groups and facilitating their collaborations through well planned, organized, and attended activities. In 2017 alone, the Chapter organized the robotics speaker series and invited professionals and scholars in robotics and automation to give talks and workshops to industry and academia. The Chapter co-led and hosted the 2016 IEEE Region 1 Student Conference at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, and organized the conference's panel discussion on open software and hardware in robotics.

For the Chapter, one very important component of the REP is to educate and engage the younger generation and our community through competitions, workshops, and projects. In 2017, the Chapter was actively involved in robotics competitions such as Zero Robotics, VEX, FIRST, and Firefighting robots as the organizer, referee, or participant. The Chapter provided a dozen robotics workshops at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Scratch conference, local libraries, schools, universities,

and maker fairs. Collaborating with the MIT space system's lab, the Chapter hosted the Zero Robotics summer program in 2017 to teach middle schoolers how to program a code to move a satellite inside the International Space Station. Engaging REP volunteers in the fall of 2017, the Chapter developed a scanning robot to assist a local library in scanning photos. During the spring and fall semesters of 2017, the Chapter helped a local school develop projects on an open-source robot platform.

2018 IEEE Robotics and Automation Award Recipient Announced

Heartfelt congratulations to Matthew T. Mason, the selected recipient of the prestigious 2018 IEEE Robotics and Automation Award for "scientific and educational contributions to the mechanics of manipulation enabling real-world robot autonomy, and for leadership in robotics." He will receive this award during the 2018 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) in Madrid, Spain, on 1–5 October 2018.

Mason's contributions to advancing the mechanics of grasping and manipulation are essential to enabling robots to physically interact with the world. He is a proponent of minimalism in robotic manipulation, and his innovative think-

ing has provided simple solutions that have allowed robots to perform sophisticated tasks, such as in parts feeders used for automatic assembly and packaging. He established the geometrical and mechanical foundations for robotic manipulation, and he pioneered pushing and planar sliding as important processes in manipulation.

As founder of Carnegie Mellon University's Manipulation Lab, Mason supervised the development of the origami-folding robot, desktop mobile manipulators; scale-invariant grasping, throwing, striking, and regrasp; and the use of simple single actuator. He was also a key architect of the Robotics Roadmap that led to the National Robotics Initia-

Matthew T. Mason.

tive. An IEEE Fellow, Mason is a professor of computer science and robotics at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Award was established in 2002 by the IEEE Board of Directors and is presented for contributions in the field of robotics and automation. It includes but is not limited to manufacturing automation; robotics and automation in unstructured environments; sensor design; integration and fusion; robot design, modeling, planning and control; methodologies for robotics and automation; and the quality of the nomination. This award is sponsored by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society.