

Welcome to SIGRAD2004 in Gävle!

The annual Sigrad conference has established itself as *the* venue in Sweden for researchers and industry in the field of computer graphics, visual simulation and visualization. As in previous years, the Sigrad conference is held as a two-day event and is this year hosted by the University of Gävle. The special theme of SIGRAD2004 is *Environmental Visualization*. Two invited speakers and several paper contributions are aimed at this topic and are presented during day one of the conference. As is tradition, the scientific program is completed by quality contributions from other fields in computer graphics spanning both days of the event.

The goal of the SIGRAD2004 conference is to provide a Nordic (yet international) forum for communication of recent research and development results in computer graphics, visual simulation and visualization. SIGRAD2004 provides a forum for established researchers in the field to exchange their experiences with industry. SIGRAD2004 invites students and researchers in computer graphics to establish and deepen their academic networks as well as to foster new blood in the field.

During the past years computer graphics research has progressed dramatically and has created its own public image with impressive cinematic and game effects.

Likewise, computer graphics and visualization has evolved into powerful visual tools, which support us in daily work and decision-making. Visualizations of processes and information related to our environment have become ubiquitous though less spectacular. Urban and landscape planning, communication of weather forecasts and presentation of geographically related information are only few examples, where we visually explore environmental information.

We are proud to have Professor Oliver Deussen from the University of Constance as keynotes speaker at SIGRAD2004. He is one of the leading researchers in the field of vegetation simulation and landscape rendering. He is co-founder of Greenworks Organic Software, which produces xFrog, a highly successful software for procedural organic simulation. We are also pleased to have Dr. Tomas Landelius as invited speaker under the conference special theme. He is researcher at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and represents a field of expertise that uses various forms visualizations to convey complex information. Our third invited speaker is Professor Ken Museth at Linköpings University, campus Norrköping. In a session during the second day, he will present some of his latest research in the area of visualizing large unstructured datasets generated from computational fluids dynamics and structural mechanics simulations.

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, University of Gävle, Linköping University, The County Council of Gävleborg, EU Structural Funds, SIGRAD, Creative Media Lab, and the University of Linköping.

We wish you a most pleasant stay in Gävle.

Stefan Seipel
Chair, Program committee

Anders Backman
Chair, SIGRAD