Message from the General Chairs

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd International Symposium on Search Based Software Engineering, SSBSE 2010.

Search Based Software Engineering (SBSE) reformulates software engineering tasks as optimization problems that can be solved using efficient, modern search algorithms. This is an increasingly attractive approach to software engineering. The use of automated search in today’s context of affordable high-performance computing power enables SBSE techniques to solve, in a cost-effective manner, software engineering problems that are often intractable by other means. Moreover, these solutions often prove to be innovative and provide useful insight to the engineer.

With such inherent benefits, it is no surprise that the interest in SBSE techniques continues to flourish and mature, both in academia and in industry. This interest is reflected in the ever-growing number of papers on SBSE published not only in specialized venues, but also increasingly in mainstream, highly-rated conferences and journals. For example, 2010 will see the publication of special journal issues dedicated to SBSE in both IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering and Software: Practice and Experience. The latter special issue has a particular emphasis on the practical aspects of SBSE, and is an indication that SBSE techniques are now moving out of research environments and into industrial application. The International Workshop on Search-Based Software Testing (SBST) was this year co-located with a highly regarded software engineering conference, the IEEE International Conference on Testing, Verification and Validation (ICST), and the largest conference on evolutionary search, the ACM SIGEVO Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), incorporates an SBSE track this year, as it has done since 2002.

The purpose of this symposium, SSBSE, is to support the expanding SBSE community by providing a unique forum where novel – and indeed, revolutionary - ideas in SBSE can be proposed, by facilitating discussions on the directions we are taking as a community, and by welcoming the PhD students who are the newest members of our community.

The inaugural symposium, held in May 2009 at the Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK, was a great success that demonstrated not only the wide variety of SBSE topics that are the subject of active investigation, but also the genuinely international nature of the community. The objective of SSBSE 2010 is to build on the foundations laid in 2009 to create an exciting, thought-provoking and enjoyable event this year, and to ensure the continued success of the symposium in future years. Given the support and interest from the SBSE community in this year’s symposium, and the quality and number of the papers submitted, we are confident that we will succeed in this objective.

Our venue this year is Benevento, a small city of about 62,000 inhabitants located in southern Italy, between Naples and Rome. Benevento and its province have a very rich history and the city itself has many ancient monuments worthy of a visit. The most famous are the Roman Theater, and the triumphal arch created in honor of the emperor Trajan. We also recommend the historic pedestrian district with many restaurants where you will be able to sample the local
cuisine and wines from the area. We trust that as search-based researchers, you will be able to
determine a near-optimal path among these monuments and pursue a multi-objective
maximization of both the symposium program and the local attractions!

Organizing SSBSE 2010 has been a collaborative effort involving many people who we
would like to acknowledge and thank. The authors: for submitting high-quality papers with many
novel and exciting ideas. The program committee members and the additional reviewers: for
providing timely, detailed, and constructive feedback, and for actively participating in the online
committee discussions. Our renowned keynote speakers, Paolo Tonella and Riccardo Poli, and
expert panel members: for agreeing to share their expertise at the symposium. The program
chairs, Lionel C. Briand and John A. Clark, the PhD forum chair, Phil McMinn, and the fast
abstract chair, Gerardo Canfora: for efficiently managing the extensive review process and for
creating an innovative program. The submission and publication chair, Andrea Arcuri: for
handling the complexities of the submission process. The publicity chair, Jan Staunton: for
keeping the website up-to-date and for disseminating the call for papers, both of which have
promoted the event so effectively. Andrea L. Thibault and Bob Werner of the Conference
Publishing Services: for their support in publishing the symposium proceedings. Last, but not
least, we would like to thank our sponsors, the Province of Benevento (Italy) and the University
of Sannio, as well as the other cooperating organizations, the Simula Research Laboratory and
the University of York. Without their support, this event would not have been possible.

We look forward to meeting you during the conference, and hope you enjoy the technical and
social programs. We certainly will.

Massimiliano Di Penta, University of Sannio
Simon Poulding, University of York
SSBSE 2010 General Chairs
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