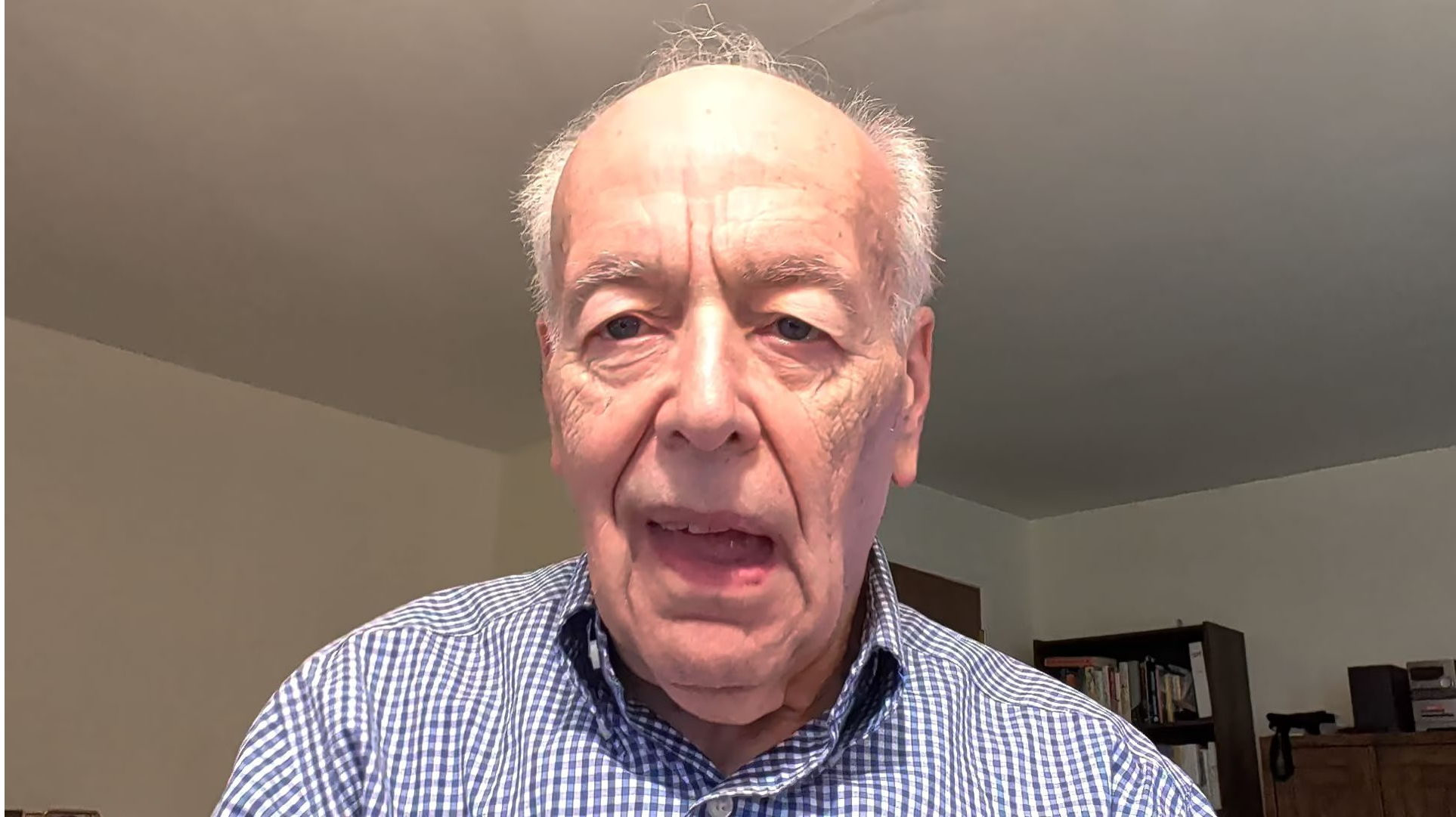






SIGSOFT50

Celebrating 50 years of support for the software engineering community

Marsha Chechik
SIGSOFT Chair 2024–27
FSE 2026 · Montreal · July 2026

What is SIGSOFT?

