Computer Recognizes Expert Reviewers

Organized activities require teamwork to succeed. Since becoming Computer’s editor in chief in January 2007, I have witnessed the great synergy between the professional editorial staff, volunteer editors, and an impressive group of reviewers whose collective wisdom and effort make Computer a great publication.

First, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the reviewers who gave their time to review submitted manuscripts, offering comments on organization and clarity, questions of accuracy, disputed definitions, and the effectiveness of visual aids, figures, or other ancillary materials. By relying on such dedicated professionals, we ensure the high quality of the peer-review process that serves as a cornerstone of any first-rate professional association publication. I encourage reviewers to continue to support the magazine and make themselves available to review for Computer in the years to come.

Due to the magnitude of the workload, the editors at Computer work in a highly structured manner. Reviewers for Computer mostly work under the direction of Associate Editors in Chief Kathleen Swigger and Bill Schilit. Kathy and Bill, as volunteer leaders in the Computer Society, have contributed extensively to Computer throughout the years.

I offer my gratitude to the editors who solicit or contribute Computer’s columns and departments. There will continue to be transitions as veteran editors move on and new faces take charge as I begin implementing my editorial vision and plan. Finally, thanks to the area editors and advisory panel members who have offered me support and advice through the past year.

Current reviewers, please visit http://cs-ieee.manuscriptcentral.com to update the profile of your areas of expertise, if applicable. Also, please ask your colleagues to join the team by registering themselves and their areas of expertise at the same Web site.

—Carl Chang, Editor in Chief

A list of Computer’s expert reviewers is available on the Web at www.computer.org/reviewers2007.

Task Force Becomes Technical Committee on Autonomous and Autonomic Systems

The IEEE Computer Society Technical Activities Board recently voted to raise the status of the growing Task Force on Autonomous and Autonomic Systems to that of a formal Technical Committee. Roy Sterritt, of the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, serves as chair of the TC-AAS, while Mike Hinchey, of Loyola College in Maryland and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, serves as its vice chair.

The new technical committee will continue the task force’s work promoting interest in self-managing, -governing, and -organizing systems, including autonomic networking and communications; autonomous, self-organizing and ubiquitous systems; and autonomic, grid, organic, and pervasive computing.

The TC-AAS publishes an electronic newsletter and a Letters series, which includes written versions of keynote speeches given at several relevant conferences, symposia, and workshops. These letters are archived in the proceedings of the International Workshop on Engineering of Autonomic Systems (EASE) in the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library (www.computer.org/csdl).

Members of the TC-AAS have organized several events, including EASE in April 2008 (www.ulster.ac.uk/ease) and the IEEE International Conference on Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems, which will take place in Venice, Italy, from 20-24 October 2008 (www.saso-conference.org). Several workshops and other events will take place in conjunction with the Fifth IEEE International Conference on Autonomic Computing, which convenes in Chicago 2-6 June 2008.

Membership in the TC-AAS is open to Computer Society members and nonmembers alike. To sign up, learn about upcoming activities, or view archived newsletters, visit http://tab.computer.org/aas.
The IEEE Computer Society will administer a beta test for the CSDA exam from 7 December 2007 to 18 January 2008. Its purpose is to validate the exam questions and provide statistical data. The CSDA beta exam is open to recent graduates and students in their final year of a baccalaureate or equivalent degree program. The exam will be given at Prometric Testing Centers at locations around the world.

Applications to take the test are due by 7 December. Fees for the beta exam total $110, rising to $250 when testing opens to the public in April. Candidates who pass the beta exam will be awarded the CSDA certificate and mailed the results in early March.

To learn more about CSDA certification and other IEEE Computer Society professional development programs, visit www.computer.org/csda.

Editor: Bob Ward, Computer, bnward@computer.org

Computer Society Launches New Certification Program

The IEEE Computer Society will debut the Certified Software Development Associate program in April 2008. A volunteer panel of expert software engineers, developers, and educators created the new certification in response to industry leaders’ requests for a way to assess the skill and knowledge of individuals who are just embarking on their careers as software professionals.

The CSDA certification encompasses the entire field of software development and validates knowledge of the foundations of computer science, computer engineering, and mathematics. The exam covers core software engineering principles, including software construction, software design, software testing, software requirements, and software methods. CSDA certification standards are based on The Guide to the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge (SWEBOK) and Software Engineering 2004: Curriculum Guidelines for Undergraduate Degree Programs in Software Engineering (SE2004.)

Questions on the Certified Software Development Associate exam address the following 15 areas of expertise:
I. Software requirements
II. Software design
III. Software construction
IV. Software testing
V. Software maintenance
VI. Software configuration management
VII. Software engineering management
VIII. Software engineering process
IX. Software engineering methods
X. Software quality
XI. Software engineering professional practice
XII. Software engineering economics
XIII. Computing foundations
XIV. Mathematical foundations
XV. Engineering foundations

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