Proposal for “Goldsmith Lecturer”

Elza Erkip, Wei Yu

July 2019, BoG Meeting
Background

• Initial “Goldsmith Lecturer” proposal was endorsed by ITSoc officers and discussed during the February 2019 BoG meeting, where it was viewed favorably.
• We now provide more details, including the funding plan.
• Main additions to the February 2019 BoG presentation are underlined.
Background

• Andrea Goldsmith won the 2019 IEEE Eric E. Sumner Award. Congratulations Andrea!
• Andrea wants to give back to ITSoc by donating her prize money to endow an award for junior women at a time when it could be a real catalyst in their career trajectory.
• Andrea will also help prepare and execute a funding plan for additional funding.
Example Awards for Women

- IEEE Frances B. Hugle Scholarship
  - For undergraduate female IEEE members
- IEEE Communication Society Women in Communication Engineering (WICE) Awards
  - Outstanding Achievement Award
  - Outstanding Service Award
  - Mentorship Award
  - Early Achievement Award
- ACM Athena Lecturer Award
Proposal: Goldsmith Lecturer

• Use Andrea’s endowment to create a “Goldsmith Lecturer”
• Award will be given to a junior woman researcher.
• The awardee will give a lecture at an IT School.
  – Similar to the Padovani Lecturer, which was endowed by Roberto Padovani’s Sumner Award prize.
Eligibility

- The candidate must be within 10 years of receiving her Ph.D.
- The candidate must have achieved early career excellence via her research and technical contributions to information theory and its applications.
- The candidate may not have previously been a Goldsmith Lecturer.
Nominations and Selection

• The award will be administered by the Membership Committee.
  – Part of Information Theory Society Lecturer Program which also includes Padovani Lecturer and Distinguished Lecturers.

• Nominations will be received from an open call.
  – Nomination deadline: Early Fall (e.g. Oct 15) of Year N.
  – Selection: Late Fall of Year N.
  – Lecture: An IT School at Year N+1.

• Selection of Padovani Lecturer and Distinguished Lecturers will be updated to fit in this timeline and have open calls.
Nominations and Selection

• Membership Committee will coordinate with IT School organizers, and the selected Goldsmith and Padovani lecturers to schedule the two named lectures.
  – Roberto Padovani has indicated that going forward, Padovani Lecturer funds are not limited to NASIT and can be used for any IT School.

• Regional diversity will be taken into account in scheduling.
Benefits

• By highlighting technical achievements of junior women, Goldsmith lectureship helps them build their career and recognition.
• The award lecture contributes to the visibility of the researcher.
• The lectureship helps increase diversity of ITSoc and IEEE, as women are an under-represented group in both.
• IT Schools are supported both technically and financially.
Funding

- The following funding plan was prepared by Andrea, in consultation with the IEEE Foundation.
- Travel award up to $2K/year.
- The lectures will be established using Andrea’s Sumner Prize ($10K).
- Additional funds will be raised from corporate sponsors.
- Three levels of funding: $20K, $10K, and $5K.
Potential Donors

- Agilent
- China Mobile
- Ericsson
- Facebook
- Google
- Huawei
- IBM
- Intel
- Keysight
- Microsoft
- National Instruments
- Nokia
- Qualcomm
- Texas Instruments
Rationale

• Andrea worked with several of these companies during the organization of WCNC 2017 (she was a General Co-Chair) and has several contacts in each company.

• WCNC 2017 raised about $300K industrial funding, surpassing all previous WCNCs.

• Some companies already indicated interest in contributing.
Next Steps

- Society approval (motion in the next slide).
- Request for approval from IEEE Foundation VP of Development.
  - Chair: Vince Poor
- IEEE Foundation account set up.
- Open call: Fall 2019.
- First lecturer in 2020.
Motion

Approve IEEE Information Theory Society Goldsmith Lecturer