

The 2019 IEEE Computer Society: Targeting Member Satisfaction and Technical Excellence

Cecilia Metra, 2019 IEEE Computer Society President

To better serve members, wherever geographically located, whichever language spoken, beyond gender and nationality; to enable the technical growth and professional advancement of each and every member; and to move the technical distinction of our Society to higher pinnacles in all activities and across the world—these are the objectives of the renewed 2019 IEEE Computer Society.

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Welcome to all readers of this article: both current members of the IEEE Computer Society (CS) and those of you who, while not yet a member, we hope will become one soon.

The CS traces its origins to the Subcommittee on Large-Scale Computing and the Professional Group on Electronic Computers, the former created in 1946 by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the latter in 1951 by the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE). When the AIEE and the IRE merged in 1963 to form the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), these two committees became the IEEE Computer Group. The group issued its constitution and bylaws in 1971, becoming the CS of today, with Prof. Ed McCluskey as its first president (for whom the IEEE CS Technical Achievement Award is named, beginning in 2019).

During the CS's 48 years of existence, our human society and technical environment have experienced a large number of changes and improvements, many still taking place



at a frenetic and pervasive rate. The CS, as the technical community of students, scientists, and professionals active in computer engineering worldwide, is keeping pace with the challenges of this rapidly evolving technical field. The CS is successfully helping to face these challenges by fostering collaboration among its 52,000 members around the world, through 480 professional and student branch Chapters, 210 sponsored international technical conferences, 31 technical publications, numerous educational programs, and involvement in more than 120 international standards.

MY OBJECTIVES AS PRESIDENT

Although the CS is at the forefront of promoting and enabling collaboration among its members, I believe that more can and should be done, especially 1) to satisfy and empower our members, wherever geographically located, whichever language is spoken, and beyond gender or nationality, and 2) to foster technical excellence in all of our activities. These are some of the objectives of my presidency, and they are also fundamental to addressing the financial sustainability that the CS is facing in its operations. Following the path undertaken by my predecessor (2018 IEEE CS President Hironori Kasahara), by the end of 2019, I expect the CS to be in a fiscal position to start growing again. Investment will be made in only those products and services that satisfy our members' needs and those programs that support our numerous and enthusiastic volunteers, who serve the Society in different roles from governance to operation in Chapters, conferences, publications, educational products, standards, and the like.

To clearly identify the interests and needs of our members, I will foster the creation of an evaluation process for CS services, to be performed by members as users of such services. This will be a starting point for future improvement and

development. Moreover, I will boost collaboration with other IEEE Societies and councils to share innovative projects and programs of common interest to members. I am also planning to focus more on the needs of CS members who live in diverse geographical areas. The Society already has staff members physically located on different continents to help in this endeavor, thus enabling us to devise and implement dedicated programs to be pursued at all levels of the CS worldwide.

Enhanced member satisfaction and services aimed at our passionate volunteers are the primary goals of my presidency, which I am sure we will be able to achieve through the work of our outstanding staff, led by our new and enthusiastic executive director, Melissa Russell.

Additionally, I will foster the growth of the CS as a technical community of the highest quality in all of its activities—publications, conferences, standards, educational products and services, and geographical activities—through which the professional growth of each and every member can be advanced. The Society must anticipate and meet the technical interests of its members and capitalize on a broad set of technical fields. This will be achieved by continuing to attract highly qualified members from both academia and industry to our boards and committees, thus providing a long-term and expert technical vision.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

As a first step toward meeting these goals, I have appointed, with the unanimous consent of the 2018 IEEE CS Board of Governors, the following technical experts and leaders to serve the 2019 CS in the following capacities.

- › Dr. Yervant Zorian is the 2019 vice president for member and geographic activities. Dr. Zorian is the chief architect and a fellow at Synopsys, president of Synopsys Armenia, and an IEEE Fellow.

- › Prof. William Gropp is the 2019 vice president for technical and conference activities. Prof. Gropp is the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and director and chief scientist with the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. He is also an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and IEEE Fellow.
- › Prof. Fabrizio Lombardi is the 2019 vice president for publications. Prof. Lombardi is the International Test Conference Endowed Chair at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Northeastern University, and an IEEE Fellow.
- › Dr. Kunio Uchiyama is the 2019 vice president for professional and educational activities. Dr. Uchiyama is the technology advisor at Hitachi, Ltd., and an Institute of Electronics, Information, and Communication Engineers and IEEE Fellow.
- › Dr. Riccardo Mariani is the 2019 vice president for standards activities. Dr. Mariani is the chief functional safety technologist and a fellow at Intel Corporation.
- › Prof. Dimitrios Serpanos is the 2019 treasurer. Prof. Serpanos is a professor with the University of Patras, Greece, and the director of the Industrial Systems Institute in Patras.
- › Prof. Sy-Yen Kuo is the 2019 assistant treasurer. Prof. Kuo is the Pegatron Chair professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan University, and an IEEE Fellow.

