

# First Report of the 2009 IEEE Information Theory Society Awards Committee

Committee members: Frank Kschischang (ex officio, chair)  
Giuseppe Caire (ex officio)  
Holger Boche  
Ning Cai  
Ilya Dumer  
Upamanyu Madhow  
Ueli Maurer  
Tsachy Weissman  
En-Hui Yang  
Bin Yu  
Ram Zamir

## 1 2009 Information Theory Society Paper Award

**Ten** papers are currently under consideration for the award.

**Eight** of these are new nominations; **two** are carried forward from last year, of which **one** was re-nominated this year jointly with another paper.

**Current status:** the committee is engaged in an initial ranking.

**Expected completion:** May 15, 2009.

## 2 2009 Communications Society and Information Theory Society Joint Paper Award

**Seven** papers are currently under consideration for the award.

**Six** of these were nominated via ITSoc, and **one** was nominated via ComSoc.

A subcommittee of six (three from the ComSoc Awards Committee and three from the ITSoc Awards Committee) has been formed. The subcommittee members are:

subcommittee members: Frank Kschischang (chair)  
Giuseppe Caire  
Upamanyu Madhow  
Nick Maxemchuk  
Peter McLane  
Izhak Rubin

**Current status:** the committee has completed an initial ranking, and is now beginning to discuss finalists.

**Expected completion:** March 31, 2009.

### 3 2009 Information Theory Society Student Paper Award

**Current status:** the committee is expecting to receive from the ISIT 2009 TPC chairs a spreadsheet with the review scores of all eligible student papers. The TPC chairs have also promised to include editorial comments on the most promising of these.

**Next steps:** the committee will produce a list of the top ten (or so) student paper “finalists”. With the help of the TPC chairs, these finalist papers will be scheduled for presentation between Monday and Thursday morning of ISIT 2009. It is expected that a student will present the paper. The winner(s) will be selected based (primarily) upon the technical merit of the paper, but also on the quality of the presentation.

**Expected completion:** Noon, Thursday of ISIT, in time for official announcement at Thursday’s banquet.

### 4 Other Prizes

- Browder J. Thompson Award — this award was discontinued after the 1997 Award and replaced by the IEEE Leon K. Kirchmayer Prize Paper Award.
- Leon K. Kirchmayer Prize Paper Award — presented by the IEEE Board of Directors for the most outstanding paper by an author(s) under 30 years of age, at the date of submission of the original manuscript, published in any IEEE publication issued in the preceding year. The last presentation of this award was in 2002 (to Muriel Médard!)

**Status:** presentation of this award has been suspended.

- The W. R. G. Baker Prize Paper Award — this award was established in 1956 and was presented by the IEEE Board of Directors for the most outstanding paper, reporting original work, in the Transactions, Journals and Magazines of the IEEE Societies, or in the Proceedings of the IEEE, issued in the preceding year. It was administered through the IEEE Prize Papers/Scholarship Awards Committee of the IEEE Awards Board.

The award was established through a donation of the Institute of Radio Engineers, one of IEEE’s predecessor organizations, by Dr. Walter R. G. Baker (1892-1960), who pioneered in the field of radio and television broadcast engineering.

The award consisted of a certificate and honorarium.

**Status:** presentation of this award has been suspended. There are current efforts to resuscitate it with slightly different criteria (Dave Forney will update the BoG on current status).

- The IEEE Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award — this award was established by the IEEE Board of Directors in 1979. It is presented for the most outstanding survey, review, or tutorial paper published in the IEEE Transactions, Journals, Magazines, or in the Proceedings of the IEEE in the preceding year.

The award consists of a certificate and honorarium.

The award is named in honor of Donald G. Fink, distinguished editor and author, who was a Past President of the IRE, and the first General Manager and Executive Director of the IEEE.

(The 2009 recipients are Daniel J. Costello, and G. David Forney, Jr.)

**Status:** Nomination deadline is July 1st. BoG members are encouraged to make suggestions for nominations.

- BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards — eight are awarded, with one in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. Nomination shall be indirect and at the initiative of (among other possible institutions) the office holders or governing bodies of scientific or artistic societies or organizations. (The 2009 recipient was Jacob Ziv!)

**Status:** Nomination deadline is June 30, 2009. BoG members are encouraged to make suggestions for nominations.

- Japan Prize — awarded to people from all parts of the world whose original and outstanding achievements in science and technology are recognized as having advanced the frontiers of knowledge and served the cause of peace and prosperity for mankind. (Previous laureates have included J. R. Pierce (1985), W. W. Peterson (1999).)

The 2010 Japan Prize will be awarded to honor achievement that brings about remarkable progress in science and technology in the field of *industrial production and production technology* and that makes an outstanding contribution to society by improving the safety or convenience of the lives of people or by overcoming poverty through the creation of new products or industries, or improvement in productivity.

**Status:** 2010 award appears to be outside the scope of the Information Theory society. Chairs of future Awards Committees are encouraged to continue to monitor the criteria and make a nomination when appropriate to do so.

- Other IEEE Awards (outside the mandate of the Awards Committee; BoG members are nevertheless encouraged to consider making nominations):
  - IEEE Medal of Honor (nomination deadline: July 1st)
  - IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal (nomination deadline: July 1st)
  - IEEE Edison Medal (nomination deadline: July 1st)
  - IEEE Richard W. Hamming Medal (nomination deadline: July 1st)
  - IEEE Leon K. Kirchmayer Graduate Teaching Award (nomination deadline: Jan 31st)
  - IEEE Reynold B. Johnson Information Storage Systems Award (nomination deadline: July 1st)
  - IEEE Eric E. Sumner Award (nomination deadline: January 31st)
  - IEEE Undergraduate Teaching Award (nomination deadline: January 31st)