Message from the General Vice-Chair

Welcome to IPDPS 2004 in Santa Fe. This year’s program includes 17 workshops with a total of 306 papers. Many of the workshops have grown steadily in strength and are now operating with parallel sessions or on multiple days. We are pleased to welcome one new workshop this year, in the area of High Performance Grid Computing. As always, we are looking for new workshop proposals for the next IPDPS.

It is my great pleasure to work with such a diverse and energetic group of workshop organizers. We simply cannot lavish too much applause on people who invest the energy that is required to create and publicize workshops, collect and review submissions, and then organize programs. Their contribution to the community is enormous, and I urge every participant to personally thank these individuals for their hard work and dedication. I’ve also been fortunate to have the assistance of Alan Sussman and Luc Bouge as workshop co-chairs this year. Their advice and efforts have been most welcome.

In the IPDPS organization, I would like to thank Nelson Amaral and Rob Lake for their management of the camera-ready paper submission process. Unless you’ve been on their end of this frantic endeavor, you can’t begin to imagine what they go through in the week that papers all pour in. Thanks to Sally Jelinek for her wide-ranging efforts – “production chair” doesn’t begin to describe all of the jobs she tackles for this conference. Besides designing and producing the advertising, designing the proceedings, and overseeing the proceedings production process, many of our attendees can thank her for arranging invitation letters for visas. She will also be one of the smiling faces at the registration desk, so when you see her, be sure to say thanks. Susamma Barua has once again handled the shifting sands of arranging space, A/V needs, and refreshments for workshops whose needs are never known until long after the hotel contract has been signed. While you drink your coffee during a break, stop by the registration desk and offer your compliments. As usual, Bill Pitts has kept the financial wheels turning smoothly, and taken care of our contractual obligations to IEEE and CS Press. Thanks also to Anna Brown for managing the workshop web pages and links.

This year we have added Birds of a Feather sessions to the IPDPS program. By providing space for groups to gather and discuss hot new research topics, we hope to encourage new collaborations in the community, the free exchange of exciting new ideas, greater opportunities for personal networking, and novel workshop proposals. This is just one more example of how the IPDPS organization is working to serve its community in a broader sense. Our hope is that many of our participants will come to think of this as their “home” conference, where their community gathers annually. We look forward to receiving more BoF proposals for 2004.

Santa Fe is gorgeous location for a conference, and we have David Bader to thank for bringing IPDPS here. While I won’t suggest that you miss any of the IPDPS program, I’ll also urge you to find time to get out and tour this lovely and historic town. And if you ask, I’d be happy to tell you about a great little restaurant that I know… Enjoy!

Charles Weems