Recognizing Exceptional Contributions

As one of the first and most well-respected journals dedicated to the multimedia research field, *IEEE MultiMedia* has been a consistent source of inspiring academic and industry insights for researchers, professors, and students around the world. To celebrate the authors whose engaging work keeps us reading, *IEEE MultiMedia* established the Best Paper award (for feature and special-issue articles) and the Best Department award (for department articles) last year.

I am very pleased to announce the 2016 winners:

- **Best Paper**: “CitySensing: Fusing City Data for Visual Storytelling,” by Marco Balduini, Emanuele Della Valle, Paolo Ciuccarelli, Matteo Azzi, Roberto Larcher, and Fabrizio Antonelli; and

- **Best Department**: “Let’s Weave the Visual Web,” by Ramesh Jain.

This year’s Best Paper comes from the July–Sept. 2015 special issue on social multimedia and storytelling. It discusses a sensing system that captures social media streams and anonymous call data records (CDRs) during city-scale events. The system semantically annotates the social media streams before fusing them with privacy-preserving aggregates of CDRs. The result is analyzed and repurposed to feed a public installation where visual storytelling allows people to perceive emerging patterns and observe their dynamics. The authors demonstrate the efficacy of the visualization using real-world data from Milan Design Week.

Also from the July–Sept. 2015 issue, the Best Department article (from the Spotlight department) discusses the changing role of photos and videos in modern society, and how we are creating unprecedented visual connections and conversations. Jain reviews the evolution of visual documentation and considers where we’re headed, introducing the Visual Web.

Please join me in congratulating the authors of these two works and in thanking all who contribute high-quality content to the magazine!

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**Editorial Board Changes**

After five years of service, Cees Snoek is retiring from the editorial board. I thank Snoek for his many contributions. I also welcome two new editorial board members, Richang Hong and Shuqiang Jiang. I look forward to working with them. — Yong Rui

**Richang Hong** is a professor in the Department of Computer and Information at the Hefei University of Technology, China. His research interests include multimedia question answering, video content analysis, and pattern recognition. Hong received a PhD in computer science from the University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei. Contact him at hongrc.hfut@gmail.com.

**Shuqiang Jiang** is a professor in the Institute of Computer Technology at the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS). His research interests include multimedia processing and semantic understanding, pattern recognition, and computer vision. Jiang received a PhD in computer science from the Institute of Computer Technology, CAS. Contact him at sqjiang@ict.ac.cn.