

Membership & Chapters Committee Report

Giuseppe Caire

October 10, 2009

1 Distinguished Lecturers Program

Despite an open call for nomination, summarizing the features and goals of the program and the profile of the “ideal” distinguished lecturer (DL), was posted on the ITsoc web and on the ITsoc. Newsletter, no external nomination or self-nomination was received. The M&C committee has then proceeded to nominating the following distinguished lecturers: **Amin Shokrollahi**, **Alon Orlitsky**, **Michael Gastpar** and **Sergio Verdú**. Other candidates have been approached by have declined the invitation, essentially due to possible problems in additional traveling connected to the DLP.

The committee will appoint one more DL before the end of 2009, and launch officially the “operational” phase of the program by creating a web-page in the ITsoc. web and by advertising the starting of the DLP to the ITsoc. Chapter Chairs.

2 Padovani Lecture

The 2009 Padovani Lecture held by Prof. **Abbas El Gamal** in the *2nd North American School of Information Theory*, in Evanston IL, August 10-13, 2009 was very well received and was a great success.

The committee will work in early 2010 to appoint the next Padovani Lecturer, whose lecture is tentatively planned for the *2010 North American School of Information Theory* (see next).

3 Information Theory Schools

- The *2009 North American School of Information Theory* was held on August 10-13, in Evanston IL (local organizing committee: Randall Berry, Dongning Guo, Daniela Tuninetti, Natasha Devroye, Yalin E. Sagduyu, Matthieu Bloch, with the coaching and supervision of Gerhard Kramer and Aylin Yener). More info on the school from Aylin and Gerhard ...

- The *2010 Annual North American School of Information Theory*, to be held at USC (Los Angeles). The organizing committee so far includes: Mike Neely, Alex Dimakis, Matthieu Bloch and, as usual, Aylin Yener and Gerhard Kramer.
- The *2011 Annual North American School of Information Theory*, will be held in the Houston area, either at Austin, A&M, or Rice, in Summer 2011 (tentative organizing committee: S. Vishwanath/K. Narayanan/A. Sabharwal).

4 Chapter activities

- The Chapter of the Year Award, 2009, was given to the Taipei Chapter and received by the Taipei Chapter chair at ISIT 2009. The chapter of the year award procedure, consisting in a sub-committee thorough pre-selection and an email vote by all M&C committee members worked very efficiently, and it is recommended that this will become a standard procedure.
- The yearly Chapters Lunch was held at ISIT 2009 on Thursday, July 2nd. The M&C committee members, ITsoc. officers and chapters' chairs were invited and many of them attended (great turnout!). Giuseppe Caire illustrated the DLP and Anand Sarwate (On-line committee) told the chapters' chairs about the space on the ITsoc. web dedicated to chapters' activities. **We clearly made the point that it is highly advisable that the chapters start using the IT web as their main tool to publicize their activities, such as invited lectures and distinguished lectures, and keep the good habit of updating their contact information on a regular basis.**

Furthermore, the chapters' chairs list and contact information was updated and cleaned-up, so that now we have an up-to-date mailing list.

5 Membership activities

After an initial misunderstanding that caused some delay, the free half-year ITsoc. membership included in ISIT 2009 registration was finally granted to all IEEE members non-ITsoc. members who registered to ISIT 2009.

It is recommended that if this initiative is repeated in future ISITs, some better automatic procedure for which the ISIT organizers transmit the registration database to the M&C committee chair immediately after ISIT is put in place, in order to avoid to rush after deadlines and risk to fail to award the promised half-year membership as it almost happened in 2009.

6 Year 2009 closing remarks from the Chair

Giuseppe Caire's term as ITsoc third VP and chair of the M&C committee will end in December 2009. Overall, the first year of activity of the M&C committee was successful, with the starting of the DLP , the update of the Chapters' database and ITsoc. web, and the more organized and centralized coordination of the IT schools.

The newly elected VP, Muriel Medard, will take over and carry on the M&C activities, to new and greater achievements. Giuseppe Caire wishes to express his more profound gratitude to all M&C committee members, and to express best wishes for a successful 2010 to Muriel.