

How and Why I Volunteered for IEEE

After a failed start at University of Waterloo, I came back to Ottawa to complete programs at both Algonquin College and University of Ottawa. It was at uOttawa that I became involved in IEEE activities, first with the student branch, then with the section, and later with the region.

It started in 2010 when a classmate asked me to help with organizing the Battle Royale LAN party—an annual 25-hour, 150-person video game competition. I only played video games casually, but I knew that I could help with the website and with the computer network infrastructure. I had such a great experience, that I continued as one of the co-leads for the next two events, which grew to 250 people. I still don't play much video games, but I really enjoyed the other aspects of running an event: strategic planning; team leadership; budget management; logistic operations; ticket sales, etc.

While a volunteer and officer of the student branch, I also had opportunities to work on various other activities. All gave me more experience that complemented my efforts with Battle Royale.

Early 2012, a group of volunteers from the IEEE Ottawa Section were working on final arrangements for the IEEE International Conference on



Jeffrey would like to thank former uOttawa Student Branch executive members Alexandra Phillips and Samira El-Rayyes for giving him the opportunity to run Battle Royale's 5 and 6 with them: "It was a lot of fun and I couldn't have done it without them!"

Communications happening that summer. Since some arrangements required a particular technical skill set, I was asked to help them. At first, I was just helping with the website, but my responsibilities quickly grew to include the conference's paperless mobile app, the distribution and inventory of tablets, the supervision of the wifi network's provisioning and

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operation, and the author management system that distributed 1500 author presentation files into 25 rooms for 9 concurrent sessions.

While this was a challenging project, I was lucky to be part of a great team that provided guidance and support. I felt confident and never overwhelmed. This, is the aspect of IEEE that I appreciate the most: Opportunities to take on big challenges and achieve great accomplishments. Entrepreneurship with a safety net! Bring on the next challenge! ■