Desired Title:
IEEE Information Theory Society James L. Massey Research & Teaching Award for Young Scholars

Written Consent By the Immediate Family: See the attached document.

Motivation: The IEEE Information Theory Society has no award targeted at our outstanding young members during their early career stages. The Society further has no award for teaching. This award will help to fill these gaps.

Reason for Naming:
James L. Massey was an internationally acclaimed pioneer in digital communications and a revered teacher and mentor to an entire generation of communications engineers. He was one of the outstanding researchers and leaders of the IEEE Information Theory Society over a period of 50 years.

Massey was born in Wauseon, Ohio, on February 11, 1934. He received a BSEE degree (maxima cum laude and class valedictorian) from the University of Notre Dame in 1956, the MSEE and Ph.D. degrees from MIT in 1960 and 1962, respectively. He joined the faculty of the University of Notre Dame in 1962 where he remained until 1977. He was the first endowed professor of the University of Notre Dame. He was with UCLA from 1977-1980 and joined the ETH Zurich, Switzerland, in 1980. He retired from ETH in 1998 and continued his career of scholarship and mentoring until his death on June 16, 2013.

Massey received numerous awards, including the IEEE Information Theory Society Claude E. Shannon Award in 1988, the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal in 1992, the Marconi Prize in 1999, and the IEEE Information Theory Society Distinguished Service Award in 2004. He was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His scientific work focused on coding theory and cryptography. His work on coding theory included developing links between convolutional codes and linear systems, and the development of the Berlekamp-Massey algorithm for decoding BCH codes. His work on cryptography included the invention of the block ciphers IDEA and SAFER+ which have found wide-spread use and have inspired other block cipher designs.

An IEEE web link with information on Massey's life and career can be found at:

An IEEE interview with Massey can be found at:
Description.
The Award is targeted at IEEE Information Theory Society members who are 40 years old or younger. The Award should stimulate outstanding achievement in research & teaching. Currently, the IEEE Information Theory Society has no award for its outstanding young members during their early career stages. The Society further has no award for teaching. This award will help to fill these gaps.

Administration.
The Award shall be administered by the IEEE Information Theory Society.

Eligibility.
The award winner must be 40 years old or younger and a member of the Information Theory Society on January 1st of the year nominated. The eligibility and Selection process shall comply with the procedures and regulations established by IEEE and Society governing documents, particularly with IEEE Policy 4.4 on Awards Limitations.

Prize Items.
The Award consists of a plaque and a $1000 honorarium, in accordance with the IEEE Hierarchy of Awards. The award shall be given to a single individual, multiple recipients are not allowed.

Frequency:
The Award will be given annually. It shall be awarded only when a suitable candidate is available.

Funds.
The Award will be funded by the IEEE Information Theory Society.
The Award amount will be $1000.
The Award will be given to a single individual.

Statement indicating the Society’s budget includes the amount for the award: see the attached sheet.

Statement that the Society budget is net positive with the inclusion of the award: see the attached sheet.

Nominee Solicitation.
The award will be advertised in the IEEE Information Theory Society Newsletter, on the Society’s Web Page, and through an email sent to the Society’s members.

Award Committee.
The awards committee shall be chaired by the Senior Past President of the IEEE Information Theory Society, and shall consist of two other Society members selected by the Society’s Nominations and Appointments Committee, at least one of whom is a member of the Society’s Board of Governors.

Schedule.
Nominations must be submitted by January 31 of the award year. The selection of the winner will be completed by March 31. The recipient will be informed by the Society President after the selection has been made, and no later than April 15. The award will be presented at the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT) of the award year, and will be announced in the Information Theory Society newsletter and on the Society webpage.
Selection/Basis for Judging.
The basis for judging shall be the research & teaching contributions of the nominee. Contributions to research will be judged by the perceived impact of the nominee on the field of Information Theory as evidenced by publications, patents, product development, research awards, and other tangible items. Contributions to teaching will be judged by evidence of new and innovative teaching methods, curriculum development with inclusion of current research, teaching/learning tools made available to students and faculty worldwide, textbook authorship, university teaching awards, and innovative short courses and tutorials in fields of interest to the Information Theory Society. The nominator should submit a nomination package that includes a description (maximum three pages) of the nominee’s contributions, accomplishments, and impact on research & teaching in the field of Information Theory, a brief biography of the nominee, and a maximum of three letters of recommendation. The nomination package should also include a summary of student teaching evaluations if available. In evaluating nominees, equal weight will be given to research & teaching accomplishments.

Presentation.
The award will be presented annually at the awards luncheon of the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory.

Publicity.
The award shall be publicized in the IEEE Information Theory Society Newsletter, on the Society’s Web Page, and through an email sent to the Society members.