

by Rodrigo P. de Lacerda, Amanda P. Monteiro, and Montiê A. Vitorino

# Joint IEEE PELS/IAS Federal University of Campina Grande Student Branch Chapter Organizes a Seminar

Last year, board members of the joint IEEE Power Electronics Society/Industry Applications Society (PELS/IAS) Student Branch Chapter (SBC) at the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFPG), Brazil, including Chair Rodrigo P. de Lacerda, Vice-Chair Amanda Monteiro, and Secretary Nayara Lisboa, attended the 2019 IEEE Energy Conversion

Congress and Exposition and the IAS Annual Meeting, in Baltimore, Maryland, from 29 September to 3 October. During the conference, they attended two events that were aimed at improving Chapter activities: the IAS Chapters and Membership Workshop and the PELS Chapter Chairs Forum.

The events outlined the main IAS and PELS activities, respectively, and discussed the needs and strategies for developing student chapters around the world. During

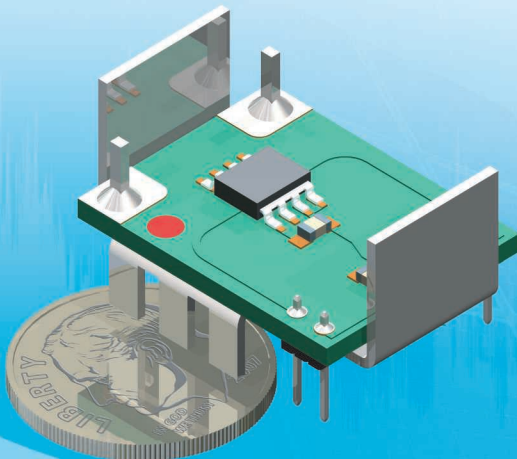
the IAS Chapters and Membership Department Dinner, on 30 September, the SBC received an award in the Outstanding Small Chapter category. Similarly, during the Luncheon Award, on 3 October, the SBC received the PELS Best Student Branch Chapter Award from the immediate past president, Prof. Alan Mantooth. The conferences provided an opportunity to share professional experiences and meet internationally renowned researchers and others

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**FIG 1** Prof. Petar J. Grbović (holding the PELS flag on the right) with UFGC professors and students after his seminar on multicell and multilevel power converters. (Source: UFGC PELS/IAS SBC; used with permission.)

who help to grow and develop the IEEE, PELS, and IAS.

On 13 November, Prof. Petar J. Grbović, a PELS Distinguished Lecturer (DL) and professor at the Innsbruck Power Electronics Laboratory, University of Innsbruck, Austria, visited the UFGC SBC and presented a lecture, “Multicell and Multilevel

Power Converters: A Way to Go Beyond the Limits” (Figure 1). The UFGC professors and SBC volunteers recognize that the IEEE DL Program is very important for the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Likewise, on 20 November, the SBC held a new event, “Academics Talk,” where professionals and

students discussed approaches to bring undergraduates closer to academic research. The professionals were Prof. Edmar Gurjão, UFGC; Igor Pinheiro, a project manager at the Virtus research institute at UFGC; and Dr. Reuben Palmer, UFGC. More than 30 Chapter members were present.

by Biju K

## Joint Kerala Chapter Conducts Workshops, Organizes Visit to Manufacturing Facility

In celebration of IEEE Power Electronics Society (PELS) Day on 20 June 2019, the IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS)/Industrial Electronics Society (IES)/PELS Joint Chapter in Kerala, India, organized a visit to Keltron, a manufacturer of power electronics products in Trivandrum, Kerala (Figure 1). Student members from various engineering colleges in Kerala participated in the event. Following a cake-cut-



**FIG 1** The joint IEEE IAS/IES/PELS Kerala Chapter visits Keltron.

ting ceremony, the attendees toured the company, and engineers from the power electronics group described various manufacturing techniques. Approximately 28 PELS members attended.

During the second half of the year, the Joint Kerala Chapter conducted several workshops. On 30 and 31 August 2019, the Chapter, in association with the IAS Student Branch Chapter (SBC) at Saintgits College