The Technical Committee on Wearable Information Systems: Passing of the Baton

From the embryonic phone conversations in 1995 and 1996, to organizing the first International Symposium on Wearable Computers at MIT in 1997, to forming the IEEE Computer Society Working Group on Wearable Information Systems (WG WIS), to the official approval as an IEEE Technical Committee (TC WIS) in June 1999, to this seventh annual symposium, many individuals have contributed to the formation of a creative and dedicated community of researchers and system builders.

And the evolution of the community continues. In addition to the IEEE International Symposium on Wearable Computers (ISWC), TC WIS co-sponsors the IEEE and ACM International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR). The TC helped initiate the IEEE Computer Society’s Pervasive Computing magazine that premiered in 2002. Besides several members on the editorial board, there has been a special issue on Wearable Computers and Thad Starner hosts a column on Wearable Technology in each issue.

The TC WIS is devoted to issues concerning the wearing of information-based technology on the human body. The TC is concerned with the characteristics of the technology that will be worn, the applications that are appropriate for use on the body, how people interact with wearable information systems, and the ergonomic impact of wearable systems. The TC recognizes that wearable information systems are inherently interdisciplinary and must be addressed in such a manner.

It has been an exhilarating and rewarding time. This represents my last message as chair of the TC WIS. The chairpersonship passes to the TC Vice Chair, David Mizell, a pioneer in applications of Augmented Reality. An election is underway to select the new TC WIS Vice Chair. All members of the TC are eligible to vote for our future leadership.

We welcome you to become a member of the TC WIS. The TC website (http://www.iswc.net) contains instructions on how to join the Technical Committee, and information on upcoming and past symposia and workshops.

Please join the TC WIS business meeting associated with the symposium to help plan the future course of your technical community. Also feel free to contact members of the TC organizing committee:

Chairperson (past):
Dan Siewiorek, Carnegie Mellon University

Chairperson:
David Mizell, Cray, Inc.

Steering Committee:
Victor Bahl, Microsoft Research
Steven Feiner, Columbia University
Bob Iannuci, HP Research Labs
Tom Martin, Virginia Tech University
Alex Pentland, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Rosalind Picard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Zary Segall, University of Oregon
Asim Smailagic, Carnegie Mellon University
Mark Smith, Hewlett-Packard Labs
Thad Starner, Georgia Institute of Technology
Bruce Thomas, University of South Australia
Chris Thompson, Georgia Institute of Technology
Gerhard Tröster, ETH Zurich