

# Welcome to SIGRAD2003 in Umeå!

Following the success of last year's conference in Norrköping, SIGRAD is for the second time arranging the annual computer graphics conference as a two day event. This year the conference is hosted by Umeå University and the theme of the event is real time simulations for computers graphics. Papers accepted for presentation are primarily within this area of computer graphics. The conference is, however, as always, open to contributions from other fields of computer graphics and applications.

The goal of the SIGRAD2003 conference is to provide a Nordic (yet international) forum for communication of recent research and development results in computer graphics and to bring together experts for a fruitful exchange of ideas and discussion on future challenges. Another important goal for the conference is to promote the exchange of experiences from fundamental and applied computer graphics with commercial R&D.

This year we are proud to have as keynote speaker Jos Stam who is one of leading researchers in the field of fluid simulations for computer graphics applications. His work has played a crucial role in introducing physical simulation into the computer graphics community.

Visual and interactive simulations are becoming increasingly more important as enabling technologies for the computer games industry which strive for ultimate realism, and poses interesting research challenges for many years to come. We are pleased to have Johan Persson, the original creator of the highly successful computer game, Battlefield 1942, as an invited speaker. He will share with us the story of the making of the game.

The papers that will be presented at this year's conference range from full conference publications to presentations of work in progress. It is noteworthy that many of the papers are authored and presented by graduate students and in some cases even undergraduate students in the field. In this manner SIGRAD also provides an important forum for the new generation of researchers in the field who, in a relaxed setting, can present and discuss their work. We thus also hope that the conference will serve as source of inspiration for the all the undergraduate students that will attend. Computer graphics in Sweden is indeed going through an impressive expansion and it is our hope that the SIGRAD conference series will continue to act as a catalyst for this development.

We would like to express our gratitude and warm welcome to the keynote speakers, authors of contributed papers, and other participants. We would also like to thank our sponsors, VRlab, HPC2N, Umeå University Department of Computing Science, CINS, EC Structural funds, SIGRAD, DICE, ReachIn Technologies and Oryx Simulations. We would also like to thank ACM SIGGRAPH for their cooperation.

We wish you a most pleasant stay in Umeå.

Anders Backman, organizing co-chair

Kenneth Holmlund, organizing co-chair

Anders Ynnerman, SIGRAD chairman