

Program Chairs' Message

Welcome to the *First Annual ACM Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems*. It has a strong technical program representing the depth, breadth and excitement of this important emerging area. The papers span aspects of theory, practice, and experience in a wide array of areas that are critical to the development of novel distributed systems embedded in the physical world. We open each day with hands-on empirical studies of systems issues, including networking, platforms and tools. The agenda expands to address aspects of sensor or communication coverage, management of limited storage, time synchronization, tracking, media access control, routing, data dissemination, compression, aggregation, security and congestion control. Many of the papers cross traditional boundaries within computer science and some cross disciplines as they address the resource constraints, uncertainty, irregularity, and scale that sensor networks embody and that are key to achieving unprecedented density and fidelity of instrumentation of the physical world. In addition, the conference includes an invited panel on emerging applications, an exciting poster and demonstration session, a special guest speaker on how the physical world is represented in film, and two mini tutorials covering theoretical foundations and emerging standards.

SenSys'03 has a very competitive program. Twenty four papers were selected from 137 submissions. The review process was very rigorous, with every paper being reviewed by several program committee members, as well as external reviewers. A careful procedure was followed to maintain the confidentiality of the process and to avoid potential conflicts of interests due to institutional or personal associations, both in the management of the reviews and in the conduct of the PC meeting. Papers by PC members were permitted, as they represent valued voices in the area, but were held to a higher standard. Program Chair papers were processed separately under the direction of a PC member, to maintain full confidentiality. It was a diverse committee, reflecting the diversity of the technical areas that comprise this emerging field. They worked extremely hard and took their task very seriously. We are deeply grateful of their efforts.

We are off to a great start with *SenSys* with an exciting body of work and lots of room for growth. With the coming years it will define itself, the technical area, and the community more deeply. We hope the rich blend of theory and practice that makes for great systems work will continue. There is certainly room to move beyond simulations to full empirical evaluations and validations of simulations. There are numerous exciting directions ahead as we gain experience with applications of the technology and further develop the theoretical foundations.

We hope you enjoy the program as much as we have.

David Culler and Mani Srivastava

ACM SenSys'03 Program Co-Chairs