Welcome to MASCOTS’98, et bienvenue à Montreal!

This year marks the sixth year of existence for MASCOTS, and its second year with full Symposium status. It also marks the first time that MASCOTS has been hosted in Canada. We hope that you find this year’s venue to your liking, and find time to explore the wonderful city of Montreal and its environs (but not during sessions, please!).

As co-chairs of the Program Committee, we have done our best to provide you a solid technical program for MASCOTS’98. We received 75 paper submissions for this year’s conference, but could only accommodate 44 papers in the four-day technical program, resulting in an accept rate of 60 percent. The increased number of submissions this year reflects the growing importance of modeling, simulation, and analysis in the performance evaluation of computer and telecommunication systems.

The entire Program Committee and our many reviewers worked hard to determine the set of MASCOTS’98 papers for you, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their efforts. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Radharamanan Radhakrishnan for his many roles and contributions: Program Committee member; reviewer; designing the conference Web site; maintaining the conference database information; contacting authors; and collecting, collating, and summarizing reviews. These very capable efforts helped greatly in the organization of the conference.

Among the accepted papers, we have identified one Award Paper, namely “Caches as Filters: A New Approach to Memory Hierarchy Analysis,” by Dee Weikle, Sally McKee, and William Wulf, from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. We look forward to the presentation of this paper on the opening day of the conference.

In addition to the technical papers, MASCOTS’98 also has two distinguished keynote speakers, namely Debasis Mitra (Tuesday morning) and Gregor Bochmann (Wednesday morning), one panel discussion session (Thursday morning), and a “tools track” session (Friday morning). These sessions promise to be thought-provoking, so please don’t miss them.

In closing, we hope that you find the next four days stimulating and interesting. We thank you for your attendance at MASCOTS’98, and look forward to talking with you this week and in the future. Enjoy the conference!

Carey Williamson and Philip Wilsey
Co-chairs, MASCOTS’98 Program Committee