A non-profit, volunteer-led professional society

dedicated to advancing software engineering
research, practice, education, and community.



SIGSOFT: How It Began

From idea to community, 1973–1979



1973

Tony Wasserman advocates for a dedicated ACM group for software engineering.



1975

Petition for an ACM Special Interest Committee on Software Engineering; organizational meeting at the International Conference on Reliable Software ("ICSE-0").



1976

SICSOFT is officially approved; generally regarded as SIGSOFT's birth.



1976

Software Engineering Notes (SEN) launches; Peter G. Neumann becomes newsletter editor.



1977

SICSOFT officially becomes SIGSOFT.



1979

ICSE 1979 becomes the first ICSE co-sponsored by SIGSOFT.



From the beginning, SIGSOFT was created to give software engineering a professional home of its own.

SIGSOFT: Building a Conference Ecosystem

From community building to flagship venues, 1980s–1990s



1980

SIGSOFT establishes formal guidelines for organizing SIGSOFT symposia and ICSE conferences.



1981

The first SIGSOFT Software Engineering Symposium is held.



1992

ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology (TOSEM) publishes its first issue.



1993

The first SIGSOFT FSE symposium is held, becoming a flagship venue.



1995

SIGSOFT launches CAPS to support student travel and participation.



1999

The ESEC/FSE joint sponsorship agreement expands SIGSOFT's international reach.



SIGSOFT built the venues, publications, and support programs that helped define software engineering as a field.

SIGSOFT: Modernization, Growth, and Lasting Impact



From the 2000s to today



2001

SIGSOFT Impact Project begins.



2009

Revised bylaws strengthen leadership structure and representation.



2015

Journal-first is launched for software engineering at ICSE 2015.



2024

PACMSE joins SIGSOFT's publication portfolio.



Flagship venues:

ICSE, FSE, ISSTA



Publications:

SEN, TOSEM,
PACMSE



Community support:

CAPS, CARES,
mentoring, awards



Global reach:

researchers,
educators, and
practitioners
worldwide



Over 50 years, SIGSOFT has helped software engineering grow from an emerging specialty into a global research and professional community.



What SIGSOFT makes possible

Much of the community infrastructure is invisible when it works well

Conferences

budgets, insurance, risk management, financial underwriting, hotel negotiations, researchr and HotCRP support

Publishing

ACM DL, SEN, PACMSE, reproducibility badges, publication support

Community

CARES, COI policies, mentoring, Broadening Participation, CAPS, summer schools, Africa initiative

Recognition

research, education, service, early-career, dissertation, impact, and distinguished paper awards



Gail Murphy

Why celebrate 50 years?



A milestone is more than nostalgia

Ideas

research that changed how we build and reason about software

Institutions

conferences, journals, awards, policies, and community structures

People

students, mentors, volunteers, leaders, authors, reviewers, organizers

Continuity

a field that renews itself while carrying its memory forward

Fifty years gives us permission to ask:

what should be remembered, what should be repaired, and what should be reinvented?



What we hope to accomplish today

A shared map of challenges, opportunities, and possible action

1. A clearer memory

what made SIGSOFT possible, and who helped build it

2. A stronger sense of purpose

why this community matters in a changing software world

3. A community-generated agenda

challenges, opportunities, and concrete ideas for the next 50 years

After the session

The workshop boards will (hopefully) remain available so ideas can continue to grow during the conference.



Plan for today

14:00–15:30

Looking back

15:30–16:00

Coffee break

16:00–17:30

Looking forward

17:30–18:30

SIGSOFT Townhall



SIGSOFT50: Looking Back

Introducing SIGSOFT Wiki ·

SIGSOFT Academy ·

SIGSOFT History ·

In Memoriam ·

Panel moderated by Will Tracz

Introducing: SIGSOFT Wikipedia page

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SIGSOFT>



Thanks to the SIGSOFT history committee:

Tony Wasserman · Will Tracz · Massimiliano Di Penta · Tom Zimmermann · Luca Di Grazia · Yun Peng · Marsha Chechik



SIGSOFT Wikipedia Page



SIGSOFT

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ACM's Special Interest Group on Software Engineering

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)'s Special Interest Group on Software Engineering (SIGSOFT) provides a forum for computing professionals from industry, government, and academia to examine principles, practices, and new research results in software engineering.

