

Streamlining our effectiveness

by John Paserba

As I write this column for this month's issue of *IEEE Potentials* with its theme of extreme engineering, the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGA) Student Activities Committee (SAC) is preparing to meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for our annual face-to-face SAC meeting. The mission of your IEEE MGA SAC is to deliver a common, high-quality IEEE Student Member experience globally, for lifelong, professional success through IEEE. The SAC vision is to be recognized as the global platform to inspire, enable, develop, and support students as the future leaders of our profession.

Assuming you are holding this issue of *IEEE Potentials* in your hands (or reading it on your computer screen), you can turn to the second page of the table of contents to see a listing of the 35+ members of your IEEE MGA SAC. This dedicated global volunteer committee is committed to the pursuit of the mission and vision listed above, which is focused on IEEE Student and Graduate Student Members. I have the pleasure of serving as your SAC chair for a second year.

As in 2013, we have aligned the 2014 SAC goals with the MGA goals with a focus on engagement and experience. The intent is if we, as your IEEE MGA SAC, enhance engagement and experience, increases in retention and elevation will be the result. These goals are listed below with the added student perspective in parenthesis.

- Goal #1: Deliver a world-class IEEE (Student) Member experience.
- Goal #2: Expand IEEE's global (student) membership presence.
- Goal #3: Modernize the (Student Member) volunteer experience.

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To advance these goals, your IEEE MGA SAC outlined a series of action items that we will address during the course of 2014. To streamline our effectiveness, we continue to organize, engage, and have liaisons with a number of committees, subcommittees, and boards in various areas (not all directly reporting to SAC) including, but not limited to: Regional Student Representatives Subcommittee, Regional Student Activities Chairs Subcommittee, Student Professional Awareness Activities Subcommittee, Student Professional Awareness Committee, IEEE Extreme Committee, *IEEE Potentials* Board, SAC Awards Subcommittee, as well as formal liaisons with the Young Professionals Committee (formerly Graduates of the Last Decade), our own SAC industrial representatives, and the IEEE Technical Activities Board.

While the voting members of SAC are all volunteers, it is equally important to acknowledge the fine staff at IEEE headquarters who assists us in meeting our objectives and support our work. I again refer you to the table of contents for a listing of many of our

IEEE staff who support SAC and you, the IEEE Student Member and Graduate Student Member.

I like to close out each of my columns in the same manner—with a request to you to please feel free to drop me a note anytime to share your thoughts on the value of your IEEE student membership and to share a story or example of what your IEEE membership engagement means to you. In addition, I welcome your input on the 2014 IEEE MGA SAC goals and your suggestions to us as a committee on what we can do to better serve you, the IEEE Student and Graduate Student Members, in 2014 and beyond.

About the author

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