1. Awards

Over the last year 2012-2013, we have given out two SIGMM-wide award, the SIGMM Technical Achievement Award 2012 and the SIGMM Best PhD Thesis Award 2012.

SIGMM Technical Achievement Award 2012: At the ACM Multimedia 2012, held in Nara, Japan, we have presented our 4th SIGMM Award for Outstanding Technical Contributions to Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications (shortly Technical Achievement Award) to Dr. Hong-Jiang Zhang, who is the CEO at Kingsoft for his technical achievements to media computing and outstanding service to the community. The awardee for the SIGMM Technical Achievement Award 2012 was selected by the SIGMM Awards Committee Prof. Rainer Lienhart (SIGMM officer and chair of the committee) from University of Augsburg, Germany, Dr. Larry Rowe from FXPal and Prof. Tat-Seng Chua from National University of Singapore.

Dr. Hong-Jiang Zhang gave a technical presentation “Reflections from an Industrial Perspective” in the plenary session on Wednesday Morning October 31, 2012.

The second SIGMM award went to Dr. Wanmin Wu who received the SIGMM Best PhD Thesis Award. She gave a presentation “Identifying and Incorporating Human Psycho-physical Factors along with Traditional QoS to Improve Experience”. She gave her presentation also on Wednesday Morning, October 31, 2012.

Besides the SIGMM-wide awards, our flagship journal, ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications (TOMCCAP) acknowledges the work of the associate editors and gives out the best TOMCCAP associate editor award to an editor who provides most excellent services to authors and the community. In 2012, Changsheng Xu from Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, was named the best associate editor of ACM TOMCCAP. The TOMCCAP Editor-in-Chief Prof. Ralf Steinmetz from Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, presented the award at the banquet of the ACM Multimedia 2012 conference in Nara, Japan.

In 2012, the editor-in-chief(EiC) of TOMCCAP, Ralf Steinmetz, announced the first ACM TOMCCAP Nicolas Georganas named award for Best Paper, published in the TOMCCAP journal, to honor the memory and outstanding work of Prof. Nicolas Georganas, the founder and first EiC of TOMCCAP, who passed away in July 2010. The first winner of the Nicolas Georganas TOMCCAP Best Paper Award was Pavel Korshunov and Wei Tsang Ooi for their paper “Video Quality for Face Detection, Recognition and Tracking” (TOMCCAP vol 7. No. 3).
At our SIGMM-sponsored conferences, we have given out numerous conference-specific awards to celebrate the outstanding research as follows:

1.1. ACM International Conference on Multimedia (ACM Multimedia)

The ACM International Conference on Multimedia is the SIGMM flagship conference, and the ACM Multimedia 2012 was held in Nara, Japan, October 29 – November 2, 2012.

b. **Best Student Paper Award 2012**: Shi-Yao Lin, Chuen-kai Shie, Shen-chi Chen, Yi-Ping Hung: “Action recognition for human-marionette interaction”.
d. **Multimedia Grand Challenge 2012**:
   b. Grand Challenge 2nd Prize went to
      i. Xiaohui Wang, Jia Jia, Peiyun Hu, Sen Wu, Jie Tang, Lianhong Cai: “Understanding the emotional impact of images” and
      ii. Vassilios Vonikakis, Stefan Winkler: “Emotion-based sequence of family photos”
e. **Best Open Source Software Competition Awards 2012**: There was one award given to Petr Holub, Jiri Matela, Martin Pulec, Martin Srom, “UltraGrid: Low-latency high-quality video transmission on commodity hardware”
f. **Technical Demonstrations 2012**: The best technical demonstration award went to Si Liu, Tam V. Nguyen, Jiashi Feng, Meng Wang, Shuicheng Yan, “Hi, Magic closet, tell me what to wear!” There were two demonstration runner-ups for Best Technical Demonstration:
   i. Hanwang Zhang, Zhen-jun Zha, Jingwen Bian, Yue Hao, Huanbo Luan, Tat-sent Chua, “Attribute Feedback”
g. **Best Doctoral Symposium Paper 2012**: This award went to Yan-Ying Chen: People search and activity mining in large-scale community-contributed photos”.

1.2. ACM International Conference on Multimedia Retrieval (ICMR)
The ICMR 2013 conference was a SIGMM-sponsored conference. This was the 2nd conference after the merger of ACM CIVR (Conference on Image and Video Retrieval) conference and ACM MIR (Multimedia Information Retrieval) workshop, both SIGMM-sponsored events. The ICMR 2013 was held in Dallas, Texas, April 16-19, 2013. ICMR had three special awards.

