INTERVIEW

YP Committee: Encouraging Young Professionals to Become Members and to Participate in Activities of the IEEE Communications Society
Interview with Nury Ramirez, Chair of the YP Standing Committee

By Stefano Bregni, Global Communications Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Vice-President for Conferences, and Nury Ramirez, Chair of the YP Standing Committee

This is the ninth and last in the series of articles, started in May 2018 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 Vice-President and six Directors on the Member and Global Activities Council (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 Nury Ramirez, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Young Professionals (YP) Standing Committee.

Nury currently works as a Technical Project Leader with Continental Automotive, Guadalajara, Mexico. She worked for many years at Intel, where she held several Program Manager positions in R&D at the Data Center Group. She has also held positions at Cisco. She is just finishing her term as Chair of ComSoc's Young Professional Committee and she is the current Chair of the IEEE Guadalajara Section (Mexico) and has held several positions in her young volunteer career at IEEE. Nury received her Bachelor in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Ecuador and the Master's in Quality Engineering and Management from ITESO in Mexico.

Stefano: Hello Nury! Let us begin by explaining what the Young Professionals Committee is in the IEEE Communications Society.

Nury: The Young Professionals affinity group of IEEE is dedicated to foster the professional development of young members. We want all senior students and graduate students' members to expand their professional and global network, elevate their professional image, and give back to their community. Having this IEEE MGA affinity group within ComSoc is vital as it works on grooming the next generation of leaders and enables them to build global professional networks.

Stefano: Do you feel that the Young Professional group is important among ComSoc priorities?

Nury: Yes, it is. Since the beginning of this term, President Khaled Letaief and the VP MGA Nei Kato stated the importance of student and young professional involvement to vitalize

the global activities in ComSoc given the fact that membership has declined in recent years. Here is where the YP can help by bringing innovative ways to keep engaged the recent graduate students or YPs and bring value for them in ComSoc.

Stefano: How many Young Professionals groups exist within ComSoc?

Nury: There is no formal process to create a YP group in ComSoc. The YP membership is granted automatically to all IEEE members who have had their first major graduation within the last 15 years. So if there is an IEEE ComSoc chapter within the Sections, it is expected this is formed by YPs too. Currently, we have 358 ComSoc Chapters among all IEEE regions, with 4900 Young Professionals part of them.

Stefano: How does ComSoc reach out to Young Professionals?

Nury: In the past, we interacted with YPs only at the events organized by ComSoc's flagship conferences ICC and GLOBECOM. Since 2018, we started the promotion and organization of YP events also at regional student and young professional conferences for two main reasons: first, to promote the purpose and goals of the YP affinity group; second, to identify and recruit volunteers who can develop activities and the ComSoc membership within their respective Section Chapters. In particular, Regions 8 and 10 have mostly benefited from this.

Meet-ups, job fairs, technological and experience-based panels have been the preferred formats for the activities, where YPs can network and listen from each other ideas of events or activities that will keep them interested and engaged in ComSoc.

During 2019, the focus has been extended to other important ComSoc conferences such as WCNC, SECON, INFOCOM, and soon LATINCOM.

Stefano: What are the needs of YPs, which you have identified through these two years of service as YP Committee Chair?

Nury: ComSoc does not offer specific "benefits" to students or YPs. YPs have stated at informal lobby chats that they would like to have tangible benefits unique for them, like other societies have. On the other hand, they are interested in content for industry practitioners, who are not deeply involved in any post degree program yet.
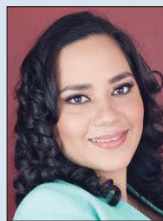
That is why the YP committee offers the IEEE ComSoc Best YP Awards, for both the academic and industry areas. The most recent call for nominations closed on September 30. The awardees are usually announced during the ComSoc YP event at GLOBECOM. This year it will take place in Hawaii, USA.

It is worth mentioning that we expect a higher number of students to be part of ComSoc in the years to come, since the student membership fee is now only $1 dollar. This challenges us to provide a more innovative value proposition to keep them in the organization when they have to renew as members and the membership fee is by far higher. One thing I would like to propose is the consideration of a tiered membership, where the recent graduates (maybe up to five years) could pay a lower membership fee until they reach full membership.

