Message from the Program Co-Chairs

The theme of this year’s International Conference on Software Maintenance (ICSM'96) is “Software Modernization.” The trend has turned away from new development towards maintaining and modernizing corporate software assets. Software modernization is a key area where software maintenance technology is making an impact today. Whether it involves moving from an old platform to a new one, migrating stovepipe systems into an integrated architecture, or renovating an aging software system to be more responsive to change, software modernization involves modifying existing systems to suite their ever-changing environments. Software modernization is increasingly becoming a key activity as software organizations attempt to contain maintenance costs and maximize investments in their software assets.

This year we also have a shadow theme. With our return to Monterey, we examine how software maintenance as a discipline has evolved to handle more effectively software modernization since 1983. Software maintenance in 1983 focused on programming-in-the-small (changes to modules) while in the 1990’s it has turned toward programming-in-the-large (changes to architecture). Our aim is to reflect on what we have learned over the past 13 years and to project our future as a discipline.

To this end, the ICSM'96 Program Committee refereed many fine papers this year. We selected thirty-six excellent papers for this proceedings. We also have an industry track for the first time. Presentations from the industry track will be provided separately at the conference. We believe bringing together software maintenance practitioners and researchers into the same forum offers a great opportunity to broaden our perspective on this internationally important area.

This year's conference features seven tutorials on pertinent software maintenance topics, 36 refereed papers/presentations, three panel sessions, an Industry Track, Tools Fair, and a Workshop on Empirical Studies in Software Maintenance.

These proceedings record information from the paper and panel sessions as well as our keynote speakers. We are honored that Ted Keller and Peter de Jager will present keynote presentations. These two software visionaries bring an important perspective to current software maintenance issues.

ICSM'96 is the product of many people working hard together to bring software maintenance to this forum in 1996. We thank the many authors for their efforts producing excellent papers for ICSM'96. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the Program Committee members who refereed papers and traveled from around the globe to help organize and execute this year’s Conference in Monterey, California. Particular thanks go to the ICSM'96 sponsors: IEEE Computer Society -- Technical Council on Software Engineering, Centre de Recherche Informatique de Montreal (CRIM), Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE), Lockheed-Martin Space Information Systems, Mitretek Systems, and the Naval Postgraduate School. Our special thanks go to Kerry Bedford, Anne Marie Kelly, Denise Prull, and Bob Werner of the IEEE Computer Society for their encouragement and support throughout the past year as we prepared for the ICSM'96 event.

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