Welcome Message

We welcome you to the beautiful Kauai island of Hawaii to celebrate the largest ever CVPR conference in its twenty-five year history. This is also a departure from the typical June schedule to accommodate the tradition of not holding a CVPR when either ICCV (Vancouver, July 2001) or ICPR (Quebec City, August 2002) are held in North America. In an effort to broaden the interest in CVPR and to expand the level of participation, this CVPR includes Technical Sketches, Workshops, Demonstrations, Short Courses, in addition to the traditional CVPR presentations.

Technical Sketches are a new venue featuring presentations that do not fit the traditional CVPR mold. Researchers were encouraged to submit their ideas and results, even if preliminary, as long as they are sufficiently compelling and have the potential to expose the CVPR audience to provocative innovations and methodologies. Some 30 papers will be presented in this forum.

The demonstration session provides an opportunity for members of the computer vision research community, and for practitioners, to present and exchange ideas in an interactive way. Demonstrations showcase working computer vision systems developed for vision, graphics, or pattern recognition tasks. Authors of accepted proposals were invited to include material related to the demonstration (code, data, videos, a brief overview paper, etc.) on a CD-ROM. We are pleased to acknowledge the increased participation from industrial researchers in these demos.

Short courses replace the traditional tutorials offered in the past. Ten courses covering a wide variety of topics are offered. These are suitable for both industrial and academic participants. Although you can only attend one or two courses during the day, the material from all courses is distributed on a CD-ROM to everyone who signs up for the short courses package.

Workshops on focused research topics with an emphasis on sufficient opportunities for close interaction among participants have been on the increase in recent years. We are pleased to have three full days dedicated to eleven workshops.

Regarding the CVPR conference, most of you know that the response to the call for papers was overwhelming. We received over 1100 abstracts, which turned into 920 full paper submissions. This is almost twice the number of papers submitted to CVPR 2000. Despite this unexpected surge in submissions, we are pleased to report that we maintained the traditional time honored double-blind review process. This year, the process was entirely paper-free, using an on-line system crafted and maintained at MIT's AI Lab. This system supported online submission of abstracts, full papers, optional multimedia material, and reviews. We received over 2700 reviews, and for those few papers for which only two reviews were received on time, an area chair also

carefully reviewed the paper. All reviews were compiled by area chairs for initial recommendation. A meeting of the chairs in Los Angeles made final decisions on all papers, with each paper reviewed by a team of 4 chairs, with additional reviews applied to those papers that were difficult to decide on the basis of the initial reviews. As a result of this process, 78 papers were accepted for oral presentation, and 195 were accepted as posters, making this the largest collection of computer vision research presentations to date. We realize that no review system is perfect and sometimes good contributions are overlooked. We apologize to authors of such contributions.

We have also introduced a new system of registration at this CVPR. We hope that you would find it convenient to have flexible access to all events with one, all-inclusive, registration fee. Similarly, we included all activities, including the banquet, in the student registration fee to acknowledge the contributions of our student researchers in the work we are all proud of.

Organizing a conference of this magnitude is only possible with an extraordinary organizing committee of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. We are particularly pleased that Eric Grimson (with his experience in organizing the largest ICCV) and Dan Huttenlocher were there to take charge as the Program Chairs. They, along with their program committee of nineteen area chairs and some three hundred reviewers, completed the review process in record time. We are deeply indebted to all of them for their diligence and professionalism.

We would like to thank Aaron Bobick, Terry Boult, Kevin Bowyer, Jim Davis, Patrick Flynn, Sing Bing Kang, Kyros Kutulakos, Tom O'Donnell, Demetri Terzopoulos, the workshop organizers, and the short course instructors for their critical contributions. Keith Price, PAMI TC Chair, was instrumental in securing the student travel grants. We acknowledge the support of Siemens and VisionIQ for the paper awards. We would like to especially acknowledge the effort of Lilla Zollei and David Gering from MIT AI Lab in designing and maintaining the on-line review system, Vladimir Mariano, Junghye Min, and Jinhyeong Park at Penn State for designing and managing the main CVPR web site, and Helen Defurio for helping us as conference secretary. Freddy Bruckstein created the logo used here. Of course, no conference can exist without outstanding contributions from authors. We thank all authors for their contributions and for their cooperation throughout the process.

We are grateful to many staff members at IEEE Computer Society in helping us in both fiscal matters and in compiling and printing of the proceedings. In particular, we are thankful to Thomas Baldwin, Anne Jacobs, Magdalene Johnson, and Kristine Weiand for their direct support.

We hope that you would find the conference intellectually stimulating and its ambiance particularly relaxing. We wish you a very memorable CVPR.

Rangachar Kasturi and **Gérard Medioni**
General Chairs