Foreword

VLHCC 2010

Welcome from the General Co-chairs and the Program Co-chairs

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC; www.vlhcc.org), located at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, at its Leganés campus 15km south of Madrid Spain. This year, VL/HCC is hosting several technical events in addition to the main conference. Prior to the main conference, the meeting of the Psychology of Programming Interest Group (PPIG 2010; www.ppig.org) will take place as a two-day workshop; the one-day Visual Formalisms for Patterns workshop will also be held before the main conference, as will the Graduate Consortium, a mentoring workshop for graduate students in the VL/HCC community. After the conference, the EUSES Consortium (www.eusesconsortium.org) will hold their annual meeting as a one-day workshop, in parallel with two half-day tutorials – Scenario-based Programming and the Visual Language of Live Sequence Charts and Model-driven Engineering Technologies Applied to Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing. By bringing together the attendees of PPIG 2010, co-located workshops, and co-located tutorials, VL/HCC 2010 promises to provide a stimulating forum for exchange and debate around a wide range of topics relating to visual languages and human-centric computing.

We are pleased to welcome two renowned keynote speakers as part of the VL/HCC 2010 program. Dr. Ed Chi will give an opening keynote talk entitled “Model-Driven Research in Human-Centric Computing;” Dr. Chi is a research manager at Palo Alto Research Center and is an expert in human-centered computing, currently leading a group that is studying how Web 2.0 and social computing technologies help groups of people to remember, think and reason. Professor Jan Jürjens will give a closing keynote talk entitled “Model-Based Security Engineering in UML: The Last Decade and Towards the Future;” Dr. Jürjens is Professor for Software Engineering at Technical University Dortmund, and a leading researcher in the challenges of security engineering. In addition, the co-located PPIG 2010 meeting includes a keynote address by Professor Margaret Burnett from Oregon State University, entitled “Gender HCI and Programming Tools.”

These keynotes are highlights in a high-quality technical program. We were extremely pleased to receive 78 full-paper submissions and 17 short-paper submissions, for a total of 95 submissions. This number was markedly higher than the number of submissions received by recent VL/HCC symposia. Each paper was rigorously reviewed by at least three members of our international program committee. After the reviews were completed, we released the results to the program committee for further discussion. In addition, authors were invited to submit rebuttals to the reviews. Program committee members updated their reviews based on the rebuttals. In some cases, reviewers changed their scores based on the rebuttals and on further discussions with other reviewers. At the conclusion of the review process, the program co-chairs made final decisions, accepting 23 of the 78 full paper submissions (29.5%) and 2 of 17 short paper submissions (11.8%). To round out the technical program, we selected six additional full papers to be presented as short papers at the symposium. At times during the Symposium, attendees will also be able to interact directly with researchers and students through the Posters program, where 14 posters will be on display.

Thanks to the rich set of submissions and the rigorous review process, VL/HCC 2010 attendees will be treated to a high-quality, well-rounded technical program. This year's program features sessions on several traditionally popular topics of the VL/HCC symposium, including spreadsheets, visual languages and formalisms, and end-user programming. In addition, the symposium includes sessions on novel features and representations to aid programming and debugging tasks, the use of games in learning to program, graph drawing, and web programming. The breadth of the program reflects how the VL/HCC community has been evolving. Increasingly, when novel visual languages or tools are proposed, their
potential contributions are assessed not only through formal analysis, but also through exemplary applications or empirical evaluations. More generally, user studies continue to provide insight into general requirements for computational languages and tools, emphasizing that human society is the ultimate beneficiary of research on visual languages and human-centric computing.

Numerous people have contributed to making this edition of VL/HCC a success. We could not have accomplished our tasks as General and Program co-chairs alone. We would particularly like to thank the members of the Program Committee, acknowledged on the following pages, for their careful and thoughtful consideration of the submitted papers. In some cases, Program Committee members delegated papers to outside reviewers, also listed in this introductory section, whose contribution we gratefully acknowledge.

We would especially like to thank the following individuals: Robin Abraham of Microsoft Corporation, USA served as publicity chair, ensuring broad dissemination of conference communications. Claudia Galassini of Madrid, Spain designed and maintained the conference website as well as the conference poster and proceedings cover, including the contribution of her own beautiful photographs of local scenes. Andrew Fish of the University of Brighton, UK organized the pre- and post-conference workshop and tutorial program. Alessio Malizia of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid collaborated with Steve Tanimoto of University of Washington, USA to create an informal program of interactive sessions. Andrew Ko of University of Washington, USA organized the graduate student consortium held prior to the main conference. Finally, we owe a huge thank you to Ignacio Aedo of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, who worked with Sergio Santiago and the Fundación Universidad Carlos III to plan and implement the registration operations, as well as all of the local arrangements needed to host an extended meeting such as this.

We would also like to thank our sponsors: IEEE for assisting with the organizational and financial aspects of the conference; Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain for providing space, organizational and financial support; the United States National Science Foundation for funding the Graduate Consortium; and both the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, and Microsoft Research for financial support. Finally we would like to thank our own institutions for supporting us in our conference organizing activities: Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain; the Pennsylvania State University, USA; Washington State University, USA; and INRIA, France. Without these many forms of support, VL/HCC 2010 would not have been possible.

We hope you find the Symposium intellectually stimulating, that you take advantage of the events occurring both before and after the main conference, that you enjoy meeting up with old colleagues and forging links with new ones, and have fun exploring the many attractions of Madrid and the surrounding areas.

Paloma Diaz and Mary Beth Rosson
General Co-chairs

Chris Hundhausen and Emmanuel Pietriga
Program Co-chairs