

From the Incoming Editor-in-Chief

JANUARY 2018

Dear AESS Magazine Readers,

As Sabrina indicates in her editorial, I'm taking over as Editor-in-Chief (EIC). I've had the pleasure of working for her these last three years as her Associate EIC, and I look forward to continuing with her as my boss in her new role as VP for Publications.

Teresa Pace guided the *Magazine* for the three years before Sabrina, and I know you will agree that its improvement in her time – quality of articles, relevance, even its look and feel – was marked. Teresa deserves much applause. Sabrina also should be proud of the continued upward trend, and I'd particularly like to call out the excellent special issues, the increased selectivity, and the institutionalization of editorial procedures whose need only became apparent when the “mass” of good content became critical. The EIC position is a volunteer job, but Sabrina and Teresa were professionals in all ways but pay.

I hope when my term ends some good things can be said of me as well. In my opinion the *Magazine* is perhaps the most important physical return we can give to you, our members, in return for your support *as* members. That you pick the *Magazine* up from your desk and actually *read* it is why authors are interested in writing for it. I'd be very happy to hear about how to improve it. I've got some ideas, and I'll share them with you next month.

In this issue there is an article from UC London and the International Space University in Houston describing a large-scale planning effort aimed at defense against (natural) threats from space. An article from the Warsaw University of Technology explains the role and efficacy of passive multi-site radar for amateur rocket tracking. The study of *focus-before-detect* (FBD) radar systems, by a multi-continent team (China, Italy, & the USA), continues from September in the second of two parts. And a team from Iran describes research in software-in-the-loop (SITL) systems for UAVs. We also have some special items: a Student Highlight from the University of Toulouse, a welcoming message from new AESS President Giuseppe (Joe) Fabrizio, and a report on the Pioneer Award to Dr. Yakov Shifrin.

In closing, I see that Sabrina has given us photos of herself both before and after her term as *Systems* EIC. I think she looks great in both. Here is my “before” from three years ago, and my “after” now.

—Peter K. Willett

Me three years ago.



Me now, beginning my term as EIC.