GUEST EDITORIAL

Special Section on the 1997 Visual Communications and Image Processing Award Papers

Jan Biemond
Delft University of Technology
Electronic Engineering Department
Information Theory Group
Mekelweg 4
Delft NL-2628 CD
Netherlands

Edward J. Delp
Purdue University
School of Electrical Engineering
1285 Electrical Engineering Building
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1285

This year marks the beginning of what we hope will be a long tradition, the publication of the award papers from the 1997 Visual Communication and Image Processing (VCIP) meeting in a special section of the *Journal of Electronic Imaging*.

The year 1997 marked the start of what we feel will be a long and fruitful relationship between VCIP and the SPIE/IS&T Electronic Imaging (EI) meeting held every year in the winter. We would like to take this opportunity to briefly describe how VCIP became part of the EI meeting.

In 1995 an informal meeting was held at EI between Andy Tescher, Ed Delp, and officers of both SPIE and IS&T, which jointly sponsor EI, to discuss the possibility of combining VCIP and parts of EI. The feeling was that both meetings had a great deal of overlapping topics. In October 1995, a meeting was held in Philadelphia that was attended by various representatives of SPIE and IS&T. Russell Hsing and Andy Tescher represented the VCIP board. At that meeting an agreement was made to make VCIP one of the program tracks of EI. It was very important that the nature of VCIP not be changed. This is reflected in the agreement between SPIE and IS&T. The agreement was ratified by the VCIP board at the 1996 meeting in Orlando. We felt that this relationship with EI would lead to a stronger VCIP meeting.

In this section of the *Journal of Electronic Imaging* we are proud to present the papers from our award winners.

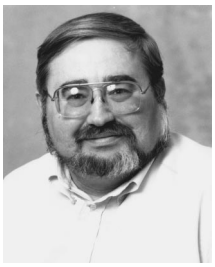
The ''Best Student Paper Award,'' sponsored by the NEC Corporation (Japan), was presented to Kazuya Kodama for his paper ''Generation of arbitrarily focused images by using multiple differently focused images,'' coauthored with Aizawa and Hatori.

The ''Best Student Paper Award,'' sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Corporation, was presented to Ulug Bayazit for his paper ''Rate-constrained block matching algorithm for video coding,'' coauthored with Pearlman.

The ''Young Investigator Award,'' sponsored by ITRI–Industrial Technology Research Institute (Taiwan), was presented to Jordi Ribas-Corbera for his paper ''Optimizing block size in motion-compensated video coding,'' coauthored with Neuhoff.

We would like to thank Aggelos Katsaggelos and Bill Pearlman for chairing the Best Student Paper Awards and the Young Investigator Award Committees, respectively.

Jan Biemond was Co-Chair at the 1997 Visual Communication and Image Processing conference. He received the MS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, in 1973 and 1982, respectively. Currently, he is Professor and Chairman of the Information and Communication Theory Group of the Faculty of Information Technology and Systems at Delft University of Technology. His research interests include multidimensional signal processing, image enhancement and restoration, video compression (digital TV, stereoscopic TV, and HDTV), and motion estimation with applications in image coding and computer vision. He has published extensively in these fields.



Edward J. Delp was Co-Chair at the 1997 Visual Communication and Image Processing conference. He received the BSEE (cum laude) and MS degrees from the University of Cincinnati, and the PhD degree from Purdue University. From 1980 to 1984, he was with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Since August 1984, he has been with the School of Electrical Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, where he is a professor of electrical engineering. His research interests include image and video compression, medical imaging, parallel processing, multimedia - systems, ill-posed inverse problems in computational vision, nonlinear filtering using mathematical morphology, communication, and information theory.