Stefano Bregni

Ana García Armada

Saudi Arabia IEEE ComSoc Chapter Hosts DLT in Network Engineering as Distinct Academic Discipline, Beyond the TEE Movement

By Abdullah S. Almuttiri, Saudi Arabia Chapter Chair

The Saudi IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc) chapter strives to serve ita members through a variety of scientific and social activities. This time Dr. Abdullah Almuttiri, ComSoc Saudi Chapter Chair, invited Prof. Tarek El-Bawab, who is a distinguished lecturer for ComSoc and a professor of telecommunications systems at Jackson State University in the U.S., for a DLT in Saudi Arabia. This tour included three distinguished lectures in three different cities within Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, Madinah and Jeddah consecutively.

The Network Engineering discipline is now recognized as a distinct education discipline in the U.S. and in many other countries. This development came about with ABET's 2015 (current) Criteria for Electrical, Computer, Communications, Telecommunication(s) and Similarly Named Engineering Programs. Few academic programs focused on this area of study in the past. More programs are expected to emerge now with progress in this field and with ABET recognition of it. Such programs have great potential to prepare a new generation of network engineers and can help advance research and development in network science and engineering.

This DLT is a reflection on the history of the Telecommunication Engineering Education (TEE) movement (2008-2014) which resulted in the recognition of Network/Telecom Engineering by ABET. A discussion of the motivations behind this movement, its proceedings, and conclusion is given. Followed by an exploration of the horizon beyond TEE, looking at the work that needs to be done to capitalize on its results, and the roles of numerous stakeholders thereto. We explored areas where curricular work is necessary in the era of the Internet of Things (IoT), Software Defined Networks (SDN), Network Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and others. The speaker then discussed how Discipline Based Education Research (DBER), experiential learning, and other innovative instruction strategies may be utilized in education of especially important topics such as Telecom Standards.

The talk described community efforts that are underway to progress network engineering education and research, including

Abdullah S. Almuttiri, Saudi Arabia Chapter Chair, welcoming Tarek El Bawab.

a dedicated Textbook Series by Springer; a partnership between U.S. academia, industry, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into the project ISTEE (Integrating Standards into Telecommunication Engineering Education); and a new Series Structure and Feature Topic(s) in *IEEE Communications Magazine*.

These three distinguished lectures were given in three cities at three different universities. The

Tarek El-Bawab giving his talk.

first DLT was given at AlFaisal University in Riyadh, where faculty members were very interested and were looking for this lecture, including the dean of the Faculty of Engineering, as the faculty was applying for ABET recognition. The second lecture was given at Islamic University in Madinah to faculty members from the Computer Science College and Engineering College. The last lecture was given at one of the biggest research universities in the Middle East, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) north of the Jeddah suburbs.

The IEEE Communication Society Saudi Chapter is striving to serve his members by hosting multiple events and activities that bring members together with state-of-the-art technologies that make our world a better place to live. We regularly invite world class scientists, researchers and industrial professionals for talks and DLTs to serve the interests of our members. For questions or inquiries please contact the chapter chair, Dr. Abdullah Almuttiri, a.s.a@ieee.org

ICMCS 2018 in Morocco

By Miroslav Skoric, IEEE Austria Section

The 6th International Conference on Multimedia Computing and Systems (ICMCS'18) took place in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, on May 10-12, 2018. It was an IEEE technically co-sponsored conference, and was organized "with the objective to bring together researchers, developers, and practitioners from academia and industry sectors, working in all facets of multimedia, telecommunications, and computers." The key role of ICMCS'18 was to create a program that achieves a balance between theory and practice, academia and industry, systems/tools-oriented research and content creation. Keynote speakers included Joyati Debnath from Winona State University, USA; Eleni Karatza from Department of Informatics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; Radouane Mrabet from Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco; Rachid Benlamri from Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada; and Muhammad Younas from Oxford Brookes University, and others.

