

Computer Thanks Its Expert Reviewers

In this last issue of *Computer* in 2006, I would like to extend my gratitude to the dedicated reviewers whose efforts make possible each issue of *Computer*. *Computer* relies on and highly values the peer review process and the reviewers who are at its very core.



Our reviewers contribute by reviewing papers as assigned in their technical area of expertise. They often comment on organization and clarity, questions of accuracy, disputed definitions, and the effectiveness of visual aids, figures, or other ancillary materials.

Reviewers for *Computer* work under the direction of Associate Editors in Chief Kathleen Swigger and Bill Schilit. Kathy and Bill have contributed extensively to *Computer* and to the Computer Society throughout 2006. Their expertise and guidance, combined with their commitment, are critical components of our review process.

All of *Computer*'s feature articles are subject to peer review. To the nearly 250 professionals who contributed their time and expertise as *Computer* reviewers in 2006, please accept my thanks. I sincerely hope that you will continue to be available to review for *Computer*.

To the column and department editors, please accept my gratitude for your valuable contributions. Finally, my thanks to our area editors and Advisory Panel, who give generously of their time to help with the review process. The names of the column editors, area editors, and Advisory Panel can be found on the masthead on page two.

To express an interest in becoming a reviewer for *Computer*, register at <http://cs-ieee.manuscriptcentral.com>. Your registration will inform us of your willingness to serve as a reviewer and will give us a profile of your areas of expertise.

—Doris L. Carver, Editor in Chief

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Russian Team Wins \$10,000 in Computer History Competition

A team of undergraduates from Moscow's Russian State Technological Institute has won \$10,000 in the IEEE Computer Society 60th Anniversary History Competition with its Web site on the Russian schoty, a counting device similar to an abacus. Nearly 70 teams from 63 universities in 27 countries vied for first place in the competition.

Student team members Ekaterine Dobryshina and Sergey Sheypak, accompanied by team mentor Valery Shilov, accepted the award at the IEEE Computer Society's 60th Anniversary celebration in San Diego, representing fellow teammates Alexey Drogin and Denis Rimskij.

CHC₆₀ organizers encouraged groups of four undergraduate students to work together as a team to design, research, and implement a high-quality Web site. The aim of the competition was to make students aware of the rich and exciting history of the computer as well to emphasize transferable skills such as time management and the division of a major task among a group of people. CHC₆₀ is part of a series of events throughout 2006 to celebrate the IEEE Computer Society's 60th anniversary.

"The judges were very impressed with the Russian State Technological Institute's site. The site was well laid out and easy to navigate," said CHC₆₀ chair Alan Clements, a professor at the UK's University of Teesside.

"They presented their topic in an interesting and informative manner."

Teams from the following 12 schools reached the finals:

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida
 ITT Technical Institute, San Antonio, Texas
 Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, Indiana
 Russian State Technological University, Moscow, Russia
 State University of New York (two entries), Binghamton, New York
 Technical University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania
 Tribhuvan University Institute of Engineering, Lalitpur, Nepal
 University of Craiova, Craiova, Romania
 University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
 University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Northrop Grumman generously provided the \$10,000 first-place prize. To view the Russian State Technological Institute entry, as well as links to other high-ranked sites, visit www.computer.org/education/chc60. ■

The Future of the CSIDC

In 2000, the Computer Society set up a new student competition that was destined to become one of the society's flagship projects. In the IEEE Computer Society International Design Competition, teams of four undergraduates designed sophisticated computer-based solutions to problems of the teams' own choosing, based around an overarching contest theme. In 2006, the first prize in the competition was \$20,000.

The driving force behind CSIDC was the Society's desire to engage with students in a world where computers are becoming ubiquitous. Consequently, themes such as "Preserving, Protecting, and Enhancing the Environment" and "Making the World a Safer Place" have guided competitors in recent years.

Running CSIDC takes a lot of money and effort. Seventy or more judges, many of them top professionals, work together to evaluate submissions. The top 10 teams travel to the World Finals event in Washington, DC, where they present and demonstrate their projects to 10 judges who grill them for two days. The Computer Society pays all the expenses of the teams that attend the World Finals, and the prizes are sub-

stantial. A supplementary prize offers \$3,000 to the team making best use of multimedia in their presentation.

For the first two years of the competition, funding came from a consortium of sponsors. At that point, Microsoft stepped in to support CSIDC for five more years. As that agreement expired, organizers sought commitments elsewhere but could not raise the required funding. Consequently, CSIDC 2007 has been cancelled. The Computer Society hopes to raise funding for CSIDC 2008 and to continue running a competition that delights so many students and attempts to raise the level of computing expertise in universities everywhere.

Sponsors get to meet the teams taking part in CSIDC and to see their work, giving them an opportunity to recruit top-quality students.

Anyone who is in a position to help with funding is asked to contact Alan Clements at alanclements@ntlworld.com.

—Alan Clements, 2006 CSIDC chair
 and professor at the UK's University of Teesside