SIGMM FY'08 Annual Report

July 2007 – June 2008

Submitted by: Klara Nahrstedt, SIGMM Chair

1. Sponsored SIGMM Conferences/Workshops

We have sponsored two major venues during the FY 2007 period, the ACM Multimedia 2007 (the International Conference on Multimedia) and ACM NOSSDAV 2007 (Network and Operating System Support for Digital Audio and Video) Workshop. Both venues were a success and we will present reports from both venues.

1.1. ACM Multimedia 2007 Conference/Workshop Program Highlights

ACM Multimedia 2007 was held at the campus facilities of the University of Augsburg in Augsburg, Germany, from September 24 to 29, 2007. We are happy to report that we had a record number of paper submissions, attendees and a very strong quality and variety of program.

Dr. Anand Prasad from DoCoMo Euro-Labs and Prof. Rainer Lienhart from University of Augsburg, were the general chair persons for the conference. The program committee and the organization committee were excellent. The team is listed in Appendix A.

The main conference was attended by 388 participants, where 170 were early registrations, 121 participants received packages, 56 participants registered late, and 41 participants were special cases (keynote speakers, sponsors, complimentary attendees and volunteers). Number of total participants of the ACM Multimedia event (tutorial or main conference or workshop) was 429 (number of online registrants). 210 participants attended workshops, 20 participants attended one half-day tutorials, while 61 participants attended two half-day tutorials. The total revenue was $204,284.

Tutorials
The conference included 7 half-day tutorials as follows:

Title	Instructor
Bayesian Methods for Multimedia	A. Taylan Cemgil
Active Learning for Multimedia	Georges Quénot
Inpainting	Timothy K. Shih
Large Data Methods for Multimedia	Michael Casey and Frank Kurth
MPEG	Fernando Pereira
Mobile Phone Programming for Multimedia	Jürgen Scheibl
Human-Centered Multimedia Systems	Alejandro Jaimes, Nicu Sebe

Workshops

Workshops have always been an important part of the conference. This year the following six workshops were organized as part of the conference:

1. Workshop on *Multimedia Information Retrieval* (MIR 2007) – Chairs: James Z. Wang and Nozha Boujemaa
2. Workshop on *Mobile Video* (MV 2007) – Chairs: Chang Wen Chen and Eckehard Steinbach
3. *TRECVID Video Summarization* (TVS 2007) – Chairs: Paul Over and Alan Smeaton
4. Workshop on *Human-Centered Multimedia* (HCM 2007) – Chairs: Alejandro Jaimes and Nicu Sebe
5. Workshop on *The Many Faces of Multimedia Semantics* (MS 2007) – Chairs: William Grosky, Farshad Fotouhi, and Peter Stanchev
6. Workshop on *Educational Multimedia and Multimedia Education* (EMME 2007) – Chairs: Gerald Friedland, Wolfgang Hürst, and Lars Knipping

The list included one standing workshop that has been running for many years (MIR), one repeated workshop (HCM) and four new workshops. MIR pulled in the largest crowd of 63, while HCM had 25, MV 46, TVS 33, MS 21 and EMME 22 participants. The workshops were well-attended with the smaller workshops being highly interactive.

Technical Program

The main conference had a rich 3 day program. All activities started at 8:30am and ended at 5pm or 5:30pm.

Over the past 15 years, the concept of multimedia has evolved and the tutorials, main conference technical program, and workshops reflected this change. The conference covered a wide range of topics from foundation of multimedia, through multimedia systems, networks, and multimedia interactions to multimedia content and applications. In addition, the interactive art program was held at the Applied University of Augsburg with very exciting and outstanding exhibitions. The program included conference events such as four keynote addresses, long papers, short papers, brave new emerging topics, panels, doctoral symposium, technical demonstrations, open source competition, video demonstrations, research papers in interactive art and a very interesting multimedia art exhibition. The general program of ACM Multimedia 2007 is sketched below.

General Schedule

Monday, Sep. 24	Tutorials
Tuesday, Sep. 25	Main conference, arts program, evening reception
Wednesday, Sep. 26	Main conference, arts program, conference banquet dinner
Thursday, Sep 27	Main conference, arts program

Friday, Sep 28	All Workshops
Saturday, Sep 29	MIR Workshop

Keynote Speakers:

We had two research keynote speakers on Tuesday and Thursday morning as well as two application keynote speakers Wednesday morning. On Tuesday morning, Prof. Dr. Wahlster (DFKI) presented a very interesting mosaic of his research and views on "*Smart Web - Multimodal Web Services on the Road"*. A day-long demo with a BMW motor-bike as well as a Mercedes-Benz R-Class vividly demonstrated the concepts of his keynote. The Thursday keynote speaker was Dr. Minoru Etoh from NTT DoCoMo who discussed some of the very interesting mobile multimedia challenges as well as shared his insights into future mobile multimedia applications.

Dr. Fageth of CeWe Color, Europe's largest photo finisher, presented the latest production pipeline and ideas from consumers' digital files to tangible image products. The talk was full of interesting facts most of us are not aware of. Finally, Dr. Knut Manske from SAP shared his view on the workplace of the future.

