Message from the Incoming SIGSAM Chair

On July 1, 2007, the newly elected SIGSAM Officers took office. We are all most honoured by your support, and humbled by the size of the footsteps of those who preceded us. Before introducing our new team, I would personally like to thank the outgoing Officers, who have worked very hard over the past four years and managed so many projects so adeptly. Thus, Emil, Werner, Wayne, Frabrice, and Rob, I believe I speak for the entire SIGSAM community in saying that you have our gratitude for your service.

The Incoming ACM SIGSAM Officers and Advisors. As was noted in the August 2007 issue of Communications in Computer Algebra, the incoming Officers are Peter Paule (Vice Chair), Daniel Lichtblau (Treasurer), Wen-shin Lee (Secretary), and me (Mark Giesbrecht) as Chair. Emil Volcheck remains on the Executive Committee as Past Chair. Also, I am pleased to report that William Turner (Information Director), and Austin Lobo and Ilias Kotsireas (CCA Editors) will continue to serve in their respective roles and on the Executive Committee. It is very important to thank all those who ran in this SIGSAM election; a strong slate of candidates is a necessary condition for a healthy organization, and I hope they will consider running again in the future.

The SIGSAM Advisors serve as a resource to the SIGSAM Executive for broader consultation and discussion. Peter Paule and Daniel Lichtblau both served previously on this board, before being elected to the Executive Committee. We now welcome Jean-Guillaume Dumas (Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France) and Michael Monagan (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada) to the board and look forward to their input. You may view the full Advisory Board at http://www.sigsam.org/officers/advisory-board.html.

ISSAC and the ISSAC Steering Committee. SIGSAM was proud to sponsor ISSAC in Waterloo this summer, and as a local organizer, I was particularly pleased by its success. The attendance was exceptional at 195 participants, and it was especially good to see so many young researchers presenting papers and posters. The satellite workshops of PASCO (Parallel Symbolic Computation) and SNC (Symbolic Numeric Computing), at the University of Western Ontario, were also very successful, and were held in cooperation with ACM and SIGSAM. The proceedings of all these meetings are now available through the ACM Digital Library.

SIGSAM has, as always, a representative on the ISSAC Steering Committee. Typically this position is filled by the SIGSAM Chair, but I have served on the ISSAC Steering Committee for the previous three years as an elected member and the ISSAC Bylaws preclude me from continuing. At the SIGSAM Business meeting at ISSAC 2007, we approved that Daniel Lichtblau would serve in my stead. Other current members of the ISSAC Steering Committee are Jeremy Johnson (Chair), Xiao-Shan Gao and André Galligo (elected members at large), Yosuke Sato (ISSAC, Japan) and Gerhard Hiß (Fachgruppe Computeralgebra, Germany). SIGSAM continues to play an active role in ISSAC and looks forward to sponsoring it in the future.

I encourage all of you to attend ISSAC 2008 at the Research Institute for Symbolic Computation (RISC) in Linz, Austria this coming summer, which is being held along with a great collection of satellite conferences and workshops. ISSAC 2009 will be held at the Korean Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS), in coordination with SNC in Japan. We will provide details as they become available.
ACM Communications in Computer Algebra (CCA). You may have noticed that you have been receiving issues of CCA at a somewhat faster rate for the past few months. Following an exceptional effort by the CCA editors you are receiving this September 2007 issue in early October 2007! After quite a number of years of being behind an issue or two, we are now almost right up to date. As a former editor of the SIGSAM Bulletin I know well what went into this, and it certainly is a great welcoming for the incoming Executive Committee!

We plan on introducing some new features in the CCA over the next few issues. We have started to print abstracts of recent Ph.D. theses in computer algebra and symbolic computation. One of the hallmarks of a vital field is the quality of its young researchers, and we hope to showcase this talent in the CCA. If you are a young researcher who has obtained your doctorate in the past year, or a supervisor with a great new graduate, please send an abstract to CCA for publication.

We also hope to make CCA the place to look for timely conference and workshop announcements and calls for papers, both in the published pages and on the web site. If you are planning a conference or workshop of interest to the computer algebra community, please let us know and we will publish the call. In this issue you will find three such announcements, as well as abstracts from the Software Exhibitions at ISSAC 2007. Reports and abstracts from workshops and conferences, especially those that might otherwise go unnoticed in the mainstream of computer algebra, are especially welcomed. And of course, please continue to send surveys, articles for timely communication, and articles for formal review to CCA, from all areas of computer algebra and its applications.

SIGSAM Website. One of our initiatives for the upcoming year (and indeed, for the past year) is the revitalization of the SIGSAM website. The goal is to make it the primary web portal for current information on computer algebra and symbolic computation. And we are going to rely heavily on you to make this work! New web technologies will allow easy contribution of content by the users, keeping the information up to date and encouraging active discussion on important topics. Please keep an eye on www.sigsam.org and the CCA over the coming months to see how we are progressing!

To conclude, we are looking forward to serving you over the coming years, and to embarking on some exciting new projects. I would be happy to hear any comments or ideas you might have, and encourage your participation in all SIGSAM activities.

Mark Giesbrecht
SIGSAM Chair (chair_SIGSAM@acm.org)
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Canada
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