Message from the General Chair

Dear Colleague,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 1996 International Conference on Software Engineering and to beautiful Monterey! I hope you find the conference beneficial and interesting. It was in 1983 that I organized the Workshop on Software Maintenance in Monterey -- the predecessor of ICSM. In view of our historic roots in Monterey, the Program Committee decided to use the following theme to guide the development of the conference:

"ICSM returns to Monterey: Progress in Software Maintenance Since 1983. What are the important developments in software maintenance since 1983? Is there quantitative proof or even qualitative evidence that these developments have made maintenance less expensive or easier to perform? How have developments and practices in managing software maintenance, reengineering, reverse engineering, program comprehension, impact analysis, maintenance tools, maintenance process, maintenance models, maintenance standards, and measurement of maintenance changed the quality and cost of maintenance since 1983?" We will endeavor to answer these questions during the conference.

In an effort to make the conference increasingly useful for practitioners we have included an Industry Track and a Tools Fair. Because tutorials have been very popular over the years, we have expanded the time devoted to them from the traditional one day to two days. In addition, you are invited to participate in The International Workshop on Empirical Studies of Software Maintenance, which will be held all day on Friday. Also note that ICSM96 is being held in conjunction with the 1996 Working Conference on Reverse Engineering (WCRE), which will start Friday afternoon.

On the social side, our premier event will be a night at the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. In addition, you are most welcome to join your colleagues at the Birds of a Feather luncheon. Tables will be set up identifying the major topics in maintenance. Choose a table for a stimulating exchange of ideas on a topic of common interest. If I can be of service during the conference, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation to the key people in the conference organization and to the Program Committee for all their hard work and dedication in putting the program together. Thank you!

Norman F. Schneidewind
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