

# Make Your Mark

**Jyotika Athavale** , IEEE Computer Society President

*IEEE Computer Society President, Jyotika Athavale, kicks off the New Year with an overview of the Society's priorities, and encourages members to make connections by engaging with the Society's many activities and offerings.*

It is said that the happiest people are those who are contributing to society. After all, our contributions are the glue that connects us to one another, and these connections become the binding energy that amplifies our collective impact. The IEEE Computer Society (CS) brings together volunteers who share a love of computing, so that as an organization we can create many opportunities for contributing, making connections, and truly amplifying a positive impact on the world around us.

We are fortunate to be living in an exciting age, on the brink of an extraordinary technological revolution. Because the role of computing is foundational to emerging technological initiatives, the CS is strategically positioned to foster innovation in this new compute continuum. Our community is a unique platform that helps us learn and grow from diverse skills and perspectives, and it enables

us to then develop and apply technology to improve global conditions (see "2024 Leadership Team").

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

With the kind support and energy of all of our membership and collabora-

tors, my goal this year is to focus on the following strategic areas.

#### Industry–Academia alliance

Promoting collaborative research between industry and academia to enable exploration, innovation, and development of commercial solutions to key technology challenges is a key opportunity for us. I look forward to engaging with our members to help mold the CS at this challenging time, when technological advancements are happening rapidly, so we can best serve the needs of a world that has been transformed by the pandemic. To thrive amid these changes, we will need to embrace the transformation, innovate, and adapt. By doing so, we will be able to foster rapid growth and progress.

Computing industries are facing many common and challenging complex technical issues, and these challenges cannot be solved by a single entity anymore. Various stakeholders in industry, academia, and government must come together and collectively work to



## 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM

**T**he CS cannot achieve this mission without the strong support of our volunteers, and so, first and foremost, I'd like to extend my warmest congratulations to the volunteer members of the newly elected executive team: Dr. Hironori Washizaki (president-elect), Dr. Grace Lewis (first vice president), and Dr. Nils Aschenbruck (second vice president), with whom I will work closely this year.

In addition, I am delighted to introduce our 2024 Executive Committee volunteer leadership, who have graciously committed to serve the CS in the following roles:

- » Dr. Cyril Onwubiko: Professional and Education Activities Board vice president
- » Dr. Edward Au: Standard Activities Board vice president
- » Dr. Jaideep Vaidya: Publications Board vice president
- » Ms. Terry Benzel: Technical and Conference Activities Board vice president
- » Mr. Darren Galpin: Treasurer (Finance Committee chair).
- » Ms. Mrinal Karvir: Secretary

address challenges, each entity offering its perspective and making its own unique contribution. Take the world of standardization for example: The community comes together to address common topics and problem statements that the industry is facing as a whole. The ability to bring these stakeholders together is the key strength of a technical society.

### Nurturing emerging technologies

With the ever-increasing pace of nascent technological advancements, we will need to proactively focus on driving initiatives for the inclusion of these technologies to enable the community with innovative technical content. My goal is to support the fruition of new ideas, such as launching new standardization initiatives, to foster innovation. In addition, we will nurture emerging technology initiatives across our key areas of activity: standards, publications, workshops, and conferences. To help address this topic, the CS will continue the Emerging Technology Fund,<sup>a</sup> which is meant to fuel innovative

programs that expand awareness and knowledge for our communities. We will also continue to proactively partner with other professional societies and government agencies to expeditiously introduce programs for the development and application of cutting-edge computing technologies.

### Empowering a key resource: Our volunteer base

I have recently had the honor of closely interacting with our student and early career professionals across various geographical regions. Their passion for volunteering to make an impact is inspiring. The energy and enthusiasm is infectious. I would like to ensure that the CS provides them with support and resources to allow them to amplify their impact via networking, skills development, and mentorship programs.

Today, the CS has strategic objectives designed to ensure a greater emphasis of support for engaging early career professionals. Our field keeps evolving and expanding and we truly believe that young professionals are coming into their positions with new and relevant skills to drive innovation at the intersection of numerous

disciplines. Their insights and new way of thinking will help advance our fields, and we want to ensure they have a seat at the table as we consider what's next, collaborate across fields, and shape the future of the computer science and engineering industry.

I am very grateful for the kind support of all of the new and experienced CS members across the globe who are so passionate about giving back to the community, inspiring the next generation of engineers, and contributing to the computing field by innovating, inventing, supporting, and sharing.

### NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVES

To support the abovementioned strategic focus areas across the CS, we would like to highlight several new and renewing initiatives this year, some of which are described below.

- » Climate change is a significant concern for IEEE, and we look forward to the launch of the IEEE SustainTech Expo and Leadership Forum<sup>b</sup> in August 2024.

<sup>a</sup><https://www.computer.org/communities/emerging-technology-fund>

<sup>b</sup><https://www.computer.org/resources/newsletters/sustain-tech>

We see a lot of opportunity in the sustainability space. This is a focus area of our technical communities, and within all of our conferences there is a strong sustainability theme. Research activity around sustainability continues to weave its way into all of our programs and publications.