- **The best paper award** was received by Liyan Zhang, Dmitri V. Kalashnikov and Sharad Mehrotra from the University of California, Irvine for the paper “A Unified Framework for Context Assisted Face Clustering”

- **The best doctoral symposium award** went to Abhinav Dhall from Australian National University for the paper “Expression Analysis in the Wild: From Individual to Groups”.

- **The best demonstration award** was given to Shuang Wang, Yunfeng Xue, Lingyang Chu and Shuqiang Jian of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yuhao Jiang of the Shandong University of Science and Technology for their work “ObjectSense: A Scalable Multi-object Recognition System based on Partial – Duplicate Image Retrieval”.

2. Significant programs

Throughout the SIGMM-sponsored conferences we had several significant programs that provided a springboard for future technical efforts:

2.1. **ACM Multimedia 2012**

- Highlight of this conference was again the *Multimedia Grand Challenge program* organized for the fourth time as a part of the conference program. Multimedia Grand Challenge is a set of problems and issues from a number of industry leaders geared to engage the multimedia research community in solving relevant, interesting and challenging questions about the industry’s 2-5 year horizon for multimedia. Researchers were encouraged to submit working systems in response to the challenge. A large number of submissions were received for this first edition of the competition. We will be continuing with this challenge in ACM Multimedia 2012.

- In 2012, ACM Multimedia **20th anniversary** of its existence. To celebrate this anniversary, we have organized multiple events at ACM Multimedia 2012. We have started with the 20th anniversary keynote speaker Masahiro Fujita from Sony Corporation, Japan who spoke about “Future Direction of Digital Content”. The second major event was the 20th anniversary panel, called “Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda: 20 Years of Multimedia Opportunities”, organized by Klara Nahrstedt (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Malcolm Slaney (Microsoft, USA). The four panelists where Dick Bulterman (CWI, Vrije University), Ramesh Jain (University of California, Irvine), Larry Rowe (University of California at Berkeley/ FXPAL, USA), Ralf Steinmetz (Technical University Darmstadt, Germany). The panelists discussed the state of the multimedia area, achievements we have celebrated through the years at ACM Multimedia conferences, but also the missed opportunities that we have not seen coming in the industry. The discussion was very lively with audience participating via variety of questions.

- We have also welcomed two PhD students who received scholarship from ACM-W to attend the conference since SIGMM participates in this program. The SIGMM chair, Klara
Nahrstedt, met and communicated with them, informing the students about the conference and its various events, sessions and possibilities.

2.2. **ACM MMSys 2013, NOSSDAV 2013 and MoVid 2013**

Three interesting events ACM MMSys 2013, NOSSDAV 2013 and MoVid 2013 were held in Oslo together. This was the first time that MMSys was collocated with the two workshops, NOSSDAV and MoVid. The colocation of the events worked out very well since authors and attendees could listen to talks and keynotes in all three events. There were two interesting keynote talks talking about 3D video. The first keynote speaker spoke at NOSSDAV 2013 and it was Dr. Aljosa Smolic from Disney Research Zurich. He talked about “Advanced 3D Video processing and coding”. Rui Casais from Funcom talked about “Technical challenges of developing MMOGs”. Both speakers were from industry providing very different perspective on multimedia systems area.

In this conference, the organizers also arranged for a special session on “3D Technology in Multimedia” which included three papers ranging from mobile 3D content support to 3D collaborative tools.

MMSys 2013 also continued with the gathering, advertising and disseminating very interesting datasets such as social event detection dataset, mobile video datasets, 3G network traces, P2P live streaming session traces, and distributed DASH datasets.

One important aspect I would like to stress that this conference was being held at the University of Oslo and the organizers managed to record all presentations that are now available on YouTube. This also means that participants who were not at the conference, are able to access the slides and presentation via videos and listen to material discussed and presented at MMSys 2013.

2.3. **ACM ICMR 2013**

The conference continued with the “Practitioners Session” bringing in industry researchers and discussing problems faced by the practitioners.

The SIGMM-sponsored ACM ICMR 2013 conference continued to have one interesting special session with interesting papers. It was called the “Social Events in Web Multimedia” session. In addition to the interesting session, ICMR 2013 organized an exciting panel “Recommendation Systems Have Taken Control: Is Multimedia Retrieval Still Relevant?”

2.4. **ACM TOMCCAP Special Issue on 20th Anniversary of ACM Multimedia**

In addition to significant programs and events at SIGMM-sponsored conferences, we have also organized a special issue in ACM TOMCCAP to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ACM Multimedia. The guest editors Klara Nahrstedt from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
Rainer Lienhart from University of Augsburg and Malcolm Slaney from Microsoft, Inc. have selected four long papers that surveyed the 20 years of topics ranging from multimedia synchronization and multimedia streaming to multimedia authoring and image search. In addition to long papers, a group of leading researchers in multimedia was invited to contribute short notes and contributions to present their personal view on the last 20 years in multimedia area and insights for the future. The special issue will come out in October 2013 and widely distributed at ACM Multimedia 2013 and other multimedia venues that come after October 2013.

