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Time Flies!

Time really flies! It seems, it was not long back when I wrote my first message as the President of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS). In reality, a year has gone! I hope that you all had a happy, healthy, productive, and peace-filled 2018. But in life for many of us due to various reasons things do not always happen the way we want them to. We need to take those as compliments and lessons for the future. Nevertheless, I can certainly and sincerely wish and hope you to have a great 2019. Let the year 2019 bring you all happiness and help you achieve all your unfulfilled goals. For CIS the year 2018 was a successful one. The IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence, WCCI 2018, held in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, was very successful. It was very well attended. Apart from the academic program comprising WCCI-level plenary talks, conference level keynote talks, regular and special sessions, we had very exciting panel discussions including one in memory of Prof. Lotfi Zadeh, the father of fuzzy logic. In addition, there were industry forum and different receptions including one on Women in Computational Intelligence (WCI). WCCI 2018 had a packed "heavy-duty" academic program, but the organizers realized, "All work and no play is not good for the soul" (Felix Sabates). They organized an excellent banquet program. I believe, most participants, like I, were surprised to see the sudden appearance of a very lively "samba-dance" troupe giving us an exciting and rhythmical performance. This made everyone happy and energized many to share the floor with the skilled troupe.

The CIS is a member-centric society that always works for the benefits of its members. Our members play a key role in advancing computational intelligence technology. The young researchers and undergraduates are the future leaders. Keeping their needs in mind, I am very glad to share that we have extended the scope of our Distinguished Lecture program to accommodate mentoring of young researchers and special talks for undergraduate students. Now when a Distinguish Lecturer (DL) visits a chapter, local young researchers may take this opportunity of interacting with the DL to discuss their research problems and get useful suggestions/guidance. In addition to the distinguished lecture, now the Chapter can also organize a special talk by the DL for undergraduate students of nearby universities/institutes or for local industries. This is likely to promote computational intelligence (CI) among the undergraduates. In line with the IEEE level Member-Get-a-Member (MGM) Referral program, we are planning to have a CIS MGM referral program. The CIS-MGM program will give an opportunity to a CIS member to share his/her rewarding experience of joining CIS to a friend/colleague and motivate him/her to join CIS. Through this referral, one can earn awards that can be used to pay for his/her CIS membership dues.

In order to have a better interaction with our members and others who are interested in CI and CIS, and to share information in a more effective manner, we have launched our new website in October 2018. The address of the website remains the same:

Some are just having fun and some are in serious discussion at the banquet!

After having a great evening at the WCI Reception!

https://cis.ieee.org. If you have any suggestions/comments about it, please do let us know via email at cis-info@ieee.org.

It is a great pleasure for me to inform that in 2018, our transactions have cleared their backlogs publishing additional pages. Our transactions continue to maintain high quality reviews, and very healthy submission-to-first-review and submission-to-Epub statistics. The most recent impact factors of our journals are very high. For example, the Transactions on Fuzzy Systems has an impact factor 8.415, Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems has 7.982, while TEVC enjoys an impact factor of 8.124. Our Computational Intelligence Magazine is also a top ranker with an impact factor of 6.611. Please submit all your good papers to CIS sponsored and co-sponsored publications.

As a part of our outreach initiatives, like other years, in 2018 we organized three very successful workshops in Sydney, Canberra, and Delhi. Each of these was very well attended. In these workshops CIS Executive Committee (ExCom) members gave talks on advanced CI technologies. In some of these events, speakers from nearby organizations/institutes were also invited to deliver lectures which gave a better opportunity to establish a stronger relationship with the local scientific community.

This year, the 2019, is also going to be an eventful year – many events are planned. I look forward to meeting you in one of our conferences or other events.