Research Keynote Speakers

Invited Talk: SmartWeb: Multimodal Web Services on the Road
Invited Speaker: Prof. Wolfgang Wahlster, DFKI

Tuesday, September 25th, 9:00am

Invited Talk: Insights into Future Mobile Multimedia Applications
Invited Speaker: Dr. Minoru Etoh , Research Laboratories, NTT DoCoMo

Thursday, September 26th, 9:00am

Application Keynote Speakers

Invited Talk: Applied Image Science - From Consumers' Digital Files to Tangible Image Products
Invited Speaker: Dr. Fageth, CeWe Color

Wednesday, September 26th, 9:15am

Invited Talk: The Workplace of the Future
Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Lutz Heuser, SAP AG (could not attend himself, replaced by Dr. Knut Manske)

Wednesday, September 26th, 8:30am

Long Papers

There were 298 submissions of long papers (113 in Content, 90 in Applications, 64 in Systems, and 30 in Multimedia Interactions). After a rigorous review process 57 long papers were accepted: 19 in the Content track, 18 in the Applications track, 13 in the Systems track, and 7 in the newly introduced Multimedia Interactions track. This represents an acceptance rate of 19 percent. The papers were organized in 20 sessions, three papers per session.

Short Papers (Poster Session)

We have received an absolute record of 255 papers (a 43% increase over the previous year), out of which 70 were selected. The acceptance ratio was at a record-low of 27% bringing the short paper acceptance rate close to one of the long papers. The short papers were presented in three poster sessions.

Brave New Topics (BNTs)

Based on the criteria that topics selected as BNT must be new, brave and likely to be of high level of interests and impact the BNT committee selected only one topic from the submitted proposals:

> *How the Many can Affect One: Research Challenges in Community-Driven Media Computing*
> (by Hari Sundaram and Lexing Xie)

The facilitators for the BNT topic were responsible for (a) inviting the potential authors as listed in the proposal to submit papers in appropriate subjects, (b) overseeing the review of papers, each with 2-3 reviewers, (c) selecting the papers in consultation with the BNT chairs, and (d) ensuring the authors submit the camera-ready papers on time. The BNT session was scheduled on Wednesday afternoon in parallel with the main paper sessions. As in previous years, the BNT session was well attended and received.

Panels

This year, the panel chairs proposed one panel session:

> *Towards the Next Plateau – Innovative Multimedia Research beyond TRECVID*
> (Organizer: Tat-Seng Chua)

Panelists were: Alan Hanjalic (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands), Alan Smeaton (Dublin University, Ireland), John R. Smith (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA), Ramesh Jain (UC Irvine, USA), Wei-Ying Ma (Microsoft Research Asia)

The panel session with its interaction with the audience was very successful and covered areas of concerns. The session was very informative and interactive. Many diverse opinions were expressed at the panel which made for interesting discussion among the panelists and between panelists and audience.

Doctoral Symposium

The doctoral symposium received 8 submissions, out of which 3 were selected for presentation at the conference. The review committee was Thomas Plagemann and Vera Goebel. The symposium was held on Thursday early afternoon (right after lunch) to ensure a strong attendance of the event.

Technical Demonstrations

We had a very strong program during the technical demonstrations and it was one of the highlights of the conference. The demonstration sessions were split into Demo 1 on Tuesday afternoon and Demo 2 sessions on Wednesday morning with an overall of 26 demonstrations. In addition to these demos, our keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Wahlster brought in a BMW motor-bike as well as a Mercedes-Benz R-Class to demonstrate the concepts of this keynote "*Multimodal Web Services on the Road*".

Open Source Competition

We followed the initiative started at ACM Multimedia 2004 and organized the Open Source Competition. We had 10 very high quality entries, out of which 4 were accepted for presentation. A committee selected one as the winner. The winner gave a feature presentation and demonstration of his software during the conference. The winner was the "*Programming Web Multimedia Applications with Hop*" system by Manual Serrano, which is a library for programming multimedia web applications. The audience very much enjoyed the features and the demo of this best Open Source Software as well as the presentation of the over accepted submissions:

- *Advene: An Open-Source Framework for Integrating and Visualizing Audiovisual Metadata* (Olivier Aubert, Yannick Prié)
- *GPAC: Open Source Multimedia Framework (Jean Le Feuvre, Cyril Concolato, Jean-Claude* Moissinac)
- *Xface: Open Source Project and SMIL-Agent Scripting Language for Creating and Animating Embodied Conversational Agents* (Koray Balci, Elena Not, Massimo Zancanaro, Fabio Pianesi)

Video Demonstrations

The video program was disappointing: only 2 videos were received and accepted. This could indicate that video demonstrations are not an accepted medium: they do not count as a publication and are non-trivial to create. Personally, we feel that videos are more appropriate to support a technical presentation than standing alone.

Art Track

The arts track was run as a mini-conference within the conference with its own array of long track papers, short track papers and exhibition. The reviews of the papers followed more or less the same guidelines as the main conference. At the end of the review process, we accepted 9 art short papers (out of 20) and 7 art long papers (out of 15). There were multiple excellent interactive art program exhibits shown at new science building of the applied university of Augsburg. The competition was high and only 16 % of the submissions made it into the exhibition, i.e., 10 out a total of 64 submissions were accepted.

The long papers were divided into 3 sessions under the themes: (a) Pieces of Art, (b) Art Pieces, and (c) Fluid Art. The short art papers were presented in one poster session together with other technical posters.

Like in previous years, the interactive art program was an integral part of the overall main conference program and the integration of the arts program into the main conference program brought the two groups very much together – the multimedia arts people on one hand and the multimedia technology people on the other. The synergy has been very good.

Awards

The conference continued with a strong awards program for best full paper, best short paper, best art contribution, best demonstration, and open source winner. The following awards were presented during the conference banquet under various categories using self-generated conference funds.

