UIST and ITS 2013

the 26th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology & the 2013 ACM International Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces

Professor Aaron Quigley
2 November 2013
With SICSA support we were able to broadly extend the numbers of students from across Scotland able to attend the conferences for free. We involved academics from 5 SICSA schools in organisation roles across the two conferences along with promoting SICSA regularly throughout.

The ACM International Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces (ITS) 2013 was held October 6th - 9th, in St Andrews with SICSA as one of its supporters. The general chairs were Aaron Quigley (University of St Andrews) and Giulio Jacucci (University of Helsinki) while the program chairs were Michael S. Horn (Northwestern University) and Miguel A. Nacenta (University of St Andrews).

This conference is the 8th in a series of research workshops and conferences since 2006. This year was particularly exciting given the co-location with UIST 2013 the 26th ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology. We shared our capstone talk with the keynote for UIST and our best paper and best note was presented on the morning of October 9th for delegates of both conferences to attend.

This year marked a 16 % increase in paper and note submissions, showing the further establishment of this community. The program chairs and committee ensured high-quality research and industry contributions that advance the state-of-the-art in the area of interactive tabletops and surfaces, embracing innovations in a variety of areas including design, software, hardware, understanding of use, and applications or deployments of interactive surfaces.

The program this year was opened by an exciting keynote speaker, Jeff Han, the general manager of the Perceptive Pixel group recently acquired by Microsoft (see image on page 1). In addition to our high quality papers and notes, the program included 6 workshop and tutorials, 31 posters, 10 demos and a doctoral symposium.

This year ITS 2013 was sponsored by the ACM and supported by several sponsors. Our sponsors included SMART Technologies, Visit Scotland, Wacom, Grand, and the Scottish Informatics & Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) whose support is helping to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in developing this field further.

The conference came to the University of St Andrews exactly 600 years after the University was formally constituted. Founded in the fifteenth century, St Andrews is Scotland’s first university and the third oldest in the English speaking world. This was a unique time for all delegates to visit and participate in these historic celebrations. While steeped in a rich history the University had many modern world-class facilities available to us. Younger Hall is located in the historic centre and the resplendent Upper and Lower College Halls of St. Andrews, provided ideal locations for both plenary, poster and demonstration tracks of the conference. While the new Arts building with its magnificent views hosted our doctoral symposium, workshop and tutorial program on Sunday October 6th.
The 26th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2013, was held from October 8-11th, in the University of St Andrews, with SICSA as one of its supporters. With SICSA support we were able to broadly extend the numbers of students from across Scotland able to attend the conference for free. The General Chairs for UIST 2013 were Shahram Izadi, Microsoft Research, UK and Aaron Quigley of the University of St Andrews, UK. Our program chairs were, Ivan Poupyrev, Disney Research, USA, Takeo Igarashi, The University of Tokyo.

Dr Shahram Izadi of Microsoft Research Cambridge (UK) said “UIST is the leading conference on new user interface trends and technologies. Some of the most influential and ground breaking work on graphical user interfaces, multi-touch, augmented reality, 3D user interaction and sensing was published at this conference. It is now in its 26th year, and the first time it has been hosted in the UK. We are very excited to be hosting a packed program at the University of St Andrews. The program includes great papers, demos, posters, a wet and wonderful student innovation competition, and a great keynote on flying robots.” Ivan Poupyrev, principal research scientist at Disney Research in Pittsburgh, described hosting UIST in St Andrews as “an acknowledgment of some great research in human-computer interaction that is carried out by research groups in Scotland, including the University of St Andrews.”

UIST is the premier forum for the presentation of research innovations in the software and technology of human-computer interfaces. Sponsored by ACM’s special interest groups on computer-human interaction (SIGCHI) and computer graphics (SIGGRAPH), UIST brings together researchers and practitioners from many areas, including web and graphical interfaces, new input and output devices, information visualization, sensing technologies, interactive displays, tabletop and tangible computing, interaction techniques, augmented and virtual reality, ubiquitous computing, and computer supported cooperative work. The single-track program and intimate size, makes UIST 2013 an ideal place to exchange results at the cutting edge of user interfaces research, to meet friends and colleagues, and to forge future collaborations.

We received a record 317 paper submissions from more than 30 countries. After a thorough review process, the program committee accepted 62 papers (19.5%). Each anonymous submission was first reviewed by three external reviewers, and meta-reviews were provided by two program committee members. If any of the five reviewers deemed a submission to pass a rejection threshold we asked the authors to submit a short rebuttal addressing the reviewers' concerns. The program committee met in person in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 30-31, 2013, to select the papers for the conference. Submissions were finally accepted only after the authors provided a final revision addressing the committee’s comments.

In addition to the presentations of accepted papers, this year’s program includes a keynote by Raffaello D’Andrea (ETH Zurich) on feedback control systems for autonomous machines. A great line up of posters, demos, (the ninth) annual Doctoral Symposium, and (the fifth) annual Student Innovation Contest (this year focusing on programmable water pumps called Pumpspark) complete the program.
Overall 7 of the 17 SICSA students were from outside St Andrews across ITS and UIST

1. Michael Brock, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

2. Loraine Clarke, University of Strathclyde
   UIST/ITS Registrant

3. Michael Crabb, University of Dundee
   UIST/ITS Registrant

4. Jakub Dostal, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

5. Shimin Feng, University of Glasgow
   UIST/ITS Registrant

6. Jason Jacques, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

7. Anne-Marie Mann, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

8. Michael Mauderer, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

9. Leandro Nicosia, University of St Andrews
   UIST/ITS Registrant

10. Lauren Norrie, University of Glasgow
    UIST/ITS Registrant

11. Shantanu Pal, University of St Andrews
    UIST/ITS Registrant

12. Shyam Reyal, University of St Andrews
    UIST/ITS Registrant

13. Katja Rogers, University of St Andrews
    UIST/ITS Registrant

14. Daniel Rough, University of St Andrews
    UIST/ITS Registrant

15. David Beattie, Glasgow Caledonian University
    UIST Registrant

16. Ross McLachlan, University of Glasgow
    UIST Registrant

17. Nicholas Micallef, Glasgow Caledonian University
    UIST Registrant