

Visualization and Data Analysis 2012

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Introduction

Welcome to the 19th SPIE Conference on Visualization and Data Analysis (VDA 2012). The annual conference is a major international forum for researchers and practitioners interested in data visualization and analytics research, development, and applications. VDA 2012 will be held in the city of Burlingame outside San Francisco, California, on January 23–25, 2012.

Five of the VDA 2011 conference chairs and co-chairs, Pak Chung Wong, David Kao, Ming Hao, Chaomei Chen, and Jinah Park, have returned to serve on the 2012 conference committee. They are joined by three new co-chairs, Mark Livingston, Ian Roberts, and Robert Kosara, to organize the conference. David Kao and Ming Hao also serve as the proceedings chairs and Chaomei Chen as the best paper chair. Ian Roberts and Robert Kosara design and manage the conference website at <http://vda-conference.org>.

Each year, the conference continues to grow and attract more submissions, participants, and presenters. This year, the conference received 50 high quality submissions from the United States and around the world. Based on the results of the peer reviews, the conference accepted a total of 24 submissions for full conference presentations, which is an acceptance rate of 48%. The conference program will also feature 16 interactive poster presentations. The continued success of the program has prompted SPIE to expand our program from two days in the past to two and a half days this year.

Based on the nominations of the proceedings chairs, the best paper chair independently selected eight submissions as the best papers at VDA 2012. Authors of the best papers are invited to extend their work for potential publication in *Information Visualization* (IVS) in 2012. The lead student authors of the best papers will also receive a modest monetary award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The two VDA 2012 keynote speakers are Professor Patrick Hanrahan at Stanford University and Thomas Malzbender at Hewlett Packard Labs. The two world-renowned researchers will bring their research and experience to the conference. Pat Harahan is scheduled to speak on Monday and Tom Malzbender on Tuesday.

VDA continues to enjoy success in corporate and government sponsorships. The conference sponsors in 2012 are (in alphabetical order) Hewlett Packard Labs, Kitware, National Visualization and Analytics Center, Sage Publications, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Their financial and promotional support allows us to continue to grow the conference and serve the community of visualization and data analytics.

The conference cannot succeed without the contributions of the authors, program committee members, paper reviewers, and the staff at SPIE. We gratefully acknowledge their support and commitment to the conference. Finally, your feedback and suggestions for future VDA conference is important to us. Please send your thoughts by email to one of the conference chairs.

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David L. Kao
Ming C. Hao
Chaomei Chen