Message from the Program Chair

I am delighted to present the program for the 2014 International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (ISPASS). Rigorous analysis has never been more important. Computer scientists and engineers must navigate increasingly complex and disruptive changes, which arise from a potent mix of emerging hardware technologies and qualitatively new software applications. In the face of these challenges, ISPASS continues to provide a venue for publishing foundational progress in performance analysis and methodology.

Acceptance Statistics. ISPASS 2014 received 69 submissions. From these submissions, the program committee accepted 21 papers for full publication and conference presentation. This 30% acceptance rate is consistent with prior ISPASS conferences. An additional 11 papers were accepted for publication as poster abstracts. The conference remains competitive and continues to be a preferred venue for publishing high-quality research in performance analysis and benchmarking.

Review Process. I assembled a program committee from diverse sources in academia, industry, and national laboratories. Many of the committee members have made seminal contributions in performance analysis in a variety of domains. I had no conflicts with any of the submissions, which streamlined the review process. My doctoral students, Marisabel Guevara and Qiuyun Wang, also furthered the process by helping to manage the submission site and run the program committee meeting.

The review process was double-blind. All papers were assigned four reviewers. Authors were invited to respond to their reviewers during a rebuttal period. Afterwards, committee members revised their reviews and scores based on post-rebuttal discussions. The program committee meeting was held on Saturday, December 7 at the San Francisco Airport Crowne Plaza. Twenty program committee members attended, either in person or by phone.

We discussed all papers that received average scores of at least 2.75 on a 5.00 scale. When championed, a few additional papers with lower scores were discussed. The most positive reviewer led each discussion. The reviewers voted on the paper. A program committee vote broke ties. And the chair broke a tied committee vote. Shepherding was used sparingly and applied to only one paper.

Posters were selected from submitted manuscripts. The program committee identified works in progress that could benefit from discussion at the conference. Eleven papers were accepted as posters. These pieces of work were published as abbreviated abstracts and scheduled for poster presentation during the conference.

Best Paper Award. Four submissions were identified as best paper candidates and assigned to the opening session. Best paper candidates were identified based on average merit and novelty scores. At the end of the committee meeting, six papers had average scores greater than 3.75; a clear gap in the scores differentiated these papers from the rest.
of the program. Of the six papers, I identified four papers with consistently high novelty scores. Finally, I read the reviews in detail to ensure that the scores aligned with the reviews. Given these candidates, the program committee voted to select the best paper.

Acknowledgements. I thank the authors who submitted papers, doing their part to make ISPASS a successful conference and a preferred venue for research in performance analysis. I thank the program committee members who contributed their valuable time and expertise. Their professionalism and their desire to accept papers produced an incredibly smooth and efficient committee meeting. Moreover, my doctoral student, Qiuyun Wang, provided invaluable assistance during the meeting. Finally, I am grateful for support from the conference leadership. The ISPASS steering committee entrusted me with the ISPASS program, and General Chair Tor Aamodt assembled a dedicated organizing committee to safeguard the ISPASS legacy.

Benjamin C. Lee
Duke University