1. Best full technical paper: $800
2. Best student paper: $800
3. Best Art Contribution $500

| 4. | Best Demonstration: | $500 |
| 5. | Open Source Winner: | $500 |

We have included a presentation session at the conference where the four best paper nominees competed for the best full technical paper. This year we have not differentiated between student and non-student for the best paper. In the case that the overall best paper would come from a student, the rule was that the second best student paper would win the best student paper award. An awards committee made up of senior researchers in the field met afterwards to select the winner and announced him/her at the banquet.

The winner of the ACM Multimedia 2007 awards were:

1. Best full technical paper

Title: Correlative Multi-Label Video Annotation
Authors: Guo-Jun Qi, Xian-Sheng Hua, Yong Rui, Jinhui Tang, Tao Mei, Hong-Jiang Zhang
University of Science and Technology of China, Microsoft Research Asia

2. Best short technical paper

Title: Rate Allocation for Multi-User Video Streaming over Heterogeneous Access Networks
Authors: Xiaoqing Zhu, Piyush Agrawal, Jatinder Pal Singh, Tansu Alpcan, Bernd Girod
Stanford University, Indian Institute of Technology, Technische Universität Berlin

3.   Best Art Contribution

None; the chairs of the Arts program felt that none of the contributions were outstanding enough to deserve the award.

4. Best Demonstration

Title: Video Collage
Authors: Xueliang Liu, Tao Mei, Xian-Sheng Hua, Bo Yang, He-Qin Zhou
Microsoft Research Asia

5. Open Source Winner

Title: Programming Web Multimedia Applications with Hop
Author: Manuel Serrano
Inria Sophia Antipolis

We were also very fortunate this year to receive from IBM 10 student travel grants, covering the full advanced registration fee ($300) as well as a conference banquet ticket ($100).

Video Preservation Efforts at ACM Multimedia 2007

During this conference, we have started to participate in the ACM effort to preserve keynotes content and best papers content via video recording. We have recorded all keynote presentations and the presentations of long papers that competed for the best paper award. All videos have been recorded in the ACM requested format and submitted to ACM for inclusion in the ACM Digital Library. We plan to continue the same effort at ACM Multimedia 2008. As a result of the experience during ACM Multimedia 2007, we have introduced a position of the content preservation chair in the ACM Multimedia 2008 organizational committee. This chair will be responsible for the same tasks as done at ACM Multimedia 2007.

General Impressions and Feedback

The conference was very successful and we have received a very positive feedback about the conference. There were several reasons for it:

1. Participants liked the conference site since (a) they could easily access the conference site with their free tram ticket, (b) all conference rooms were close in the one lecture hall building, hence participants could walk easily from one session to another, (c) there was one coffee break/snack area where people "bumped" into each other and could also talk extensively during the breaks, (d) the lunches were all together in the student Mensa, hence people again could meet and talk, (e) the conference service was good and personnel was very responsive to any glitches that occurred. Of course, weather could have been better, but the conference sweatshirt was warm and appropriate for the temperature outside.
2. The conference organizing committee was excellent. The program chairs both in technical program and interactive arts program did very well and the main conference program was very strong. We heard very positive comments about the overall program including the workshops, which had all plenty of room for their participants and could stay in the same rooms as the main conference. In summary, all members of the organizational committee pulled their weight and contributed in each event category to a great success with respect to selection of tutorials, conference events or workshops.
3. The technical committee meeting was held at Delft University in the Netherlands in June 2007. We would like to thank Alan Hanjalic for hosting and Ricoh for sponsoring the event.

Sponsors:

We had an incredible support from the following sponsors: IBM, Yahoo! Research, Google, Microsoft Research (both locations Redmond and Beijing donated separately), Philips, SAP,

FXPAL, CeWe, NEC, MAN, Ricoh, DoCoMo EuroLabs, the University of Applied Sciences in Augsburg and the University of Augsburg. The detailed table of the sponsors is listed below:

Sponsor	Amount	Contact Info
FXPAL	$5000	"Lynn Wilcox" <wilcox@fxpal.com>
Google	$5000	"Renee Laplante" rlaplante@google.com; referred by "Veronica Bell" <veronican@google.com> with help from Edward Chang
Yahoo! Research	$5000	Follow up with "Kelly Kohler" kkohler@yahoo-inc.com; help/replace "'Lin Koh'" linkoh@yahoo-inc.com referred by "Malcolm Slaney" <malcolm@ieee.org>
Microsoft Research	$2500 + $2500	**MSR Asia:** Wei-Ying Ma wyma@microsoft.com, Ling Huang lhuang@microsoft.com **MSR Redmond:** "Jin Li" jinl@microsoft.com, "Philip A. Chou" <pachou@microsoft.com>
SAP	€5900	Dr. Knut Manske (knut.manske@sap.com)
CeWe	$6900	Miriam.Kreft@cewecolor.de, office: 0441-404 1428
IBM	$5000	TJW $4000: Chitra Dorai, dorai@us.ibm.com, Almaden $1000: Dulce Ponceleon dulce@us.ibm.com
DoCoMo	€2000	Prasad, Anand [prasad@docomolab-euro.com]
Ricoh	$2000	"'Berna Erol'" berna_erol@rii.ricoh.com, "Jonathan J. Hull" hull@rii.ricoh.com
NEC	€1700	Heinrich J Stüttgen (Stuttgen@netlab.nec.de)
Philips	€2000	Facilitated by "'Frank Nack'" <Frank.Nack@cwi.nl>, handled by "'Hans van Gageldonk'" hans.van.gageldonk@philips.com, other contacts : "'Mauro Barbieri'" <mauro.barbieri@philips.com>, "'Nevenka Dimitrova'" <nevenka.dimitrova@philips.com>
MAN Roland	€2500	Thomas Hauser, MAN Roland Druckmaschinen AG, Admin: Claudia_Weber@mra.man.de
Frank Nack	€2000	"'Frank Nack'" <Frank.Nack@cwi.nl>
Total	$38,800+ €7,700	

Outlook

ACM Multimedia 2008 will be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada Oct 27 - Nov 1, 2008. The General Co-chairs are Prof. Abdulmotaleb EL Saddik and Prof. Son Vuong. The 2009 conference is scheduled to be in Beijing, China.

