Welcome to the 13th IEEE conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE ‘98).

It is our pleasure to have this year’s conference in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii. The ASE conference is growing rapidly and is becoming truly international, with over 150 submissions this year (as compared to 100 for 1997, and just over 50 two years ago).

This year’s submissions represent all continents except Antartica, with 70 papers submitted from Europe and the Middle East, 50 papers from the US and Canada, 22 papers from Asia and Australia, 9 papers from Central and South America, and 4 from Africa. The papers spanned the range of disciplines related to the conference: automatic and assisted computer-based construction, representation, semantic analysis, reasoning, and understanding, of software artifacts and processes.

The conference accepted 44 papers in all, with 24 of these accepted for presentation as long papers and 20 of those accepted as short papers to be presented as posters. The papers accepted also ranged from around the globe, including 25 papers from the US and Canada, 17 papers from Europe and the Middle East, 1 paper from Asia, and 1 paper from South America (the totals do not add up because a few papers were co-authored by authors from different places). We believe that you will find the quality of the accepted papers to be quite high, and the Journal of Automated Software Engineering, published by Kluwer, will have a special issue devoted to expanded versions of the best papers presented as this conference.

In addition to the sizeable set of high-quality technical papers and presentations, the conference is also fortunate to have Tony Wasserman, Bill Clancey, and Charles Rich as invited speakers. Tony Wasserman’s talk addresses the problems of integrating software-related tools as well as integrating tools and people. Bill Clancey’s talk discusses the role of work practice simulation in software engineering. And Charles Rich’s talk will discuss his recent work in collaborative interface agents and will relate it to his earlier work on the Programmer’s Apprentice. We also have two mini-tutorials, one from Steve Easterbrook on Category Theory, the other from Gerard Holzmann and Anuj Puri on Model Checking.

Finally, we have arranged a panel on the future of automated software engineering where key members of funding agencies and industrial research labs discuss which areas of research they see as being the focus of the next five years of ASE research.

Our thanks to the many individuals and organizations that have worked so hard to make this a successful conference, the organizing committee, steering committee, and program committee all worked long hours and put in much creative effort, with many of the program committee members travelled great distances to attend the program committee meeting. In addition, many other individuals made significant efforts, including but not limited to Mary-Kate Rada and Bob Werner of the IEEE Computer Society. We also thank Rome Labs, NASA, Microsoft Research, and the Institute for Software Research (ISR) for their generous support.

Finally, our thanks to you, the participants of the conference. We believe you will find this conference more than worth your while to attend, and we encourage you to continue to participate in future ASE’s.

Alex Quilici  Bashar Nuseibeh  David Redmiles