



A Time to Reflect

After three years of serving the community as editor-in-chief of *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*, it is time to say farewell and to reflect.

With the great expectations and blessings of the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) leadership, I accepted the challenge of remaking this *Magazine* for our broad and diversified readership. In the beginning, I thought I had the vision and means to make everything happen. While we eventually met these high expectations, I humbly found that it was not because of my own efforts but instead because of the contributions of a large pool of talented people in our community.

It was José Moura, past VP–Publications, who brought me to this humble experience. Without his trust and mentoring, I would have had little chance in successfully accomplishing these tasks. I am grateful for the blessing and interaction of two SPS presidents, Rich Cox and Fred Mintzer, who set great vision and direction for the *Magazine* and the Society. I am also grateful for the support of Arye Nyhorai, VP–Publications, who created the popular “Leadership Reflections” column.

Technical issues are important but not the entire challenge of running a magazine. Setting the magazine’s vision and direction, understanding the needs and demands of its community, streamlining the editorial calendar, and planning advertisements, production costs, and page budgets are also a challenge. Managing Editor Geri Krolin-Taylor

works hard behind the scenes to ensure that the *Magazine* is produced on time and printed with excellent quality. Without the support and advice of Mercy Kowalczyk, SPS executive director, on the many nontechnical issues, I am quite sure that I could not have managed so many unfamiliar tasks outside my technical expertise. Thank you, Geri and Mercy! You made my life easier!

I HAVE LEARNED A LOT FROM ALL OF YOU, AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE FRUITFUL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, BOTH TECHNICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Rick Lyons as well. When I was appointed editor-in-chief in May 2002, Rick responded to Rich Cox’s call for duty to volunteer in helping the *Magazine*. This resulted in the creation of the well-read and highly enjoyed “DSP Tips & Tricks” column series. Rick took the idea from scratch and made it a very successful series. Rick was the first to come forward for a magazine that had never had a column series. I admire his dedication beyond the call of duty, especially since he comes from industry. Was I told industrial people are often too busy to volunteer? Rick proved otherwise!

Writing an editorial that is read by our distinguished members is both a privilege and a sacred responsibility. I would also like to thank Rebecca

Copeland at the University of Maryland for editing the first drafts of my editorial before they are printed.

Prof. Shih-Fu Chang of Columbia University is the new editor-in-chief who will succeed me in serving *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*. Shih-Fu is technically accomplished and internationally well known, with good command of broad technical knowledge. He has been very active in the signal processing community, especially in the multimedia/image/video areas. He has a broad vision and is quite dynamic with a personable leadership approach. These qualities will allow Shih-Fu to continue to bring the *Magazine* to a higher level.

Let me simply say one last time that it is you, the readers, who make the entire signal processing community proud of being number one in citation impact (and always in the top three for the past three years), at the top of the entire field of about 205 journals in the electronic and electrical area. This milestone is an experience and accomplishment that we will all forever remember. I have learned a lot from all of you, and I am very grateful for the fruitful personal experience, both technically and professionally. There are so many people to thank, many of whom are unknown volunteers. If I have forgotten your names, please accept my apologies; be sure that you are in my mind.

This is a time to reflect and to continue our journey.

SP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Liu".