Message from the Program Chairs

Welcome to the 18th Working Conference on Reverse Engineering (WCRE)! We are proud to announce that this year’s WCRE received a record number of 104 submissions making the task of selecting papers very challenging. All submissions went through a rigorous review process: each paper was reviewed in detail by at least three Program Committee members from Industry and Academia. All decisions were open for discussion by the entire Program Committee before finalizing them. In the end, we have selected 27 full papers and 23 short papers, originating from 32 countries. Authors of the best papers will be invited to submit extended versions of their work to a special issue of the Journal of Software Maintenance and Evolution: Research and Practice, to be published by Wiley.

WCRE is a working conference and particularly encourages and welcomes papers that stir discussion and which touch upon non-traditional topics. Past venues of WCRE have shown that WCRE attendees want to learn about the exciting and up-coming research opportunities in reverse engineering, not only the past innovative results.

Short papers help touching on important and up-coming areas in our growing and evolving community. Short papers are important to the community and that is why we integrate them into the technical program, creating sessions that contain both full and short papers. This year’s program includes sessions on exciting topics such as mining software repositories, reverse engineering, security, dynamic analysis, re-modularization and re-engineering, program comprehension, and software evolution.

As always, WCRE paper sessions foster presentations followed by an open and energetic discussion. A trademark of WCRE is that there is much more than a recital of papers – there is vigorous and open discussion so please contribute your ideas and be part of a WCRE tradition!

The technical sessions are accompanied by two outstanding keynotes. We are very fortunate this year to have great keynotes given by two top software engineering researchers: Prof. Mike Hinchey, Director of Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre and Professor of Software Engineering at University of Limerick, Ireland; and Philip H. Newcomb, Chief Executive Officer, Founder, Chairman of the Board of The Software Revolution, Inc (TSRI). We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the two keynote speakers.

WCRE is one of the highly respected and well-cited conferences in Software Engineering. And over the past 17 years our community has come up with some great ideas and innovations. Since WCRE 2008, we are looking back at the achievements of the reverse engineering community, by awarding the most influential paper award from 10 years ago. This year we are looking back at WCRE 2001, held in Stuttgart, Germany. From a range of papers the WCRE 2011 Program Committee elected the paper titled "Generating Robust Parsers Using Island Grammars" by Leon Moonen as the most influential paper from WCRE 2001. With this paper Leon provided one of the corner stones in parsing source code of large, complex software systems. We are looking forward to hear the author’s reflections on ten years of parsing and source code analysis techniques, today’s state of the art and open challenges in their most influential paper talk.

The conference program of WCRE 2011 features three industrial experience papers reporting on success stories and challenges in applying reverse engineering techniques in industry. Furthermore, the program hosts a Doctoral Symposium, in which three promising young reverse engineering scientists will present and discuss their work. Finally, there will be seven tool demonstrations
selected out of ten submissions. Tools represent important contributions of research reverse engineering and re-engineering and we are looking forward to the demonstrations.

While we were fortunate with the record submission of research papers, we will miss the workshops typically co-located with WCRE. They build the basis for strong research work and new collaborations among the participants. For the next edition of WCRE, we will work hard to raise the interest of researchers in organizing workshops at WCRE again.

We would like to thank all the people who helped us to organize this program: Jim Buckley and Elliot Chikofsky (General Chair, Finance and Registration Chair), Michele Lanza and Radu Marinescu (Doctoral Symposium Chairs), Rocco Oliveto (Industrial Experience Chair), Michael Collard and Jens Knodel (Workshop Chairs), Huzefa Kagdi and Mircea Lungu (Tool Demonstration Chairs), Susan Mitchell (Local Arrangements Chair), Malcom Gethers (Web Chair), Michaela Greiler (Publicity Chair), and Bob Werner from the IEEE Computer Society for managing the publication process. We would especially like to thank the Program Committee and the many additional reviewers for their substantial effort and great work. They provided detailed and constructive reviews in time and actively participated in the discussion. Last, but not the least, we thank all the authors for submitting to WCRE 2011 a set of very high quality papers.

Enjoy the conference!

Martin Pinzger and Denys Poshyvanyk
WCRE 2011 Program Chairs