Preface

The 17th International Symposium on Graph Drawing (GD 2009) was held in Chicago, USA, September 22–25, 2009, and was attended by 91 participants from 19 countries.

In response to the call for papers, the Program Committee received 79 submissions. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members. Following substantial discussions, the committee accepted 31 long papers and 4 short papers. All authors received detailed reviewers’ comments. In a separate submission process, 10 posters were accepted. These were described during the conference, and displayed at the conference site. Each poster was also granted a two-page description in the conference proceedings.

Two invited speakers, János Pach from EPFL Lausanne and Rény Institute, and Martin Wattenberg from IBM Research, gave absorbing talks during the conference. Prof. Pach looked at the class of string graphs, and tantalized us to consider why their properties are so mathematically beautiful. Dr. Wattenberg showed how sometimes twisting the standard rules of graph drawing can illuminate unexpected information contained in graphs.

Keeping with tradition, the symposium hosted the 15th Annual Graph Drawing Contest, including a Graph Drawing Challenge for conference attendees. The contest elicited robust participation from the community with 27 submissions. These proceedings end with a detailed report of the contest.

As always, the success of a conference such as this relies on the help of many people. Our thanks to the Program Committee and all of the external referees who worked so hard to sift for the best among the submitted papers. The Organizing Committee provided us with admirable facilities, a fine banquet, and took care of so many other details that it was hard to believe there were only three members: Jennifer McClelland, Michael J. Pelsmajer and Marcus Schaefer. Also, many thanks to the Chicago-based student volunteers who helped in many ways during the conference. And, of course, special thanks to everyone who submitted a paper or poster, giving us a wealth of raw material from which to build the program.

Despite the uncertain economic times, corporate and institutional sponsors were very generous in their support of GD 2009. AT&T, Tom Sawyer Software and DePaul University served as Gold Sponsors, while IBM ILOG, Illinois Institute of Technology, and the College of Computing and Digital Media at DePaul University were Silver Sponsors.

The 18th International Symposium on Graph Drawing (GD 2010) will be held September 21–24, 2010 in Konstanz, Germany, chaired by Ulrik Brandes.

November 2009

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