The conference was strategically placed within a bigger event, "Innovation Week" that was held on May 7-12, 2018, and also supported by the IEEE Morocco Section. Therefore, the conference started by introducing participants with other surrounding activities, and by giving awards to young people of Morocco who deserved recognition and were winners in various contests held during "Innovation Week." Another good thing that ICMCS'18 organizers also made was a display and demo of various electronic instruments, such as amateur radio stations, antennas, drones, small robotic cars, etc. Conference participants showed significant interest in that display, which preceded the conference technical program, and it was obvious that the Moroccan hosts were experienced and skilled in that type of (unofficial) presentation, performed by practitioners, hobbyists and other technology enthusiasts.

ICMCS'18 also hosted tutorials. One of them was "Designing Amateur Radio Communication Networks at Home, School, and Work," performed by Miroslav Skoric from the IEEE Austria Section. Local radio amateurs assisted by presenting their own activities in that field. Thankfully to understanding of the Moroccan telecommunications regulatory agency ANRT and

San Diego 5G Summit

By Liangping Ma, Chair of IEEE ComSoc San Diego Chapter, USA

On April 19-20, 2019, the beautiful city of San Diego, CA, a city well-known for some of the pioneering work in wireless communication, saw the IEEE 5G Summit held there for the first time. Organized by the IEEE San Diego Section and the IEEE Communication Society, the summit (http://www.5gsum-

Caroline Y. Chan, Vice President, Data Center Group of Intel delivering a keynote titled: "5G Accelerating Enterprise Digital Transformation".

mit.org/sandiego/) offered keynote speeches, panel discussions and tutorials covering the landscape, deployment use cases, business models, intellectual property, policy issues, and fundamental technologies of 5G. The speakers included leaders and experts from industry, academia, and government, as well as entrepreneurs. The summit was well attended, with a turnout of more than 200 people. and was financially supported by companies such as Qualcomm Technologies, Intel, Samsung and InterDigital, among which Qualcomm also provided the venue.

Dr. Durga Malladi, Senior Vice President, General Manager of 4G/5G of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., delivering a keynote titled "5G: From Concept to Commercialization, and What's Next".

Dr. The panelists for the "Standards and Deployment" session (from left to right): Dr. Byung K. Yi of EvoNexus, Dr. Mingxi Fan (XCOM-labs), Dr. Jungwon Lee (Samsung), Dr. Juan Montojo (Qualcomm Technologies). The moderator (first from right) Dr. Liangping Ma (InterDigital).

There were three keynote speakers. Dr. Durga Malladi, Senior Vice President, General Manager of 4G/5G of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., gave a keynote titled "5G: From Concept to Commercialization, and What's Next." Caroline Y.

The IEEE ComSoc Karachi Chapter Celebrated World Telecom and Information Society Day 2019

By Zafi Sherhan Shah, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan

The Department of Telecommunication Engineering at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Pakistan, observed World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) on Friday, May 17 2019 at its Jamshoro campus. To this end, an event was organized by the university in collaboration with the IEEE Communication Society Karachi Chapter. WTISD is an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) sanctioned event with the aim to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies can bring to societies and economies. WTISD 2019 was special in that this year's event celebrated 50 years of annual celebrations of the WTISD.

The theme for WTISD 2019 was set as 'bridging the standardization gap' by the ITU with the aim to enhance the tech-

Prof. Faisal Shaikh, Chair Department of Telecommunication Engineering, presenting a shield as token of appreciation to keynote speaker Mr. Mehran Memon.

nical capacity of developing countries in order to enable them to participate in the development of telecommunications standards and to implement them.

The WTISD 2019 celebration at Mehran University includ-

KARACHI/*Continued from page 3*

ed two technical lectures, which were attended by students and faculty of the university. The first lecture was conducted by Mr. Mehran Memon, who works in the Department of Telecommunication Engineering as an Assistant Professor and teaches courses related to standardization in telecommunications. He talked about the importance of standardization in telecommunications in order to enable modern communication technologies, particularly those based on Internet of Things, while maintaining compatibility with legacy communication technologies. He also highlighted the role of the BSG mission of ITU to bring awareness among developing nations.

Mr. Imad Memon, who works as a Director General (Licensing) at the country's telecoms regulator, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), delivered the second technical lecture. He shared PTA's vision of ensuring high quality ICT services in the country while creating an environment based on a fair regulatory regime such that it encourages competition and promotes investment in the telecom sector. Furthermore, he also briefed the audience on PTA's recent efforts to enable 5G wireless communication in the country and their participation in the development of standards.

