

SMC eNewsletter's Student Chapter Column (March 2024 Issue)

Chun Sing Lai

In this issue, we interview Viktor Patrik from the University of Óbuda, Hungary, helping run the IEEE SMC Student Chapter there.

1. Please tell us a bit about your background and your research area

My name is Viktor Patrik, I am a mechanical engineer and economist, and a PhD student at the University of Óbuda in the fields of mathematical modelling, renewable energy, and cancer research. I took over the chair of the Hungary Section student activity committee in 2021 and since then I have been the chair of the student branch of the University of Óbuda, which has become the largest student branch in Hungary.

2. How did you learn of IEEE and the SMC society and decide to become interested in volunteering?

I was told about the IEEE by Prof. Dr. Kovács Levente in 2020 at the university, when he gave a lecture about the IEEE to many students. It has been a long tradition that the Hungary Section and the Hungarian chapter of the SMC give motivational lectures about IEEE and SMC membership to students who are interested in a worthwhile or research career. Afterwards, I made several arrangements with the Hungary Section members and the Hungarian activities invited me several times for lectures and factory visits, but perhaps my decision was made by seeing how desirable the IEEE membership is and how many opportunities it offers, which I have not regretted since.

3. What type of events have your Student Chapter organized and which seemed to be the most successful/attended?

In the last 3 years we have organized a lot of events, maybe not a conference alone, but we helped the Hungarian section to organize it. I would very much like to organize a world student meeting or a SYP in the next two years. Our most successful events are the professional events we have organized, e.g., a factory visit or an activity camp.

4. What things, in your opinion, contributed the most to the success of your Student Chapter?

That's a very good question. I would break it down into 3 things: (1) A great team. If we didn't have such a good team in the beginning, we wouldn't be so strong and motivated today, I am very proud of what a good team we have! (2) The continuous support from the Hungarian section for innovations and development. I wish everyone such a relationship with the Hungarian section for collaboration and brainstorming and mentoring. Here I would like to highlight three people who have contributed the most to our success Prof. Dr. Levente Kovács, Dr. György Eigner and Anikó Szakál whenever we have contacted them with anything they have always and in everything helped us and supported our ideas, sometimes with their experience. (3) Organization and clear goals. We know now what we want to win this year and what we want to achieve next year. Or rather, it has become our motto: Talent, Success, Community!

5. What are some of the challenges or struggles your Student Chapter faced?

Generational change is how quickly a student graduates from university or how quickly 3 years pass. So our strategy now is to have a diverse membership that doesn't just cover 1 to 1 course because that way we can better deal with the problems that affect the courses. I mean, if a course had a class on Thursday from 8 to 8 pm we couldn't put in a programme or a meeting or if an exam was preparing everyone. So nowadays we plan to look for members who are planning to do a PhD because 9 years is 3 times as long as 3 years and the IEEE SMC experience is more fulfilling. Or the other problem we had was that the sudden change in quality as we became stronger changed the needs of the membership and evolved to that.

6. What would you do differently if you could lead the Student Chapter again?

Maybe starting marketing activities sooner because it may be a lot of energy and time, but it pays off in the long run.

7. Finally, what is your advice for other students who may be interested in creating Student Chapters?

Don't hesitate to get started, if you get stuck don't hesitate to ask for help from your IEEE mentor from another IEEE chapter or even from me. In closing, IEEE is one big family here to help each other.

Biography:



Viktor Patrik is a mechanical engineer with a first BSc degree in mechanical engineering and design from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Mr. Patrik then graduated from the University of Óbuda with a BSc degree in Technical Management and a Master's degree in Economics. During his first BSc study, he worked as a trainee at the water utility company in South Pest. Mr. Patrik then became a quality control engineer at General Electric company. He returned to the University of Óbuda where he started his PhD studies in the field of research on driving safety with a focus on mathematical models. Currently,

he is an assistant professor at the University of Óbuda and the president of the Doctoral Students' Association of the University of Óbuda, and a board member of the national association of doctoral students in the field of research and development. He has authored 176 papers, 5 international patents with total impact factor 63.200 and relative impact factor 5.913.