

◆ CSE 2009 in Pittsburgh Bridges Science Gap

Despite the worst economic conditions in recent history, slashed travel budgets, and, days before the CSE annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, both the European Union health commissioner's warning not to visit the United States because of fears of an H1N1 flu pandemic and US Vice President Joe Biden's statement on NBC's "Today" show that "I would tell members of my family—and I have—that I wouldn't go anywhere in confined places now," hearty and intrepid folk flocked to the annual meeting. Attendees hailed from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zambia, and the United States and spanned a variety of disciplines from physics and computing machinery to ecology and neglected tropical diseases.

The almost 350 people who made the trek to Pittsburgh seemed enthusiastic and excited about the CSE meeting. The manageable group size allowed for camaraderie and exchange with speakers and moderators and time for discussion and networking.

In preparing for the meeting, I was often asked, Why Pittsburgh? Not only was

the city, especially the views of its rivers and wealth of bridges, lovely and quirky, and the cool weather a welcome respite from the unseasonably hot East Coast spring, the Pittsburgh location proved fertile ground. With Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh nearby, CSE was able to convince some bright lights to shine on the meeting:

- Plenary Speaker **Luis von Ahn**, assistant professor, Computer Science Department, Carnegie Mellon University.
- Speakers **Mark Leahy**, general manager, David L Lawrence Convention Center; **Julie Fiez**, professor, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh; **Christian Schunn**, associate professor of psychology, University of Pittsburgh; **Gloriana St Clair**, dean, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries; **Ron Larsen**, dean, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; **Edward Galloway**, head, Archives Service Center, University Library System, University of Pittsburgh.
- Speaker and Moderator **Seth Beckerman**, Business & Technical Communications.
- Moderators **Erika Linke**, associate dean of university libraries, Carnegie

Mellon University; and **Tracey DePellegrin Connelly**, executive editor, GENETICS.

Truly, the success of the CSE annual meeting depends on the success of the Program Committee in securing lively, innovative, and engaging speakers on timely, relevant, and broad-ranging topics. Thankfully, our 24 committee members—who represented Brazil, Canada, Croatia, the United States, and the United Kingdom—were able to achieve just that. I hope you will join me in thanking the dedicated volunteer committee members, session organizers, speakers, moderators, and reporters for bringing the program to life in such an interesting and interactive way. Seth Beckerman, Local Arrangements Subcommittee chair, deserves special thanks for securing excellent speakers from Pittsburgh and beyond, for providing an insider's view of Pittsburgh extracurricular activities, and for keeping the CSE Web site updated with the latest meeting and local information.

Diane M Sullenberger

DIANE M SULLENBERGER was chair of the 2009 Program Committee. She extends her best wishes to 2010 Program Committee Chairs Ken Heideman and Denis Baskin.

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