

# Preface

The 12th International Symposium on Graph Drawing (GD 2004) was held during September 29–October 2, 2004, at City College, CUNY, in the heart of Harlem, New York City. GD 2004 attracted 94 participants from 19 countries.

In response to the call for papers, the program committee received 86 regular submissions describing original research and/or system demonstrations. Each submission was reviewed by at least three program committee members and comments were returned to the authors. Following extensive e-mail discussions, the program committee accepted 39 long papers (11 pages each in the proceedings) and 12 short papers (6 pages each). In addition, 4 posters were displayed and discussed in the conference exhibition room (2 pages each in the proceedings).

The program committee of GD 2004 invited two distinguished lecturers. Professor Paul Seymour from Princeton University presented a new characterization of claw-free graphs (joint work with Maria Chudnovsky). Professor Erik Demaine from MIT reported on his joint work with Fedor Fomin, MohammadTaghi Hajiaghayi and Dimitrios Thilikos, concerning fast (often subexponential) fixed-parameter algorithms and polynomial approximation schemes for broad classes of NP-hard problems in topological graph theory. A survey of the subject by Professors Demaine and Hajiaghayi is included in this volume.

As usual, the annual graph drawing contest was held during the conference. This time the contest had two distinct tracks: the graph drawing challenge and the freestyle contest. A report is included in the proceedings.

Many people in the graph drawing community contributed to the success of GD 2004. First of all, special thanks are due to the authors of submitted papers, demos, and posters, and to the members of the program committee as well as to the external referees. Many thanks to organizing committee members Gary Bloom, Peter Brass, Stephen Kobourov, and Farhad Shahrokhi. My very special thanks go to Hanna Seifu who was in charge of all local arrangements, Robert Gatti who developed the software used for registration and paper submission, and John Weber and Eric Lim who designed the logo, the webpage, and the brochures of the conference. I am very much indebted to Dr. Joseph Barba and Dr. Mohammad Karim, present and former Deans of the School of Engineering, and to Dr. Gregory H. Williams, President of the City College of New York, for their continuing support.

Thanks are due to our “gold” sponsors, the City College of New York, the University of North Texas at Denton, and Tom Sawyer Software, and to our “silver” sponsors, ILOG, the DIMACS Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, and the Computer Science Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Springer and World Scientific Publishing contributed to the success of GD 2004 by sending selections of their recent publications in the subject.

The 13th International Symposium on Graph Drawing (GD 2005) will be held in Limerick, Ireland, 12–14 September, 2005, with Peter Eades and Patrick Healy as conference co-chairs.

December 2004

János Pach  
New York and Budapest

## Sponsoring Institutions

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