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Gerhard Goos, Juris Hartmanis, and Jan van Leeuwen

Thomas J. Cova Harvey J. Miller
Kate Beard Andrew U. Frank
Michael F. Goodchild (Eds.)

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Volume Editors

Thomas J. Cova
Harvey J. Miller
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9155, USA
E-mail: {cova, harvey.miller}@geog.utah.edu

Kate Beard
University of Maine
Orono, ME 944469-5711, USA
E-mail: beard@spatial.maine.edu

Andrew U. Frank
Vienna University of Technology
1040, Vienna, Austria
E-mail: frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at

Michael F. Goodchild
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4060, USA
E-mail: good@geog.ucsb.edu

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Preface

The GIScience conference series was founded in 2000 with the goal of providing a forum for researchers interested in advancing the fundamental aspects of the production, dissemination, and use of geographic information. The conference is held biannually and attracts people from academia, industry, and government across a host of disciplines including cognitive science, computer science, engineering, geography, information science, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, social science, and statistics. Following a very successful conference in Münster, Germany in 2006, this year's conference was held in Park City, Utah, USA, the prior site of the 2002 Winter Olympics and home to the annual Sundance Film Festival.

There are two forms of submission to the conference: full papers of 6000 words or less and extended abstracts of 500-1000 words for either a presentation or poster. This format was originally designed to capture the cultural difference between researchers who prefer to publish a peer-reviewed conference paper and those who would rather submit an abstract covering work in progress. This year 77 full papers were submitted and reviewed by 3 Program Committee members, of which 24 were selected for presentation and inclusion in this volume. Of the 115 extended abstracts that were submitted and reviewed by 2 Program Committee members, 47 were accepted for an oral presentation and 25 were accepted for presentation as a poster. The abstracts were published in a second booklet and are available on the GIScience website (http://www.giscience.org).

The breadth of new topics represented in this volume highlight the dynamic nature of GIScience. While traditional topics such as spatial relations, geographic dynamics, and spatial data types are still actively being advanced, new topics including geosensors, mobile computing, and Web mapping have come to the fore. The topics of navigation, networks, and location-based services also continued to be well represented in this year's submissions. While spatial information query and retrieval continues to be a hot topic, work advancing geo-ontologies has settled into the realm of a more conventional topic following its peak in 2004. Finally, in addition to the many sessions dedicated to presenting papers and works-in-progress, there were five keynote talks, eight pre-conference workshops, and a poster and wine session.

We would like to thank the many people that made GIScience 2008 possible. Thanks to the Program Committee for their enormous effort in reviewing the submissions. Oscar Larson and Doug Richardson from the Association of American Geographers helped tremendously with all aspects of the event from securing the venue to managing the on-line registration. Thanks also to the program sponsors who helped support both student and plenary speakers through travel grants. Finally, a special thanks to Melissa Warner in the Digitally Integrated Geographic Information Technologies (DIGIT) Lab, Department of Geography, University of

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July 2008

Tom Cova
Harvey Miller
Kate Beard
Andrew Frank
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