These outstanding volunteers add to the following extraordinary elected

volunteers to form the voting body of the 2019 IEEE CS Executive Committee and Financial Committee.

- › Prof. Hironori Kasahara is the 2018 past president. Prof. Kasahara is a professor with Waseda University, Japan, and an Information Processing Society of Japan and IEEE Fellow.
- › Prof. Leila De Floriani is the 2019 president-elect. Prof. De Floriani is a professor with the University of Maryland and an International Association for Pattern Recognition and IEEE Fellow.
- › Prof. Forrest Shull is the 2019 first vice president. Prof. Shull is with the Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute.
- › Prof. Avi Mendelson is the 2019 second vice president. Prof. Mendelson is a professor with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and an IEEE Fellow.
- › Dr. David Lomet is the 2019 secretary. Dr. Lomet is a Microsoft principal researcher and an ACM, AAAS, and IEEE Fellow.

All of these exceptional volunteers add to the remarkable group elected to constitute the 2019 Board of Governors as the guiding body of the 2019 CS.

MEMBER AND GEOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with the vice president for member and geographic activities, we will reinforce current awards and grant programs for young professionals and students. Particular attention will be devoted to the diverse needs of members belonging to each of the 480 CS professional and student branch Chapters to create programs of specific interest to them. We will also increase services and resources to volunteers serving the Society (Chapter chairs, awards chairs, and so on) and acknowledge their volunteer efforts. Moreover, we will foster inclusiveness among all CS members and volunteers,

beyond gender, geographical location, and native language.

TECHNICAL AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with the vice president for technical and conference activities, we will enable the adoption of innovative meeting features for members. We will also support an increase in the size of some conferences, thus maximizing meeting opportunities for our members' professional growth, and preserve smaller conferences with more personal interactions on particular technical topics of interest. In addition, we will establish specific content devoted to younger generations: focused, for instance, on professional development and work opportunities.

Moreover, we will improve the CS financial sponsorship model to meet newly encountered organizational and financial needs of conference organizers, sustaining this community as a first priority. Services and resources to Society volunteers (technical committee and council chairs, conference organizers, special technical community chairs, and so forth) will be improved, and volunteer efforts will be acknowledged.

PUBLICATIONS

In collaboration with the vice president for publications, we will boost the adoption of innovative communication media for enhanced interaction among members and improved dissemination. We will increase services and resources to volunteers of the Society (for example, reviewers and editors-in-chief) and will enhance the recognition of volunteer efforts. To boost quality, special issues and/or journals will focus on emergent and innovative technical areas. Quality will be a major driving force in publications to further improve the standing of the CS in the technical communities that are the basis of our membership.

PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES


In collaboration with the vice president for professional and educational

activities, we will reinforce current programs for young professionals to support their technical growth and advancement in their professional career. We will boost the continuous professional growth of our members in both academia and industry through specific lifelong learning programs, for instance, through summer schools and e-learning courses available to all members.

STANDARDS ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with the vice president for standards activities, we will foster the creation of new standards in emerging technical fields of growing interest for companies to satisfy the needs of our industrial members. We will also promote programs to make professionals aware of existing standards, thus improving technical and professional growth through innovation.

To conclude, the objectives of my presidency are to better serve members and move the technical distinction of our Society to higher pinnacles, in all activities and across the world. I am confident that, with the constructive collaboration of all current and future CS members, the enthusiasm of our numerous volunteers, and the work and dedication of our staff, we will achieve these goals together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions and feedback. You can reach me by email at cecilia.metra@unibo.it. 

CECILIA METRA is the 2019 IEEE Computer Society president. She is a professor and member of the Advanced Research Center on Electronic Systems, Bologna, Italy, and deputy president of the Engineering School at the University of Bologna. She is an IEEE Fellow, a CS Golden Core member, and a member of the IEEE honor society, Eta Kappa Nu.