SIGSOFT was officially formed in 1976 as the Special Interest Committee on Software Engineering (SICSOFT) and converted to SIGSOFT in 1977.

SIGSOFT publishes Software Engineering Notes (SEN).



Scan

to open the live page

What the SIGSOFT Wikipedia Page Captures



A compact map of 50 years of institutions, venues, and recognition



SIGSOFT Publication Venues

Journals: SEN, TOSEM, PACMSE

Conferences: ICSE, ISSTA, FSE, MSR, CAIN, FORGE and others

Leaders

SIGSOFT Executive committee members

Leadership of major conferences

Award Winners

SIGSOFT Awards

MIP awards from major conferences



The ACM SIGSOFT Software Engineering Academy

Inaugural Class of 2026 (First batch). Presented by Tom Zimmermann

Eighty+ founding members recognized for lasting contributions to software engineering.



WHAT IS THE SIGSOFT SOFTWARE ENGINEERING ACADEMY?

A standing body of honor that recognizes members of the software engineering community whose **significant and lasting contributions** have shaped the field.

Established by ACM SIGSOFT, the **Software Engineering Academy** celebrates the people whose cumulative work, and whose influence on the work of others, have advanced software engineering as a discipline and a practice.

01

Lasting contributions

Significant, cumulative advances to the theory or practice of software engineering, sustained across a career.

02

Influence on the field

Work that has demonstrably shaped the research, tools, and thinking of others across the community.

03

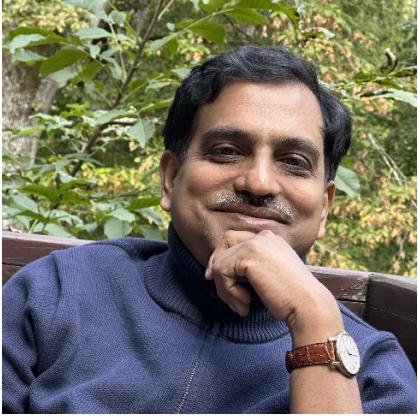
Leadership & service

Stewardship of the discipline through mentorship, education, and service to the software engineering community.

The founding class establishes the foundation the Academy will grow from.

To seed the Academy, the inaugural members were drawn from those whose standing in the field is already firmly established. Recognized leaders whose contributions the community has long acknowledged.

- **ACM Fellows** within the software engineering community.
- **Past ACM SIGSOFT Outstanding Research award recipients**, honored for research, service, and impact.
- Going forward, new members are **elected annually** by a selection committee from community nominations.



