leaning against the wall. He also reminded us of the brutality with which the border was protected to prevent people immigrating from East to West Germany. After the wall came down in 1989 and Germany was reunified, Kreuzberg was suddenly back in the middle of Berlin. It quickly grew from a rather worn-down place to a



The social event was a nice sightseeing tour by kayak through Berlin.

very hip neighborhood. After the 2-h tour, the group gathered in a restaurant to relax and network, building relationships in an enjoyable atmosphere.

Some of the young professionals were asked to comment on the day, and it was clear that they took away many

useful experiences and tips for professional life. The morning session provided ideas for starting and running a small business. The social event built up networking skills and relationships and was an enjoyable and memorable experience.



Society News *(continued from page 13)*

aspects of running such large events, including performing market analyses to choose price structures, financial planning to ensure that the event is sustainable, and sourcing all the needed equipment and supplies. After gaining much experience, some of the most involved volunteers have gone on to help organize even larger events, such as the national Canadian University Software Engineering Conference.

The event was hosted on the beautiful campus of Algonquin College, 21–22 February 2015, and was a huge success, with increased capacity and tournament quality. For more information, please see <http://www.battleroyale.ca/>.



Battle Royale 2015 was hosted at Algonquin College, 21–22 February 2015.