A Report on the San Francisco Board Meeting

Fei-Yue Wang, Chinese Academy of Sciences

On 8 August 2011, the IEEE Intelligent Systems held its board meeting in San Francisco, California, at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco (see Figure 1). This meeting was organized as the part of the 25th Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11). The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) is an important and strategic partner of our magazine, and our last editorial meeting in “physical space” was held jointly with the 21st Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Boston, Massachusetts, at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center in 2006.

At the board meeting, Jenny Stout and I first presented the staff and EIC reports, respectively, and then members discussed various issues that are important for the current and future development of our magazine, including Editorial and Advisory Board policies, special issues, department updates, nontheme articles, promotion and outreach ideas, and so forth.

State of the Magazine

Our magazine is in excellent shape. The result of our five-year review by the IEEE earlier this year was outstanding. In addition, our impact factor from the newly released Journal Citation Report (JCR) by Thomson Reuters was 2.570 in 2010. This is down from 3.144 last year, but the drop was mainly caused by a restructuring of the source data used by JCR for collecting citations. Based on the JCR, the impact factors of all other peer magazines and journals have decreased significantly this year, and the IEEE Intelligent Systems is still ranked the number one publication in the AI field (see Figure 2), number five among all IEEE magazines, and 24th in all IEEE publications.

From 2007 to 2010, our average rate of acceptance for nontheme articles was 8.5 percent, and our average rate of acceptance for special issue papers was 24 percent. The board has accepted the proposal for a special issue on AI in Emergency Management, scheduled for publication in the last issue of 2012.

Hsinchun Chen of the University of Arizona will retire from his position as associate editor in chief at the end of 2011. He has been appointed the editor in chief of the newly established ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems. Chris Yang of Drexel University has replaced Hsinchun as our new Computing Now (CN) liaison.

The boards express special thanks to Prof. Chen for his effort and dedication to our magazine, especially his excellent work in editing our Trends and Controversies department, which has been well received and
highly cited. A plaque of recognition will be issued to honor his outstanding service to IEEE Intelligent Systems.

**New Initiatives**
The boards have agreed to phase out the Agents, Semantic Web, and AI in Space departments and launch two new departments next year:

- The AI and Health department is scheduled to appear in three issues each year.
- The AI and Sustainability department is scheduled to appear in four issues each year.

In addition, we will be restoring the Expert Opinion department, which will run four articles per year. The boards will also explore the feasibility of new departments for AI in business, security, economics, games, social sciences, and so on.

Following the success of our AI’s Top 10 to Watch and Hall of Fame programs, I will lead the effort to start the process of forming a committee that will establish the criteria and procedures for selecting the best articles published by IEEE Intelligent Systems. The main purpose of this new effort is to encourage and reward researchers and engineers to submit their best ideas and results to our magazine.

**Discussion and Action Items**
My original plan was to renew the full editorial board before my term was up, but it is behind schedule. In addition, the Advisory Board’s membership has not changed since former EIC Jim Hendler’s term. Therefore, I’ve been charged with starting the process of establishing the guidelines for creating the policies and procedures for term limits and appointments of both the Editorial and Advisory Boards.

Immediate actions are needed to find a topic editor for the areas in which our magazine needs to expand. The boards have expressed their desire that the composition of both boards reflect the geographical distribution of AI researchers and practitioners around the world. We also discussed providing more help and services to new associate editors and guest editors for special issues.

More effort in promotion and outreach are required for the continuous and future success of our magazine. Social media is vital and must...
be fully utilized as soon as possible. More cooperation with related conferences and publications should be made. The feasibility of launching a conference in intelligent systems for promoting our magazine was also discussed and will be investigated further.

The Summer of Intelligent Systems

For me, this summer will be remembered as the summer of intelligent systems. In the middle of July, I went to Barcelona, Spain, for the 22nd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2011), which was a record success with almost 2,000 participants. The 34th Annual ACM SIGIR Conference (SIGIR 2011) held in Beijing, China, from 22–25 July was another record success with more than 800 participants.

After our board meeting and AAAI 2011 in early August, I went to Luo Yang, which was China’s ancient capital for 15 dynasties, and presented a keynote at the 11th Chinese Conference on Computational Linguistics (CCL 2011) on social computing and Web surrogates, a topic proposed in my previous letters here.

Yes, we have well passed the spring of intelligent systems. We need better research and “hot” applications in the summer of intelligent systems!