1.2.   ACM NOSSDAV 2007

ACM NOSSDAV 2007 was held at the campus of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Computer Science, Siebel Center, June 4-5, 2007. Prof. Klara Nahrstedt was the general chair and Prof. Reza Rejaie was the program chair of this venue. (We have not included the NOSSDAV 2007 report in the last year SIGMM FY 2006 report due to missing closure of the financial issues for the workshop and closing reports before the deadline of the SIGMM FY 2006 report, hence we are reporting on NOSSDAV 2007 in this report).

Based on the comments from many participants, NOSSDAV 2007 was a very successful event. We had 55 participants for the event and a large fraction of them were not students. Most of the

participants stayed until the last session. Prof. Ralf Steinmetz from Technical University, Darmstadt, gave the keynote talk which was well received and generated a good discussion. The organized panel focused on IPTV and scalable P2P streaming, and included presentations by researchers from academia, research labs and industry. The presentations by panelists generated a lively discussion. All the sessions were webcasted live through the Internet and around 10-20 people were watching the sessions online. The overall balance of the budget was surplus of $4,783 that was returned to ACM. To attract good submissions, we also coordinated with the MMSJ (Multimedia Systems Journal) Journal, published by Springer Verlag, and the editor-in-chief, Prof. Thomas Plagemann, to invite authors of a few high quality NOSSDAV07 papers to submit an extended version of their paper to MMSJ, and announced this in our Call for Papers.

Venue

During the past few years, NOSSDAV has often been hosted at a hotel in a rather exotic location. The main goal of this practice was to make the workshop a more interesting experience for participant. The steering committee of NOSSDAV decided not to follow this practice and we hosted the workshop at a major university, namely UIUC (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), for several reasons: (i) the new CS building at UIUC offers a much better facility with better administrative services for a workshop than a hotel, (ii) this allowed us to keep the overall operation cost down and enabled us to offer a cheaper registration fee to participants, especially to students , (iii) this facilitates the participation of graduate students from UIUC (which has several research groups on multimedia) as well as students from several close by universities, (iv) the presence of one of the chairs at UIUC made various administrative tasks easier to manage.

The conference room at UIUC was excellent (Comment from the program chair: "better than the room for any prior NOSSDAV that I have attended"). The setting for lunch and breaks was very convenient and allowed the participant to nicely socialize outside without becoming scattered. The local admin folks at UIUC provided excellent service for live webcasting, wireless connectivity and responded to various problems that we had. Prof. Nahrstedt arranged several tours of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at UIUC and workshop participants enthusiastically took the tour.

The buffet meals that were served were really good. The banquet was held at the Illini Union, historic building from 1876, and the provided service and buffet style meal (which included wine) were really good.

The only problem was traveling from Champaign to Chicago. Several participants had a bad traveling experience on their way back home since most/all the flights from Urbana to Chicago were canceled.

Paper Submission & Review Process

We used the EDAS system for paper submission, paper review and discussion (but not for the submission of camera ready), and it worked pretty well. The charge was $6 per paper. Basic statistics on submissions:

78 papers registered, abstract received.

52 papers were actually submitted (from 19 different countries)

18 papers were accepted (34% acceptance rate)

The accepted papers were organized into sessions on the following topics: streaming and display, gaming, coding, measurement, IPTV and mobility. The number of submission this year was smaller than in last two years despite our active campaign to publicize NOSSDAV. This could be due to the fact that our submission deadline was close to a couple of other submission deadlines (i.e. Global Internet and SIGCOMM, NSF Nets) but it is hard to tell. Based on the comments from TPC members, we selected the following paper as the best paper, and awarded the authors with $500 cash prize. "*When is P2P technology beneficial to IPTV services?*, by Yennun Huang (AT&T Laboratories Research, US), Zhen Xiao (IBM Research, US), Yih-Farn Chen (AT&T Labs - Research, US), Rittwik Jana (AT&T Labs Research, US), Michael Rabinovich (Case Western Reserve University, US), Bin Wei (AT&T Labs - Research, US)".

The following was the timeline for the paper review process:

paper registration deadline: Feb 5

paper submissions deadline: Feb 19 (extended from Feb 12)

reviews due: March 17

further discussions: March 19-26

Notification went out: March 31

camera ready due: April 14

passed to publishers: May 15

received the proceedings: June 1

The majority of the accepted papers (16) were determined by the TPC members. The TPC chair selected the other two among the papers that were identified as "accept if room". There are some concerns about these two borderline papers that TPC chair directly communicated with them and asked them to address. TPC members have done an excellent job, and they were mostly on time. A couple of TPC members submitted their reviews a bit late due to personal problems but they completed the assigned reviews. Despite the explicit request not to delegate reviews to others, a few TPC members assigned some of their reviews to others (including their students). These TPC members received a nag from me about this.

