

Happy Trails

I have completed my second term as the editor in chief of *IEEE MultiMedia*. Without equivocation, I must say that it has been a pleasure serving in this capacity. I have enjoyed my work with a great editorial board, a dedicated staff at the IEEE Computer Society Publications office, and a truly wonderful group of volunteers who made this job so much easier. They all deserve a world of thanks, especially the volunteer reviewers, many of whom I neither meet nor correspond with directly. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Positive reflections

Reflecting on some of what has happened recently, a few positive points come to mind. First and foremost is the cycle time for publication. Our best case is publishing within 12 months of submission. Obviously, to a great extent we're at the mercy of our volunteers. However, despite exceptions, we've been able to usher a majority of the submitted articles into the publication queue in less than 10 months. This brief lag time for scholarly publications—along with our eight departments, which rapidly produce timely articles—has enabled us to stay at the forefront of research and development in our area.

Speaking of the departments, I invite you to examine them and prepare contributions for them. Please contact the editor in chief or the department editor for guidance if interested. Our readership has remained steady, while electronic downloads of our articles have been much higher recently. *IEEE MultiMedia* enjoys a high impact factor—a measure which indicates the health and vibrancy of the publication.

In the last meeting of the editorial board, we defined a new mission statement for this magazine, and accordingly produced a new set of priority topics for *IEEE MultiMedia*'s call for papers

(which you can see on the outside back cover of this issue).

A new editor in chief

I'm pleased to introduce the new editor in chief of *IEEE MultiMedia*, Sethuraman "Panch" Panchanathan. Panch, who has been a member of our editorial board since 2002, brings a wealth of experience with scholarly journals, including participation on the boards of *IEEE Transactions on Multimedia* and *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*, among others. Panch's contributions to our field span several areas, including visual computing and communications; media processor designs; content-based and compressed domain indexing and retrieval of images and video; face/gait analysis and recognition; genomic signal processing; and ubiquitous computing environments for blind persons. I consider him a visionary leader who has succeeded in numerous multimedia projects. With him at the helm, we look forward to a new era of success for *IEEE MultiMedia*.



Sethuraman Panchanathan is the chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Arizona State University. He is also the director of the Institute for Computing and Information Sciences and Engineering and the director of the Center for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing. His research interests include assistive devices, multimedia information systems, human movement analysis, and haptic user interfaces.

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