Message from the Program Chairs

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 13th Working Conference on Reverse Engineering, WCRE 2006. This year's theme, “Empirically Assessing Reverse Engineering Techniques and Tools,” highlights the scientific maturity that our research community is reaching.

The quality of WCRE 2006 program is exceptionally high. We received a total of 84 submissions, the highest ever for WCRE. Out of them, we selected 24 papers, ensuring an acceptance rate of 29%. The selection process was very rigorous: each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers, and a discussion was triggered any time the consensus was not reached. This year’s program includes sessions on exciting topics such as migration towards service oriented architectures, concept and feature location, mining software repositories, data reverse engineering, and, of course, empirical studies on reverse engineering. Extended versions of best papers will be selected for a special section of the Empirical Software Engineering Journal, edited by Springer.

This year keynotes comes from two distinguished, well-known professors: Lionel Briand from Carleton University and Hausi Müller from the University of Victoria. Prof. Briand is a leading researcher in the field of empirical software engineering, software maintenance, and software testing. His keynote “The Experimental Paradigm in Reverse Engineering: Role, Challenges, and Limitations” is a perfect introduction to this year theme. Prof. Müller is a pillar, and a good friend, of the entire reverse engineering community. His keynote “Bits of History, Research Challenges and Autonomic Computing Technology” will permit us to explore the area of autonomic computing and to identify new, exciting research directions.

The conference includes a tool demonstration track with four tools, a PhD forum where five promising young reverse engineering scientists will present their thesis ideas, and an industrial track with three papers, aiming to strengthen the relationship between the reverse engineering community and the industry. The reverse engineering week in Benevento is not limited to the main conference: it includes a co-located full-day event - the IEEE International AstreNet Aspect Analysis (AAA) Workshop, a tutorial (Case Studies for Reverse Engineers) and four WCRE workshops: Code Based Software Security Assessments (CoBaSSA), Empirical Studies in Reverse Engineering (ESRE), Program COMprehension through Dynamic Analysis (PCODA), and Design Patterns Detection for Reverse Engineering. We are sure these events will be highly interactive to build the basis for vigorous research and new collaborations among participants.

We would like to thank all the people who allowed us to put together such an exciting program: Gerardo Canfora (General Chair), Hausi Müller (PhD Forum Chair), Eugenio Zimeo (Workshop Chair), Michele Lanza and Tudor Girba (Tool Demonstration Chairs), René Krikhaar, (Industry and Experience Track Chair), Elliot Chikofsky (Finance and Registration Chair, and father of WCRE), Damiano Distante (Publicity and Submission Chair), Lerina Aversano (Local Arrangements Chair) and Bob Werner from the IEEE CS for managing the publication process. Finally, program committee members and the additional reviewers deserve special thanks this year for handling a high reviewing workload in a tight schedule and, of course, the authors for submitting to WCRE the best of their research.

We wish you all a great WCRE!

Susan Elliott Sim and Massimiliano Di Penta
WCRE 2006 Program Chairs