Proceedings

We published the proceedings at the UIUC's local publishing facility. Once all the camera ready papers and the copyright forms were collected from authors, and approved by ACM, we received the ISBN number from ACM. Our publication chairs put together the table of content and a pocket version of the technical program. Then we passed all the information to the

publishing facility to produce 65 copies of the proceedings. Using the local publishing facility at UIUC certainly speeded up the process and simplified the coordination with the publisher. Our publication chairs, Jin Liang and Zhenyu Yang, worked with the local UIUC publisher in terms of the format and between April 14 and May 15, they put together all papers, checked for format, worked with authors if any problems occurred and created the outline, index, integrated all papers and the other files such as outline, index, address from the chairs, etc into the publisher specified pdf format. Also, the publication chairs created the conference brochure.

Registration

We used regonline.com service for online registration. As in previous years, we also offered a lower registration rate for the non-student co-authors to encourage the participation of senior researchers. The deadline for early registration was May 16. We set this deadline a couple of weeks before the workshop to have a good idea about most of our registrations, and thus our income, in order to plan for local arrangements accordingly. Here are the registration rates we used:

Registration

Full registration

   $415 (Early registration and ACM Member)

   $465 (Early registration and Non-ACM Member)

   $440 (Late/on site registration and ACM member)

   $490 (Late/on site registration and Non-ACM Member)

Affiliated with author

   $290 (Early registration and ACM Member)

   $340 (Early registration and Non-ACM Member)

   $315 (Late/on site registration and ACM member)

   $365 (Late/on site registration and Non-ACM Member)

Student Registration

   $140(Early registration and ACM Member)

   $190(Early registration and Non-ACM Member)

   $165(Late/on site registration and ACM member)

   $215(Late/on site registration and Non-ACM Member)

There were 55 registered participants. We had more local people coming (10 local students and faculty) to the sessions, but they only stayed for the technical sessions only. Here is a breakdown of registrations over different categories:

21 early full registrations and ACM Members

7 early full registrations and non-ACM Members

3 late full registrations and ACM Members

0 late full registration and non-ACM Members

1 early affiliated with author/ACM registration

2 early affiliated with author/non-ACM registrations

6 early student registrations/ACM Members

11 early student registrations/non-ACM Members

3 late student registrations/ACM Members

1 late student registration/non-ACM member

55 total registrations (note that this included the panelists and also the volunteer students for whom we paid).

We also offered free registrations to 4 student helpers, 3 panelists, and the keynote speaker. As in prior years, we offered a cheaper rate for affiliated authors to encourage participation of senior researchers. We had a really good participation by senior members, and in fact the number of senior researchers was larger than students. ACM folks have contacted a closed by hotel that we suggested, Hampton Inn, and negotiated a lower rate with them.

Program

Given the small number of submission, we decided to accept only 18 to have an acceptance rate similar to previous years. The accepted papers along with the panel and keynote were organized into 8 sessions over two days. We decided to organize the program in two days (instead of 2.5 days) in order to have a good participations, and do not lose a good fraction of participants for the last half a day. We used the same panel style Q&A for all three papers at the end of each session. Authors were asked to keep their presentations to 20 minutes and this left almost 30 minutes for discussion in each session. One side effect of this format is that a particular paper is likely to get a large fraction of the Q&A. This is not necessarily a bad thing. One author (from Japan) could not attend the workshop due to its inability to get visa. He informed us in time and provided a presentation with the embedded voice. However, we decided to skip the talk because the verbal side of the presentation was really slow and hard to follow. All the papers along with the captured videos, and the slides of the keynote speaker and

panelists are linked and nicely organized into the technical program on NOSSDAV web page which remains available online. The videos are hosted at UIUC.

Content Preservation at NOSSDAV 2007

At NOSSDAV venue we have also started in 2007 with the content preservation effort. Due to the UIUC facilities, we have recorded all sessions and all videos are available at the NOSSDAV server, http://www.nossdav.org/2007.

The Budget

The budget was administered by the Workshop Treasurer, Prof. Indranil Gupta, using estimates of attendees from previous years and expected percentage of students. The main goal was to keep the registration rates low, especially for students. We also budgeted free registration for 4 student volunteers, 4 panelists/keynote speakers, and a special rate for registrants affiliated with an author's institution. Prof. Nahrstedt paid partly for the travel costs of the keynote speaker (from her gift funds). The keynote speaker was also given an honorarium from the workshop budget.

Creating a budget involves substantial amounts of guesswork, and the previous years' budgets and expense reports proved to be extremely valuable resources in the preparation phase. Also, the treasurer would do well to re-evaluate the financial standing right after early registration closes - this year, such a review was done, and informed us of a potential surplus. This allowed us to buy laptop jackets (idea by Prof. Nahrstedt) as souvenirs (participants appreciated this much, as this tradition now seems to have disappeared somewhat at other conferences). ACM required us to budget 7% of expected expenses as contingency, however since NOSSDAV has not lost money in the last few years, one could potentially petition ACM to reduce this number to as low as 2% - this would help bring the registration rates down. Finally, the surplus from this year is returned to ACM/SIGMM (just like every year).

