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The Electrochemical Society (ECS)
65 South Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534-2839, USA
Tel 609.737.1902
Fax 609.737.2743
www.electrochem.org

Editor: Krishnan Rajeshwar, rajeshwar@uta.edu

Guest Editor: Jeffrey Fergus, fergusje@auburn.edu

Contributing Editors: Donald Pile, donald.pile@gmail.com; Zoltan Nagy, nagy.z@email.unc.edu

Managing Editor: Mary E. Yess, mary.yess@electrochem.org

Production & Advertising Manager:

Dinia Agrawala, interface@electrochem.org

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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.



A Phase Transition

The title of my editorial column read “Transitions and Interfaces” when I assumed editorship duties of this magazine back in summer of 1999. After approximately 15 years, I am returning to this theme to close the circle. As of the end of this year, I will be relinquishing the editorship to assume duties as the

Third Vice-President of the Society. This will represent a “phase transition” for me, and hopefully, the growth of a new phase with all the exciting possibilities that come with it. It has been an incredibly fun ride, and as with any long journey, there were invariably a few bumps along the road that had to be deftly navigated. These included disasters (natural and man-made) both within and outside of the Society, and some (like Hurricane Sandy) had a direct and tangible effect on the production of this magazine. However, the important thing is that, thanks to the diligent efforts of several individuals, including the dedicated staff in Pennington, NJ, we were able to deliver, what I would hope, was a quality product that faithfully represents this Society.

Before signing off for the last time as the Editor, I have many people to thank. First and foremost is my “partner-in-crime,” Mary Yess, the Managing Editor of *Interface*, who has been an absolute rock through all these years. Through her previous involvement with this magazine before my term as the Editor began, she could provide valuable counsel and continuity at the outset. I could immediately sense the passion she brought to producing these magazine pages, and am so happy that we hit it off right from the beginning. This was a partnership in the true sense of the word and I would like to think that our skills meshed beautifully as in any successful team. Dennis Hess: you, Mary, and the other members of the ECS *Interface* Editor search committee (bravely?) entrusted the magazine in my hands back in 1999; I hope I have not disappointed you all! Many thanks also go to Subhash Singhal and the other members of the Publications Subcommittee for their support through the years. Being able to work with talented production managers such as Ellen Popkin and Dinia Agrawala was also a boon. Their considerable talents lie behind what you see in terms of the stunning cover illustrations to the quality layout in the feature article pages, the advertisements, and culminating in the back cover of this magazine.

I thank all the people who provided feedback to me, both via numerous e-mail messages, phone calls, and hallway conversations that proved to be invaluable in gauging how we were doing as a members’ magazine. In this regard, how can I not forget to mention all the guest editors and feature article authors who contributed mightily to this magazine over the years? The contributing editors regularly and diligently furnished columns for us and they include, among others, Mike Kelly, Donald Pile, and Zoltan Nagy.

As I begin to learn all of the intricate aspects of my new “job” as an ECS Vice-President, the collegiality of the senior members of the Society leadership team—Tetsuya Osaka, Paul Kohl, Dan Scherson, Christina Bock, and Lili Deligianni—has been both heart-warming and striking. This collegiality has always been a hallmark of our Society and there is no better example of that, at least in my mind, than Roque Calvo, the current Executive Director of ECS. Roque, I hope you will not mind my sharing hilarious stories of your very first trip to my native country, India, including the challenges of eating very hot Indian curry, and chance encounters with prancing peacocks right on the lawn in front of our guesthouse in CECRI, Karaikudi! Friendships like these I have made over the years (and will continue to make in the future) with the Society staff and membership are much cherished. This journey and the many phase transitions began for me back in 1978 with the Boston ECS meeting.

Finally, a simple thanks to my family: my wonderful wife, angel, and soul mate, Rohini (Ro) for her steadfast support for more than 36 years; and our beautiful daughters, Reena and Rebecca, for keeping everything in perspective. Ro was a sounding board for many of the ideas and thoughts expressed in my editorial columns, and my initial drafts undoubtedly benefitted from her liberal use of red ink edits and queries.

Vijay Ramani and Petr Vanýsek: We all wish you both the very best as you take over the co-editorship reins; I hope you will have as fun and invigorating a ride as I had for 15 years with this magazine. And as always, stay tuned!

Raj K.

Krishnan Rajeshwar
Editor