- › We are taking steps to place a greater emphasis on facilitating connections between government, research, academia, and industry. Historically, these areas tended to work in compartmentalized ways, not cross-pollinating with one another. But as the use of computer science and engineering continues to expand, collaboration will be critical to developing efficient and effective solutions. Just look at how COVID-19 drew together all areas of research, academia, and government to put their minds and resources together to solve a global problem. That work led to vaccines, medicines, and other solutions, and that type of collaboration will continue into the future.
- › Our goal as the CS is to continue serving as a facilitator and ensuring we're drawing industry into the discussions. To continue to drive technical innovation and invite further participation and collaboration with our industry stakeholders, we plan to inaugurate two new events this year that will focus on the innovation in reliability, availability, and serviceability for server and automotive use cases. These events will serve to spearhead activities in standardization, conferences, and publications in this important technology area, in close collaboration with industry and academic institutions. We will use our findings and success stories from recent standardization

efforts in functional safety (for example, the ongoing IEEE P2851 standardization initiative and other standards working groups within the CS Functional Safety Standards Committee) to fuel these initiatives.

- › To energize our chapter activities across the globe, we will launch a face-to-face event in June 2024 with chapter representatives across geographical regions, to facilitate the cross-pollination and exchange of ideas.
- › At the beginning of 2023, we issued a Technology Predictions Report<sup>c</sup> that spoke to the trends we envisioned would be at the forefront for the year. We held a deep dialogue, and ultimately the team identified 19 different technologies important to the evolution of our field this year, with a focus on impact to humanity. The findings in the report were insightful and informative as we shared the results across chapters and communities. The plan is to continue this effort for drafting a Technology Predictions Report in 2024 as well. To further drive and support technological innovation, we want to further strengthen our ties with the IEEE Future Directions Committee. Our collaboration with the IEEE Future Directions Committee on the Metaverse Initiative<sup>d</sup> in 2023 is an example of this.
- › Last but certainly not least is our continued focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The scientific community greatly values diverse thinking. Questioning knowledge from a variety of perspectives is what leads to scientific and engineering breakthroughs. So, it only comes

naturally to us to invest in programs that further encourage a wide range of perspectives. The CS stood up a Diversity and Inclusion Fund<sup>e</sup> as part of the IEEE Foundation to support these efforts, and the organization has already invested US\$750,000, and has committed to ongoing financial and programmatic support of these initiatives. To that point, much of our Diversity and Inclusion Fund work seeks to reach underserved populations, minority students, and diverse geographies. We invite the community to submit proposals for funding when our call for proposals opens in the summer. And they can always monetarily contribute to the Diversity and Inclusion Fund via the IEEE Foundation. Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee has several new members this year and I look forward to their ideas and initiative on this very important topic.

### INSPIRATION FOR ALL

Growing and retaining our membership is part of our continued and ongoing efforts. By focusing on providing mentorship, training, and development for students and young professionals, we can provide immense value to the future of our field along with a pathway to a lifetime affiliation to the Society. Together, we can work on strategic initiatives and programs to help students as they transition into early career professionals, and for all stages of their career thereon. My goal is to strive to deliver on the promise of our value proposition, and to develop and empower our volunteers such that the CS continues to be inclusive to engage the community more holistically.

Each day I witness the drive to make social impact, disseminate information, reduce the digital divide, and

<sup>c</sup><https://www.computer.org/press-room/2023-news/technology-predictions-for-2023-released-ieee>

-computer-society-experts-gauge-the-future-of-tech


<sup>d</sup><https://metaversereality.ieee.org/about>

<sup>e</sup><https://www.computer.org/about/diversity-inclusion/project-proposals>

democratize technology for one and all. I am grateful for all of the energy and initiative to provide greater access and upskill people who are underprivileged, raise awareness, and focus on education for those who have been underserved. I have no doubt that our whole community feels the passion and desire to ensure science, technology, and engineering are accessible to the worldwide community. No one should lack access or knowledge because of their country of origin, gender, or socioeconomic status. We also have a broad set of efforts focused on science, technology, engineering, and math education at the primary and secondary school levels. We want to ensure that we're empowering the computer scientists and engineers of the future to follow their passions and think not about what is today, but what can be.

We greatly value your input and ideas, and I am excited to work together with all of you to foster and support technological innovation and be the leading provider of technical information and services to the world's computing professionals. Please reach out with your thoughts and ideas, I look forward to hearing from you.

I am honored and humbled to have this opportunity to serve you as president of the IEEE Computer Society, and I am confident that with all of our collective efforts, we will continue to grow the Society and humbly serve our computer science and engineering community as the leading provider of technical information, community services, and personalized services to the world's computing professionals. If you are not already a member,

I encourage you to join and seek out the programs that support all of us. It's not just about conferences and publications; it's about growing the next generation of computer scientists and engineers and making our world a better place in the process. I am excited for all of the progress we have made, the opportunities that continue to arise, and all that is still to come. The future of our field is bright. So, let's continue to inspire and innovate, and together we can change the world. 

**JYOTIKA ATHAVALE** is the 2024 IEEE Computer Society president and director, RAS Architecture at Synopsys, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, USA. Contact her at [jjyotika@synopsys.com](mailto:jjyotika@synopsys.com).

# ICCQ

The 4th International Conference  
on **Code Quality**

[www.iccq.ru](http://www.iccq.ru)

CfP closes on **18 Feb**

In cooperation with  
IEEE Computer Society

Bug Detection  
Program Analysis  
Software Maintenance