Abhik Roychoudhury



Alessandro Orso



Alex Aiken



Alexander Wolf



Andreas Zeller



Axel van Lamsweerde



Barbara G Ryder



Bashar Nuseibeh



Bertrand Meyer



Bill Curtis



Bronis R. de Supinski



Carlo Ghezzi



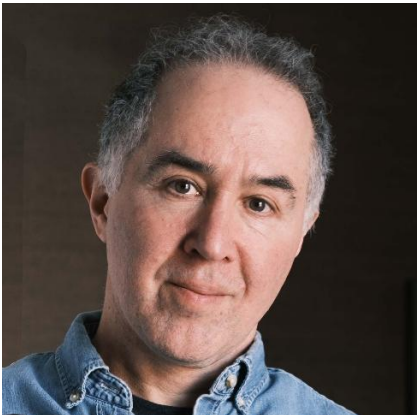
Cliff Jones



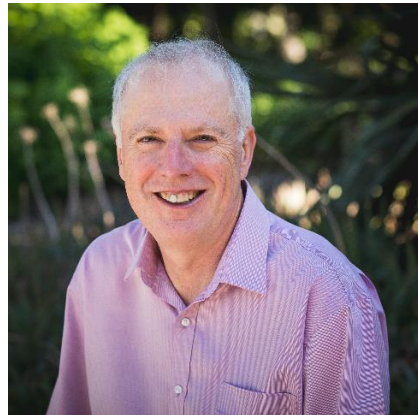
Corina Silva Pasareanu



Cormac Flanagan



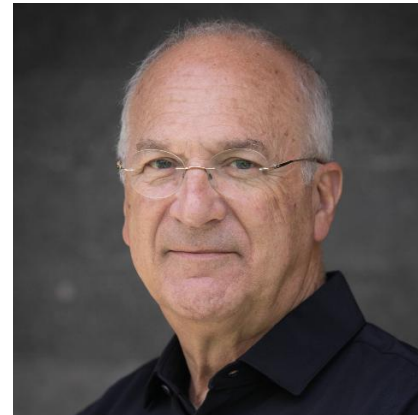
Daniel Jackson



David Abramson



David Garlan



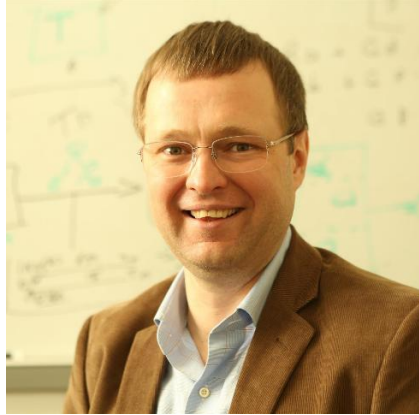
David Harel



David Lorge Parnas



David Rosenblum



Denys Poshyvanyk



Doug Lea



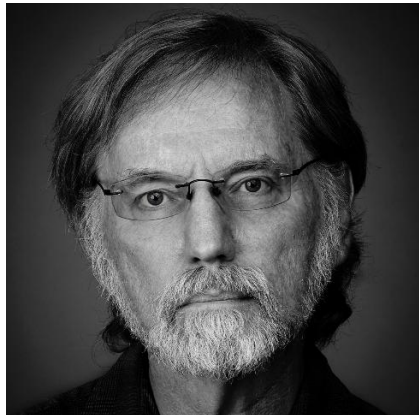
Elaine Weyuker



Erich Gamma



Gail Murphy



Gerard Holzmann



Grady Booch



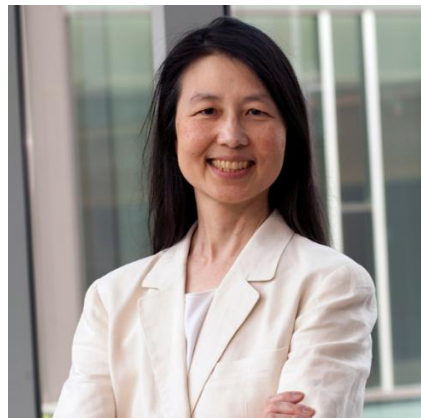
Hong MEI



James Herbsleb



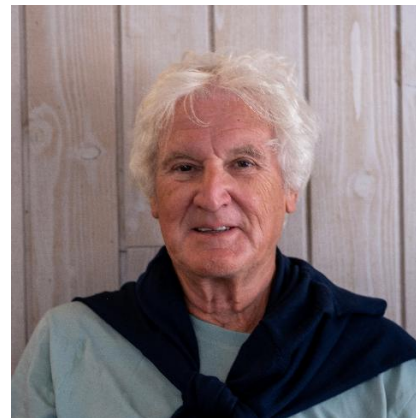
Javier Esparza



Jeannette M. Wing



Jeff Kramer



Jeff Magee



Jeffrey S. Foster



John B. Goodenough



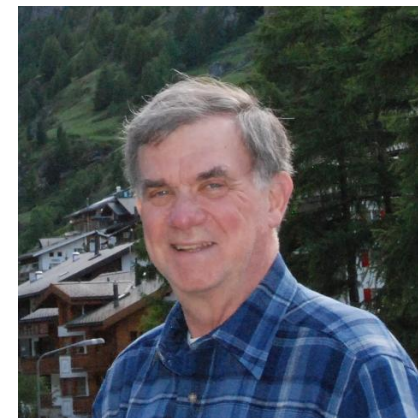
John Hughes



John Stasko



Laurie Williams



Leon Osterweil



Lionel C. Briand



Madanlal Musuvathi



Margaret Burnett



Martin Rinard



Mary Lou Soffa



Mary Shaw



Matthew Dwyer



