



**Published by:**  
The Electrochemical Society  
65 South Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534-2839 USA  
Tel 609.737.1902  
Fax 609.737.2743  
Web: www.electrochem.org

**Editor:** Krishnan Rajeshwar  
**e-mail:** rajeshwar@uta.edu

**Guest Editors:** Jeffrey W. Long

**Managing Editor:** Mary E. Yess  
**e-mail:** mary.yess@electrochem.org

**Production & Advertising Manager:**  
Dinia Agrawala  
**e-mail:** interface@electrochem.org

**Advisory Board:** Daniel A. Scherson (*Battery*), Barbara Shaw (*Corrosion*), Durga Misra (*Dielectric Science and Technology*), Gery Stafford (*Electrodeposition*), George K. Celler (*Electronics and Photonics*), S. Narayanan (*Energy Technology*), Prashant V. Kamat (*Fullerenes, Nanotubes, and Carbon Nanostructures*), Enrico Traversa (*High Temperature Materials*), Venkat Srinivasan (*Industrial Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Engineering*), Cornelis R. Ronda (*Luminescence and Display Materials*), James Rusling (*Organic and Biological Electrochemistry*), Wesley Henderson (*Physical and Analytical Electrochemistry*), Peter Hesketh (*Sensor*)

**Publication Committee Chair:**  
Subhash Singhal

**Society Officers:**  
Barry R. MacDougall, *President*  
D. Noel Buckley, *Vice-President*  
Paul Natishan, *Vice-President*  
William D. Brown, *Vice-President*  
Petr Vanýsek, *Secretary*  
John R. Susko, *Treasurer*  
Roque J. Calvo, *Executive Director*

Statements and opinions given in The Electrochemical Society *Interface* are those of the contributors, and The Electrochemical Society assumes no responsibility for them.

Authorization to photocopy any article for internal or personal use beyond the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 is granted by The Electrochemical Society, Inc. to libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923. Copying for other than internal or personal use without express permission of The Electrochemical Society, Inc. is prohibited. For reprint information, contact Society Headquarters. The CCC Code for The Electrochemical Society *Interface* is 1064-8208/92.

**Production Notes**  
**Design Consultant:**  
O&Y Design,  
Trenton, NJ

**Printed by:**  
Cummings Printing Co.  
Hooksett, NH

**Canada Post:**  
Publications Mail Agreement #40612608  
Canada Returns to be sent to:  
Bleuchip International, P.O. Box 25542,  
London, ON N6C 6B2



## Scaling the Heights

Another year has come and gone and the reflective mood that sets in toward the end of each year is slowly fading as I sit down to write this column in February. The end of a year is also a time when you cannot pick up a magazine or a paper without seeing the highlights (or lowlights!) being proclaimed as “The Best of...,” “The Worst of...,” “The Most Memorable...,” “Ten Best Moments in ...,” etc., etc. Not to be outdone or left out, perhaps we should also review, in this magazine, the

events, personalities, and other aspects of each year that has passed by—how about “The Best ECS Plenary Lecture...,” “The Best Feature Article in *Interface*...,” or even “Most Memorable Moment at an ECS Meeting...”? We can even extend this idea to the best oral presentation given at the ECS meeting, the best article in the *Journal*, the best communication in *Letters*, and the best paper in *ECS Transactions*. Who would come up with these rankings? Do we conduct a poll? Surely, we don’t want to put that burden on the editors who have enough on their plate. Nor, I suspect, would they would want to further test the limits of a delicate and tenuous relationship with those contributors who have received less than favorable feedback from the reviewers! By the same token, and unlike in the popular media, it would be imprudent to poll for the opposite end of the spectrum (*i.e.*, the “Worst”) without offending a few of our colleagues and the Society membership as well! Oh well, shelving this whole idea looks good; we’ll just let the popular media do their end-of-the-year thing.

There were also many milestones during this past year, and one of the more poignant was the passing of one of the greatest mountain climbers of all time, Sir Edmund Hillary. Hillary, you recall, scaled Mt. Everest in the Himalayas on May 29, 1953. An interesting side-story relates to the role played by his Nepalese Sherpa fellow-climber, Tenzing Norgay. Did Hillary or Norgay reach the summit first? True to form, Hillary did graciously allow the story that Norgay scaled the summit first (for it gave greater pride to the Nepalese locals) although later, he acknowledged that it really didn’t matter who was technically first as it was a *team game*. For the record, Norgay revealed shortly before his death in 1986, that Hillary, in fact, had reached the summit a few steps before him. However, it is debatable whether *either* man could have achieved this feat alone. We see this trend repeated often in history: for every Watson, there was a Crick; for every Hewlett, there was a Packard. For Don Quixote, there was Sancho Panza. Even for the *Lone Ranger*, there was Tonto! I wrote about teamwork in my previous column in the fall 2007 issue and there is much to be said for bringing complementary skills to the table. It is interesting that this dynamic extends to the performing/creative arts and sporting fields as well. For example, would Elvis Presley have become the legend that he is without the business savvy and promotional skills of his legendary manager, “Colonel” Tom Parker? In the tennis world, the über-focused routine of Bjorn Borg was orchestrated to the minute by his omnipresent coach, Lennart Bergelin. In all these cases, there was one person in the spotlight and there was another (equally important) in the background, away from the cameras.

In the science/technology world, other than the two sets of examples listed above, it is not clear to what extent this sort of complementarity plays a role. Did the Newtons, Einsteins, and Paulings of this world scale the scientific heights all alone? Perhaps they are the exceptions rather than the rule. Stay tuned.

Raj K.

**Krishnan Rajeshwar**  
**Editor**

The Electrochemical Society *Interface* (USPS 010-327) (ISSN 1064-8208) is published quarterly by The Electrochemical Society, at 65 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534-2839 USA. Subscription to members as part of membership service; subscription to nonmembers \$58.00 plus \$16.00 for postage outside U.S. Single copies \$6.00 to members; \$13.00 to nonmembers. © Copyright 2008 by The Electrochemical Society. Periodicals postage at Pennington, New Jersey, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Electrochemical Society, 65 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534-2839.

The Electrochemical Society is an educational, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with more than 8000 scientists and engineers in over 70 countries worldwide who hold individual membership. Founded in 1902, the Society has a long tradition in advancing the theory and practice of electrochemical and solid-state science by dissemination of information through its publications and international meetings.