

Message from the General Chair of HOT Chips VI

August is upon us, bringing with it yet another HOT Chips. By now, HOT Chips has become such an industry fixture that some of us have forgotten the days when there was no such conference, i.e., before 1989.

Once again, we can all thank Bob Stewart for his vision in starting HOT Chips and keeping it going over the years, even if it has meant that some of us no longer take vacations in early August. HOT Chips continues to be an unusual conference that attracts a diverse audience. The set of papers purposefully ranges from near-term commercial products through blue-sky research designs, to show chips that are coming soon, through ones that are interesting, whether they ever ship commercially or not. Of course, HOT Chips VI retains the fun and informality of its predecessors, since interaction among the presenters and attendees is one of the best features of the conference. We continue the traditions of wine and cheese on Sunday, and the buffet on Monday evening. These are great opportunities to meet new colleagues.

People have sometimes asked “What could be left to talk about next year?” Fortunately, progress does not stop. We once again have a fine technical program, assembled by the Program Committee led by Co-Chairs Donald Alpert and Alan Jay Smith. While our Monday panel has often featured chip insiders, this year we’ve gone outside, and Forrest Baskett has gathered a panel of investors to tell us what they think is hot.

This Conference is made successful by the efforts of many people, either perennial HOT Chippers, or new recruits. This year, Nam Ling has taken a new role, Vice Chair. When I agreed to be General Chair, John Hennessy told me it would be an easy job, as the Vice Chair would do the real work, and this has proved to be mostly true thanks to Nam’s efforts. Alan Johnson has joined Cary Kornfeld in the exacting task of local arrangements, including a new job of tasting proposed food choices. Bob Stewart continues to handle registration, as he has each year—at least that’s a constant, even if the rest of us keep changing. Dave Gustavson puts in his first appearance to produce the proceedings. In Finance, Dennis Reinhardt has done a fine job in making sure there is money, and that bills get paid. Diane Smith handled publicity, and Qiang Li has arranged several interesting tutorials. Elaine Grimes continues to help with some behind-the-scenes tasks of getting these materials together.

Finally, Martin Freeman and John Hennessy provided useful advice and guidance as At Large members, i.e., knowledgeable kibitzers who are not responsible for anything except coming to dinners, but are helpful to have around. Finally, we get help from many other volunteers, too numerous to name here, but without whom HOT Chips would not happen.

As always, we expect HOT Chips to remain a fine conference, but we want to improve, so let us know your suggestions and ideas. See you there.

John Mashey, General Chair
HOT Chips VI, 1994