


President's Report

IEEE Information Theory Society
Board of Governors Meeting
ISIT
Allerton Conf. Monticello, IL
Sept. 27, 2006

Bog meeting agenda website
itsoc.nd.edu or itsoc.ee.nd.edu

IT Society Officers

- Elected by the Board of Governors (BOG)
 - For 2007
 - 2nd VP -- Andrea Goldsmith, Stanford
 - 2nd VP -- Marc Fossorier, Hawaii
 - 1st VP -- Bixio Rimoldi, EPFL
 - President -- Dave Neuhoff, Michigan
 - Junior Past President -- Steve McLaughlin, Georgia Tech
 - Senior Past President -- Hideki Imai, Tokyo
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Appointed

- Treasurer -- Muriel Medard, MIT
to be replaced by Anant Sahai, Berkeley, Jan. 2007)
- Secretary -- Joao Barros, Porto
- Transactions Editor in Chief -- Vince Poor*, Princeton
- Publications editors -- Elza Erkip, Polytechnic
Adriaan van Wijngaarden, Bell Labs
- Online Editor -- Nick Laneman, Notre Dame
- Newsletter Editor -- Daniela Tuninetti, Illinois Chicago
- Conference Coordinator -- Alex Grant, South Australia
- Historian -- Tony Ephremides, Maryland
- arXiv liason -- Ralf Koetter, Illinois
- Information Officer -- Ubli Mitra, USC
- Liason to IEEE Press -- John Anderson, Lund

Board of Governors (BoG)

Elected by Members

- John Anderson, Lund
- Giuseppe Caire, USC
- Rob Calderbank, Princeton
- Dan Costello, Notre Dame
- Tom Cover, Stanford
- Dave Forney, MIT
- Andrea Goldsmith, Stanford
- Alex Grant, South Australia
- Johannes Huber, Erlangen-Nurnberg
- Ralf Koetter, Illinois
- Frank Kschishang, Toronto
- Ubli Mitra, USC
- Shlomo Shamai, Technion
- David Tse, UC Berkeley
- Alex Vardy, UC San Diego
- Venu Veeravalli, Illinois
- Ken Zeger, UC San Diego

New Initiatives in 2005

- Technical Co-Sponsorship of closely affiliated conferences and workshops: ITA (San Diego), CISS, Allerton
 - Quick review later
- Student Committee
 - Update later (Andrea Goldsmith)
- Online Editor and IT website redesign
 - Update later (Nick Laneman)
- arXiv posting of information theory papers
 - Nearly 400 posted last year
 - Ralf Koetter has taken over as arXiv liason from Dave Forney
- Ad Hoc Committee on Growth of the Transactions
 - Considered at July, 2006 BoG meeting.

New Initiatives for 2006

- IT Society Member online access to IT Society conference and workshop proceedings
To be discussed later
- Conference Committee
To be discussed later
- Membership promotions at conferences
Joining IEEE and IT, registration fee rebates, credits, etc.
Pass on to new Conference Committee?
- Bylaw updating
To be discussed later

Membership Membership Membership

- Why is it still declining?
- Why especially is student membership declining?
- What, if anything, to do?

Membership

- Aug 2006

IT Society

- Regular -- 3055, -4.8 %
- Students -- 347, -19.3 %
- **Total -- 3,413, -6.5 %**

IEEE

- Regular -- 275,500, -0.9 %
- Student -- 71,500, +8.2 %
- Total -- 347,000, +0.9 %
- Societies -- 330,700, -3.3 %

- Membership discussed later.

- Aug 2004

IT Society

- Regular -- 3,221, -10.2 %
- Students -- 643, -20.1 %
- Total -- 3881, -12.1 %

IEEE

- Regular -- 282,300, -0.1 %
- Student -- 60,800, +5.5 %
- Total -- 343,100, +0.8 %
- Societies -- 350,000, -5.9 %

Membership

- May 2006

IT Society

- Regular -- 2903, -6.0 %
- Students -- 381, -19.8 %
- **Total -- 3,295, -7.9 %**

IEEE

- Regular -- 257,000, -1.7 %
- Student -- 73,000, +4.9 %
- Total -- 330,000, -0.3 %
- Societies -- 314,000, -3.3 %

- Membership discussed later.

