26th International Conference on Software Engineering

May 23—28, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Scotland, UK

So long, folks! And thanks for all the fun!

And so we exit. In times of shortened budgets, we hope that this "new" WOW, with some of the content researched and written beforehand, has still found some followers and enlivened a few idle minutes that would otherwise have been spent on e-mail.

We would like to thank everybody who has made themselves available for interviews, our tireless contributors, and the supporters on the ground who helped us around technical glitches and made sure everything was delivered on time every day.

Where it goes from here, we don't know. It is in the hands of next year's ICSE organizers. The future is bright.

— *Nigamanth and Christian*
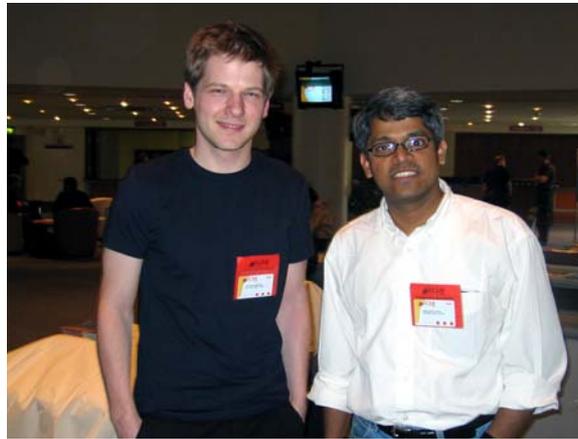
Limerick Showdown

E-mail, talking and schmooze
No effort, no poem, no booze
Shut down your Eudora
(Or your Fedora)
Just rhyme and be kissed by the muse

It is almost high noon. Some entries are already in — will you let them win the fine bottle of **"Chairman's Reserve"**

single malt whiskey without competition, especially after all the wonderful things you learned about whiskey on Wednesday? I think not.

Send us your Limerick!! Weave in your favourite subject. You might as well put a reference to ICSE in too!

Limericks can be submitted at the registration desk, in the specially prepared baskets. You can also e-mail your entry to sridhar.4@osu.edu, before noon on Friday. Submit as many as you like!

— *WOW*

Pictures from the Whiskey Tasting Reception

Ken's Gossip

Dr. Elaine Weyuker, awarded the Harlan D. Mills award by the IEEE TCSE

*"The theme of the conference, **Software Everywhere**, resonated in the most direct fashion with both community and corporate leaders."*

Ken Birman's talk on "Adding High Availability and Autonomic Behaviour to Web Services" was enlightening. I have to say, I was quite disappointed at the start of the talk, thinking "Oh dear, yet another one of these web services talks", but Ken managed to guide the audience through a number of relevant problems with existing, large, Internet-deployed commercial distributed system ("finally we got these systems deployed!"), concluding that our research on decentralization of control, of autonomy, and of self-configuration, though badly needed, is still very immature.

Peer to peer, epidemic, and gossip mechanisms emerged at the end of the talk as potential solutions to avoid the imminent risk of collapse of traditional solutions that were not built with this level of scale and availability in mind.

So what are the software engineering answers or identified paths addressing Ken's challenge? If you went out of the talk with this thought in your mind like I did, you would have found some. In particular, in the "Decentralized Systems" session yesterday afternoon you would have found a few. New architectural description techniques for these large systems, run-time decentralized monitoring of safety, and event based protocol translation issues were discussed.

If you search the calls for papers that are piling up in the entrance hall you will also find one on about a workshop on Self-managed Systems (WOSS04, why WOSS btw??).

Alternatively, if you are reading this and are interested in a faster answer, without waiting for the workshop in October, maybe the dynamic reconfiguration session of the technical programme today will provide you with some more leads.

