Changes, Opportunities and Challenges

I am pleased to address all the members of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society for the first time since the Society's name change has been approved by the IEEE Board of Directors last June. By all accounts, this is an exciting time for the CIS. The Society's membership is strong, conferences are well attended, its Transactions have high Impact Factors and strong submissions, and our financial health is excellent. New events, initiatives, chapters and special opportunities are popping up monthly, if not weekly. This is thanks to the outstanding volunteer base and to the new impetus that has emerged from the Society's name change.

In this address, I will briefly summarize the most recent developments. More details are available elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the Society's web site.

July 25-29, 2004 has become an important date in CIS history. For the first time, two major conferences have been held concurrently in Europe. IJCNN 2004 and Fuzz-IEEE 2004 have attracted over one thousand participants to Budapest, Hungary. Our Hungarian colleagues, Drs. Tamas Roska and Laszlo Koczy, who co-chaired both conferences, did a superb job in making this event a resounding success. Technical, plenary, poster and special sessions and tutorials were of outstanding quality and the attendance was also exemplary.

The CIS Administrative Committee meeting was held on July 25 in Budapest. This yearly meeting is to review strengths and opportunities, determine strategic directions for the CIS for the years to come, as well as to elect Society's officers. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Vincenzo Piuri was elected to lead the Society as President in 2006-07 after having served as President-Elect in 2005. Dr. David Fogel, the sitting VP-Publications 2003-04 will take over the duties of VP-Membership in 2005-06. Dr. Nikhil Pal has been appointed to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of Transactions on Fuzzy Systems in 2005-06.

The years to come are also years of challenge. As our members realize, the very basic reason for IEEE's existence is to actively create, distribute and share the intellectual property (IP) contributed by its members in electrical, electronic and computer technologies. This field, however, also attracts commercial competitors. To face this challenge, IEEE has redefined the formula for income received by the societies and councils that are contributors to IEEE IP. Beginning in 2005, societies and councils will be paid in proportion to the number of papers they contribute to the body of IEEE IP, combined with the actual number of readers (called PDF views) of their papers.

Under the new formula, the society's income will grow with the increasing number of IEEE Xplore views its periodi-
One of the important services to our members is providing them with information about the Society as well as technical and volunteer activities. To improve information delivery, we have been working on the Society’s new website since the beginning of 2004. The site will open in September this year. In addition, beginning in September, CIS members will receive an E-letter that stemmed from the technical activities led by Dr. Gary Yen, VP-Technical Activities. Edited by Dr. Derong Liu, the CIS E-letter will bring you up-to-date news about upcoming deadlines, publications, conferences, elections, volunteer opportunities and other events. It will now be easier for our members to get involved and participate in technical events or in the Society’s self-governance.

We need your support, time and talent, and I am eagerly awaiting your participation in the Society and your contribution to the field. For more information, please check our website at [www.ieee-nns.org](http://www.ieee-nns.org).

**Editor’s Remarks**

**Gary G. Yen**

**Oklahoma State University**

Time flies! It is hard to believe that we are in the third issue of the second year of the IEEE conneCtionS. As shown in many compliments and encouragements through readers’ feedback, this editorial office is making every possible effort to bring its membership timely and valuable information about the society. As we are evolving into a more embracing Society, CIS, it is expected that this newsletter media will be transitioned into a full-fledge magazine to better serve its membership and to foster much wider and emerging technologies of our interests.

The success of this Newsletter relies completely upon your active involvement and feedback. Any suggestion and contribution to the IEEE conneCtionS will be greatly appreciated.