NOSSDAV'07 Budget Summary

ITEM	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFF	NOTES
Registration	13440	**16275**	-1835	55 actual registrations, including 7 late, 7 free, and 18 students
Publicity	0	0	0	
Room Rental	0	0	0	Provided by University

AV Rental	0	0	0	Provided by University
Food	5837	4480	1357	Banquet was sparsely attended (reason not known).
Keynote speaker	500	1500	-1000	Had enough surplus
Printing	504	671	-167	Went with University Printing Services
Shipping	0	0	0	University delivered for free
EDAS costs ($6/reg)	720	312	408	
Copying expenses	500	113	387	Used University printing/copying for most stuff
Credit crd (3%)	403	473	-70	
Credit crd ($3/per)	180	218	-38	
Conference mgmnt	500	0	500	Thanks to Anda and the student volunteers!
SIG fees (16%)	1737	1585	152	
Contingency fees	1737	0	1737	No unforeseen expenses
Best paper award	500	500	0	
Souvenirs	0	1640	-1640	Had enough surplus
Total Expenses	13316	**11492**		Keeping a watch on expenses helps

SURPLUS	24 (=13340-13316)	**4783** (=16275-11492)	- 4659	Due to larger number of registrants than budgeted. Could potentially petition SIGMM for using this amount for travel grants next year

Outlook

ACM NOSSDAV 2008 was held in May 28-30, 2008, in Braunschweig, Germany. The general/program chairs were Prof. Carsten Griwodz from University of Oslo/SIMULA Laboratory, Norway and Prof. Lars Wolf from Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany. The final report is still not available due to outstanding financial issues, hence we will report on NOSSDAV 2008 in our SIGMM FY 2009 report.

ACM NOSSDAV 2009 is planned to be during June 3-5, 2009, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The general chair will be Prof. Ketan Mayer-Patel.

1.3.   Other SIGMM Co-Sponsored Conferences

In 2007/2008, we have agreed to co-sponsorship of several conferences:

(a) ACM ICDSC 2007 (International Conference on Distributed Smart Cameras), was 50% sponsored by SIGMM, had 91 attendees with surplus 11,034 Euro (approx. $8,100 was transferred to ACM).

(b) ACM NOSSDAV 2008, held in Braunschweig, Germany (full sponsorship)

(c) ACM Multimedia 2008, held in Vancouver, Canada, October/November 2008 (full sponsorship)

(d) ACM MIR 2008 (Multimedia Information Retrieval), Vancouver, Canada, November 2008 (full sponsorship)

(e) 9th Multimedia and Security (MM&Sec) 2007, held in Dallas, (full sponsorship)

(f) 10th Multimedia and Securirty (MM&Sec), 2008, held September 22-23, 2008, in Oxford University Computing Laboratory, (full sponsorship)

(g) 2nd ICDSC (International Conference on Distributed Smart Cameras), 2008, Stanford, CA, (25% sponsorship from SIGMM, other sponsorship comes from IEEE – 50% and SIGBED – 25%)

In 2009, at this point the following conferences asked for SIGMM sponsorship:

a. ACM Multimedia, 2009, held in Beijing, China, (full sponsorship)
b. ACM CIVR (International Conference on Image and Video Retrieval), July 8-10, 2009, Santorini Island, Greece.

2. In-Cooperation Conferences/Workshops

In 2007/2008, we have agreed to support conferences/workshop in-cooperation status:

(a) WebMedia 2007 (Brazilian Symposium on Multimedia and Web), October 21-24, 2007, Gramado-RS, Brazil,

(b) MUM 2007 (6th International Conference on Mobile and Ubiquitous Multimedia), December 12-14, 2007, Oulu, Finland,

(c) E-Forensics 2008 (1st International Conference on Forensics Applications and Techniques in Telecommunications, Information and Multimedia), January 21-23, 2008, Adelaide, Australia

(d) AVI 2008 (International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces), May 27-29, 2008, Naples, Italy

(e) Infoscale 2008 (3rd International ICST Conference eon Scalable Information), June 4-6, 2008, Vico Equense, Italy,

(f) EuroITV 2008 (European Conference on Interactive Television), July 3-4, 2008, Salzburg, Austria

(g) MobiMedia 2008 (4th International Conference on Mobile Multimedia Communication), July 7-9, 2008, Oulu, Finland,

(h) QSine 2008 (5th International ICST Conference on Heterogeneous Networking for Quality, Reliability, Security and Robustness), July 28-31, 2008, Hong-Kong,

(i) EATIS 2008 (Euro-American Conference on Telematics and Information Systems), September 10-12, 2008, Aracaju, Brazil,

(j) Mindtrek 2008, October 7-10, 2008, Tampere, Finland,

(k) NetGames 2008 (Network and Systems Support for Games), October 21-22, 2008, Worcester, MA,

(l) WebMedia 2008 (14th Brazilian Symposium on Multimedia and Web Systems), October 26-29, 2008, Vila Velha, Brazil,

(m)MOMM 2008 (6th International Conference on Mobile Computing and Multimedia), November 24-26, 2008, Linz, Austria

(n) SAMT 2008 (3rd International Conference on Semantics and Digital Media Technology), December 3-5, 2008, Koblenz, Germany,

In 2009, we agreed to support conferences/workshops in-cooperation status:

(a) MMM 2009 (International Conference on Multimedia Modeling), January 7-9, 2009, Sophia Antipolis, France

(b) PSIVT 2009 (3rd Pacific-Rim Symposium on Image and Video Technology), January 13-19, 2009, Tokyo, Japan,

3. SIGMM Leadership

In June 2007 a new SIGMM leadership was elected and started its work. The executive committee consists of SIGMM Chair Klara Nahrstedt, SIGMM Vice Chair, Wolfgang Effelsberg, SIGMM Conference Coordinator, Nevenka Dimitrova.

4. SIGMM Technical Achievement Award

In 2008, the SIGMM Executive Committee (EC) applied for a new SIGMM Award for Outstanding Technical Contributions to Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications, that will be given once a year at the premier SIGMM conference, ACM Multimedia. The award was approved in June 2008 and the SIGMM EC established an awards committee consisting of three senior members of the SIGMM community (Prof. Nicolas Georganas, Prof. Wolfgang Effelsberg (EC member), Dr. Hong-Jiang Zhang). The committee will serve three years, receives applications by a given deadline, and makes the decision on the winner. The first winner will be awarded at the ACM Multimedia 2008 in Vancouver. The description and process of the award is attached in Appendix B of this report.

