



$C = W \log(1 + \dots)$
IEEE Information Theory Society

President's Report

Michelle Effros

Board of Governors Meeting
La Jolla, CA
February 1, 2015

Welcome & Thanks

- Welcome 2015 class of BoG Members:
 - Helmut Bölcskei, Stephen Hanly, Ubli Mitra, Vince Poor, Aylin Yener, Wei Yu
- Welcome new officers:
 - Rudiger Urbanke (2VP), Daniela Tuninetti (Treasurer), Michael Langberg (Newsletter Editor)
- Many thanks to:
 - Abbas El Gamal for his service as President
 - Muriel Medard for her service as Senior Past President
 - Aylin Yener for her service as Treasurer
 - Tara Javidi for her service as Newsletter Editor
 - Matthieu Bloch for his service as Online Committee Chair
 - Continuing officers, committee members, members of the board

Congratulations

- IEEE Awards and Medals
 - Hamming Medal - Imre Csiszár
 - Mulligan Education Medal - Richard Baraniuk
 - Johnson Information Storage Systems Award - Simon Litsyn
 - Armstrong Achievement Award - Andrea Goldsmith
- IT Society Members who became IEEE Fellows in the class of 2015:
 - Jean Armstrong, Gerhard Bauch, Kristine Bell, Daniel Bliss, Christian Cachin, Ning Cai, Biao Chen, Merouane Debbah, Pingzhe Fan, Nihar Jindal, Young-Han Kim, David Love, Gianluca Mazzini, Krishna Narayanan, Aylin Yener, Wei Zhang,
- National Medal of Science - Tom Kailath

IT Society Administrator - Update

- BoG approval Fall 2014
- IEEE approval / job posting Winter 2014/15
- IEEE is concerned with the quality of the received applications
- Looking to create a full-time position by combining society position with position with IEEE or another society

State of the Society

- Finances sound with room for new initiatives (see Treasurer's report)
- Transactions continue their tradition of excellence (see EiC's report)
- Conferences are on track for 2015 - 2017. The venue for 2018 remains to be determined (see Conference Committee Chair's report)
- Society Membership grew by 4% in 2014
- The IT Society was awarded the 2014 IEEE Professional Development Award, which recognizes the Society's exemplary educational, mentoring, and member support services (e.g., mentor network, WITHITS, Student Committee, Schools, ...)

Priorities

- The Information Theory Society does a good job of fostering communication among its members
- We don't do as well at communicating beyond our own borders
- Outreach and education should extend beyond information theory community
- The Shannon Centennial (April 2016) is a great opportunity to start
- Let's not stop there...

Possible Activities

- Conference Committee — sub-committee to investigate the possibility of joint workshops with other communities
- Newsletter Editor — considering curating a series of articles by authors outside our community on topics with potential for mutual exploration
- Ad Hoc Committee currently being formed
 - Team up with science shows, blogs, authors, or the local press to highlight the past, present and future of information theory
 - Materials for Shannon Days around the globe
 - Educational materials for kids, teachers, and the broader public
- Roles for WITHITS (e.g., women in IT videos), Student (a great source of energy and ideas), and Outreach sub-committees