Welcome to everyone attending WCRE and also to those who are reading our proceedings as a book or via the IEEE Digital Library.

While 2010 is the 17th WCRE international working conference, this is the 20th Anniversary of an important landmark for the cohesion of the field of Reverse Engineering and Reengineering of software and systems. In 1990, IEEE Software magazine published the paper “Reverse Engineering and Design Recovery A Taxonomy” (Chikofsky and Cross).

Up to that time, every related presentation by software vendors or researchers at a workshop, industry event, or computer-aided software engineering (CASE) conference, began with the speaker saying “Here is what I mean by ‘reverse engineering’” or ‘design recovery’ or ‘reengineering’. Communication, sharing, and broadbased progress were hampered by too many attempts and not enough consistency of understanding. James Cross of Auburn University and I, then at Index Technology Corp (Excelerator CASE tools), surveyed the field and proposed definitions that were vetted in a delphi survey process with industry practitioners, tool users, researchers, and academics.

The resulting taxonomy was strongly accepted by research and industry and became a foundation of common understanding on which sharing of technologies and techniques could be built. The success of this is best demonstrated by an analysis of juried paper citations of IEEE Software articles that came out in the magazine’s 25th anniversary issue (Jan/Feb 2009). Factoring out self-citations and similar bias issues, the number one IEEE Software paper over 25 years was the reverse engineering taxonomy. It was far ahead with 40% more citations than the second ranked paper. That is an impressive metaphor for the way our reverse engineering and reengineering field has worked together with common vision and goals supporting a lot of creative and innovative research and development.

WCRE, this premier venue for reporting research, discussing results and direction, and making contacts for cooperation and joint projects, is sponsored annually by the Reengineering Forum industry association collaborating with IEEE Computer Society’s Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE). It consistently has the highest citation results of conferences in the software engineering field, according to Chris Verhoef of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. WCRE is a destination place to publish and a very important venue for discussion of emerging and future work. While these papers are the best of the field, if you are just reading them you are missing some of the most important features of the WCRE community: discussion and interaction. Won’t you join us in person?

WCRE 2010 includes some extra events and special speakers in recognition of the 20th anniversary. We are also hosting the 2010 Stevens Award lecture, recognizing the data reengineering work of Peter Aiken, who, we are proud to say, was Chair of a previous WCRE.

Welcome to Beverly, Massachusetts on Boston’s North Shore.

-- Elliot Chikofsky
General Chair, WCRE 2010
Chair, Reengineering Forum
Vice Chair for Conferences, IEEE-CS TCSE