IEEE KFUPM STUDENT BRANCH NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS IEEE-KFUPM ?

IEEE-KFUPM is a student club at KFUPM under the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

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You will have access to:

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Updates on the global trends in technology

• IEEExplore

Thousands of scientific papers and articles.

Get Involved

Become a Student Branch committee member and participate in managing IEEE-KFUPM. Change KFUPM society and beyond.

WHY JOIN ?

WHO CAN JOIN ?

Students and professionals from the fields of: Engineering, Computer Sciences & IT, Physical Sci, Bio & Med Sci, Math, Tech Comm, Education, Management, and Law & Policy.

Get Professional

• IEEE is largest professional network in the world, with 425,000 members.

• Get discounts on conferences and events organized by IEEE worldwide.

• Develope a professional network. Know people who share your passion.

Get Certified

You will get a certificate containing all of the events you attend with IEEE-KFUPM. Signed by IEEE Saudi Section's Chairman.

In this issue :

2015 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance

Saudi Arabia Section

ieee-kfupm.org

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EE Chairman on Student Activities

In this interview, Dr. Ali Al-Shaikhi, Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at KFUPM, shares his insights on student activities. He highlights different aspects of the matter and addresses some concerns of students.

How can participating in extra-curricular activities be useful for students?

Bismillah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem. First of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk about an important topic. Nowadays, extracurricular activities are really getting more and more important everywhere, whether in the US, Europe, or even here in the Middle East. This is to the extent that they are not calling it anymore 'extra-curricular' activities. They are now calling it 'co-curricular' activities. This is to stress that it is not something extra to the curriculum but, actually, a supportive element to the learning process of students.

"It is co-curricular, not only extra-curricular"

Back to your question, as I mentioned, co-curricular activities are really helping students even in their learning process during college years. Such activities will give the student a broader knowledge about the things happening around him. He will be, what we call, a better 'rounded' individual, which means he is not only concentrating on what is in the book, but also getting exposed to real-life experiences. This exposure will sharpen his character, and of course, open new horizons for him. He will, sometimes, discover himself through such activities.

Another thing is skills. A student participating in co-curricular activities will really develop, enhance, and sharpen his skills. This is particularly important nowadays, because the market is very competitive and companies are looking for leadership qualities, and for those individuals who had done something that really enhanced their skills.

Do employers care about non-academic experience?

Definitely. As I have mentioned, it is now becoming very competitive. And employers know that, OK, all of the students have a certain knowledge in a particular field, but that does not determine how good they are as employees and how they will continue in their career. So all of this can

be reflected by co-curricular activities.

"Co-curricular activities can show employers the real you!"

'How was the student's participation? Was he really taking responsibility? Did he organize something? Was he responsible for anything?' So this, really, will give an indication of whether this individual is really committed, have a good personality, and so on. So, of course, companies definitely look for this, even, I could say, now more importantly than the GPA.

Some students prevent non-academic activities because they want to keep a high GPA. Do you think more free time always results in better academic performance? If not, what would be a better approach?

Definitely, free time does not always result in good GPA. This is even from my experience here with the students, especially those who are not doing well, when I ask them not to register too many courses, they say: Usually when I don't register many courses, things will actually be even worse. So even students themselves understand the importance of utilizing free time. This is really relative. The capacity to handle more work differs from one student to another. But I believe that if anybody really organizes his time, he will always find time to do some co-curricular activities.

"You should find the optimum workload for you"

Actually there is a curve of productivity versus the amount of work you are handling. It has a kind of the reverse U shape. So if you're given very little work, usually your productivity or efficiency is very little. As work increases, productivity increases but, of course, there is a peak. This depends on the capacity of the student. He should know where his peak is, because after that, if he is loaded more, he will actually deteriorate. So, as I mentioned academic achievement is not about having more free time. Actually, free time usually is against the norm. Free time will just make you lazy. It can even make small things accumulate. But, if you're reasonably loaded, not very much, this is the optimum. You should find the optimum workload for you. I think that 14 or 15 credit hours are reasonable in the university and you still can do some extra-curricular activities with that, In my opinion.