5. New SIGMM-sponsored Publication

In January 2008, we started a new service, the SIGMM e-Newsletter, for SIGMM members only. This e-Newsletter includes information about best papers from co-sponsored SIGMM conferences, it includes abstracts of most recent PhD theses in the area of Multimedia, abbreviated calls for papers for SIGMM co-sponsored or in-cooperation conferences, and other important announcements, calls relevant to the SIGMM community.

The editor-in-chief for this e-Newsletter is Professor Carsten Griwodz from University of Oslo. He established a small editorial board, consisting of three SIGMM members (Yi Cui, Stephan Kopf, Jun Wang), to assist him with the high quality newsletter. He established a full process for authors to submit their contributions via email (enews-contributions@sigmm.org). The newsletter comes out every 4 months (3 issues per year).

Each newsletter is archived at the SIGMM website where also other interested readers can read the newsletter at later point of time (http:// www.sigmm.org/sigmmpublications). At this point two issues have been published (January and May 2008).

6. SIGMM Website

In 2007, the www.sigmm.org website went through reorganization. The new webmaster for the SIGMM website is Prof. Balakrishnan Prabhakaran from University of Texas, Dallas (UTD). Also, the full content of SIGMM website moved from Germany to UT Dallas where Prof. Prabhakaran works on the website. Prof. Prabhakaran received funding from the SIGMM budget to improve the website further ($30,240 for the period February 19, 2008 to February 28, 2009). UTD and Prof. Prabhakaran agreed to provide network and system administration for SIGMM website, and development of new services on the website such as block/chat facilities, dataset and educational material, upload facilities and search system for the SIGMM website to view full information about the SIGMM community activities. The goal is to make SIGMM website a vibrant website and a valued resource for the SIGMM community.

7. Other SIGMM Services

(a) **ACM TOMCCAP:** SIGMM provides to its members the opportunity to publish their papers in a very prestigious journal, the ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications, Editor-in-Chief Prof. Nicolas Georganas. This journal is doing very well and achieved a very high quality in a very short time of its existence.

(b) **SIGMM Conference Preservation Efforts:** SIGMM starting to participate during 2007/2008 in the ACM preservation efforts. At ACM Multimedia 2007, we have recorded the keynote speakers as well as the presenters of best papers. All videos have been submitted to ACM and archived in the ACM Digital Library. This year we have established a new position, the preservation chair, in the ACM Multimedia 2008 organizing committee, who will be responsible for recording of major activities at the premier SIGMM conference, and archiving the material in ACM DL.

(c) **Preservation Efforts for SIGMM Conference Websites:** We are starting to collect and move past SIGMM Conference (ACM Multimedia) websites to our SIGMM web-server in the effort to preserve these websites hence preserve the historic record of these conferences, as well as ask chairs of present and future conferences to move their website to the SIGMM web server.

(d) **CACM Efforts**: With ACM Multimedia 2008, we will start in participating and contributing to CACM magazine by nominating and submitting best papers from our community.

8. Budget

During the 2007/2008 time, the budget shows that the sponsored SIGMM conferences brought in a surplus of $22, 861.

9. Future Plans

We are planning to have SIGMM retreat on October 26 and 27, 2008, in Vancouver (prior to ACM Multimedia 2008). The goal of the SIGMM retreat is to discuss the future of SIGMM, directions of this organization, as well as future directions of multimedia research, education and funding in this area with leading multimedia researchers from academia and industry. We have invited 50 researchers and approximately 40 researchers are planning to attend and impact the future of the SIGMM and broader multimedia community.

10.   Summary

The June 2007-June 2008 has been a very strong year for ACM SIGMM. SIGMM has strengthen its mission to assist the multimedia community in their visibility and their services. We have sponsored two very highly visible venues, our premier conference ACM Multimedia 2007 that brought together 420 participants and the ACM NOSSDAV 2007workshop that brought together 60 participants. Both venues brought the surplus of $22,861. The SIGMM Executive Committee was new this year and brought to the community several new services. First one is the new SIGMM technical achievement award that will be given out at the ACM Multimedia 2008 in Vancouver. Second new service will be visible at our SIGMM website where we are working on blogging capabilities and other new services. Third one is our new preservation service where we have started to record keynote and best paper presentations at our two major events and are submitting them for access through ACM Digital Library. Furthermore, we plan to participate in CACM papers submission and most importantly, we are planning for a major SIGMM retreat in October 2008 to discuss the future directions of multimedia area in terms of research, education and funding. Leading researchers from all over the world including academia and industry accepted our invitation and will contribute in defining the directions and actions to be taken by the community.

Appendix A: Conference Organization

General Chairs:	Anand R. Prasad (DoCoMo Euro-Labs, Germany)
	Rainer Lienhart (University of Augsburg, Germany)

Technical Program Coordinator: Chitra Dorai (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)

Program Chairs:

Multimedia Content
Alan Hanjalic (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)
Multimedia Systems
Sunghyun Choi (Seoul National University, South Korea)
Multimedia Applications
Brian Bailey (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)
Multimedia Interaction
Nicu Sebe (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Short Paper Chairs:

Multimedia Content
Chitra Dorai (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
Multimedia Systems
Julien Laganier (DoCoMo Euro-Labs, Germany)
Multimedia Applications
Susanne Boll (University of Oldenburg, Germany)

Workshop Paper Chairs: Belle Tseng (NEC Labs America, USA)
Daniel Gatica-Perez (IDIAP Research Institute, Switzerland)