Michael D. Ernst



Michael Franz



Michael R Lyu



Mira Mezini



Nachiappan Nagappan



Nancy G. Leveson



Nenad Medvidović



Orna Grumberg



Pamela Zave



Paola Inverardi



Peter Müller



Premkumar T. Devanbu



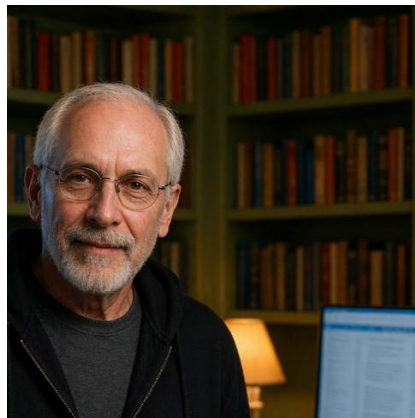
Rajesh K. Gupta



Rajiv Gupta



Randal E Bryant



Richard DeMillo



Richard N. Taylor



Satish Chandra



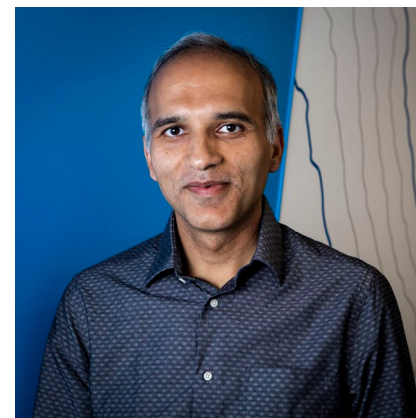
Sebastian Elbaum



Sharad Malik



Somesh Jha



Sumit Gulwani



Sven Apel



Swarat Chaudhuri



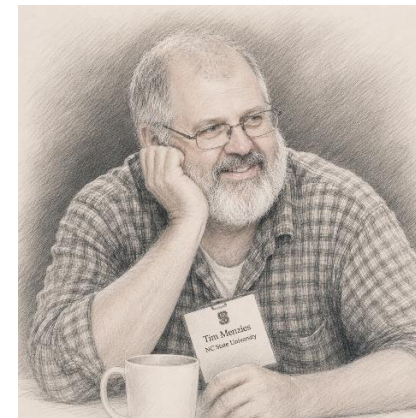
Tao Xie



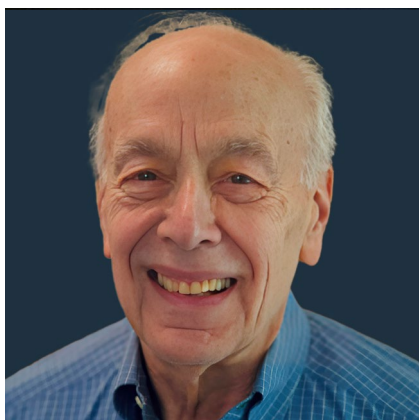
Thomas A. Henzinger



Thomas Ball



Tim Menzies



Tony Wasserman



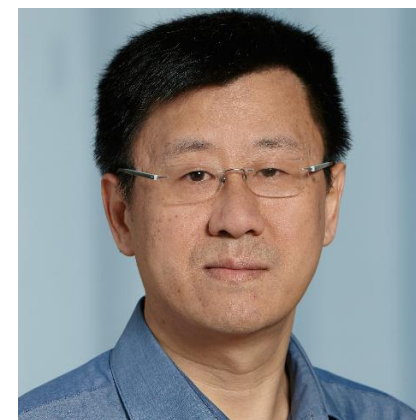
Tsong Yueh Chen



Walter Tichy



Yuanyuan Zhou



Zhendong Su

ACM SIGSOFT

Welcome to the Software Engineering Academy



The inaugural class of 2026 · Fifty years of ACM SIGSOFT
80 members (as of July 4)



GET INVOLVED

Nominations open this Fall.

After the inaugural class, membership continues through community nomination. Watch for the call for nominations from ACM SIGSOFT and help recognize the colleagues who have shaped our field.



