
Membership and Chapters Committee

Muriel Medard

Overview

- Current members:
 - Sae-Young Chung, Max Costa, Michelle Effros, Uri Erez, Stephen Hanly, Gerhard Kramer, Amin Shrokollahi, Rudiger Urbanke, Han Vinck, Raymond Yeung, Lizhong Zheng
 - We have a new chapter:
 - IEEE Tainan Section Information Theory Society Chapter.
 - The official formation date is 3 December 2009
 - President: Trieu-Kien Truong
 - Main new initiative for this year: the distinguished lecturers
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The Distinguished Lecturer Program

- Padovani lecturer, associated with the Summer School
 - Discussion of next Padovani Lecturer
 - Discussion of raising funds to strengthen the program
 - Distinguished Lecturer program
 - Current roster (to start in 2010): Amin Shokrollahi, Alon Orlitsky, Sergio Verdu, Michael Gastpar, Andrea Goldsmith
 - We shall be working to assign 5 more to start in 2011
 - Discussion of best way to involve the chapters
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Padovani Lecturer - Formal Description

■ Use of Gift:

- The gift will be used to establish the so-called "Padovani Lecturer"

■ Program.

- The Padovani Lecture will be delivered by an outstanding member of the Information Theory community at the Society's North American Summer School of Information Theory, which is held annually for the benefit of students and postdoctoral researchers of the Society. The Lecturer receives an honorarium and travel expenses.

■ Selection Committee:

- The Padovani Lecturer Program is overseen by the Chapters and Membership Committee of the Information Theory Society, chaired by the Society's Second Vice President. This program is part of the larger Distinguished Lecturer Program of the IEEE Information Theory Society, overseen by the same committee. Selection of the Padovani Lecturer is made by the Committee in consultation with the Board of Governors of the Information Theory Society.

■ Criteria:

- The Padovani Lecturer is an outstanding member of the information theory research community. The selection criteria are
 - (a) the quality of the candidate's contributions to research in information theory and related areas;
 - (b) the ability of the candidate to deliver an excellent lecture to a broad audience; and
 - (c) the ability of the candidate to provide instruction at the Summer School and to interact meaningfully with the junior members of the Information Theory Society.

■ Eligibility:

- Any individual meeting the criteria noted above is eligible to become the Padovani Lecturer. Typically, the lecturer will be a member of the IEEE Information Theory Society.

■ Administration:

- Administration of the Padovani Lecturer is handled by the Society's Second Vice President and by the Society Treasurer. Selection of a Padovani Lecturer is made annually, and announced at the main annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Society, and at the Awards Luncheon held at the annual IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory.

- Announcement is also made via the Society's Newsletter and online.

Distinguished Lecturers

- The DLs are selected from among the most prominent members of our research community by the Chapters and Membership Committee in consultation with the Board of Governors.
 - The Society will maintain ten DLs, each serving for two year terms.
 - Chapters desiring to invite a DL will do so through the Chapters and Membership Committee, by submitting a proposal indicating:
 - the benefit to the Chapter, concentrating on plans for interaction of the local members with the Distinguished Lecturer
 - its plan for ensuring vigorous attendance.
 - If the Chapters and Membership Committee deems the request to be of high value for the chapter and if the requested DL is able and willing to accede to the Chapter's request, the Chapters and Membership Committee will then approve a distinguished lecturer event, with an appropriate level of expense reimbursement, with possible contributions from the Chapter
 - The assessment of the value of the program will be established through feedback from the Chapters and the Distinguished Lecturers themselves.
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Membership development

- We have been using ISIT as a means of attracting new members
 - Half year free membership with ISIT registration
 - 169 ISIT 2009
 - 283 ISIT 2008
 - We may wish to use an approach more in line with ComSoc, offering a different price for IEEE members who are IT members and those who are not
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