LINDA BAILEY HAYDEN

Prof. Sebastiano B. Serpico: Modeling the Important Impact of Research on Education

Selected by an independent major awards committee and approved by IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) President Prof. Paolo Gamba and the GRSS Administrative Committee, the GRSS Education Award was presented to IEEE Fellow Sebastiano Bruno Serpico (Figure 1). "Congratulations to Professor Serpico on this well-deserved award, which recognizes his outstanding contribution to the teaching of remote sensing," said Josée Lévesque, chair of the GRSS Education Committee.

Prof. Serpico epitomizes the important impact of research on education. His work has provided learning and publication opportunities for dozens of students (Figure 2). As the head of Image Processing and Pattern Recognition for the Polytechnic School of the University of Genoa Remote Sensing for Environment and Sustainability Lab, he has hosted several visiting professors in addition to working with masters, Ph.D., and postdoctoral students. He has supervised more than 70 M.Sc. degree students and many Ph.D. students, some of whom have continued their research activities in remote sensing and become well-known experts in the scientific community.

THE GRSS EDUCATION AWARD WAS ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING.

Prof. Serpico received his laurea (M.S.) degree in electronic engineering and his Ph.D. degree in telecommunications from the University of Genoa, Italy. He is a full professor of telecommunications at the Polytechnic School of the University of Genoa and a member of the university's Academic Senate. He teaches courses in

FIGURE 1. Prof. Sebastiano Serpico (right) receives the GRSS Education Award from GRSS President Prof. Paola Gamba.

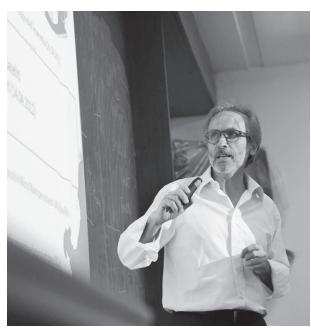**FIGURE 2.** Prof. Serpico instructs his students.

FIGURE 3. Prof. Serpico delivers a lecture.

the areas of remote sensing, pattern recognition, and telecommunications (Figure 3). He has also taught courses at the University of Cagliari and the University of Trento. His current research interests focus mainly on pattern recognition for remote sensing image analysis.

Prof. Serpico provided strategic contributions for the foundation and management of two engineering programs: one in telecommunications engineering and the other in engineering for natural risk management. From May 2003 to April 2019, he was chair of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Information and Communication Technologies. Other important roles include project manager for numerous research projects and evaluator of project proposals for various European Union, Italian Space Agency, and Italian Ministry of Education and Research programs. He is the author (or coauthor) of more than 250 scientific articles published in journals and conference proceedings. He received the Best Paper Award at the 2010 IEEE Workshop on Hyperspectral Image and Signal Processing and the Interactive Symposium Paper Award at the 2016 IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS). He is an associate editor of *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (*TGRS*) and was a guest editor of two special issues of *TGRS* and one special issue of *Proceedings of the IEEE*. From 1998 to 2002, he was chair of the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers/EUROPTO conferences on signal and image processing for remote sensing, and he served as cochair of IGARSS 2015 in Milan, Italy.

GRSS EDUCATION AWARD

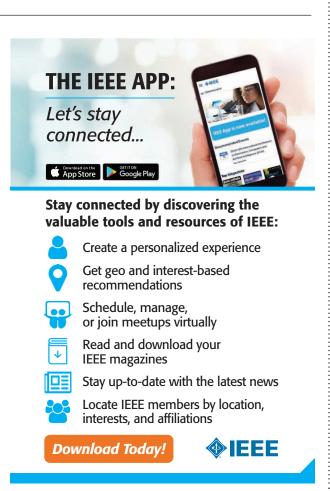The GRSS Education Award was established to recognize an individual who has made significant educational contributions to the field of geoscience and remote sensing. In selecting an individual, factors considered are the significance and innovativeness of the educational contribution and the extent of its overall impact. The contribution can be made at any level, including K–12, undergraduate and graduate teaching, professional development, and public outreach. It can also be in any form (e.g., textbooks, curriculum development, or education program initiatives). GRSS membership or affiliation is required. The awardee receives a certificate and plaque.

The 2019 GRSS Education Award certificate presented to Prof. Serpico included the citation "in recognition of his outstanding educational contributions to geoscience and remote sensing." Educators agree that, through research, students develop critical thinking expertise as well as effective analytical and communication skills that are in demand worldwide.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

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