Welcome to the 2013 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC). We’re delighted that you have joined us in San Jose, the heart of Silicon Valley. We have put together a program that we think will inform you, entertain you, and engage you.

For the technical program, VL/HCC 2013 received 55 submissions (46 full paper submissions and 9 short paper submissions) from 19 countries. These papers were independently reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee, followed by rebuttal opportunities by the authors and discussion among the committee. At the end of this process, the Program Committee accepted 14 full papers for a full-paper acceptance rate of 30%, and accepted 3 short papers for a short-paper acceptance rate of 33%. In addition, 10 papers originally submitted as full papers will be presented in the short-papers portions of the program.

Complementing the technical papers, VL/HCC 2013 features keynotes, the Graduate Consortium, the colocated Workshop for EUSES Consortium (End Users Shaping Effective Software) members, and a number of special events. This year’s keynoters are Scott Klemmer and Martin Erwig. Dr. Klemmer is an Associate Professor of Cognitive Science and Computer Science & Engineering at the University of California, San Diego. Before joining UCSD, he was an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University. His group’s research tools harvest and synthesize examples to empower more people to design interactive systems, learners to acquire new skills, experts to be more creative, and programmers to engage in more design thinking. His keynote talk entitled “Design at Large” will discuss his research on new approaches to democratizing design. Dr. Erwig is a Professor of Computer Science at Oregon State University, and is one of the founding members of the EUSES Consortium. His research is focused on the analysis and design of languages. He has developed languages in a wide range of areas, including spatial and spatio-temporal databases, graph algorithms, spreadsheets, machine learning, program generation, probabilistic programming, and variability. His keynote talk entitled “Explicitness in Language Design” will give several examples of explicit representations and demonstrate their effect on language expressiveness and analyzability, and then turn to how these effects can guide language designers in their decisions about making concepts explicit or not.

In addition, we have a unique Special Event on Live Programming, with live participation across continents. The notion of liveness in programming originated with Steve Tanimoto’s work in the VL/HCC community in 1990, so the event this year, which is led by Tanimoto, is a particularly appropriate setting to showcase the newest directions in liveness. Also bringing emerging research to our conference is the VL/HCC Graduate Consortium, which brings together emerging young researchers who are working on how to help people visualize, analyze, and tailor large socio-technical systems. We also have organized a panel on “Gender Meets Programming Environments” with live participation opportunities, an evening reception with Showpieces, and a banquet at the historic Testarossa Winery in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

We thank our sponsors for their generous support in helping to make our conference special, and thank our friends and colleagues for their important contributions to making VL/HCC 2013 a success. These contributors are acknowledged individually on the next few pages.

Again, welcome to VL/HCC! We’re looking forward to our time together with you.

Allen Cypher, General Chair
Margaret Burnett and Stefan Sauer, Program Co-Chairs