

IN MEMORIAM: PHILIPPE COIFFET (1940-2023) MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS INDUSTRY NEWS PUBLICATIONS SPECTRUM ROBOTS GUIDE ROBOT OF THE MONTH

# IN MEMORIAM: PHILIPPE COIFFET (1940-2023)



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Professor Philippe Coiffet on Friday, 20 October, at the age of 83. Philippe was a remarkable person. As a scientist, he was a visionary and open-minded researcher; he dedicated his life to the field of robotics (in particular, telerobotics and virtual reality) and leaves us a rich legacy. On a human level, he was incredibly friendly and kind, and an outstanding mentor for his students.. Philippe received a doctorate in nuclear physics from Orsay University. He spent his entire scientific career at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS).

In 1972, he set up the first public robotics research team at the University of Montpellier. Since then, he took numerous secondments. Philippe developed the first force feedback data glove in France, and he worked on enhancing computer-assisted telerobotics with virtual and augmented realities. He has published over twenty scientific books on robotics and virtual reality, most of them translated into English and some into other languages, as well as over 300 articles on these subjects.

A full In Memoriam article is available **here**; you can leave a personal message to remember and honor Philippe **here**.

RAS mourns his loss and extends our deepest condolences to Philippe's loved ones and colleagues.

## **MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS**

Vote Now for the IEEE RAS AdCom Election!

Vote today for the IEEE RAS AdCom election so we can increase last year's percentage rate of 11.8%. Your vote counts!

Note: voting must be completed no later than 26 December 2023. Any returns received after this date will not be counted. The online voting site will close at 4:00 pm Eastern Time. Click **here** for more details.



# Empowering Technical Committees with the TABxSAC Dinner at IROS 2023 in Detroit

On 30 September 2023, Detroit's Huntington Place hosted the TABxSAC Dinner, a major event organized by the Technical Activities Board (TAB) of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS). The event aimed to connect current and future leaders and to introduce RAS Technical Committees (TC), TAB, and the Student Activities Committee (SAC) to students and postdocs. The event presented students with opportunities to be involved in RAS and become a leader.

TAB leadership was pleased with the dinner's success: attendees, who totaled approximately 400, included professors and industrial experts from 30 TCs as well as 350 postdoctoral researchers and students. Click **here** for highlights and more details on this event. Planning for the next installment of the TABxSAC Dinner (to be held at ICRA 2024) is already underway. TAB and SAC would like to thank all participants for making this such a successful event.



Gregory Gerling discusses the RAS TC on Haptics at the IROS 2023 TABxSAC Dinner.

### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

Call for Applications: Travel Grants for Students Participating in IEEE Robotic Standardization Efforts (SPIRSE)

RAS wants to encourage students to play an active role in existing robotics standardization efforts. The Society has a number of approved and active **standardization efforts**, and we have set aside funds to provide travel support to students interested in attending the **2024 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)**, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan from 13-17 May 2024.

ICRA 2024 will feature numerous IEEE robotics standardization meetings. We expect to award **3 travel grants** to cover flights, hotel reservations, and conference registration within the IEEE guidelines and not to exceed US\$3,000 each. The application deadline is **1 February 2024**.

Click here for more information and application instructions.



#### PUBLICATIONS

New Issues of RA-L, T-MRB available on IEEE Xplore

We are pleased to announce that new issues of RA-L and T-MRB are now available on IEEE *Xplore*. Check them out!

- *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* (RA-L): **a new batch** of papers is now available!
- *IEEE Transactions Medical Robotics and Bionics* (T-MRB) Volume 5, Issue 4. Click **here** for the Table of Contents and check out the full issue **here**!

#### **SPECTRUM ROBOTS GUIDE OF THE MONTH**

Darwin-OP



Discover Darwin-OP on the **IEEE Spectrum Robots Guide**, which RAS cosponsors. This Guide is an interactive catalog featuring hundreds of realworld bots, including humanoids, drones, self-driving cars, and more. Browse detailed technical specs and read the latest news in the robotics field!

Questions or comments? Reach out to ras@ieee.org.



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**Darwin-OP** is a small humanoid robot that can walk, dance, and speak. It can also play soccer, and if it falls, it just stands up and keeps going. It's designed as an open platform for robotics research.