

Board of Governors Meeting

President's Report

Giuseppe Caire

Paraty, October 17, 2011

WELCOME TO THE THIRD
(and LAST)
BoG MEETING of 2011

Welcome and Congratulations to the Officers-Elect

- Muriel Medard – President Elect, 2012
- Gerhard Kramer – First Vice-President Elect, 2012
- Abbas El Gamal – Second Vice-President Elect, 2012.

Enormous Thanks to Andrea Goldsmith

- At the end of 2011, Andrea Goldsmith is ending her **five years** service as an officer of the IT Society (not counting the BoG member years).
- I wish to thank Andrea for her **dedication, passion, leadership, and guidance.**

Appointments in the society governance

- **New treasurer** taking over in 2012: Aylin Yener, overlapping for smooth transition with Nihar Jindal from now to the end of the year.
- **New chair(s) of the Student Committee**: Muriel Medard will make an official appointment at the beginning of 2012.
- **Coming up: Tracey Ho will end her term as EiC of the ITsoc. Newsletters at the end of 2012.** Need to identify and appoint a new EiC.

Ad hoc Committee on the Future of the Transactions

- Newly created “Ad hoc Committee on the Future of the Transactions”.
- **Chair:** Abbas El Gamal
- **Members (as of today):** Helmut Bolcskei, Emmanuel Candes, David Forney, Frank Kschischang, Madhu Sudan, Alexander Vardy.
- Possibly a few more members to be added in the near future.

Charge (subject to change):

The IT Transactions is the premier publication in the field of information theory and ranks among the top IEEE publications in terms of the number of citations and eigenfactor. However, the size of the Transactions has been steadily growing in recent years, which raises the questions of whether this growth can be managed, and whether it is hurting quality. Furthermore, the Transactions has not been attracting the best papers in closely related fields, such as cryptography, complexity, learning, quantum information, and network science.

The charge of the committee is to investigate these issues and make recommendations based on its findings.

Some particular questions are:

1. Has this growth indeed hurt quality compared to an absolute standard or top journals in cognate fields (e.g., computer science, statistics, operations research, mathematics, and physics)?
2. How have leading journals in these cognate fields managed size and growth?
3. Has this growth compromised the value of the Transactions to its readership (e.g., in timeliness or browsability)?
4. In general, how is the Transactions viewed by its readership broadly defined?
5. What actions, if any, need to be taken to ensure the future of the Transactions as a leading journal in the information sciences?

Work plan:

- Compile a list of people to interview about the Transactions.
- Compile a list of journals in cognate fields and the information to collect about them.
- Based on the initial interviews, refine the charge and prepare a set of questions to use in interviewing a broader set of people.
- Based on the feedback from the interviews and journal comparisons, prepare a set of recommendations.

Milestones: progress report by ISIT 2012 and a final report in Fall 2012 or first BoG 2013.

Ad hoc Committee on Community Activity to Support Research Visions

- Following the discussion led by Michelle Effros at the Annual BoG meeting in St. Petersburg, an ad-hoc committee is on its way to be created.
- Ad-Hoc Committee temporary name: **Ad hoc Committee on Community Activity to Support Research Visions.**
- **Chair:** Michelle Effros.
- An initial report with committee staffing and charter will be presented by Michelle Effros at the first BoG meeting of 2012.
- If interested to volunteer, please contact Michelle.

Important facts with respect to IEEE

- **IT Transactions review:** Periodicals Review and Advisory Committee (PRAC) review of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory is scheduled at the TAB meeting in February 2012 in Phoenix, AZ.
- Helmut Boelcskei (EiC) and Muriel Medard are on top of it. Muriel will attend the review meeting while attending the first TAB meeting of 2012.
- **IT Society review:** TAB Society Review Committee (SRC) review of the IEEE Information Theory Society is scheduled for November 2012 at the TAB meeting in New Brunswick, NJ.
- Giuseppe Caire will attend the SRC meeting at the TAB in November 2011, and make contact with the committee Chair.

Hamming Medal: solicitation for nominations

- Ezio Biglieri is in the Hamming Medal committee for 2012, and contacted me to solicit nominations.
- Perhaps this is an issue to be addressed by the “external nominations committee” (see bylaws changes in next agenda item).

Diplomatic problems settled

From Alexander Kuleshov, received today (October 17, 2011):

Dear Dr. Caire,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your high appreciation of IITPs scientific accomplishments and contribution to the recent symposium in St. Petersburg. We do feel that the event was a rewarding experience and not a lost effort for all those involved as organizers, participants or guests. Indeed, all the contributors and facilitators from IITP and partner organizations were driven by strong motivation for success. I believe such events are of tremendous value for building and maintaining a closely-knitted IT Society community. I would also like to thank you for your support and deep personal involvement that we felt all the way through the preparatory process and the symposium itself. I look forward to another opportunity of working with you,

Yours faithfully, Alexander Kuleshov

.... FINALLY

- My deepest and most sincere **THANKS** for your support, collaboration and enthusiasm in running our great society.
- I hope to have achieved the first and most important agenda item of my program: **First, do not harm.**
- Special thanks to **Natasha**, the best society secretary I ever had (beyond the joke: enormous help with the awards at ISIT).
- Special thanks to the Past Presidents **Frank** and **Andrea**, source of endless help.
- I hope to be able to be as useful to the next Presidents as they have been to me.

THANK YOU!