Message from the General Chair

Welcome to the International Symposium on Wearable Computers. The ISWC returns to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for its 12th edition in a series dating back to 1997. We are fortunate to host ISWC in Pittsburgh which celebrates its 250th anniversary, providing a showcase event for researchers, educators, and engineers in wearable computers and applications.

Wearable computers are now reality, augmenting user’s daily experience in many ways. Cell phones, wearable computing devices, on-body wireless media devices, electronic textiles, and medical implants are just a few examples of wearable platforms. The conference program covers these and other topics in plenary, poster, panel, demonstrations, and workshop sessions. ISWC continues to be a window into the future of computing.

The tour and demos at the Carnegie Mellon’s Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) provides an unique opportunity to interactively chat with Ben Franklin made possible through Synthetic Interview technology; verbally joust with Quasi, an animatronic silver robot; explore various stations on the bridge of a star ship; explore the History of Technology wall; and visit the inductees into the Robot Hall of Fame.

The keynote speakers, Marcel Just and Rory Cooper, are widely known for their contributions in cognitive psychology, and assistive / rehabilitation technology, respectively. Their talks will illustrate how their results can be applied to wearable systems.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the program and organizing committees for all their efforts and contributions. Cliff Randel and Roy Want, the Program Committee Chairs, generated innovation through the Call for Papers. In particular, they emphasized the use of cell phones as wearable computer platforms and encouraged more research and papers using these devices. The entire process of final paper and poster uploads to production of these high quality proceedings was organized and lead by Tsutomu Terada, the Publications Chair. Lucy Dunne, the Publicity Chair, broadly advertized the conference through mailing lists, newsgroups and other media. We thank IEEE Computer Society for their sponsorship, as well as Intel and Nokia for their donations. Our thanks are due to Intel for hosting the Program Committee Meeting in June.

Please enjoy ISWC’08 and conversations with the conference participants.

Dan Siewiorek and Asim Smailagic
2008 ISWC General Chairs