Tutorial Chairs: Benoit Huet (Eurecom, France)
Malcolm Slaney (Yahoo! Research, USA)

Publicity Chairs: Wolfgang Effelsberg (University Mannheim, Germany)
Yong Rui (Microsoft Research, USA)
Alf Zugenmaier (DoCoMo Euro-Labs, Germany)

Demonstration Chairs: Milind Naphade (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
Wei-Ying Ma (Microsoft Research, Asia, P.R. China)

Doctorial Symposium Chairs: Thomas Plagemann (University of Oslo, Norway)
Vera Goebel (University of Oslo, Norway)

Panels Chairs: Yap-Peng Tan (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
Mohan S Kankanhalli (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

Interactive Art Program Chairs:	Frank Nack (University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France)
	Thomas Rist (Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany)
	Alejandro Jaimes (IDIAP Research Institute, Switzerland)
Video Program Chair:	Thomas Haenselmann (University of Mannheim, Germany)
Brave New Topics Chairs:	Edward Chang (Google Research, P.R. China)
	Shin'ichi Satoh (National Institute of Informatics, Japan)
Open Source Competition Chair:	Apostol Natsev (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
Proceedings Chair:	Roger Zimmermann (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
Registration Chairs:	Yi Wu (Intel Research, USA)
	Marc Emmelmann (Technical University Berlin, Germany)
	Eva Hörster (University of Augsburg, Germany)
Treasurer:	Barbara de Vega (University of Augsburg, Germany)
Sponsoring Chair:	Arnon Amir (IBM Almaden Research Center, USA)
Travel Grant Committee:	Chair: Chitra Dorai (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
	David Gotz (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
	Zhenghua Fu (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, USA)
Local Arrangements Chairs:	Gregor van den Boogaart (University of Augsburg, Germany)
	Jochen Lux (University of Augsburg, Germany)
	Simon Hoffmann (University of Augsburg, Germany)
	Susanne Boll (University of Oldenburg, Germany)
Web Site Chairs:	Simon Hoffmann (University of Augsburg, Germany)
	Benedikt Gleich (University of Augsburg, Germany)
ACM SIGMM Director of Conferences	Nevenka Dimitrova (Philips Research, USA)
ACM SIGMM Chair:	Ramesh Jain (University of California, Irvine, USA)
Interactive Art Program Coordinators:	Thomas Rist (Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany)
	Robert Rose (Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

Appendix B:

SIGMM Award for Outstanding Technical Contributions to Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications

<u>Description</u>

This award will be presented every year to a researcher who has made significant and lasting contributions to multimedia computing, communication and applications. Outstanding technical contributions through research and practice will be recognized. Towards this goal, contributions will be considered from academia and industry that focus on major advances in multimedia including multimedia processing, multimedia systems, multimedia network protocols and services, and multimedia applications and interfaces. The award will recognize members of the community for long-term technical accomplishments or those who have made a notable impact through a significant technical innovation.

The selection committee will focus on candidates' contributions as judged by innovative ideas, influence in the community, and/or the technical/social impact resulting from their work. The award includes a $1000 honorarium, an award certificate of recognition, and an invitation for the recipient to present a keynote talk at the ACM International Conference on Multimedia (ACM Multimedia). A public citation for the award will be placed on the SIGMM website.

<u>Awards Selection Committee</u>

The awards selection committee will consist of **three** members, **one** committee member will be a member of the **SIGMM EC** (Executive Committee), and two members will be from the SIGMM community. The SIGMM awards committee will select their committee chair at the beginning of each year (January of each year). The two awards committee members will be appointed by the current SIGMM Executive Committee officers. The committee chair will adjudicate conflicts of interest and appoint substitutes to the committee as necessary. For purposes of continuity, committee members will remain on the committee for three years. At the beginning, two members will serve longer than 3 years, but the overall goal (after the initial three years) will be to establish a rolling three year terms approach.

<u>Funding</u>

The award honorarium, the award certificate of recognition and travel expenses to the ACM International Conference on Multimedia will be fully sponsored by the SIGMM budget.

<u>Nomination Applications</u>

Nominations will be solicited during the Spring term (May 1 deadline), with the decision made by June 30, in time to allow the above recognition and award presentation at ACM Multimedia in the Fall of the same year.

Nominations for the award must include:

1. A statement summarizing the candidate's accomplishments, description of the significance of the work, and justification of the nomination (two pages maximum);
2. Curriculum Vitae of the nominee;
3. Up to 3 endorsement letters supporting the nomination including the significant contributions of the candidate. Each endorsement should be no longer than 500 words with clear specification of nominee contributions and impact on the multimedia field;
4. A concise statement (one sentence) of the achievement(s) for which the award is being given. This statement will appear on the award certificate and on the website.

The nomination rules are:

1. The nominee can be any member of the scientific community.
2. The nominator must be a SIGMM member.
3. The endorsement letters can be from any members of the scientific community.
4. No self-nomination is allowed.
5. Nominations that do not result in an award can be resubmitted twice.
6. Current members of the SIGMM Executive Committee as well as members of the Awards Selection Committee are not eligible.

The submission process of nominations will be preceded by the call for nominations. The call of nominations will be widely publicized by the SIGMM awards committee and by the SIGMM Executive Board at the different SIGMM venues, such as during the SIGMM premier ACM Multimedia conference (at the SIGMM Business Meeting), on the SIGMM web site, via SIGMM mailing list, and via SIGMM e-newsletter between January and April of the year.

If the SIGMM Awards Committee determines that the nominee pool is inadequate, it has the authority to seek candidates for this award.