After all, research itself is a decentralized exercise, autonomous and hopefully epidemic... it seems we are in the middle of the epidemic here at ICSE. Go and "spread" the word :)

— *Cecilia Mascolo*

ICSE 2005 Preview

A year from now ICSE 2005 will be held literally on the banks of the Mississippi river and in the shadow of famed St. Louis Arch, a symbol for the spirit of discovery characterizing the human race and also a concrete embodiment of intellectual and artistic collaborations across international boundaries. The St. Louis corporate and academic community embraced the conference by contributing an exceptionally high level of financial support. While Washington University offered the leadership gift that generated a strong initial momentum, the

expression of support we received ultimately reflected our convictions and vision as software engineering professionals.

The theme of the conference, **Software Everywhere**, resonated in the most direct fashion with both community and corporate leaders. They too see a world that is increasingly dependent on an ever-expanding software infrastructure and, like us, realize that much of the intellectual property being created today is assimilated into the software that permeates every aspect of our communal existence.

As of the start of the Edinburgh meeting, I am delighted to report that a great deal has been accomplished by the ICSE

2005 organizing committee. Much more still needs to be done, particularly in light of its commitment to organizing an event that will have a lasting impact on the profession as a whole, on software developments everywhere, on the host region, and on every single participant.

On behalf of the entire committee, I would like to express our hope that you will engage professionally with ICSE 2005 to the greatest possible extent and that you will carry our message about the significance of software beyond the boundaries of our profession. A great social and professional event is waiting for you in St. Louis.

— *Gruia-Catalin Roman*

The Dark Side of ICSE: Next Year

I am lulling you into a false sense of security here. Forget about next year, you've already taken the red pill. This is the real world, you have a whole day of sessions to sit through. Start counting them off, one, two, three. One. After. The. Other. One. Other. After. All day. Spare a thought for the poor souls that are going to speak in the last session, in front of a room full of people that are shifting in their seats, and checking whether their toothbrush is in their bag. "When does the check-in desk close?" "Is there a rush hour in Edinburgh?" "Do I still have enough cash to pay for a cab?" "Is 'always eventually' so different from 'eventually always'?" "But what do we really mean when we say 'reliability'?" "Oh dammit, of course there must be a rush hour, I'm out of here. Not eventually - NOW!" Puff of smoke.

If the ICSE steering committee can forgive me for being a bit forward, I would like to propose that a conference be held in Monte Carlo. It has all local amenities, including yachts for a lavish banquet; it is renowned for Model Checking; the catering is likely to be good, with plenty of sea food; it is unencumbered by other academic or, horror, industry professionals; and most importantly, it is easy for me to reach. I think the case is compelling.

I'm more than happy to come over to St. Louis to discuss all this with the powers to be. Why don't we meet there, say in May 2005?

— *Christian Nentwich*

Smoky, with a hint of bunga fish!

"Monte Carlo (…) is renowned for Model Checking"

Are you seeing red yet?

We are pleased to announce that ICSE 2006 will be held in Shanghai, China, the epicenter of one of the fastest-growing software communities in the world. Shanghai is a fascinating and invigorating blend of both the ancient and the modern, the Western, and the distinctly Oriental. A high-speed Maglev train, one of the fastest in operation anywhere in the world, connects an ultramodern international airport (Pudong International) with a thriving metropolis whose skyline is punctuated by a growing proliferation of ultramodern skyscrapers.

The conference venue will be the new Shanghai International Conference Center, which recently hosted the Asian Pacific Economic Conference, attended by the leaders of many Asian nations. The Conference Center is located on the banks of the Huang Pu river, continually traversed with bustling traffic. The Conference Center looks across the river to the historic Bund, a row of buildings built by the European powers at the turn of the 20th century, and to a modern city intermixed with the considerable charm of the ancient Chinese culture and traditions.

We invite you to start planning now to attend ICSE 2006, and the many technical and social events that will be associated with the main conference.

— *ICSE 2006 Organizing Committee*

ICSE 2004 Student Volunteers

We've seen them in the "garish" t-shirts all week long. They've been tremendously helpful in running the conference. Here they are… Thanks a lot folks!