3. Innovative programs

Several SIGMM-sponsored conferences had innovative programs which provided service to technical community:

3.1. ACM Multimedia 2012

- Open Source Competition brings major service to technical community since software is then released to the community with corresponding agreements in place.
- We have organized the “Networking of Multimedia Women” event in the form of lunch. The event was led by Prof. Susanne Boll.
- We have continued to provide state of the art tutorial presentations free (because of all inclusive registration fees) to conference participants.
- All accepted short papers were included in the Poster Plenary Sessions.
- The art exhibitions were open for two weeks to give conference participants and other visitors chance to see the art work by selected and invited artists.
- Student travel grants were expanded and provided to 59 students.
- The conference organizers created a web and smartphone application, called mmap, which allowed mobile participants the access to program time table, information for transformation and other vital information.

3.2. ACM MMSys 2013

The co-location of the MoVid and NOSSDAV 2013 workshops with MMSys’12 worked very well. Many participants stayed the full three days and attended the various presentations of the Mobile Video (MoVid) and NOSSDAC Workshops. Since MoVid and NOSSDAV were run in parallel, they shared the keynote speaker. The keynote speaker was Dr. Aljosa Smolic from Disney Research Zurich. He talked about “Advanced 3D Video processing and coding”. Overall, the talk was very well received.

3.3. ACM ICMR 2013

The two tutorial sessions were very interesting. Their themes were (a) Advanced Machine Learning Techniques for Temporal, Multimedia and Relational Data, and (b) Similarity Indexing for Multimedia Data. The themes were very actual and very well received.

Another interesting event was the panel on “Recommendation Systems have taken Control: Is Multimedia Retrieval still Relevant?”
The special session “Social Events in Web Multimedia” has been expanded at this conference and split into two parts due to very strong popularity.

The industry session of the “Practitioner Day” had several interesting topics ranging from “social curation”, presented by Nippon Teleraph and “user behavior analysis” from Yahoo! Inc, to “reasoning with Cyc from event descriptions to the details of structure and appearance” by Cycorp, Inc.”.

The conference was also running demonstrations and PhD doctoral symposium which were successful and highly attended.

4. Brief summary for the key issues that the memberships of SIGMM will have to deal with in the next 2 years

The key issues are:

a. Come up with a sustainable funding model for the multimedia art community within the SIGMM community and their participation at our premier ACM Multimedia conference.

b. Expand SIGMM presence in various social networks.
   a. At ACM Multimedia 2012, we had used Twitter to collect opinions, Facebook, the SIGMM website, and organizers built the 'mmap' web and smartphone application to assist the mobile conference participants. However, more needs to be done to effectively use the social networks at SIGMM-sponsored conferences and increase presence of the conference events among participants.
   b. Good examples to continue and expand are: At ACM Multimedia 2011 we have introduced the social media award, and more needs to be done. At ICMR'12, photo-slide presentation has been prepared and posted on the conference website. At ACM Multimedia 2012 and ICMR'13 Facebook accounts were widely used.

b. Increase industry participation in SIGMM activities to strengthen ties and increase impact between industry and academia.
   a. ACM Multimedia 2012 brought in "Industry Exhibits and Technical Demos" together. The Open Source Software Challenge is a very strong program to accomplish the goal. Including panelists from industry is another approach. At ACM Multimedia 2012, the panelists on “Content is Dead. Long Live Content!”, several panelists were from the industry such as NTT Docomo and Microsoft, Inc.
   b. ACM ICMR 2013 did a good job with the “Practitioner Day” session, although it was shorter and with less industry representation than in the previous years.
   c. ACM MMSys/NOSSDAV/MoVid 2013 brought again keynote speakers from Disney Research Zurich and Funcom (an online game company) which provided very strong industrial relevance to the multimedia systems research.
d. Automate process for talks content, web, other **SIGMM material preservation** at SIGMM venues. We have established preservation committee for ACM Multimedia conference as part of the organizing committee, but for other SIGMM-sponsored events, we do not have organized effort and it depends on the chair and culture of the conference. We need to do more in this area. We have a SIGMM preservation representative, who is the associate editor on the sigmm.org editorial board, Mohammed Hafeeda. However, he mostly aims to preserve the main pages of the conference websites, not talks or other content from a conference.

   a. ACM MMSys 2013 did a very good job video-taping all presentations and making them available via the conference website.

e. Increase **SIGMM participation of female researchers**. We have started to go in this direction at ACM Multimedia event, but other SIGMM-sponsored events do not have coordinated events, and we need to do more.