Earlier, Prof. Emeritus Dr. Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry, Chairperson of the IEEE Communications Society Karachi Chapter (IEEE ComSoc-Khi), apprised the audience about efforts taken by IEEE ComSoc-Khi to impart knowledge about the latest innovations in telecommunications from the platform of IEEE. He also talked about plans of the IEEE ComSoc-Khi for organizing workshops across the Karachi region on the subjects of Internet-of-Things and Artificial Intelligence, especially from the point of view of telecommunication engineering. Prof. Chowdhry also discussed opportunities for researchers to participate in the development of telecommunication standards from the platform of IEEE. Finally, as part of his closing remarks, Prof. Dr. Faisal Shaikh, Chairman of the Department of Telecommunication Engineering, informed the audience that Mehran University had been organizing events to celebrate WTISD for the past nine years by arranging technical lectures based on the theme for WTISD. He also presented training certificates to participants of the recently concluded workshop on RF Planning and Optimization led by Mr. Yahya Hussain, who works as an RF Engineer with Telenor Pakistan.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS/*Continued from page 1*

Stefano: What about the committee members working with you to organize YP activities?

Nury: The ComSoc YP committee is formed by a diverse and enthusiastic group of five people that plan and organize the activities I have mentioned before. They are: Dr. Angela Sara Cacciapuoti, Dr. Imran Shafique, Dr. Richard Cziva, MSc. Laura Ruiz and MSc. Shashank Gaur. We have also identified other volunteers who are not part of the committee formally, but do support our activities: Esmeralda Asurza, Ahmed Farouk and Zied Bouida.

Stefano: What other recent initiatives run by the YP would you like to highlight briefly?

Nury: This year, we started the Young Professionals Webinars with significant support and partnership of the Educational Committee of ComSoc led by Fabrizio Granelli and his staff. These webinars are offered at no cost to bring updates and key information on the hottest topics that are of interest to this community. The differentiation is that the speakers are industry practitioners; traditional ComSoc webinars are more prone to academy professionals rather than recent graduated students, so these webinars are intended to attract members from the industry to find value within ComSoc.

Another key initiative is the support of ComSoc chapters for their local events. Chapter coordinators can propose any event or conference to engage students at their last terms to see YP as a space for them within ComSoc. During these events, some volunteers have committed to replicate this on their Sections.

5G SUMMIT/*Continued from page 3*

Chan, Vice President, Data Center Group, Intel, General Manager, Network Business Incubator Division of Intel, gave a keynote titled "5G Accelerating Enterprise Digital Transformation." Mansoor Hanif, CTO of OfCom, UK, gave a keynote titled "Ofcom Priorities for UK Regulation: Universality, Fairness, Reliability and the role of Innovation."

Also among the programs were five high-quality panel sessions, spanning the 5G radio access networks to the core network, 3GPP standards, implementation and manufacturing challenges, power efficiency of the RF frontend, deployment use cases, patents, policies and innovation. I moderated the panel "Standards and Deployment", which focused on the standards status and challenges in producing equipment and deploying systems. The panelists were Dr. Mingxi Fan, Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, XCOM-labs; Dr. Jungwon Lee, Vice President, Samsung; Dr. Juan Montojo, Vice President, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.; and Dr. Byung K. Yi, Executive in Residence, EvoNexus.

In addition, the summit offered three in-depth tutorials covering the fundamentals of 5G radio access networks, core networks and power efficiency. All these sessions were well attended.

The summit fulfilled the goal of bringing together the technical and business communities in San Diego (with some experts from outside San Diego) to discuss the opportunity of 5G and beyond. Many attendees expressed appreciation to the organizing committee for assembling this event which greatly helped them better understand various aspects of 5G.

ICMCS 2018/*Continued from page 2*

Moroccan amateur radio union ARRAM, a temporary radio license was issued on time, which enabled the presenter to provide practical tests 'in the field'. Larbi Ouiyzme, CN8FF, and Mohamed El Mghari, CN8DZ, were of great help with logistics.

The gala dinner was served in a traditional Moroccan restaurant where the pleasant evening included a famous tea-cup filling by local masters. The last conference day included a visit to main sightseeing venues in Rabat and its surrounding areas.