Message from General Chair

Welcome to Atlanta, Georgia and to the 24th International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium. It has been my honor to spend several years of planning for Georgia Institute of Technology to host this event and to work with the Computer Society and our veteran volunteer team to make this week a reality. The success of this symposium is a direct result of the hard work and contributions made by many, including the organizing committee members, the steering committee, the authors, the speakers, and the commercial participants—all of whom I gratefully acknowledge.

Our program chair Cynthia (Cindy) Phillips has done an outstanding job, ably assisted by the vice-chairs and the support of program committee members who recruited additional expertise to conduct an unprecedented review. The care taken in selecting symposium papers extended to keynote speakers, and I am proud to be associated with the technical excellence of IPDPS 2010. Recruiting a program chair for this conference can be a tricky proposition, given the spectrum of topics we cover and the rigorous process that our steering committee mandates, so it was with great relief that Cindy agreed to take on the job and was able to enlist four vice-chairs who shared her standards for the quality of the technical program.

In addition, and as Cindy will confirm, she obtained invaluable advice from previous program chairs, with special mention to Arnold Rosenberg who functioned as the eyes and ears of the steering committee. Although our organization formally meets only once a year, it was remarkable how easily we could convene an email conference of the requisite parties when Cindy was looking for guidance on a particular issue. This is my opportunity to not only thank Cindy for a job well done but also to let our IPDPS organization know how valuable it is to be able to rely on their input. Cindy early on established her own fresh approach, and we could count on her to consistently bring it to our discussions. Job well done, Cindy (and good thing you didn't know that we really meant it when we describe our conference as entirely volunteer run).

Not only do we recognize the program committee and reviewers for their hard work, but also each author who submitted a paper whether or not it was selected for presentation this week. Due to the very competitive nature of the selections this year, many strong papers could not be accommodated in the final program. We hope that you will enjoy the paper presentations and speakers this week and continue IPDPS's tradition as the premier conference for the dissemination of your novel research in parallel and distributed computing.

The Monday and Friday workshops are a keystone of the IPDPS program, giving us a global reach in exploring the full scope of parallel and distributed processing research and applications. The workshops explore special topics and present work that is more preliminary or speculative than the more mature research presented in the main symposium. We thank the dedicated workshop organizers for the work they do to bring this added dimension to our conference, and we are grateful to the many participants for their contributions to the week's discussions. Flying solo this year, Ümit Çatalyürek has taken on the job of facilitating and supporting the organization of eighteen workshops, attending to the many "hidden" administrative tasks this requires. I have appreciated knowing that this important part of the conference was in good hands, and I also want to credit our vice general chair Alan Sussman for choosing and "training" a worthy successor for this pivotal symposium role.

This year the PhD Forum is an official part of the symposium program, and we are grateful to Manish Parashar as organizing chair and Luc Bougé as program chair for their efforts to build a strong event, reflecting on what was learned in the previous two outings. We also want to recognize Sushil Prasad who as TCPP chair did the hard work to get the forum started two years ago with the purpose of giving students in our community the opportunity to receive expert feedback on their research and to make contacts for entering the job market. We are also pleased that our conference attendees now have a chance to preview upcoming developments in parallel and distributed processing and related technologies.

IPDPS 2010 is pleased to offer two distinctive all-symposium tutorials: Milind Bhandarkar of Yahoo! Inc. will present "MapReduce Programming with Apache Hadoop" on Tuesday evening, and Michael Garland of NVIDIA will present "Parallel Computing with CUDA" on Thursday evening. Thanks to both for sharing their expertise with our attendees and giving them an easy opportunity to learn more about two topics of growing interest in our field.

Finally, on the technical front I want to acknowledge Yuanyuan Yang who served once again as proceedings chair (with Xin Yuan as co-chair), helping to ensure the integrity of our publication tasks. We especially appreciate the work of her student assistant Xi Deng for expeditiously posting the paper abstracts to the Web. This year, we have introduced a new variable to our proceedings; that is, they will be published by the IEEE Digital Library under two separate ISBN's, one for regular conference papers and the other for the workshops and the PhD Forum short papers. This will not change the format of our program and the cd-rom of proceedings distributed at the conference, but I want to acknowledge the background work required to make this change, a group effort led by Yuanyuan.

We have been buoyed this year by several companies who are participating as patrons, and we are honored to have their names as part of our program. My thanks to Peter Ungaro of Cray, Elmer Corbin and Bob Szabo of IBM, David Konerding of Google, and Bill Dally and Dave Luebke of NVIDIA for lending us support this year, and we welcome back Elsevier, our publications exhibitor, who also underwrites the Best Paper awards presented on Wednesday morning of the conference. My thanks to all; we trust your association with IPDPS 2010 will generate future participation.

Our publicity team, well coordinated by Michela Taufer, included Gudula Rünger from Germany and Zhihui Du from China. Together they provided thorough international coverage resulting in a near record number of submissions. I really appreciated their readiness to find new and innovative ways of mounting our publicity effort, and thanks to Michela, we had a first-time presence in ACM Communications.

At Georgia Tech (go Yellow Jackets!), I have had generous support in bringing the conference to Atlanta. In particular, I want to thank my department staff: Lometa Mitchell (department administrator), Carolyn Young (administrative assistant), and Arlene Washington (financial administrator). All three along with others in Georgia Tech's School of Computational Science and Engineering have been there front and center to support our role as the host of IPDPS 2010.

In my opening paragraph, I referred to "our veteran volunteer team" and thus first and last my personal thanks to the finance chair, production chair and local arrangements co-chair, all of whom have been associated with IPDPS since its early days as a local effort in Southern California. In my second stint as the general chair, I was reminded of the consummate professionalism and the wealth of know-how they bring as a team and as individuals to this event. I know that it is their preference to be recognized collectively, so here's a big thank you to Bill Pitts, Sally Jelinek, and Susamma Barua. In company with them, we welcomed Anu Bourgeois to the team this year, and she has made a tremendous contribution as local arrangements co-chair.

My very last words of appreciation go to the steering co-chairs, Viktor Prasanna and George Westrom, who with the support of the entire steering committee have made being general chair of this conference a dream assignment.

David A. Bader, IPDPS 2010 General Chair
Georgia Institute of Technology