SIGSOFT History

Tony Wasserman





Video c





SIGSOFT Remembers

Remembering the leaders and colleagues who helped build our community

past SIGSOFT chairs

outstanding research award recipients

distinguished service award recipients

influential educator award recipients

executive committee members

ICSE general chairs

SEN editors

Nico Habermann

1932–1993

SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award 2009 (posthumously)



Harlan Mills

1919–1996

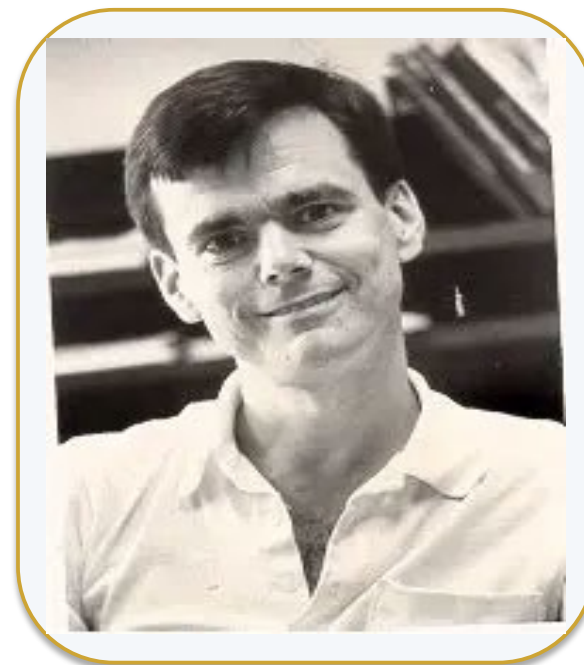
SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award Recipient 1999 (posthumously)



John D. Gannon

1948–1999

SIGSOFT Executive Committee Member 1981–1983



John Vlissides

1961–2005

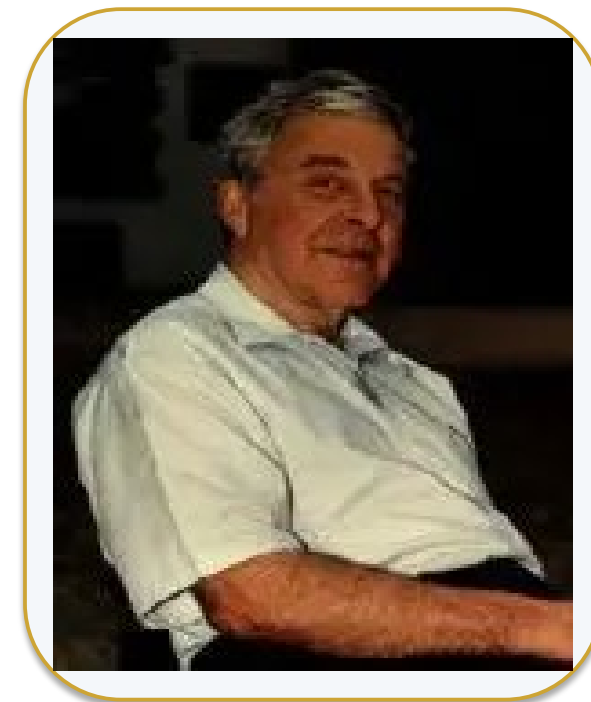
SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award 2010



Meir (Manny) Lehman

1925–2010

ICSE General Chair 1985



David Notkin

1955–2013

SIGSOFT Chair 1997–2001

SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award 2027

SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award 2012

ICSE General Chair 2013



Mary Jean Harrold

1947–2013

SIGSOFT Executive Committee Member 1997–2001



William Riddle

1942–2014

SIGSOFT Chair 1981–1985

ICSE General Chair 1981

SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award 1999



John C. Knight

1947–2017

SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award 2008



Les Belady (László Bélády)

