



# Information Theory Society Awards Committee Report

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Chair: Andrea Goldsmith

*IT Society BOG Meeting  
Sept. 23, 2008  
UIUC  
Urbana-Champaign, IL*



# Summary of Activities

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- Coordinate with Comsoc on key changes to the Comsoc/ITSoc paper award
- Draft bylaw amendments for this award and the ISIT student paper award
- Work with other societies and the IEEE on re-establishing the Baker prize.



# IEEE Comsoc/ITSoc Joint Paper Award: Key Features

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- Official Name: IEEE Communications Society - Information Theory Society (Comsoc/ITSoc) Joint Paper Award
- Eligibility Window: The IEEE awards document describes a 3 year window for this award, which will be followed in future years.
- Awards Subcommittee: 3 members from Comsoc and 3 members from ITSoc, with 2 year staggered terms.
  - The chair will rotate between the societies (selected from these members or added?)
- Process: Nominations from ITSoc and Comsoc will be sent to the awards subcommittee, which will decide the winner(s).
  - The two-tiered process has been eliminated.
  - Should a paper be precluded from winning both awards?
- Award: \$500 and a plaque for each author (total cost  $\leq$ \$1000 /paper)



# Proposed Bylaws Amendment

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**Section 1.** The IEEE Communications Society - Information Theory Society Joint Paper Award (Comsoc/ITSoc joint paper award) shall be given annually for an outstanding paper appearing in any publication of the IEEE Communications Society or the IEEE Information Theory Society in the previous three calendar years. The Award consists of \$500 and a Plaque for each author (total cost not to exceed \$1,000 for each paper).

**Section 2.** The award winner shall be decided by a joint Comsoc/ITSoc awards committee, which shall consist of three members appointed by Comsoc and three members appointed by ITSoc. Members shall have a two year term with the term of half the members of each Society expiring in odd years and the term of the other half expiring in even years. The chairmanship of the committee shall alternate yearly between the Societies.

An open call for nominations to this award shall be published in the Newsletter with a deadline of March 1. The IT members of the joint Comsoc/ITSoc awards committee shall also be identified by March 1. A list of at least five nominations from the open call as well as internal nominations shall be forwarded to the chair of the joint committee. No paper selected for an IT paper award shall be eligible for the joint award, and no paper selected for the joint award shall be eligible for the IT award. Normally one paper would be selected but a maximum of two may be chosen in a given year. The committee also has the option of not selecting any award winning paper in a given year if they deem that no suitable papers have been nominated.

Notice of the winner is given to IEEE for preparation of plaques and checks on June 1. Winners are notified and given the option to select the ComSoc or ITSoc Symposium at which the award will be presented.



# ISIT Student Paper Award: Key Features

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- Eligibility: ISIT papers for which a student is the dominant contributor and presents the paper at ISIT.
- Process:
  - The ISIT TPC chairs will determine 10-25 top-ranked eligible papers from the reviewer scores, comments, and recommendations
  - 5-10 Finalists will be determined from these top-ranked papers by the awards committee
  - Finalists presentations will be scheduled for the first 3 days of ISIT. These presentations will be judged by the awards committee.
  - The awards committee will determine the winners of the award at ISIT based on the paper content and presentation.
  - The winners will be announced at the ISIT banquet.



# Proposed Bylaws Amendment

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## **Section 1.**

The ISIT Student Paper Award shall be given annually for one or more outstanding papers appearing in ISIT that year for which one or more students are the dominant authors. ISIT Papers are eligible for this award if (a) The first author is a registered student at the time of paper submission (or, in the case of alphabetical author order, a registered student is the dominant contributor) and (b) This student presents the paper at ISIT. The Award consists of \$500 (to be divided among the student authors of the paper) and a Plaque for each student author.

## **Section 2.**

The ISIT TPC shall forward to the awards committee chair a summary of review scores and reviewer comments of the top-ranked eligible papers by April 1. The awards committee shall select the finalist papers for the award by May 1 and notify the finalists and the TPC chairs. These papers shall be scheduled to be presented on the first three days of ISIT. These presentations shall be judged by the awards committee during the symposium. The award winning paper(s) shall be decided based on both the paper content and its presentation at the symposium, and the winner(s) announced there. Multiple awards can be given. The awards committee also has the option of not selecting any award winning paper in a given year if they deem that no papers merit the award.



# Baker Prize Status

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- In July we approved a motion to work with other societies to reinstate the historic W. R. G. Baker Prize Paper Award.
- We agreed to provide one member to the selection committee and to divide the cost with other societies (our share: ~\$5000 per year)
- A proposal written by IT and SP was submitted to the IEEE Awards Review Committee (ARC) and came back with only minor suggestions
- The IT, Signal Proc., Circuits/Systems, and Control societies have agreed to be financial co-sponsors
  - Comsoc will decide at their BOG meeting in November.
- The Computer, Computational Intelligence, and Vehic. Tech. societies have agreed to be technical co-sponsors.
- The IEEE Awards Board will review it next. Usually follow recommendation of the ARC.