



Capturing the Breadth of Our Activities

Last March, we celebrated the arrival of spring at another outstanding International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), this one in Dallas, ably organized by Scott Douglas and the ICASSP 2010 Organizing Committee. At that time, the inaugural IEEE Thematic Meetings on Signal Processing (THEMES) Conference, a joint initiative of the Society's Conference and Publications Boards, also got off to a flying start. An examination of the eclectic set of topics covered in this meeting that was devoted to social networks again highlights how significantly signal processing as a field has changed and continues to evolve, and why we remain challenged to describe all that we do as a technical and professional group even to many who are scientifically savvy.

An attempt at more accurately capturing the breadth of our activities is through the updating of the Society's fields of interest (FOI), elements of which were described by Past President José M.F. Moura in his November 2009 column. In drafting this FOI, the Society also "signaled" its belief that many significant technical challenges require collaboration within and outside of the IEEE. A number of these challenges with obvious ramifications in the broad themes of health care, energy, security, and scientific discovery were subject of a workshop last January on future directions in signal processing, information theory, communications and networking, cochaired by Vice President (VP) Awards and Membership, Mike Zoltowski and Rob Nowak, under the auspices of the U.S. National Science

Foundation. By the time of this publication, it is hoped that the workshop report will be available to the public. It should be of great value to the research and practitioner communities.

A major initiative related to the field of energy with significant signal processing content is the topic of the smart grid. Such systems inherently require

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sensing, analysis, communication, and actuation, all of which need contributions from our discipline. The IEEE, in particular, has an active program in this area related to research and development, education, and standards. I encourage you to visit <http://smartgrid.ieee.org/> and get involved. The Society is eager to learn of work in this area within our professional community, and we expect a number of upcoming conference and workshop sessions and meetings devoted to the topic focused on its signal and information processing needs.

The anticipated changes in the Society's governance and technical activities for increased access by the broader community interested in signal processing, for better services to our members, and for enhanced outreach

to our Chapters and regions is well underway. As Society members, we have enjoyed electronic access to all of the Society's publications with our membership dues. The formation of member services and industrial relations committees under the Awards and Membership Board is proceeding with committee chairs appointed by this time. Please contact VP Mike Zoltowski (mikedz@ecn.purdue.edu) if you are interested in volunteering your service in these committees. The opening of the technical committees to affiliate and associate members was advertised widely with the distribution of an informative flyer at ICASSP 2010. This information is also found in this issue of *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*.

Members of the Society's Chapter in Dallas, along with a number of key industrial leaders, were invited to the welcoming reception of ICASSP with the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas. We plan to continue to get to know our members and their needs better with such an outreach to all of our Chapters using opportunities provided by conferences, workshops, and other events, and we have plans for visits to Chapters in China in conjunction with the International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) in September 2010.

I personally welcome the opportunity to meet many of you and hear what we can do to better serve our community and membership. Have a great summer.



Mos Kaveh