



## ACM SIGGRAPH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### **EUROGRAPHICS 2006**

#### REPORT

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With the help of travel support provided by the ACM SIGGRAPH Executive Committee, which funded a proposal by former Director Colleen Case, several Education Committee members, including Colleen Case and myself, attended the Eurographics 2006 conference in Vienna this September. EG Reports on the conference and its education program, as well as a report on the Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Graphics Education Workshop are expected to follow. Eurographics Education Board Chair Isabel Navazo is expected to provide a report on the EG Education Board meeting of Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, I am offering a brief summary of the Eurographics Education Board Meeting and the Graphics Education Workshop.

### **Eurographics Education Board Meeting**

#### Report on current actions

##### *The Education sessions of EG'06*

This year's Education program was very strong. In addition to excellent content, the presentations were also quite good. The number of US speakers was notable, but the international representation seemed reasonably balanced.

##### *The Workshop on Graphics Education*

See below.

##### *CGEMS Project*

The CGEMS project is valued by both Eurographics and SIGGRAPH who would like to encourage its continued development. It was acknowledged that there now needs to be a proactive effort to recruit contributors, and to more efficiently review and publish materials. The CGEMS leadership will work with the ACM SIGGRAPH Education Committee and the Eurographics Education Board to achieve this objective. It was acknowledged that since the CGEMS project is limited to materials submitted to a rigorous review process, that this would not address the two organizations' broader need for managing educational materials. The EG Education Board plans to initiate a wiki-based approach to educational content in which user comments represent an informal public review process. The ACM SIGGRAPH Education Committee is exploring other ideas, such as applying the Curriculum Knowledge Base taxonomy to an online database system for collecting, cataloging, and serving educational content. We also plan to support the proactive evolution of CGEMS to continue the online publishing of high quality content.

The location and management of the CGEMS website was another subject of discussion. The site is currently hosted by INESC in Lisbon. It was acknowledged that reliability, productivity, and security would be better realized by a more controlled server arrangement. Isabel Navazo noted that location on the EG site with management by EG personnel would not necessarily represent an improved arrangement at this time. Joaquim Jorge of INESC supported the idea of a more secure server, and noted no objection to a possible location on the ACM SIGGRAPH site. We await the agreement of our EG colleagues before proceeding with this arrangement.

## Future actions

### *The EG'07 Education Sessions*

Due to its increasing success, the Education Board will seek to increase the size of the EG'07 Education Program. In order to pursue a more global profile, it will also seek to increase representation from non-US participants.

### *Future Workshops*

The Education Board is very pleased with the objectives and progress of the Graphics Education Workshops, and plans to continue offering these as long as they remain productive. The ACM SIGGRAPH Education Committee also finds the workshops to be highly promising in reaching the objective of establishing standardized guidelines for college-level computer graphics curriculum throughout Europe. We believe there is much to be gained by this effort, and much to be learned in the process.

### *Collaboration Between EG and ACM SIGGRAPH*

There is continued interest by both parties in opportunities for collaboration. In the areas of education, these areas include CGEMS, the EG Graphics education Workshop, sharing/linking of online content, and more.

## **Eurographics Graphics Education Workshop**

The primary activity of the Eurographics Graphics Education Workshop is the development of standardized guidelines for college-level computer graphics curriculum throughout Europe. The work to date is partially represented in the following past workshop reports:

\*1999 Coimbra: <http://www.siggraph.org/education/conferences/GVE99/papers/GVE.FullReport.pdf>

\* 2002 Bristol: <http://www.siggraph.org/education/bristol/bristol.htm>

\* 2004 Hangzhou: <http://www.siggraph.org/symposia/reports/Rep2004CGEworkshop.pdf>

The 2006 Vienna workshop was both challenging and productive. The challenge is due to somewhat different degrees of flexibility within the academic structures of computer Science programs across the EU. The issues range from the number of available electives in existing CS programs, to the number of years dedicated to undergraduate vs. graduate studies, respectively. Another challenge is the wish to fashion a meaningful curriculum in computer graphics studies from what is essentially a computer science curriculum with an emphasis in graphics on the graduate level.

Despite these challenges, a good deal of progress was made in establishing broad categorical areas within a flexible timeframe. The Curriculum Knowledge Base (CKB) taxonomy, established by the CKB subcommittee of the ACM SIGGRAPH Education Committee proved to be a useful reference in this endeavor.

The Eurographics 2006 Educator Program Chairs were Werner Hansmann and Judy Brown. The Eurographics 2006 Education Workshop Chairs were Marta Fairen, Jean-Jacques Bourdin, and Steve Cunningham.

A report on the 2006 Vienna workshop is expected to be provided in the coming weeks.