President's Report

Information Theory Society
Board of Governors Meeting
IEEE Information Theory Workshop
Baltimore, MD, USA
March 14, 2007

Thanks To

- Dave Neuhoff
- Steve McLaughlin

2007 IT Society Officers

- Elected by the Board of Governors (BOG)
  - 2nd VP -- Andrea Goldsmith, Stanford
  - 1nd VP -- Marc Fossorier, Hawaii
  - President -- Bixio Rimoldi, EPFL
  - Past President -- Dave Neuhoff, Michigan
  - Senior Past President -- Steve McLaughlin, Georgia Tech

- Appointed by President with BOG approval
    - Treasurer -- Anant Sahai, Berkeley
    - Secretary -- João Barros, Porto
    - Transactions Editor in Chief -- Vince Poor,   Princeton
    - Publications editors -- Elza Erkip, Polytechnic
                                        -- Adriaan van Wijngaarden, Bell Labs
    - Online Editor -- Nick Laneman, Notre Dame
    - Newsletter Editor -- Daniela Tuninetti
    - Historian -- Tony Ephremides, Maryland
    - Information Officer -- Ubli Mitra, USC
    - IEEE Press Liaison -- John Anderson, Lund
    - Book Reviews -- John Anderson, Lund

IT Society Board of Governors (BOG)

- Giuseppe Caire, USC
- Rob Calderbank, Princeton
- Dan Costello, Notre Dame
- Dave Forney, MIT
- Alex Grant, South Australia
- Tor Helleseth, Bergen
- Ralf Koetter, TU Munich
- Ryuji Kohno, Yokohama
- Frank Kschishang, Toronto

- Andi Loeliger, ETHZ
- Muriel Medard, MIT
- Ubli Mitra, USC
- Prakash Narayan, Maryland
- Alon Orlitsky, UCSD
- Shlomo Shamai, Technion
- David Tse, UC Berkeley
- Venu Veeravalli, Illinois
- Ken Zeger, UC San Diego

State of the Society

- IT Transactions

- Conferences and workshops

- Awards

- Membership

- Finances

IT Transactions

- The 7.5% growth since 1990 has stopped (5776 pages in 2006)

- Number and quality of submitted and accepted papers remains high

- Editor-in-Chief's report later (Vince Poor)

Conferences and Workshops

- Conference and workshops are
  - excellent
  - well attended
  - making money

- Not bid yet for ISIT'10: time to jump start the process

- Symposia and Workshop Report later (Alex Grant)

IT Society Awards

- IT Best Paper

- IT/ComSoc Paper

- Shannon Award

- Aaron Wyner Distinguished Service Award (Name OK)

- Chapter of the Year Award

2007 IEEE Medals and Awards

- Tom Kailath -- Medal of Honor

- Norman Abramson -- Alexander Graham Bell Medal

- Abraham Lempel -- Richard W. Hamming Medal,

- Irwin Jacobs and Andrew Viterbi -- J. C. Maxwell Award

- M. Luby and A. Shokrollahi -- Eric Sumner Award

US National Academy of Engineering

- New Members Elected (4 of 10 from the E. section)
  - Bob Gray
  - P.R. Kumar
  - John Tsitsiklis
  - Sergio Verdú
- New Foreign Associate (one of two)
  - Kees A. Schouhamer Immink

Membership

- January 2006

  IT Society
  - Regular -- 3171, -5.7 %
  - Students -- 418, -14.9 %
  - Total -- 3,601, -6.9 %

- IEEE
  - Regular -- 295,868, -1.2 %
  - Student -- 79,730, +5.9 %
  - Total -- 375,598, +0.2 %

- January 2007

  - Regular -- 3,122, -1.5 %
  - Students -- 366, -12.4 %
  - Total -- 3,492, -3% %

- IEEE
  - Regular -- 297,189, 0.4 %
  - Student -- 87,734, 10 %
  - Total -- 484,923, 2.5 %

Finances

- Very Sound: reserves larger than annual budget. IEEE recommendation: reserve = 0.5 x (annual budget)

- Treasurer's report later (Anant Sahai).

- We should be thinking of ways to put some of the reserve to good use.

"Challenges"

- Quinquennial IEEE Review if the IT Society

- Membership: do we have a problem? No consensus so far

- Our main "product" (transactions and conferences) are in good shape: what else can we do to increase the value that the IT Society provides to the community (at large)?

New Initiatives in 2006

- Student Committee:
  - budget increased to 10K
  - Student paper award at ISIT'07
- For a three-year trial period, IT Society members have electronic access to Proceedings
- New Positions/Committees:
  - Standing Conference Committee (chaired by Alex G.)
  - Ad-hoc Funding Committee: (chaired by Venu V.
  - Online Editor (Nick L.)
- Transactions:
  - hierarchical table of content according to technical area
  - 5 page limit to Correspondence items. The discussion continues.
- Technical Co-Sponsorship: Negotiations with IEEE

Initiatives for (Consideration in) 2007

- Build/Maintain "Infrastructure" to Facilitate Business
  - Revision of Constitution and Bylaws (Neuhoff & McLaughlin)
  - Ad Hoc committee on Online Content (Laneman)
  - Technical co-sponsorship: MOU (Neuhoff).
  - Policy on overlapping IT and ISIT papers (Conf. Committee)

- Initiatives to make wise use of the extra reserve

- Initiatives Concerning Membership and Community
  - Membership ad-hoc committee. Proposal at ISIT'07 (Goldsmith)
  - Creation of opportunities for junior members and students
  - Encourage faculty to encourage students to join
  - A real Distinguished Lecturer program
  - Exciting talks, of educational value, by inspiring people, for various audiences (including undergraduates and possibly high-school)

Thanks