Guest Editorial

THE MIDWEST Symposium on Circuits and Systems (MWSCAS) is one of the premier technical annual meetings of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, bringing together a diverse group of scientists and engineers worldwide. The 43rd Midwest Symposium was held in August 2000, and attended by more than 500 participants. With short turnaround review cycle and submission of extended abstracts, authors were encouraged to present the latest advances in the field. A wide range of topics and a focus on emerging technological directions in special sessions and tutorials contributed to a cutting-edge interdisciplinary technical program.

Advances in circuits and systems could not be sustained without the continued enthusiasm of newer generations of scientists and engineers. The Midwest Symposium has a long standing tradition of promoting active student participation, and we saw it as one of our missions at MWSCAS'2000 to continue this trend and encourage student contributions of the highest quality.

The program committee selected 35 student paper submissions for an award contest poster session at the Symposium. The contest papers were divided in analog and digital categories, with roughly equal numbers (18 and 17 papers). Two award subcommittees, one for each category, rated the quality of the students' papers and presentations. The subcommittees selected four analog and digital finalist papers each for a total of eight awards presented at the Symposium.

The eight awardees were then invited to submit extended versions of their papers to the TRANSACTIONS. Submitted papers were subject to standard review, and we are pleased that all are included in this special section. Papers are ordered according to the ranking by the subcommittees separately in digital and analog categories. We believe that these papers represent some of the most promising directions in circuits and systems research today. Several of these papers are of highly interdisciplinary nature, transcending boundaries between analog and digital circuits and systems that go beyond conventional mixed-signal processing.

We thank the contest judges of the analog and digital subcommittees for their time and effort in selecting award papers: Hoda Abdel-Aty-Zohdy, Peter Aronhime, Charles Brothers, Malgorzata Chrzanawska-Jeske, Robert Ewing, Muhommed Farooq, Randall Geiger, Kenneth Jenkins, Robert Newcomb, Carla Purdy, Michael Soderstrand, and Roy E. Stuffle. We also thank the (past) Editorial team and staff of the TRANSACTIONS: Chris Toumazou, Alison Payne, and Wiesia Hsissen for making the administration of the electronic review process a breeze. Finally, the credit for the work presented here goes to the student authors. We hope you will enjoy reading through their papers and many future contributions to follow in the TRANSACTIONS.

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