

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third issue of our 2023 SMCS eNewsletter. Since our last issue in June, natural disasters have raged across the planet. From record-breaking heatwaves, to wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme thunderstorms, and floods. In the US alone, the National Centres for Environmental Information - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported 23 weather/climate disaster events in 2023, each with losses exceeding \$1 billion [1]. The wildfires in Maui, for example, caused SMC 2023 organizers to swiftly change plans and move the annual conference – practically one month before its debut – not only to a different hotel, but a different island. In these difficult times, volunteers are crucial in assisting victims of natural disasters. IEEE MOVE, for example, is a volunteer group run by IEEE members (and supported by the SMC Society) deployed to different parts of the world to provide victims and disaster relief agencies, such as the Red Cross, with short-term communications, computer, and power solutions to allow them to stay connected and be able to access the help they need. In this issue’s feature article, IEEE MOVE-USA volunteer Grayson Randall documents his experiences providing disaster relief to victims of hurricane Idalia, and collaborative work with SMCS member Dr. Karen Panetta to develop new imaging technologies to better see through adverse weather conditions.

Indeed, researchers have linked many such natural disasters to human-caused climate change (e.g., [2]), thus the need for more sustainable and green solutions are drastically needed. In our inaugural “Industry Corner” column, we interview Dr. Jayantika Soni, the Chief Technology Officer & Co-Founder of Resync Technologies, an early-stage start-up in the domain of intelligent energy management relying on new control and machine learning algorithms to make power systems with renewables more efficient. We hope you enjoy this inaugural interview and would love to hear your feedback about this new column, and suggestions for future interviewees.

For News items, Distinguished Lecture reports for the Malaysia and Singapore Chapters are presented summarizing talks given by Prof. Saeid Nahavandi. A new SMC Student Branch was announced in the Madras Section at the Sri Sai Ram Institute of Technology, as well as a new TC on Flexible Electronic Systems. We have two book announcements – the *Human-Machine System Handbook*, edited by SMCS members G. Fortino, D. Kaber, A. Nürnberger, and D. Mendonça, and *Elements and Relations*, written by SMCS member Martin Zwick. Updates to SMC 2023, including the change in venue and the latest technical program, are also announced. We share a call for participation to the roadmapping session of the IEEE 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on the Future of Telepresence, as well as calls for papers for ICHMS 2024 and the SMC Magazine Special Issue on metaverse and security.

I cannot emphasize enough that we are here to help serve you, SMC Society members. If you have any job openings at your university or company, openings for postdoctoral and graduate student fellowships, or undergraduate student internships that you would like to be widely advertised, please forward them to our team and we will be happy to advertise them here.

I hope you enjoy this September issue of the SMC Society eNewsletter. Our editorial team (A. Ávila, L. Dong, J. Dong, D. Paul, W. Qi, and H. Su) worked hard over the last few months to collect material we feel is relevant and of interest to you and your career. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please send them along.

Thank you and hope to see you in person in Honolulu at SMC 2023!

[1] <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>

[2] Abatzoglou, J. T., & Williams, A. P. (2016). Impact of anthropogenic climate change on wildfire across western US forests. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(42), 11770-11775.



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