

President's Report and Announcements

Information Theory Society
Board of Governors Meeting
IEEE Information Theory Workshop
Nice, France
June 24, 2007

2007 IT Society Officers

- Elected by the Board of Governors (BOG)
 - 2nd VP -- Andrea Goldsmith, Stanford
 - 1st 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
 - Secretary -- João Barros
 - Transactions Editor in Chief -- Vince Poor
 - Publications editors -- Elza Erkip and Adriaan van Wijngaarden
 - Online Editor -- Nick Laneman
 - Newsletter Editor -- Daniela Tuninetti
 - Historian -- Tony Ephremides
 - Information Officer -- Ubli Mitra
 - IEEE Press Liaison -- John Anderson

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

IT Society Awards

- IT Best Paper
- IT/ComSoc Paper
- Shannon Award
- Aaron Wyner Distinguished Service Award
- Chapter of the Year Award

Membership, March 2007 vs March 2006

Society	Regular	Students
Information Theory	-1.1 % (2769)	-3.8% (333)
Communications	-4%	-0.8%
Vehicular Technology	3.8%	10.2%
Signal Processing	-2.1%	0.6%
Circuits and Systems	-2.8%	-1.4%

Report From June TAB Meeting

- The Big IEEE Worry: Membership, Membership, Membership
- Personal View: Membership is not the real problem. This “problem” can be fixed by lowering the IEEE fees (Currently \$160)

- A policy for open-access is under study:
 - 120M of the 300M IEEE revenue come from publication.
 - Recommended Action: Promote open-access-friendly policies.
 - Conduct a series of well defined experiments that allow us to gain some experience while managing risk.
 - John Baillieul is happy to talk to any society interested in conducting an open-access experiment

- New IEEE Policy (from Al Hero): an author that has a paper in the digital library can make the exact same paper available on his/her web page.

Action Item

Do we want to nominate a candidate for
Division IX Director?

- Deadline: November Tab Meeting.
- TAB Decision: in 2008
- Will be Director Elect in 2009
- Will be Director in 2010 and 2011

Pending Issue

- The Computer Society Chapter of the Santa Clara Valley Section runs a lecture series called Shannon Lectures: <http://www.cs.sjsu.edu/~tylin/ieeesilicon/>
- I have contacted the Chapter Chair (Dr. Lin) asking to change the name but he has not answered
- The president of the Computer Society has agreed to act as intermediary

Quinquennial Review by IEEE

- Each IEEE Society is reviewed every 5-(6) years.
- The IT Society was reviewed at the February TAB meeting. Fossorier, Neuhoff, Poor, and Rimoldi represented the Society.
- The review was based on a Publications Report and a Society Report, for a total of 75 pages.
[Contributions from Fossorier, Goldsmith, McLaughlin, Laneman, Medard, Neuhoff, Poor, Rimoldi, and Tuninetti]

Recommendations From The Review Panel (For info only: Please give inputs to Officers)

- **General observation:** The Society is well managed and well run. It is financially sound, with a successful conference and a prestigious publication
- In the light of rapid developments in communications technologies and applications, and the growth in the field, **the Society may wish to consider revisiting its FOI** [field of interest], and bringing it up to date and sharpening its focus.

- The offer of conference proceedings to members is an interesting experiment, and its outcome needs to be monitored, and perhaps reported to SRC in due course.
- The Society may wish to consider establishing an Executive Committee. Such a committee provides the benefits to Society officers in terms of more effective management by being able to meet and take decisions without their BoG meetings.
- The Society should be encouraged to increase the representation of BoG members from Regions outside of 1-6. The present approach of including under-represented areas is a move in the right direction.

- There is active participation by Society members on technical areas, however **there are no Technical Committees within the Society**. Some consideration should be given to establishing Technical Committees. Such Committees offer a ready platform for members to discuss and develop the technical subject and related activities, and adds to the vibrancy of the field.
- The **acceptance rate at its Symposium is quite high - 60-70%**, this does not compare favorably with the ratio at some ComSoc conferences, e.g. **ICC usually has an acceptance ratio of around 40%** or less.
- The Society should endeavor to **avoid overlaps in terms of dates with ComSoc events**, since there is an overlap of members and their interests between the two societies.

- The Society receives a healthy return on its publications nevertheless it needs to **ensure further participation from industry** in its activities, **highlighting the relevance of its publications to the practitioner, perhaps through articles in its Newsletter, or else, through special issues.**
- **Support for chapters needs to be reinforced and formalized.** The Report submitted does not clarify the level of activity of its chapters in any substantial detail.
- The establishment of a **Student Committee**, and its active participation in the society activities, particularly at its conferences **is useful initiative and should be nurtured.**

- The Society has a Distinguished Speakers program, and some of its leaders are international authorities in the field, however the information provided indicates an incremental approach to its Distinguished Speakers activities. **The Society should review its Distinguished Speakers Program and consider reinforcing it. The Program could also be a strategic vehicle in reinforcing the Society's ties with its chapters.**
- The translation of foreign books could be a rich seam of activity, particularly in subject areas similar to Information Theory, where significant work may have been published in languages other than English. **It is recommended that the Society shares its experiences with SRC, and reports on its activities in the area in one year's time,**

- **Concerning student activities:** As stated earlier this is an excellent activity, and should be nurtured. **Since the Society is in good financial health, it could consider investing further in the area.**

Final Comment: The Transactions, reviewed separately, received a glowing report. See the Editor in Chief's Report

Thanks