Major exams, quizzes, homework, projects, and long labs leave no time for KFUPM students to be engaged in non-academic activities. To what extent do you agree with that? Any advice on time management?

Well, I think there's always time. If you really organize your time, you can always find time. I always mention that to myself. I am involved in so many activities here and there. I am chairing the department. I am the Director of the Centre of Collaboration with Georgia Tech. I am involved in at least 11 committees in the university.

"Do not procrastinate."

Don't delay things. Do things right away. Whenever you have something, just try to do it at that time.

Regarding labs, of course. I mean this is student life. We have all gone through this. Students will have majors and quizzes. They have labs. So, I think the key is, as I mentioned, don't delay things. Do things on daily basis. This will make you feel you have more free time and will reduce stress. But remember that, as I mentioned, this depends on the student himself. Each student should know his capacity.

Another advice might be to choose one activity each semester. Try to play demanding rules, like leadership rules, in some semesters and marginal assistive rules in other semesters, depending on your course load.

Have you participated in any extra-curricular activities during your college years?

I have actually participated in seminars, workshops, short courses, and social activities organized by clubs.

We did not have that much of activities at that time. It was very limited. I envy students for the large amount of activities and variations available to them these days. Remember that co-curricular activities also include international visits, exchange program, and short courses. Make sure you have something to say in your CV, even if your GPA is high.

What do you think of IEEE-KFUPM SB and how do you see their performance this year?

They have just started this year. I would like to thank the IEEE-KFUPM Student Branch Counselor Dr. Mohammad Al-Muhaini. I would also like to thank Mr. Abdulmohsen Al-Mutairi, current Chair. I think IEEE-KFUPM did some nice activities last semester. I didn't hear much about this but I believe they're preparing something big.

"IEEE-KFUPM can bridge a gap in student activities at KFUPM"

They are young and learning from their previous experiences. I think they're bridging a gap that we're having. They can do things that EE Club cannot, because they have more freedom. They can arrange seminars outside, trips, etc. We can be engaged with other universities around us or in the kingdom. It's a good start but expectations are always high.

Would you like to add anything?

I would like here to thank you for this interview. I wish all the best for IEEE-KFUPM. As I mentioned, they can really bridge a gap that cannot be filled with other entities here at KFUPM. So we can really do lots of things and we will be very supportive here in the department. Wish you all the best.

The IEEE student branch at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, **IEEE-KFUPM**, has recently undergone a complete reconstruction process. Starting from January 2015, The new executive committee worked hard for over 4 months to deliver high-quality need-oriented activities to the KFUPM society. The branch organized 8 activities accommodating several academic, professional, and recreational needs of the students **as follows:**

Introductory Meeting & Registration Sessions

Introductory Meeting (February 19):
Mr. Jaafar Ibrahim, secretary of IEEE Saudi Section, gave KFUPM students an overview about IEEE. His presentation contained three main parts. In the first part, Mr. Ibrahim introduced the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, IEEE, to the audience. Then, in the second part, he spoke about the Saudi sections and IEEE student branches around the kingdom. After that, for the third part, Mr. Jaafar explored the professional and academic benefits associated with the IEEE membership and encouraged students to participate. Finally, there was a Q&A session in which Mr. Jaafar on behalf of Dr. Ibrahim ElAmin and Dr. Mohammad Al-Muhainy, both faculty members at KFUPM and officers at IEEE Saudi Section, answered questions from the audience.

Registration Sessions (February 19-21):
The branch conducted 5 registration sessions for students without credit cards who wanted to register for IEEE memberships.

