



IEEE SPS: Your Professional Home

For those of us in the north, November is a harbinger of winter. For the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS), however, this is a season of preparations for renewal, of looming opportunities, and of the expansion of services and innovations. In conjunction with the 2010 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing held in September, the Board of Governors, Society staff managers, and several invited guests participated in the Society's periodic long-range planning exercise chaired by President-Elect Ray Liu. While I do not know the outcome at the time of this writing (August 2010), I am well aware that more effective delivery of a diverse set of (continuing) educational content and services to our members will be a focus of the exercise.

One educational service started as a pilot project between the Society and the open access publisher Connexions, as announced by former Society President Al Hero in his November 2007 column. After much groundwork, this month we make this collaboration official under the auspices of the Signal Processing Education Technical Committee. The project will develop a critical mass of signal processing educational modules and courses that are available for free access by anyone, anywhere, at any time. Available at www.ieeeecx.org, the contributed material will undergo careful IEEE SPS quality evaluation. Expected benefits of this effort for SPS include extending its educational footprint into K–12 and lifelong learning; enhancing its global outreach; providing IEEE Members with new opportunities to both

teach and learn; and enabling a new opportunity for the Society's brand recognition. You are invited to contribute educational materials of any length, from short technical notes to interactive simulations to entire textbooks.

Speaking of innovations, in his May 2009 column then-President José Moura announced the creation of the

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Content Gazette as a free print service for members to efficiently and conveniently browse and manage the large volume of papers published by the Society. Needless to say, these publications have been available electronically since January 2010 to SPS members at no charge. The Gazette has been a tremendous success and has continued to improve in many ways. As you may have noticed, last September, the award-winning *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* (the number one journal in electrical and electronic engineering in 2009 according to Thomson Reuters *Journal Citation Report*), together with the Content Gazette went digital, providing rapid delivery, significantly improved content display, storage, and management. For example, the Content Gazette now uses digital object identifiers to conveniently link a table of contents listing to the associ-

ated article. Kudos to the volunteers and staff for continuing the innovations in the delivery of SPS publication products.

Similarly, the Society's conference board has been actively investigating the possibility of establishing a new signal processing conference focused on the needs of practitioners and industry. The Society has had this idea on its planning docket for some time. Last summer, a committee chaired by former SPS President Panos Papamichalis made a proposal for such a meeting series to the Board. I hope to report on the final decision on this initiative very soon. Another initiative that is in the works is the codification of the Society's commitment to supporting its members, especially students with financial need, via travel grants for attending and presenting at its flagship conferences.

By the time you read this column, we, the members, will have elected three new members-at-large for the Board of Governors. More significantly, four regional directors will have been elected for the first time to represent the geographical interests of the SPS membership. These member-elected volunteer leaders will join many more volunteers from other boards and committees assuming their positions in January 2011. I hope you also take advantage of the ubiquity of signal processing and the myriad of avenues for involvement in the activities of the Society to make the IEEE SPS your professional home.

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