In January, a new joint IEEE Industry Applications Society/Power Electronics Society (IAS/PELS) Student Branch Chapter (SBC) was formed by the board of the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG), Brazil. SBC administrative positions were filled by Rodrigo Pereira de Lacerda (SBC chair), Amanda Monteiro (SBC vice chair), Nayara Ingrid Santos (SBC secretary), Phelipe Rodrigues (SBC treasurer), Samuel Melo (marketing coordinator), and Thiago Ribeiro (workshops coordinator).

From 15 to 17 March 2019, the SBC partnered with the Solar Science and Technology Group to offer a workshop, “Project, Legislation, and Installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Generator.” Chapter volunteers presented this workshop in the Laboratory of Industrial Electronics and Machine Drives at UFCG. It included some experiments that demonstrated the operation of a solar panel and an on-grid photovoltaic (PV) system. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for volunteers to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge about off-grid and on-grid PV systems.

On 11 April 2019, the second edition of the Methods, Efficiency, Time, Agility, and Solutions (METAS) workshop was carried out in partnership with Prof. Jalberth Fernandes of UFCG. He presented the lecture “How to Become a Better Learner” (Figure 1). During his lecture, Prof. Fernandes highlighted how motivation, self-knowledge, change of mind, and awareness of the learning process can help students become better learners and the best students and professionals. At the end of the talk, participants were able to interact with Prof. Fernandes and learn from the results that he has achieved by motivating his students in the disciplines he teaches at UFCG. The lecture was an excellent opportunity to hear ideas that really need to be shared throughout the academic environment.

In May, the UFCG IAS/PELS SBC was recognized by the IAS in the category Outstanding Small IAS Chapter for all activities developed by the Chapter in 2018, such as technical visits, workshops, technical lectures, and social meetings. The awards ceremony will take place at the IAS/PELS annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, at the end of September 2019.