Remarkable Careers and High-Achieving Communities

The phrase “If I have seen further, it is only because I have stood on the shoulders of giants” is attributed to Sir Isaac Newton. To paraphrase, we of the present generation see further thanks to the insights of those who have come before us. To make progress building on the work of earlier generations, we need the contributions of our high-achieving contemporaries who lead us to further discoveries that enhance our understanding and enable the development of new results to make the world better for those in the days to come.

Scanning the previous issues of IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Magazine reveals that the promise to celebrate excellence among us is being fulfilled by publishing articles that focus on the achievements of individuals whose work influenced specific areas of our field. The July 2018 issue included a tribute column celebrating the life of Lotfi A. Zadeh, father of fuzzy logic, who recently passed away. Thank you to the panel of prominent members of our community, led by Prof. Mo Jamshidi, for a job well done.

Many of our members have distinguished themselves by innovative contributions in academic and technical areas. Thanks to the leadership of Prof. Choon Ki Ahn, the July 2018 issue also featured a six-page feature article that recognized the technical contributions of Peng Shi. Shi is a highly regarded professor at the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of the University of Adelaide, Australia.

The January 2019 issue included a special section honoring the work of systems, man, and cybernetics (SMC) visionaries. György Eigner organized the feature article that celebrated the contributions of Imre Rudas as a strong leader in the IEEE community. Prof. Bernadette Bouchon-Menier and Dr. Dimitar Filev coordinated the article recognizing the achievements of Ronald R. Yager, the 2018 Lotfi A. Zadeh Pioneer Award winner, who is a groundbreaking figure of the fuzzy set and intelligent systems community. The third entry in the January issue special section, “Brains Are Not Computers: Celebrating the Achievements of Robert Koszma,” was a tribute by Bernard Baars, Roman Ilin, Miklós Ruszinkó, and Edward Tusnél.

In the April 2019 issue, we noted the IEEE SMC Society (SMCS) community was elated to learn of the elevation of Dr. Dimitar Filev to fellow of the National Academy of Engineering for contributions to automotive research and practice in the fields of intelligent information and control systems. This distinction is one of the highest professional honors accorded an engineer. Qiangfu Zhao organized the feature article “Dimitar Filev: A Pioneer in Car Intelligence: Celebrating his Career and National Academy of Engineering Induction” in that issue.

Two articles related to Peng Shi’s work on Markovian jump systems also appeared in the April issue. The first was “Bayesian State Estimations for Markovian Jump Systems: Employing Recursive Steps and Pseudocodes” by Shunyi Zhao, Choon Ki Ahn, Peng Shi, Yuriy S. Shmalý, and Fei Liu, and the second was “A Brief Tutorial and Survey on Markovian Jump Systems: Stability and Control” by Ping Zhao, Yu Kang, and Yun-Bo Zhao. The articles are a continuation of the celebration of Peng Shi’s Markovian jump legacy.

The recognition of technical achievements in SMC is not limited to individuals; it also extends to areas, such as cybernetics, as evidenced by the article by Vladimir Mark in the January 2017 issue on the SMCS technical committees (TCs) in the field of cybernetics. In addition, Desheng Dash Wu and James H. Lambert’s article on the TC on Social and Economic Security was published in the April 2018 issue.

I note, with gratitude to Prof. Margot Weijnen, that this issue includes a special section on next-generation infrastructure (the TC on Infrastructure Systems and Services). This is the first of its type, and we look forward to more special sections celebrating the achievements of our SMCS TCs. We also have a special section celebrating the IEEE Smart Village Initiative, which attests to IEEE’s contributions to serving humanity.