Message from the Outgoing Editor-in-Chief: Farewell Message

After serving as the Editor-in-Chief for the past three years, I am very pleased to turn over the editorial torch to Dr. Yi Qian who served as the Associate Editor-in Chief during this time. Dr. Qian has been a long-time IEEE volunteer and has all the experience needed to bring this magazine to a new level. I am very pleased that he has accepted my invitation to share his future vision of the magazine in this farewell message. Before this, however, I would like to briefly reflect on the past three years.

Hamid Gharavi

As Special Issues (SIs) and Feature Topics (FTs) continue to play a dominant role in publishing seminal articles that herald the trends and state-of-the-art coverage of emerging wireless technologies and fifth generation (5G) standards, my prime objective has been to solicit and select timely proposals from well-known researchers in these fields. Considering the fact that our Guest Editors are among the most well-accomplished researchers in their SI/FT proposed topics, some may not actually have experience in editorial activities. Therefore, to ensure that papers have been handled uniformly and with the outmost professionalism, I have prepared a comprehensive guideline for Guest Editors. The main purpose has been to ensure that the review process is handled in an expeditious manner and that Editors are clear and well versed in processing papers.

For each SI/FT we normally receive a large number of submissions (40–70). Due to our page limit constraint, I had to impose strict limits on the number of papers that we could include in each issue in order to make more room for open call papers. For this reason, our Guest Editors have had to face a serious dilemma of not being able to use all high-quality papers — despite positive feedback from reviewers. To accommodate high-quality SI/FT papers, as well as reduce the backlog of open call papers, we increased our page budget from 600 to 800, and this year I have requested an increase to 1000. However, reducing our backlog is not the only measure of the importance of a journal/magazine. I am very pleased that the publication impact factor of this magazine has been steadily rising from 4.148 in 2015 to 9.202 in 2017, and I am confident this trend will continue for years to come.

Our success would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our Editorial Board members and our reviewers. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our Guest Editors for their tireless efforts in handling large numbers of submissions constrained by strict deadlines. As a result, every SI and FT has been published without delay and according to the original schedules.

My foremost gratitude goes to the IEEE staff, particularly Joseph Milizzo, Peggy Kang (the former managing editor), and Jennifer Porcello for their administrative support. I am also very thankful to our column editors for providing timely articles in wireless communications. I also would like to pay tribute to Professor Hsiao-Hwa Chen, the previous EiC, for his excellent job and his continued support during my tenure as the EiC. Lastly, I would like to thank the current and past VP Publications and the Directors of Magazines. In particular, I would like to thank Steve Gorshe, the Director of Magazines at the time, who appointed me to serve as the Editor-in-Chief for this prestigious magazine.

Biography

HAMID GHARAVI (hamid.gharavi@nist.gov) received his Ph.D. degree from Loughborough University, United Kingdom, in 1980. He joined the Visual Communication Research Department at AT&T Bell Laboratories, Holmdel, New Jersey, in 1982. He was then transferred to Bell Communications Research (Bellcore) after the AT&T-Bell divestiture, where he became a consultant on video technology and a Distinguished Member of Research Staff. In 1993, he joined Loughborough University as a professor and chair of communication engineering. Since September 1998, he has been with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, Gaithersburg, Maryland. He was a core member of Study Group XV (Specialist Group on Coding for Visual Telephony) of the International Communications Standardization Body CCITT (ITU-T) and a member of the IEEE 2030 standard working group. His research interests include smart grid, wireless multimedia, mobile communications and wireless systems, mobile ad hoc networks, and visual communications. He holds eight U.S. patents and has over 150 publications related to these topics. He received the Charles Babbage Premium Award from the Institute of Electronics and Radio Engineering in 1986, and the IEEE CAS Society Darlington Best Paper Award in 1989. He was the recipient of the Washington Academy of Science Distinguished Career in Science Award for 2017. He served as a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Communications Society. He has been a Guest Editor for a number of Special Issues of *Proceedings of the IEEE*, including Smart Grid, Sensor Networks and Applications, Wireless Multimedia Communications, Advanced Automobile Technologies, and Grid Resilience. He was a TPC Co-Chair for IEEE SmartGridComm in 2010 and 2012. He served as a member of the Editorial Board of *Proceedings of the IEEE* from January 2003 to December 2008. From January 2010 to December 2013 he served as Editor-in-Chief of *IEEE Transactions on CAS for Video Technology*.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We have witnessed over the past decade or so an unprecedented growth in the demand for providing more wireless communication infrastructures and more popular wireless communication services. In the meantime, research paper publication is becoming more and more competitive in the field of wireless communications. During the last few years, with the strong leadership and great efforts of the past Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Hamid Gharavi, *IEEE Wireless Communications* has reached a remarkable achievement with an impact factor of 9.202 as of June 25, 2018, one of the highest among all the publications in the communications and network areas in the world. After serving as a Technical Editor for *IEEE Wireless Communications* from April 2012 to June 2015, and as Associate Editor-in-Chief since July 2015, as the new Editor-in-Chief of *IEEE Wireless Communications* starting now, I will identify emerging technical areas in wireless communications, promoting new areas in *IEEE Wireless Communications* by organizing Feature Topics/Special Issues in a timely manner; promote industry participation in Special Issues on new wireless technologies, standards, and practices; work more closely with Editorial Board members and Guest Editors to improve the paper review process by shortening the turnaround time of submitted papers; provide strong support and mentorship for junior researchers to get involved in the magazine's Editorial Board and as reviewers to benefit their career progression and professional development; improve the reviewers' database for the magazine; and keep the magazine at the highest quality and impact. I look forward to working with the authors, reviewers, editors, and ComSoc support staff to maintain the magazine's highest standards and for further growth.

Yi Qian

BIOGRAPHY

YI QIAN (yi.qian@unl.edu) is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Prior to joining UNL, he worked in the telecommunications industry, academia, and the government. Some of his previous professional positions include serving as a senior member of scientific staff and a technical advisor at Nortel Networks, a senior systems engineer and a technical advisor at several startup companies, an assistant professor at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, and a senior researcher at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. His research interests include wireless communications, networks, and systems; mobile wireless ad hoc and sensor networks; computer networks; smart grid communication infrastructures; information assurance and network security; and big data and cloud computing. He was the Chair of the IEEE Communications Society Technical Committee for Communications and Information Security from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015. He was the Technical Program Chair for IEEE ICC 2018. He is a Distinguished Lecturer for the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society and IEEE Communications Society.