

# The Beauty of In-Person Meetings



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**T**his past summer, at the end of June, I was privileged to attend my first IEEE International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS'13) as SSIT's President. It was an honor to open the conference.

I also was particularly pleased to meet in person so many fascinating SSIT members whom I'd only known previously from emails and Facebook discussions. I remember an especially great conversation about society's changing conception of privacy that I had with past SSIT President Janet Rochester, T&S Managing Editor Terri Bookman, and some other long-time SSIT-ers.

This is, of course, exactly why we have conferences. I'm very proud of how SSIT's virtual presence

has grown in the last year (check out our Facebook and LinkedIn groups at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/324644704262132/> and <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/IEEE-SSIT-1790357> if you haven't already!). But I am also in awe of our ability to come together in person to discuss new technologies and the questions they present for our society as a whole. These meetings are a wonderful privilege.

The topic of wearable computing was fascinating and I want to thank Ryan Janzen, Steve Mann, Katina Michael, and the other conference organizers for creating such a great event.

On a related note, I was very pleased to hear from the U.K. and Republic of Ireland Chapter that they are re-forming after a period of dormancy. It's been great to see the renewed interest in SSIT chapters of late – like conferences, they are a wonderful way to meet other members and gain new perspectives.

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## SSIT Online Resources

- SSIT Website – <http://www.ieeessit.org/>
- How to Join SSIT – <http://ieeessit.org/about.asp?Level2ItemID=2>
- IEEE Technology and Society Magazine – [http://ieeessit.org/technology\\_and\\_society/](http://ieeessit.org/technology_and_society/)
- ISTAS Conferences – <http://www.ieeessit.org/conferences.asp?Level2ItemID=18>
- IEEE SSIT blog – <http://socialimplicationsoftech.wordpress.com/>
- LinkedIn – [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=1790357&trk=anet\\_ug\\_hm](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=1790357&trk=anet_ug_hm)
- Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/groups/324644704262132>

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