MATLAB Workshop
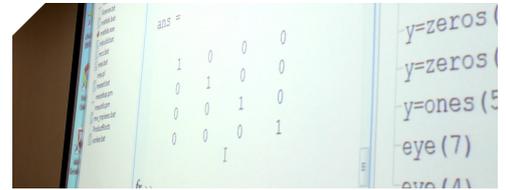
IEEE-KFUPM organized a three-day series of MATLAB training workshops for KFUPM students. The tutorials were given by Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammad, Mr. Tayseer Tuffaha, and Mr. Hussain Abdullatif.
The workshops took place as follows:
Saturday Feb. 21: Beginner
Monday Feb. 23: Intermediate
Wednesday Feb. 25: Practical Problems
Students were given the choice to register for all or any of the sessions.

Robotics Workshop

IEEE-KFUPM organized a four-hour robotics workshop for KFUPM students. The workshop was divided into two sessions over two days. In the first session, participants were introduced to the training robot platform, set up the software, and performed some basic tasks. In the second session, more involved tasks and advanced techniques has been explained and performed.

Orientation Open Interview

Mr. Maad Al-Owaifeer from IEEE-KFUPM gave a one-hour presentation about electrical engineering in the orientation building at KFUPM. The target audience were preparatory year students. The aim was to introduce them to the major, answer their questions, and clear any misconceptions they have about the discipline. Mr. Al-Owaifeer is the Vice Chair at IEEE-KFUPM Student Branch and a graduate assistant at KFUPM's Electrical Engineering department.
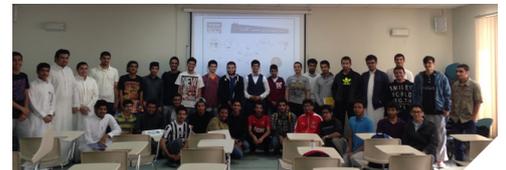
KFUPM-KAUST Workshop Media

IEEE-KFUPM helped in organizing the 4th KFUPM-KAUST workshop on solid-state lighting.The branch provided the printed material design and media coverage for the event.

ETAP Short Course

IEEE-KFUPM Student Branch organized a five-day ETAP short course for KFUPM students. The course, offered by Future Technologies Ltd., was an intensive 15 hours of software professional training. Each participant received a certificate of completion at the end of the course. ETAP is a modern industry-standard software used to simulate power systems.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Abdul-Rahman Sayed and others.

EE Senior Design Expo 2015

In coordination with the electrical engineering department at KFUPM, the branch organized a large-scale, public exhibition for senior design projects of the electrical engineering students. The exhibition included a competition for the best three projects, judged by experts from industry. The idea attracted a large number of visitors from all over the KFUPM society.

CV Workshop

Dr. Mohammad Aljorf held a workshop about effective CV writing for KFUPM students. The workshop, titled 'How to write a professional CV', provides information about the essential components of the CV, common mistakes in CV writing, keywords and how to use them, and CV evaluation. The workshop also teaches the steps of structuring a CV and explores some extraordinary CV designs as practical examples.

Winners for EE Senior Design Expo Competition

	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT MEMBERS	ADVISOR
1st Place	Two Dimensional Synthetic Aperture Platform for Radar Imaging	Talal Alamor Abdulaziz Al Sulaim Mohammad Alkharafi Nasser Al-Dahmashi	Dr. Ali H. Muqaibel
2nd Place	Smart Irrigation System	Abdulhakeem Al-Shehri Awadh Mashni Yahya Akran Alhussain Almustaneer	Dr. Mohamed Mohandes
3rd Place	KFUPM Green Campus - Design and Implementation of a PV Integration System	Ramzi Al-Maghthuwi Muath Alghimlas Mashhour Zain Al-Waleed Al-Saiyari Nasser Al-Ofi	Dr. Mohammad A. Abido
	Solar System Tracking	Abdul-Aziz Al-Shahrani Khaled Al-Khaleel Ibrahim Al-Furaidi Mohammad Al Ageeli	Dr. Zakariya Al-Hamouz

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