Introduction to this Special Issue: SIGSPATIAL 2020 Event Reports

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Dear SIGSPATIAL Community,

The 28th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems (ACM SIGSPATIAL 2020) was originally planned to take place in Beijing, China. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the conference was first moved to Seattle, Washington, USA and then transitioned into a fully virtual conference. This newsletter provides event and experience reports of the organizers of the main conference and the ten satellite workshops.

The first section of this newsletter features the main conference report by the SIGSPATIAL 2020 General Chairs and Program Chairs. This report provides details on the program, including submissions and acceptance rates, and also describes the "journey" of moving the conference from Beijing, via Seattle, to the first fully virtual ACM SIGSPATIAL event. This report also provides shoutouts to all organizers who worked together to make this conference a great success with almost 1,000 registrations.

The second section consists of workshop reports of all ten workshops that were virtually co-located with ACM SIGSPATIAL 2020 and, additionally, one ACM SIGSPATIAL 2019 workshop:

- 4th ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on Location-Based Recommendations, Geosocial Networks, and Geoadvertising (LocalRec 2020)

- 3rd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on GeoSpatial Simulation (GeoSim 2020)

- 9th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Analytics for Big Geospatial Data (BIGSPATIAL 2020)

- 4th ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on Geospatial Humanities (GeoHumanities 2020)

- 2nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Geospatial Data Access and Processing APIs (SpatialAPI 2020)

- 3rd ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on Advances in Resilient and Intelligent Cities (ARIC 2020)

- 13th International Workshop on Computational Transportation Science (IWCTS 2020)

- 2nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Spatial Gems (SpatialGems 2020)

- 1st ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Modeling and Understanding the Spread of COVID-19

- 6th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop Emergency Management using GIS (EM-GIS 2020)

- 5th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop Emergency Management using GIS (EM-GIS 2019)

I would like to sincerely thank all workshop organizers for their generous contributions of time and effort to summarize keynotes, presentations, and other planned or unplanned events (such as a "Zoom Bombing").

The third section highlights the winner of our 5th ACM SIGSPATIAL Student Research Competition (SRC) held virtually at the ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference 2020. This year, only one winner was crowned for the undergraduate SRC category which will represent our community in the ACM Student Research Competition Grand Finals. The winner is Nikita Saxena, Space Applications Center, ISRO, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India whose SRC paper is reprinted in the third section.

Good luck Nikita Saxena in the 2020 ACM SRC Grand Finals!

I hope that you will find the newsletters interesting and informative and that you will enjoy this issue. You can download all Special issues from:

`http://www.sigspatial.org/sigspatial-special`

Finally, we want to remark that after a period of nine issues organized and edited by Andreas Züfle, this role is passed on to Martin Werner, who will edit this newsletter in the coming times. If you have any requests, ideas, or papers suited for this newsletter, feel free to get in touch at `martin.werner@tum.de`.

Dear Andreas, in the name of the community, let me thank you for your dedication to this newsletter in the past years! You have done a great job!
Martin Werner
(future ACM SIGSPATIAL Newsletter Editor)

Yours sincerely,
Andreas Züfle
SIGSPATIAL Newsletter Editor