Over the past two years, there have been remarkably many breakthroughs in commutative algebra, including proofs of the direct summand conjecture and the existence of big Cohen-Macaulay algebras, counterexamples to the Eisenbud-Goto conjecture, the proof of Stillman’s conjecture, and progress on the Buchsbaum-Eisenbud-Horrocks question on Betti numbers. The talk will survey some of this progress and will point out, for each topic discussed, one or more major open questions that remain. (Received August 20, 2018)