

Report on IEEE Comsoc MDSG Event Special Workshop on the Contributions of Professor S. Pasupathy

Date: May 11, 2007

Place: Bahen Centre for Information Technology, University of Toronto

No. of attendees: 71, of whom 57 were IEEE members and 18 were IEEE Comsoc members.

Website: <http://paswkshop.comm.utoronto.ca/>

Background:

The event was organized to celebrate the career of Professor S. Pasupathy, a faculty member at the ECE Department of the University of Toronto, who is an IEEE Fellow and contributed a column entitled Light Traffic to the IEEE Communications magazine from 1984 to 1998. He retires at the end of the 2006/07 academic year.

Proceedings:

The program started with a welcome address by the Chair of the ECE department, Professor Jonathan Rose, and then proceeded through addresses, some technical and others not, by former colleagues, students and research associates of Professor Pasupathy. There were two coffee breaks and a lunch break, sponsored by the IEEE Toronto section and the ECE department respectively. Professor Xavier Fernando, chair of the IEEE Toronto Comsoc chapter, spent 20 minutes describing the benefits of membership in the IEEE and the Communications Society. However, although Professor Fernando's talk was very good and convincing, it did not compare to the advertisement provided by Professor Pasupathy in his keynote talk, in which he held aloft at various times four copies of the IEEE Communications magazine, which he had contributed to. During his talk, he mentioned several times his joy and satisfaction at having contributed to his professional community in different ways, such as his Light Traffic column, and also his research and teaching. He talked about the sense of community he felt in the Communications Society, and encouraged all students to play greater roles in the society for their own enrichment.

There was a gift presentation ceremony before the keynote speech in which I presented to Professor Pasupathy a gift from the Communications Society, and a few of his former students presented their own personal tokens of appreciation.

At the workshop, we collected data on how many of the attendees were IEEE members and IEEE Comsoc members. To those who were not members, we distributed IEEE and Comsoc publicity material, including membership forms. Anecdotal evidence suggests that attendees did not see the need to join Comsoc if they are already part of a university and IEEE, because they would already enjoy conference discounts and access to IEEEExplore.

Expenses to be Reimbursed from the MDSG:

Honoraria for two speakers US\$250 x 2 = US\$500

Gift for guest of honour C\$514.70 (approx. US\$475.56)

Attachments:

1. Printed Program
2. Attendance List

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