   a. We have started this task with **lunch at ACM Multimedia 2010**, the event “**Networking of Multimedia Women**” including a discussion and panel at ACM Multimedia 2011 and lunch at ACM Multimedia 2012. We are planning another lunch event at ACM Multimedia 2013.

   b. SIGMM has partnered with **ACM-W** to fund one female student to attend the premier SIGMM conference in her area of interest. At ACM Multimedia 2012 we have had PhD students (two) who came through the ACM-W program.

f. Build up the next generation of **SIGMM volunteers** to serve as SIGMM officers, chairs, leaders of various SIGMM sponsored activities and venues.

   a. We have a very active group of volunteers that drive very diverse activities of ACM SIGMM, but we need to bring new members in, hence increasing the SIGMM membership would be one of the important tasks.

g. Consider **additional SIGMM-wide award(s)** to recognize wider multimedia community achievements such as service, education, mid-level research achievements, etc. The goal is to propose SIGMM Educational Award, “Test of Time Paper Award”, and “Rising Star Award” over the next few years.

h. Ensure **location selection for ACM Multimedia 2016** in Europe and assist with preparation of ACM Multimedia 2014 in Orlando, USA.

i. Expand **interactions with other SIGs and professional groups** through collaborative activities such as joint event sponsorships.

5. **Other Highlights in SIGMM activities**

a. Prof. Mohan Kankanhalli, the SIGMM Director of Conferences, again worked with the ACM Multimedia 2012 organizing team to execute what was proposed by the **review committee** which was charged to review the efficiency and organization of our premier ACM Multimedia conference. The chair of the committee was Prof. Tat-Seng Chua. The committee **reviewed two aspects of ACM Multimedia** and related conferences: (a) the conference organization and (b) the procedures for the management and review of papers for the SIGMM-sponsored conferences. The recommendations were successfully implemented for the first time at ACM

b. The streamlined process for the ACM Multimedia conference location bidding works very well. This year at ACM Multimedia 2012, we have decided that ACM Multimedia 2015 will in Brisbane, Australia.

c. Our SIGMM e-newsletter, called SIGMM Records, has variety of articles on multimedia tools, PhD theses abstracts, announcements, SIGMM Educational Column featuring various courses in multimedia area, and many other information. It is a tremendous resource to the community.

d. We have made significant progress in SIGMM preservation efforts via the preservation committee, led by Dr. Mohamed Hefeeda, who set up a website to preserve past SIGMM-sponsored venues as well as establish processes towards presentation of SIGMM-sponsored venues and their websites, proceedings, etc.

e. The new ACM TOMCCAP Nicolas Georganas named award for “Best Paper of the Year” published in ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications was successfully implemented and awarded for the first time at ACM Multimedia 2012, in Nara, Japan.

f. The SIGMM-specific educational committee compiles and keeps up-to-date educational material in the area of multimedia computing, communications, and applications. This effort is led by Dr. Wei Tsang Ooi. This committee now has an editor on the SIGMM e-newsletter editorial board to bring articles on multimedia education to a broader community.

g. The SIGMM chapter in China is flourishing. The chapter’s own conference, International Conference on Internet Multimedia Computing and Communication (ICIMCS 2010) had its second event December 30-31, 2010 in Harbin, China, and the 3rd ICIMCS 2011 was in August 5-7, 2011 in Chengdu, China. The 4th ICIMCS event was in September 9-11, 2012 in Wuhan, China, and the SIGMM chair Klara Nahrstedt visited the conference site, gave a keynote speech and congratulated female participants who received the SIGMM travel grants.

h. All SIGMM-sponsored events had a very strong government and industry sponsorship and/or industry participation via talks, papers, demonstrations, including National Science Foundation, and companies such as Microsoft Research, FXPal, Yahoo!, Google, HP Labs, Springer, Simula Research Laboratory, IAD, the Research Council of Norway, Institute of Informatik in U. Oslo, Huwei, IBM Research, NTT Docomo, Technicolor, KDDI R&D, Mitsubishi Electric, Omron, Panasonic, Sharp, Facebook, Foo.LOG, Fuji Xerox, Gree, IBM, Netcompass, Nikon, NTT Data, Toshiba, DeNA, Aruba Networks, CiC, JSP, and others.

i. The ACM Multimedia 2012 conference had around 646 attendees. It received 331 long papers and 407 short papers in 11 multimedia areas. Overall acceptance rate was 20.2% for long papers and 31.2% for short papers. The number of submissions was the highest ever for this conference and the attendance was the second highest we had (after Florence).

j. We are actively participating in ACM-W as well as promote attendance of female students to be active in the multimedia area through the “Networking of Multimedia Women” at the ACM Multimedia events,