



Future Opportunities

This is my first message as your new president and, predictably, I am a little nervous about it. While I've been a member of the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) and an active volunteer for a long time, it's different than speaking to you personally about myself, my hopes for the Society's future, and how you the Member, and the SPS Board and committees, will help us reach our goals.

First, though, I want to express the Society's gratitude to my predecessor Al Hero, for his leadership, inspiration, innovation, and just plain hard work. Thanks, Al.

By way of self-introduction, I was born and raised in Moçambique, East Africa, and also studied and worked in Portugal. (This is why my first name, José is pronounced with a "J" like Java, and not with the Castilian "J".) I came to the United States 20 years ago and now am a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Over time, the center of my technical interests moved from information theory and communications to become firmly rooted in statistical signal and image processing.

I've served in a number of volunteer posts, beginning as a reviewer for Society journal and conference papers. In fact, I am still doing that job. I have been involved in service on several technical committees, in workshop and conference planning, and, of course, in governance.

I've been an editor-in-chief (*IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*), a vice president (Publications), a member-elected Board of Governors member, and president-elect. I've also been responsible, for the past two years, for leading the Society's long-range and strategic planning activities.

THE SPS VOLUNTEER LEADERS HAVE A NUMBER OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY AND ARE CONSIDERING A FEW MORE.

So, I'm up to speed and ready to roll up my sleeves in this new post. As a result of planning efforts, and feedback from members like you, the SPS volunteer leaders have a number of exciting activities underway and are considering a few more. I hope you'll get involved in them according to your personal interests and concerns.

You already know about our entry into open access education (via Al Hero's November 2007 "President's Message"), and you're probably aware of our many successful archival journals, our magazine, our recently launched e-newsletter (*Inside Signal Processing*) along with a wide collection of topical workshops and strong technical conferences. You may not be aware that our plan for the next term involves ways of serving, in particu-

lar, our technical colleagues working in applications-oriented environments. As part of that initiative, we are discussing ways of making signal processing more publicly visible.

Some of the ideas we've come up with have to do with our strengths—publishing a targeted magazine or journal focusing on the applications of signal processing and creating conference sessions or workshops appealing to and serving the "bench" engineering professional. But we're also going to experiment with some non-traditional (for us) routes like publicly open lectures and video production, strengthening activities at the local level through our chapters; working on ideas that will be interesting to students, etc. In all of this, we are also hoping to address ways of increasing gender diversity and the worldwide nature of our community.

As we embark on these exciting opportunities, I hope you will keep pace by continuing to read my messages. Even better, though, would be your first-hand involvement in the SPS—your Society. Everyone has something to contribute, and no contribution is too small to be important. I hope I will get to meet you personally in the near future, and that we will be engaged together on moving the Society's mission and vision forward. **SP**

José Manuel Fonseca de Moura