

CDC Photo Album

This issue of *IEEE Control Systems Magazine* celebrates the occasion of the 50th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) as a major milestone in the field of systems and control. For a half century, our community has gathered to present, discuss, and share insights and accomplishments. The CDC has evolved from a small meeting held on college campuses to a major gathering held in world-class settings.

Each CDC is organized and managed by volunteers from the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS). These volunteers devote an unimaginable amount of effort over the course of years to ensure the success of an event that occupies only a few short days. But these days are filled with activity and interaction, among colleagues and friends who typically meet only on this special occasion. Perhaps more importantly, CDC provides a venue for meeting new friends and collaborators and the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn.

To celebrate the CDC, this issue of *IEEE Control Systems Magazine* is devoted to looking back at past meetings. This is the CDC photo album. When these pictures were taken, no one was thinking about how the photos might someday contribute to a photo album, and these photos became scattered to the four winds. To put together this album, we contacted past CDC general chairs, who searched through dusty closets and barely functioning hard disks to find whatever photos

might have survived over the years. The earliest photos predate digital cameras and needed to be scanned. These are the most precious for their rarity. In later years, when professional photographers were employed, the number of digital photos increased exponentially, and the challenging task was selecting a representative subset for publication. Our choices were aimed at achieving a balance between the many facets of a CDC, including talks, banquets, award ceremonies, opening and closing receptions, and, most importantly, hallway conversations.

We are indebted to many individuals for providing the material for this photo album. Ray Decarlo, Panos Antsaklis, Tony Michel, and Doug Birdwell provided photos from the CDCs held in 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998, respectively. For CDCs since the new millennium, Bob Bitmead, Ted Djaferis, Frank Lewis, Christos Cassandras, Eduardo Camacho, Pradeep Misra, David Castanon, Chaouki Abdallah, John Baillieul, and Mark Spong provided photos from the CDCs held in 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, respectively. I especially thank Doug for generously sharing his archive of CDC photos that spanned many years. Some of Doug's photos appeared in the CSS 50th anniversary special issue of *IEEE Control Systems Magazine* published in December 2004.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy looking back at this photo archive and that these photos bring back many good memories. If you are not already planning to do so, we also hope that these photos will encourage you to join us for the last of these first 50 conferences—equivalently, the first of the next 51. Be sure to bring your camera so that, when you return from this stimulating, friendly, and productive event, you'll be able to contribute photos to the next CDC photo album.

This issue also brings you an "Historical Perspectives" column about Donald Eckman. His name is known to virtually all in our community, although many of us may not know about his contributions to control and his vision for its future. In "Publication Activities," CSS Vice-President for Publications Frank Doyle provides a summary of the recent five-year IEEE review of CSS publications. We have three conferences to report, including SontagFest, honoring Eduardo on his 60th (hard to believe!) birthday. With sadness we publish an obituary of Jack Warga. Jack made fundamental contributions to the mathematical side of control; his book is a gem of rigor and clarity. Most of all, Jack will be remembered for his integrity as a researcher and as a person who cared deeply for others. Finally, we close with an image that represents both the end of this era of CSS and the start of the next.

Dennis S. Bernstein

