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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Russell C. Eberhart
Research Triangle Institute

As I take over the Presidency of the IEEE Neural Networks Council, I reflect over the past two years under the leadership of Bob Marks. His guidance was creative, yet even-handed. He always considered all the sides of a question, but wasn't afraid to make hard decisions when they were needed. He paid attention to every administrative detail, but never lost sight of the big picture. And he insisted on the highest standards of integrity and service to the members. I hope I can do as well.

The IJCNN in Singapore was a resounding success by any measure. Over 600 participants heard excellent papers, and experienced the outstanding local hospitality of the IEEE Singapore Section. General Chairman Teck Seng Low and his colleagues have possibly hosted the first three-kilo conference in IEEE history...that is, the average weight gain during the conference exceeded three kilograms per attendee.

Our next IJCNN is in Baltimore this June under the capable leadership of Clifford Lau and his organizing committee. Having just moved to North Carolina after living near Baltimore for almost 20 years, I can vouch for the excellent culinary and sight-seeing opportunities in the Baltimore area. One warning: in Baltimore, eating steamed crabs isn't considered a meal; it's a social event!

Following the Singapore IJCNN, my wife Francie and I spent about two weeks in China, and several days in Japan. Prof. Sha Zong, General Chairman of the 1992 Beijing IJCNN, was our host in China. We traveled to Beijing, Guilin, Xi'an, Nanjing and Shanghai. I lectured on neural networks in several locations, and spoke at the Second Annual Chinese National Conference on Neural Networks at Southeast University in Nanjing.

Everywhere we went, the hospitality was warm and the food was delicious. IEEE membership is growing rapidly in China, with over 700 members now in the Beijing Section alone. Prof. Sha, with his organizing committee that includes Profs. Wu You Shou and Zhong Yi Xin, are doing a conscientious and efficient job in preparing for the first international neural networks conference to be held in China.

When I was a small boy growing up in Kansas, I dreamed of one day going to China and seeing the magnificent sights such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Ming Tombs. Now I've seen them. And now, thanks to the 1992 Beijing meeting, you can see them, too. Words cannot describe China. From the grandeur of the Great Wall to the beauty of the Li River near Guilin, it is simply not to be missed. So, even if you have to borrow money for the air fare, this is an opportunity worth taking advantage of. I hope to see many of you in Beijing.

Our host in Japan was Prof. Toshio Fukuda, who is the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the 1993 conference in Nagoya. Francie and I will never forget the dinner given by Toshie and his wife at their home, or spending the evening of December 7, 1991, singing old rock-n-roll songs with Toshie at a Karioke bar in Tokyo. Maybe world peace has a chance, after all.

..introducing Russ Eberhart

Russell C. Eberhart, the 1992 President of the IEEE Neural Networks Council is taking on two new challenges at once. He has also recently been named Director of Bio-Medical engineering at Research Triangle Institute, where he oversees staff who develop electronic, optical and mechanical biomedical, technology for diagnostic, monitoring and prosthetic applications.

Before coming to RTI, Russ was program manager for biomedical programs at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Programs he supervised there included the expert network medical diagnostic program,

biomedical ingestible telemetry, EEG spike detection with neural networks, and the left ventricle pressure-volume project. At RTI, he will continue his diagnostic neural networks research. Addison Wesley has recently published his book, Neural Network PC Tools.

Before joining Johns Hopkins, he served as vice-president of Emcon Associates, president of Computer Junction, Ltd., and vice-president of Arctec Systems Inc. Dr. Eberhart earned his B.S. and Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Kansas State University.