Message from the Program Chair

As program chair for ISPASS 2007, it is my privilege and honor to present the 2007 ISPASS program. ISPASS provides a forum for sharing advanced academic and industrial R&D work focused on performance analysis in the design of computer systems and software. The program committee (PC) had the task of selecting from 79 excellent submissions, and I'm pleased to report did a thorough job of evaluating and selecting 24 from among them.

Each paper was reviewed by 4 PC members. In addition, I personally solicited at least one additional outside review from an expert in the paper's area. I chose to assign the external reviewers myself in order to avoid issues caused by the blind review process. For papers for which I had a conflict, Dean Tullsen and Margaret Martonosi graciously stepped in to assign reviewers (both PC and non-) and to lead the discussion at the PC meeting. On average, each paper received 5 reviews.

The PC meeting was held in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with MICRO, on December 9th, 2006. 21 of the 24 PC members were physically present, one PC member was tele-present, and those (2) who were not were meticulous about sending me their comments in advance so that their opinion was represented at the meeting. As an added bonus, those who were physically present were fortunate enough to get a memorable close-up (some closer than others) view of the spectacular shuttle launch that night.

All papers were considered during the meeting, although in reality only those with an overall merit score of approximately 2.5 or higher were actually discussed. All papers with polarized reviews were also brought up for potential discussion. Discussion of each paper started with the reviewer with the most favorable review, who was asked to summarize the paper first before pointing out its merits and demerits. Each of the other PC members who had reviewed the paper were then asked to contribute to the discussion. Occasionally, when consensus could not be reached among the reviewers, the paper was put to vote by the entire PC. Preference was given to papers that fit ISPASS's overall theme of performance analysis.

All PC papers were discussed as a group in the afternoon, with the PC member being asked to leave the room using a "hot seat" model. PC papers were held to the same standard as all other papers. The outcome, however, was not made known until the end of the meeting. PC members were also asked to leave the room if they had a stated conflict with the paper being discussed.

This task could not have been accomplished without the hard work and professionalism of the entire PC, who I feel fortunate and privileged to have been able to assemble. My sincere thanks go the each PC member for their thorough and prompt reviews, their responsiveness and attention to detail, and for helping ensure that the PC meeting ran smoothly. My thanks also to the external reviewers, whose detailed reviews played a vital role in the selection process. The ISPASS organizing committee, and in particular, general chair Dave Albonesi, deserve a big thank you for all the helpful advice, for ensuring that the conference runs smoothly, and for allowing me to focus on the
technical program. My thanks also to the keynote speakers, Leslie Barnes and Donald Newell, for being so readily willing to share their insights with the conference attendees.

Despite using standardized packages, setting up the submission web site is always time intensive. As paper submissions chair, my student Arrvindh Shriraman worked tirelessly both at modifying the package to tailor it to my requirements as well as at ensuring that the server stayed up without a hitch during the submission and review process. I am truly indebted to him for his help. My thanks also to our lab staff, Dave Costello and Jim Roche, for handling any security concerns and making the web site happen. A big thank you to JoMarie Carpenter, one of our administrative staff members, who helped coordinate hotel arrangements for the PC meeting in Orlando. My thanks to the finance chair, Nadeem Malik, for helping with the PC meeting logistics.

Most of all, this conference is indebted to all the authors of both submitted and accepted papers, and to the conference attendees and participants, for making ISPASS a stimulating environment in which to disseminate work in the area of performance analysis. I look forward to meeting all of you at the conference and hope you enjoy the program.

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