Nominate an IEEE Fellow Today!

IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership of the IEEE. It honors members with an outstanding record of technical achievements, contributing importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science, and technology and brings significant value to society.

Around this time (late November), the new class of IEEE Fellows is announced. Hopefully, the list contains many names familiar to you. If not, then perhaps it is a good idea to nominate someone yourself! Anyone can be a nominator (no need to be an IEEE Fellow, or even an IEEE Member). The nomination deadline is 1 March, and all required information (and an "electronic" nomination kit) can be obtained from www.ieee.org/fellows. Please note that the nominee must be an IEEE Senior Member or IEEE Life Senior Member in good standing, who has been a member for five years or more preceding 1 January of the elevation year. Self-nominations are not permitted.

The IEEE and the Signal Processing Society (SPS) would like to put some emphasis on

- underrepresented regions (e.g., Latin America, China, India)
- underrepresented categories (technical leader, educator, application engineer), as described below.

SOME TIPS FOR NOMINATORS

Each year, the SPS receives about 60 nominations, and IEEE a total of around 800. About 300 of the 800 nominations are successful. While all pertinent information can be obtained from public IEEE Web sites (see in particular http://www.ieee.org/documents/fellow_

operations_manual.pdf), we would like to give some hints to improve the chances that a nomination will be successful.

It helps to understand the elaborate review process. Nominations first obtain a technical evaluation by a relevant Society Fellow Reference Committee. This results in a rank ordering (numerical grade) and brief essays (150–200 words) regarding the following questions:

1) *What are the technical contributions?* These can also be the development or application of products, systems, facilities, services, or software. List no more than two and focus on outstanding, innovative, and creative contributions.

2) *What is the evidence supporting the claims?* These are usually published papers, patents, standards, developed courses, and textbooks. Further evidence can be awards and the number of citations to publications but can also be news reports, Web sites, etc. that discuss the work of the candidate.

3) *What is the importance of the contribution?* What is its lasting impact on society?

The essays, rank ordering, and score go to the IEEE-Level Fellow Committee. The committee is partitioned into small groups, and the nomination forms are randomly distributed in the groups. Each nomination is then scored on four categories. The Society score and rank ordering is one category, but it counts for only 25% of the total. The main category is technical accomplishment (40%). Since the jury groups are certainly nonexperts, they will base themselves mostly on the Society Committee essays, so these play an important role. The remaining categories are the attached references letters

from five to eight IEEE Fellows (15%), professional activities (10%), and years in the profession (10%).

From this process, it is important to realize that the majority of reviewers are nonexperts on the work of a nominee. Nomination forms should be written with this in mind! Focus on clear, tangible contributions and evidence, and do not forget to discuss their impact on society. Clear essays by the Society Committees are very important as well they help the committee members by making the required input for these essays readily (and compactly) available on the nomination form.

The Society Committees do not see the reference letters, as these go directly to the IEEE-Level Fellow Committee. Thus, these letters should be written to impress nonexperts. The stature of the referee should be briefly pointed out as well.

Finally, while many of us are familiar with nominations related to outstanding academic contributions (these go into the category "research engineer/scientist"), there are three other submission categories with equal recognition:

- *Educator*: e.g., for writing an accepted and widely used pioneering textbook, or for the development of a new curriculum or courses that are innovative or unique (with lasting impact on engineering education)
- *Application Engineer/Practitioner*: for product, process, or standards development, for significant technical contributions in the design and evolution into manufacturing of products or systems
- *Technical Leader*: responsible for a managerial, team, or company-wide effort using technical innovation, and

[dates **AHEAD**]

Please send calendar submissions to:
Dates Ahead, c/o Jessica Barragué,
IEEE Signal Processing Magazine
445 Hoes Lane,
Piscataway, NJ 08855 USA,
e-mail: j.barrague@ieee.org
(Colored conference title indicates
SP-sponsored conference.)

2012

[**DECEMBER**]

**2012 IEEE International Workshop
on Genomic Signal Processing and
Statistics (GENSIPS)**
2–4 December, Washington, D.C.
General Chair: Yue Wang
General Cochairs: Yidong Chen and
Stephen Wong

**Fourth IEEE Workshop on Spoken
Language Technology (SLT)**
2–5 December, Miami, Florida.
General Cochairs: Ruhi Sarikaya and Yang Liu
URL: http://www.slt2012.org/

2013

[**APRIL**]

**IEEE 10th International Symposium
on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI)**
7–13 April, San Francisco, California.
URL: http://www.biomedicalimaging.org/

[**MAY**]

**2013 IEEE International Conference
on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal
Processing (ICASSP)**
26–30 May, Vancouver, Canada.
General Chairs: Rabab Ward and Li Deng
URL: http://www.icassp2013.com/

[**JUNE**]

**14th IEEE International Workshop
on Signal Processing Advances in
Wireless Communications**
16–19 June, Darmstadt, Germany.
General Cochairs: Abdelhak Zoubir
and Slawomir Stanczak
URL: www.spawc2013.org

[**JULY**]

**2013 IEEE International
Conference on Multimedia
and Expo (ICME)**
21–26 July, San Jose, California.
URL: http://www.ieee-icme.org/index.php

[**DECEMBER**]

**2013 Fifth International Workshop
on Computational Advances
in Multisensor Adaptive
Processing (CAMSAP)**
15–18 December, Saint Martin, France.
General Cochairs: Aleksandar Dogandži
and Martin Haardt
URL: http://www.stevens.edu/camsap2013/

2014

[**APRIL**]

**IEEE International Conference on
Acoustics, Speech, and Signal
Processing (ICASSP)**
25–30 April, Florence, Italy.
URL: http://www.icassp2014.org/

[**MAY**]

**2014 IEEE International
Symposium on Biomedical
Imaging (ISBI)**
5–9 May, Beijing, China.

[**JULY**]

**2014 IEEE International
Conference on Multimedia
and Expo (ICME)**
21–25 July, Chengdu, China.
URL: http://www.ieee-icme.org/index.php

[**OCTOBER**]

**2014 IEEE International
Conference on Image
Processing (ICIP)**
26–29 October, Paris, France.
URL: http://www.ieeeicip.org/

[society **NEWS**]

resulting in outstanding performance, economic enhancements, or other advantages to benefit society.

In each case, the contributions are to be judged on the basis of uniqueness, innovation, and wide acceptance. For the latter categories, it is important that the nominator points out clearly what the individual's technical contribution was to a group effort. In addition, you should add what were the specific technical contributions that the nominee made, which made the achievement possible.

Please submit your nomination no later than 1 March. Again the online nomination form can be found at http://elektra.ieee.org/fellows/fellowno.nsf. Questions on the IEEE Fellow nomination process should be sent to fellows@ieee.org.

There are many deserving members in the SPS. We encourage you to help them get the recognition that comes with being an IEEE Fellow.

John Treichler
SPS Vice President-Awards
and Membership
Alle-Jan van der Veen
Chair, SPS Fellow Reference Committee
[**SP**]