IEEE Information Theory Society Student Committee

The **Student Committee** of the Information Theory Society (IT-Soc) is a new committee whose goal is to help make the society of more value to students. The committee aims to create an extended and distributed community of students working in information theory along with resources for these students. This will help students getting started in the field, connect students working on similar problems, and provide faster feedback on results. The committee is currently chaired by Andrea Goldsmith and mostly student-run with active volunteers for event planning, website development, and outreach. There is a small advisory committee of regular society members as well.

The committee has created a website (**http://itsoc-students.ece.cornell.edu/**). The website contains several valuable resources, including guidelines for getting started and being successful in research; pointers to information theory books, tutorials, and lecture notes/slides; links to research groups working in information theory and local IEEE information theory chapters; how-to guides on topics such as getting started on information theory research, writing journal papers, and job hunting; job listings and resume postings; dissertation postings; a list of upcoming conferences with information theory sessions; and a list of upcoming committee meetings and related events. The society also plans to start taping all Shannon and plenary lectures at ISIT, and links to these recordings will be available on the student website. Visitors to the website will also find instructions for signing up to our mailing list **itsoc-students-l@lists.cornell.edu** (*whether an IT student member or not*). The mailing list has been quite successful, with students participating from all over the world including North America, Europe, India, and Iran.

The committee is currently planning the student events for the upcoming ISIT to be held on July 9 – July 14 in Seattle, Washington. The IT-Soc student committee meeting and the panel will be held on Thursday, July 13 during the lunch. A *research lunch* will also be organized where groups of students interested in particular research topics can get together to discuss them. At both events, the IT-Soc student committee will be giving out free T-shirts designed by students and chosen by student judges. More information regarding the committee activities and the events in ISIT conference can be found in the website.

The success of the student committee will depend very much on student involvement. We welcome input, suggestions, and contributions for the student committee. We are seeking student volunteers for the roles listed below. All interested volunteers should contact the committee Volunteer Coordinator, Lalitha Sankar (lalitha@winlab.rutgers.edu). *Please note that all activities are open to all students, whether they are IT-Soc members or not.*

- Event planning - Bring your ideas for and help in organizing panel discussions or social events at upcoming conferences. Is there a particular panel discussion topic you would like to hear? Should we organize a student soccer match during a conference lunch break?
- Website development - Is there something you think should be added or expanded in our website? You can help by contributing website content!
- Committee outreach - Do you have ideas for how IT-Soc students can get involved with your university or in your country? Let us know!

While we are pleased with the progress of the committee so far, we would like to have more widespread participation and provide more resources to students. The main challenge in doing this is getting the word out to students about the existence of the committee and its activities, getting more students to participate, and to avoid too much of a demand on the volunteers coordinating the committee efforts.