- May 2004

IT Society

- Regular -- 3,221, -10.2 %
- Students -- 643, -20.1 %
- Total -- 3881, -12.1 %

IEEE

- Regular -- 263,000, -0.1 %
- Student -- 65,500, +5.2 %
- Total -- 328,000, +1.0 %
- Societies -- 337,000, -4.5 %

Thoughts on Membership Development

- Take membership development seriously
- Possibilities
 - Move responsibility for membership development from 2nd VP to another position, e.g. Junior Past President or Membership Development Officer.
 - Seriously pursue membership development strategies
 - Take steps to promote IT Transactions papers
 - Tutorial articles in newsletter
 - Editorials, review articles, guide-to articles in IT Transactions
 - IT Magazine

Voluntary Page Charges and Hardcopy Reprints

- Some at IEEE HQ are asking if these practices should be discontinued.
- Many Society Presidents seem to want to maintain voluntary page charges, but think it might be wise to skip the hardcopy reprints.
- Offering “e-prints” as an alternative to hardcopy reprints is under consideration.
- In 2005, IT Society received 24K from voluntary page charges.
- Topic to be discussed at Nov. TAB meeting.
- Do we have an opinion?

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- At March and July meetings, BoG voted to include online access to IT Conf. Proceedings as part of the basic membership, subject to IEEE approval.
- Approval Process:
 - Stage 1: Oct. 20 presentation to TAB/PSPB Products and Services Committee, Morristown, NJ.
 - Stage 2: Approval at TAB in November, New Orleans.
 - Likelihood of success?

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- Proposal
 - Include online access to IT conference and workshop proceedings as a basic benefit of IT membership.
- Background
 - IT members have requested online access to IT conference and workshop proceedings.
 - Online access to be included in 2007 membership as a trial/promotional effort.
 - Proposing to continue in 2008 and subsequent years.

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- Background
 - Membership declining more rapidly than most other societies
 - Society is otherwise quite healthy
 - Transactions
 - Quality of submitted papers remains excellent
 - Quantity of submitted and accepted papers has grown dramatically -- ~ 60% in past five years
 - Conferences and workshops
 - Attendance and surpluses are up
 - Finances
 - Sound
 - Reserves = xx% of operating budget and increasing

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- Background
 - Basic membership now includes IT Transactions and IT Newsletter.
 - IT society received pricing recommendation from IEEE Sales and Marketing, Jan. 2006
 - \$45 = member price
 - \$10,000 = annual Xplore maintenance fee (now \$4,400)
 - \$2,000 = one time setup fee
 - 1 to 3% adoption rate estimated at this price.

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- Goals of proposal
 - To provide increased value to members.
 - To stimulate progress in information theory.
 - To promote and advertise the work published in *IEEE Trans. Information Theory*

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- IT Transactions is the main product of the society
 - It is THE journal of record in the field
- Conference are intended to
 - Promote early dissemination of results to be published in IT Transactions, i.e. to publicize and advertise.
 - Stimulate discussion among researchers so as to foster further developments.
- We wish to
 - Promote the field and Transactions by making proceedings easily available to IT Members who were not able to attend.
 - Make it easy for members who did attend to access conference proceedings through IEEE Xplore.
 - Encourage people to join the IT Society to obtain this benefit.

Online Access to IT Conference Proceedings

- The low adoption rate predicted by Sales and Marketing indicates our goals would not be met by their recommended plan.
- IEEE regulations permit
 - Posting conference papers on society website. Why not allow access via IEEE Xplore?
- IT Society makes money on
 - Its transactions and on conference attendance. Not so much on conference proceedings. The Society and community at large will benefit from fostering future developments by making conference proceedings easily available to Society members.