Carina Alves
Vamshi Ambati
Rami Bahsoon

Owen Cheng
Christoph Csaliner
Fernando De Simoni
Leona Fass
Lorin Hochstein
Alistair Hutton
Diana Lenceviciene
Ke Li
Wendy Liu
Mika Mantyla
Susannah Moat

Genaina Nunes Rodrigues
Cristovao Oliveira
Vahe Poladian
Hridesh Rajan
Siri-on Setamanit
Norbert Seyff
Gabor Stikkel
Neil Walkinshaw
Mike Wicks
Steffen Zschaler

Karl Lieberherr, Thursday's keynote speaker

Things you might want to do...

It's important to remember that aspirin can be purchased from any of the multiple Boots pharmacies throughout the city, service is generally friendly and prompt. As usual, keep the receipt for your expenses.

My stand-up bias continues with yet another recommendation for one of the city's comedy hotspots. If you've ignored my advice so far fear not, I am willing to forgive you, but only if you get yourself to **The Stand** (5 York Place, 0131 558 7272) pronto. Tonight's line up includes an Scotsman, an Englishman and an Irishman. 8:30pm.

George Benson is appearing at the **Playhouse** tonight (18 Greenside Place, 0870 6063424) with a guitar. No doubt he will use it masterfully. Whilst crooning. Show off. You ask him to debug a few thousand lines of code though... can he help? I think not. 7:30pm.

A different kind of music is being made tonight over at **The Honeycomb** (15-17 Niddry Street, 0131 530 5540) where The **Masters at Work** will be creating their own smooth, soulful, house music heaven. If this is your bag then the rare chance to see

this seminal dance music duo should be grasped with both hands, utilising all of your RSI ravaged strength. Shockingly, twenty of your Scottish pounds will be required for entry, no doubt it will still be a sell out. 10:30pm - 4am.

If your hanging round for the weekend, why not consider heading through to **Glasgow**? Or rent a car, drive the scenic route to **Kennacraig**, catch a ferry across to **Islay**, lap up the culture, the scenery, the whisky. So much to do, so little time.

— *Martin Hailey*

ICSE Polo Shirts

Black polo shirts sporting the famous ICSE 2004 tartan mouse are on sale at the registration desk for £12 each. Get one for yourself or your friends back home! Credit cards accepted.

Win an iPod

Our student volunteers will judge and nominate the best speaker from the technical paper presentation track, and the lucky winner gets to take home an iPod. See page 20 of your program for more details.

Speakers, please put in some enthusiasm and gusto in your talks, and compete!

ICSE 2004 Awards

Harlan D. Mills Award
Elaine Weyuker
AT&T Research
IEEE CS Software Process Achievement Award
Boeing Information Systems, Software Process Engineering Group, Wichita, KS, USA

IBM Global Services, Application Management

Services, Sydney, Australia
ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award
Will Tracz
Lockheed Martin
ACM SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award
Nancy Leveson
MIT

New ACM Fellows in Software Engineering
Rich DeMillo

Mary Jean Harrold
Georgia Tech
ICSE-10 Most Influential Paper
Robert Allen and David Garlan. *Formalizing Architectural Connection.*

WOW Press

Co-editors
Nigamanth Sridhar
Cleveland State Univ., USA
Christian Nentwich
Systemwire, UK

Contributors
Martin Hailey
University College, London
Cecilia Mascolo
University College, London
Gruia-Catalin Roman
Washington U. St. Louis, USA

The WOW Daily Puzzle

In case you didn't notice, the puzzles have been getting progressively easier, starting with the 100 prisoner problem and leading to today's old favourite.

A man stands in an old house, in front of a large

oil painting. As WOW flying reports approach him he starts to speak: "Brothers and sisters I have none – but this man's father is my father's son". Whose picture is he looking at?

Solution to Yesterday's Puzzle
The rules of the race were that the owner of the camel that crosses the finish line last wins the fortune. The wise man simply told them to switch camels.