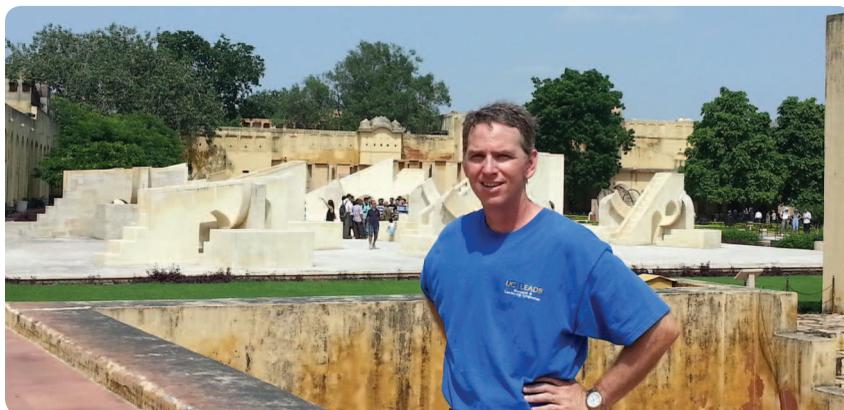# A Society of Volunteers

Welcome to a new year at the IEEE Controls Systems Society (CSS). It is a great honor to serve as the 48th CSS president.

I write this in October of 2013, between trips to the IEEE Multiconference on Systems and Control in Hyderabad, India, and the IEEE CSS Executive Committee meeting in Stuttgart, Germany. During this late summer to early fall time period, one of my main jobs as president-elect has been to lead the effort to organize the CSS volunteer roster for the next year. The roster, which is viewable on the CSS Web site (http://ieeecss.org/sites/ieeecss.org/files/documents), includes approximately 625 positions, not including conference operating committees or the reviewers for journals and conferences. This number of CSS volunteers is quite impressive, especially given the fact that CSS members also support volunteer activities in other complementary organizations. These volunteers are the key to the high quality and low cost of the CSS technical activities, publications, and conferences.

A frequently asked question is how a CSS member can get more actively and meaningfully involved in our professional Society. In this issue of *IEEE Control Systems Magazine* is the annual *call for volunteers* in "CSS News." I strongly suggest viewing the CSS roster while reading that call. Most new volunteers will start through reviewing, technical activities, the conference editorial board, or conference operating committees. All of these activities provide a means to establish a name and repu-

Jay Farrell in Jantar Mantar, Jaipur, India.

M. Vidyasagar, Jay Farrell, and Christos Cassandras at the IEEE Multiconference on Systems and Control in Hyderabad, India, on August 27, 2013.

tation for high quality service within CSS, both of which are necessary to win election by our peers to the CSS Board of Governors (BoG). In addition, it is the leaders of these activities who make recommendations to conference general chairs for operating committees and to the editors, vice presidents, president, and president-elect who collaborate to complete the task of filling the CSS roster with appropriately skilled volunteers. When we started the task of organizing the roster, it appeared

daunting. As we complete the task and prepare to bring the proposed roster to the BoG for approval in December, I am inspired by the generosity of our members, who have enthusiastically agreed to take on the various roles necessary to organize the activities of our Society.

New members of the CSS Executive Committee and editors for 2014 are as follows:

» Elena Valcher (University of Padova), who previously served

as VP Conferences, VP Membership, and program chair of IEEE Conference on Decision and Control 2012, will be president-elect.

» Anu Annaswamy (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), who in addition to numerous roles in the American Automated Control Council and CSS has previously served as program chair of the American Control Conference (ACC) 2003 and general chair of ACC 2008, will be VP Conferences.

In addition, Ed Chong (Colorado State University) has agreed to serve another term as VP Financial Activities, Kirsten Morris (University of Waterloo) is serving a second term as VP Member Activities, Francesco Bullo (University of California, Santa Barbara) will serve a second term as VP Publication Activities, Frank Allgöwer (University of Stuttgart) will serve a second term as VP Technical Activities, Warren Dixon (University of Florida) has agreed to continue as director of operations, and Yutaka Yamamoto (Kyoto University) will continue to provide leadership as past president.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank the people who are moving from the Executive Committee to serve the CSS in other ways. Christos Cassandras (Boston University) and Masayuki Fujita (Tokyo Institute of Technology) are concluding their terms on the IEEE CSS Executive Committee after serving as past president and VP Conferences, respectively.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Now is the time for the CSS membership to consider nominations for IEEE Fellow and IEEE CSS awards. The deadline for Fellow nominations is the

Frank Allgöwer and Jay Farrell at the Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, India.

end of February. Mid-May is the deadline for the annual CSS awards:

» IEEE Control Systems Magazine Outstanding Paper Award

» IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology Outstanding Paper Award

» George S. Axelby Outstanding Paper Award

» Control Systems Technology Award

» Antonio Ruberti Young Researcher Prize.

Therefore, if you start now, there is plenty of time to organize the nomination package and letters of support to recognize the publication, technology, or colleague that you find most deserving.

INTELLIGENT CONTROL

Since the 1995 IEEE International Symposium on Intelligent Control, held in Monterey, California, I have recalled

and laughed at the following. Adjacent to the symposium site was a book store and on the door was a sign, written by a patron, who misunderstood the conference title. The sign read "Say no to intelligence control."

CLOSING

I welcome your suggestions, preferably in a conversation at a conference or meeting, where we can discuss motivations, trade-offs, constraints, and related issues. Thank you for your service to our profession, for your trust in me to lead the CSS in 2014, and for reading to this point. I look forward to seeing you at our conferences and working with you over the next year.

Jay A. Farrell