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Serving Your Needs...



In past issues, I presented some activities that the Computational Intelligence Society is doing to serve your needs. These activities are focused on developing and disseminating knowledge of computational intelligence technologies and applications. In particular, I reviewed our main strategies and issues in technical activities, conferences, publications, and educational activities. All of these efforts are directed to provide knowledge for the advancement of the science, the technology, the applications, and—in turn—the economy and the quality of the life of the mankind all over the world.

The Computational Intelligence Society is also promoting its activities, its networking opportunities, the professional standing of its members, and its services, both to the CIS members and to all people who are interested in computational intelligence. Our current members appreciate our operations and continue to support the CIS: in fact we now have over 6,200 members worldwide.

In this issue, I focus the attention on the various member services of the CIS. The transnationality and the global coverage of our operation are two fundamental guidelines which are strenuously taken into account whenever our operations are organized and implemented. We are in fact firmly convinced that the CIS must be directed to serve all communities worldwide.

The main goals of the CIS member activities are: to promote the creation of the local roots for our Society in all geographical areas worldwide, the awareness of activities that we organize, the identification of the members' needs, the increase of services, the recognition of the excellence of members and volunteers, and the development of the overall membership.

An international association without local roots is condemned to be separated from the local communities, to miss sufficient understanding of the local needs, to become self-referencing, and—as a consequence—to die shortly from a lack of interest and attractiveness. The CIS strongly pursues the direct and continuous participation of its members and the various worldwide communities. This goal is achieved by promoting the creation of Chapters at local and regional levels. Chapters are focusing on and supporting local interests and needs in computational intelligence areas. Organizing seminars, distinguished lectures, courses, meetings, technical visits, discussion forums, and technology transfer are just a few of the ways Chapters aid their members. At this time the CIS has over 45 Chapters worldwide and is continuously organizing new ones.

Networking is a unique opportunity offered by CIS to all people interested in computational intelligence, especially to its members. Creating personal awareness, meeting people working in computational intelligence fields, and establishing relationships with experts are the greatest ways to build outstanding local and international ties. These ties tend to promote support and peace among people and

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countries, to contribute to the development of the economy and the societies worldwide, and to enhance career opportunities. The CIS chapters and conferences are two unique channels through which these goals can be achieved.

The CIS strives to support the education, the development and the promotion of the professional career of its members by providing knowledge, opportunities and volunteer services for enhancing and expanding their leading role in the worldwide society and economy. Services and activities are organized by CIS having the benefit of members and communities worldwide in mind.

The CIS is also determined to ensure women the same opportunities as men in the Society's life. The Women in Computational Intelligence Committee is pro-actively operating in the various communities and in the Society's activities, initiatives, and events.

To support the education and career development of its members, the CIS is glad to sponsor various initiatives which provide financial support to CIS members. In particular, over US\$50,000 are given annually in grants to CIS student members to attend CIS-sponsored conferences and present the outstanding results of their research. About US\$10,000 are also given to support short research periods abroad. In addition, about US\$10,000 are directed to students who are attending summer schools. Since this year, the CIS is providing financial support to financially disadvantaged CIS members to attend CIS-sponsored conferences and present their papers. In the near future, we will develop initiatives to support specifically the GOLD (Graduate Of the Last Decade) members.

The CIS is honored and proud to recognize the excellence of the CIS valued members, especially when they

have performed for a long time at particularly high-quality levels in science, technology, education, or profession. The first opportunity is elevation to the Senior Member grade: the CIS has a sub-committee which pro-actively searches for outstanding members who deserve promotion to the Senior Member grade and recommend their nomination. The higher-level recognition is the promotion to the IEEE Fellow grade, which honors unique achievements and excellence.

The CIS recognizes also specific member accomplishments with annual awards for outstanding achievement, service, and technical papers. These awards are: the Neural Networks Pioneer Award, the Fuzzy Systems Pioneer Award, the Evolutionary Computation Pioneer Award, the Meritorious Service Award, the IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award, the IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems Outstanding Paper Award, the IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation Outstanding Paper Award, the Outstanding Chapter Award, and the Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award. The most prestigious recognition sponsored by CIS is the IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Award, awarded by IEEE.

CIS strives to promote the visibility of its valued members and their expertise. Their visibility is vital to making them central in the life of both their chapter and the local communities, as well as worldwide. Promotion of valued members creates local reference points and networking opportunities in computational intelligence theory and applications for the local academic, educational, professional, entrepreneurial, and governmental communities. In addition, this makes our members feel helpful, valued and appreciated by these communities.

To this purpose, we developed a repository for disseminating the aware-

ness about curriculum vitae (CV), Ph.D. thesis, Master thesis, and senior projects. More features will be added in the future.

To support the CIS operations and their awareness all over the world, the CIS web server is maintained to provide updated information about: activities, contact points, resources about the various aspects of the Society's life and to volunteers, access to the various opportunities for networking, knowledge dissemination and acquisition, and much more.

The CIS E-letters are also published electronically, to disseminate information about the CIS activities and events in the computational intelligence arena. This bulletin is currently distributed by email to over 17,000 subscribers and includes announcements of conferences, special issues, summer schools, and other events, table of contents of our transactions, call for nominations for awards, call for applications for positions, book reviews, and much more. Subscription is free of charge to everybody.

Are you interested in cooperating with our members services? Please visit our web site and contact our Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs for possible activities in their respective area of responsibility. We will be glad and honored to consider your proposal since it may contribute to the overall vision of our society and to the advancement of science, technologies, and applications, as well as to our profession and the global economy.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or criticism, then please do not hesitate to contact me at piuri@dti.unimi.it. I will be very glad to hear from you and involve you in the Society's life!

