Getting Involved in the IEEE Control Systems Society

The IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) is a volunteer-based organization that depends on the commitment of its members to be involved and contribute. Those that volunteer will benefit from meeting other researchers, learning more about the goals and challenges of the Society, developing new skills, and the satisfaction of making a difference in the community. These volunteer contributions to the community and society are typically also factors in assessments for career advancement.

There are, of course, many different ways to get involved. The easiest methods of connecting are social media based [1], [2]. Another easy way to participate is to contribute to the review cycle for the various CSS conferences [3] and then attend the conferences and join in the session's question-and-answer periods. If you will be at the conferences, CSS members can attend the Board of Governors (BoG) meeting to obtain deeper insights into the main issues in the CSS community. BoG meetings are held twice a year [at the American Control Conference (ACC) and the Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)] and are usually the afternoon of the day before the main program. Submitting entries into the CSS contests, such as the video clip contest [4], is another great way to start getting involved.

The next step is to join one of the many IEEE CSS technical committees (TCs). As outlined in Table 1, the TCs cover a broad spectrum of research topics, and their members typically help form special sessions for CSS conferences, create and form workshops at those conferences, and, through meetings or teleconferences, discuss the challenges and opportunities in the subfield. The TCs are also an excellent opportunity to form alliances with other researchers interested in similar research areas. TC meetings are held at the ACC and CDC, and CSS members are welcome to attend. There are other groups to join or participate in, such as the Industry Activities Committee [5] and the Women in Control Committee [6]–[8]. Contact the committee chair to get involved in any of these groups, which are available in the links provided in Table 1 and listed on page 4 of this issue.

One of the main mechanisms to get more involved is to volunteer as a member of the Conference Editorial Board (CEB) [9]. As of January 2018, the CEB chair is Amir Aghdam from Concordia University. The main charge of the CEB is to ensure the technical quality of major conferences sponsored or cosponsored by the CSS. The CEB coordinates the receiving, distributing, collecting, and collating of reviews and evaluates regular papers submitted to the CSS (co)sponsored conferences. The CEB contributes many of the associate editors for the main CSS conferences and is excellent training on the entire review cycle. Thus, the CEB is an excellent point of entry for further involvement in CSS journals.

It is possible to volunteer directly to serve as a member of a conference technical program committee or a conference associate editor by approaching the program chair. However, that must typically be done in the very early stages of the formation of the conference. The TCs are also typically polled for conference editorial board volunteers.

IEEE Members could also participate by joining their local Chapters (or Student Branches) by contacting the chairs. A full list of the CSS Student Branches and the local IEEE Chapters are available in [10] and [11]. For example, the

(From left) Nicholas Roy, Katherine Liu, Kyel Ok, Yulun Tian, and Jonathan How relaxing after a successful flight demonstration at NASA Langley Research Center.

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Table 1 IEEE Control Systems Society Technical Committees.

- Aerospace Controls: http://aerospace-controls.ieeecss.org/
- Automotive Controls: http://automotive-controls.ieeecss.org/
- Computational Aspects of Design: http://computational-aspects.ieeecss.org/
- Control Education: http://control-education.ieeecss.org/
- Discrete Event Systems: http://discrete-event-systems.ieeecss.org/
- Distributed Parameter Systems: http://distributed-parameter-systems.ieeecss.org/
- HealthCare and Medical Systems: http://healthcare-and-medical-systems.ieeecss.org/
- Hybrid Systems: http://hybrid-systems.ieeecss.org/
- Intelligent Systems: http://intelligent-control.ieeecss.org/
- Manufacturing Automation and Robotic Control: http://manufacturing-automation.ieeecss.org/
- Networks and Communications: http://networks-and-communications.ieeecss.org/
- Nonlinear Systems and Control: http://nonlinear-systems-and-control.ieeecss.org/
- Power Generation: http://power-generation.ieeecss.org/
- Process Control: http://process-control.ieeecss.org/
- Smart Cities: http://smart-cities.ieeecss.org/
- Smart Grids: http://smart-grids.ieeecss.org/
- System Identification and Adaptive Control: http://system-identification.ieeecss.org/
- Systems Biology: http://systems-biology.ieeecss.org/
- Systems with Uncertainty: http://systems-with-uncertainty.ieeecss.org/
- Variable Structure and Sliding Mode Control: http://variable-structure.ieeecss.org/

Note: All links were valid as of September 2017.

IEEE Boston Section was founded February 13, 1903 and serves more than 8,500 members of the IEEE. There are 29 Chapters and affinity groups covering topics of interest from aerospace and electronic systems, to entrepreneur networks, women in engineering, and young professionals.

The Chapters and affinity groups organize more than 100 meetings per year. In addition to the IEEE organization activities, the Boston Section organizes and sponsors up to seven conferences in any given year as well as more than 45 short courses. The IEEE Boston Section also offers social programs such as the section annual meeting, milestone events, and other nontechnical professional activities to round out the local events. These events provide numerous technical enrichment and networking opportunities, so CSS members are encouraged to find and join their local Chapters and Sections [11].

With demonstrated experience in the review process and decision making through CSS conferences/workshops and/or other journals, a higher level of involvement can be achieved by volunteering to join the editorial boards of the various CSS publications. The best way to get involved is to contact the editors-in-chief [12], [13] to determine the availability and type of open positions. Note that the journal editorial board nominations are typically approved at the ACC and CDC BoG meetings, and the inputs are normally required about four months before those meetings.

Building on these experiences, CSS members can also volunteer for governance positions such as conference program/technical chair, TC chair, BoG member, journal editor-in-chief, and member of the executive committee. The "President's Message" (see p. 9) by Francesco Bullo describes a similar path through the volunteer ranks of CSS to the level of president.

CSS depends on your volunteer support. There is often some work involved, but this is typically limited and the experience can be very rewarding. So I encourage you to reach out and get involved.

REFERENCES

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