ASME ISPS 2011 editorial: the 21st annual ASME conference on information storage and processing systems, Santa Clara, California, USA

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It was our great honor to host the 21st annual ASME conference on information and storage and processing systems (ASME ISPS 2011) at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, USA from 13–14 June 2011, which was organized and sponsored by the ASME ISPS Division.

ASME ISPS 2011 is a very unique conference which offers an ideal forum for researchers in both academic and industrial environments to foster synergies in multidisciplinary areas of the data storage and processing industry. Papers presented in this conference address technologies and knowledge advancement related to:

- Tribology, head/media interface
- Actuator/suspension and sensor
- Servo control technology
- Shock and flow induced vibrations
- Spindle motor and acoustics
- Micro/nano technology
- Mechatronics, robotics, and automation
- Consumer electronics and future tech
- Opto-mechatronics
- Flexible media mechanics and tape storage.

We have 88 accepted papers in the above areas that were presented in the conference. Our conference banquet speech was given by our distinguished guest Mr. William

Cain, who is the Vice-President for Development and Integration of New Technology at Western Digital.

ASME ISPE 2011 is also a very successful international conference having high quality contributions from countries around the world. Significant amount of papers presented in the conference are research and development results of industry–university research collaborations. This conference recognizes technical contributions from researchers and students. In addition to a best conference paper award, starting from 2008 and sponsored by ASME ISPS Division, in ASME ISPS 2011, best track paper awards for outstanding papers in each technical track were presented to outstanding papers. To encourage student participation in the conference as well as to promote student research in information storage and processing systems, ASME ISPS 2011 provides two ISPS Division graduate student fellowships and six ISPS Division graduate student conference scholarships to waive graduate student's conference registration fees.

To archive the papers presented in the ASME ISPS 2011, authors of recommended papers from the accepted papers of ASME ISPS 2011 were invited and encouraged to submit full papers to this special issue. All submitted papers went through a rigorous peer-review process. Many reviewers are in fact world leading experts in relevant fields. Many papers went through substantially revisions before getting acceptance from reviewers for final publication. We sincerely thank reviewers who review the manuscripts in a thorough and constructive manner. Without the fast responses from all reviewers, this special issue will not be in production on time.

We would like to thank Santa Clara University for the use of its facilities for the ASME ISPS 2011 conference. Special thanks are given to Mr. Neal Schirle for being a very capable Conference Treasurer and for making the necessary

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arrangements with Santa Clara University. Thanks also go to Dr. Jie Yu and Professor Frank E. Talke for their help with the conference technical program and suggestions. Furthermore, we would like to thank all session organizers, session (co-)chairs, the ISPS executive members, and Professor

Kyoung-Su Park for their efforts and assistance in making ASME ISPS 2011 possible. Last, but not least, a final word of gratitude goes to all presenters and participants of the conference. The ASME ISPS 2011 would not be successful without your dedicated participation.