Six Providence Section Chapters are actively hosting many technical meetings. Chapters and their chairs include Signal Processing (David Hague), Ocean Engineering (Gopu Potty), Engineering in Medicine and Biology (Gary Dahrooge), Computer Science (Charles Thangaraj), Power & Energy (Casey Hayes), and a Reliability Chapter which is joint with the Boston Section. We are looking forward to supporting the Underwater Acoustic Signal Processing Conference at the Alton Jones campus of the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

We have four active student branches at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, Brown University in Providence, RI, the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth, MA and the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI, and are in the process of investigating the formation of two more Student Branches at Johnson & Wales and the New England Institute of Technology. A group of graduate students also meets at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Falmouth, MA. We also have an EMBS Student Chapter at the University of Rhode Island. We are actively pursuing ideas for networking among the Student Branches and improving Section/Branch communication.

Our STEM Coordinator, Bill Horan continues to work closely with the award-winning Sea Perch underwater Robotics Team at Rogers High school in Newport, RI. Other Robotics support includes hosting an IEEE table at the 2017 Robotics Block Party at Brown University where an IEEE Student Branch Micro Mouse Competition is also held. The Section also supports various events with the First Lego League and many other initiatives, including the annual Yankee Steam-Up at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum in East Greenwich, RI.

The Section PACE Chair, David Casper, continues to support numerous Professional Activities for engineers in the Section, and we are proud of our growing Young Professionals group chaired by Jae Song. We are also working to expand Industrial Relations in the area, led by John Barkley.

The Providence Section hosted the IEEE President, Jim Jefferies, to award an IEEE Milestone at the French Cable Station Museum in Orleans MA on 5-7 September to commemorate the French Transatlantic Telegraph Cable of 1898. A corresponding Milestone was also dedicated in July 2017 in Brest, France. Our Milestone Chair, Sandy Williams of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute is currently working on our next IEEE Milestone to commemorate the Human Occupied submersible vehicle, Alvin, which was commissioned in 1964.

The Providence Section will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our founding on March 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Gaudette

Providence Section Chair