FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

A WARM WELCOME

I’m happy to have the help of two new associate editors in chief, Tore Dybå (in charge of the Empirical Studies area and coeditor of Voice of Evidence) and Thomas Zimmermann (in charge of the Development Infrastructures and Tools area).

Tore Dybå is chief scientist and research manager of SINTEF, the largest independent research organization in Scandinavia, and an adjunct professor at the University of Oslo. He’s a well-respected member of the empirical software engineering research community. His technical contributions to the field have been noteworthy, as evidenced by the fact that he coauthored the most-cited article and the fourth-most-cited article over the past five years in Information and Software Technology. The 2005 Software article that he coauthored, “Evidence-Based Software Engineering for Practitioners,” was recently highlighted as one of our “25th-Anniversary Top Picks,” which recognized our boards’ recommended reading list from the past 25 years of peer-reviewed articles.

Thomas Zimmermann is a researcher at Microsoft Research and adjunct assistant professor at the University of Calgary. His technical contributions to research have also been noteworthy, both as a thought leader and in terms of the scale of his work. He was one of the first researchers to engage in the systematic mining of software version archives, which has since become a burgeoning area of work. And unlike much other research in this area, his work scales to realistically large projects as measured by code and team size. He has achieved a high degree of visibility in the field, with numerous invited talks, program committee chairmanships, and event organization roles. In addition, he has previous experience with Software as a special-issue guest editor, an author, and a reviewer.

Dybå, who in addition to coeditor of the Voice of Evidence department will also be associate EIC for empirical studies (see the “A Warm Welcome” sidebar for more details).

Also, Linda Rising will continue to helm the “Insights” department. Linda shepherds experience reports to help readers communicate their own stories about what worked (or didn’t) for them. We’re looking forward to many more concrete, actionable, and enjoyable stories from the trenches. If you’re interested in participating, see Linda’s introduction in the May/June 2010 issue for pointers.

We’ll also be experimenting with new venues that enable author–reader interactions in real time. Software has begun offering opportunities for readers to post comments on articles to give you, our readers, a way to communicate with the authors and each other—questions, observations, or similar experiences that can help put the content in context. Our latest feature, by Sallyann Freudenberg and Helen Sharp, is compiling a set of the top research questions that practitioners care about; see http://computingnow.computer.org/sw/ResearchQs. Also look for “chat” experimentation that will enable our authors and guest editors to answer questions and raise ideas in real time.

Of course, even in this day and age, not every conversation has to be done online. We’ve been engaging with a number of conferences to encourage and foster effective mechanisms for gathering industrial experience reports. (See, for example, some of the results in the “Collaboration with SATURN” sidebar.) We have a number of additional collaborations lined up, which we’ll be reporting in future issues, and our department editors and staff would enjoy talking with you at these events in person.

Finally, having lived in Washington, DC, for several years now, I have a healthy appreciation for well-developed podcasts that keep me up to date on challenging and informative topics while I sit in commuter traffic. We already offer a podcast version of the latest departments from Grady Booch and Neil Maiden (go to www.computer.org/cn/software). We have ambitious ideas for offering podcasts of additional content as well as special features like debates on timely topics, and are lining up experiments with additional delivery media as well.

With all of the above, I hope not to provide more bells and whistles, but to find ways of usefully enhancing your access to the top-notch, peer-reviewed content that Software continues to provide. If you have ideas or feedback, I’d love to hear from you—email me at fshull@computer.org. This is going to be fun.