1928–2021

ICSE General Chair 1991



Ivica Crnkovic

1955–2022

ICSE General Chair 2018

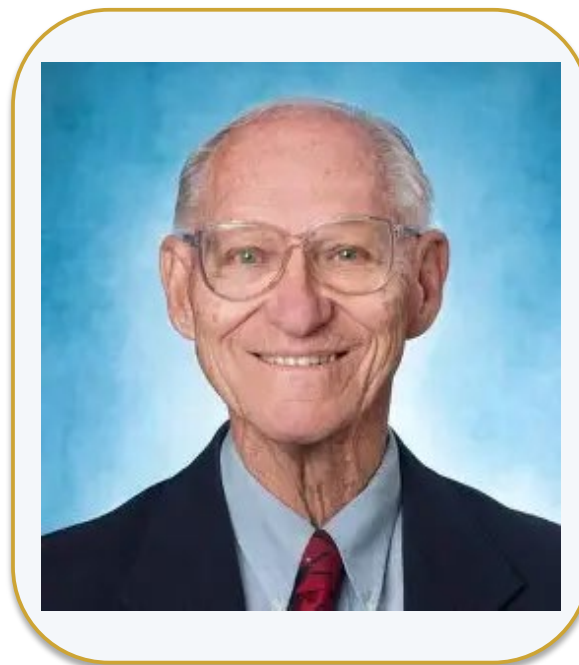


Barry Boehm

1935–2022

SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award Recipient 1997

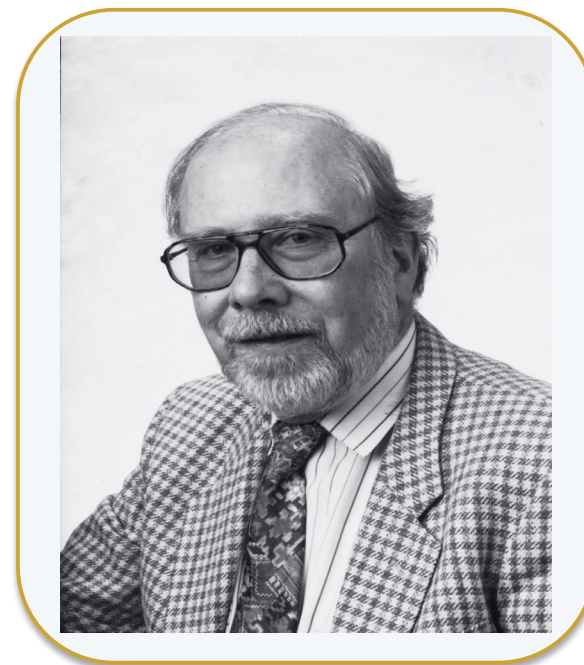
ICSE General Chair 1999



Niklaus Wirth

1934–2024

SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award Recipient 1999



Dewayne E. Perry

1940–2024

ICSE General Chair 1995

SIGSOFT Executive Committee Member 1989–1993





Koichi Kishida

1936–2026

Photo

not available in current deck

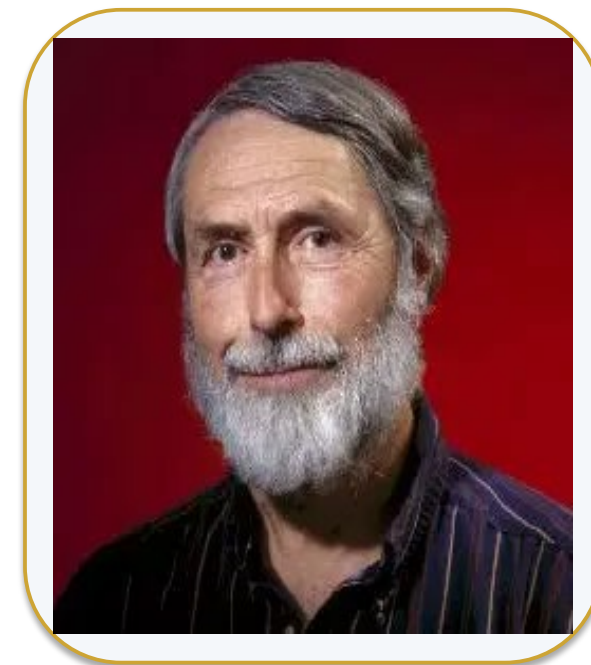
SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award 2001

Peter G. Neumann

1932–2026

SIGSOFT Distinguished Service Award 1997

Editor-in-Chief of SEN 1976–1994





Panel

Looking back with the people who shaped the community

PANELISTS

Tony Wasserman · Alex Wolf · Mary Shaw · Tom Zimmermann

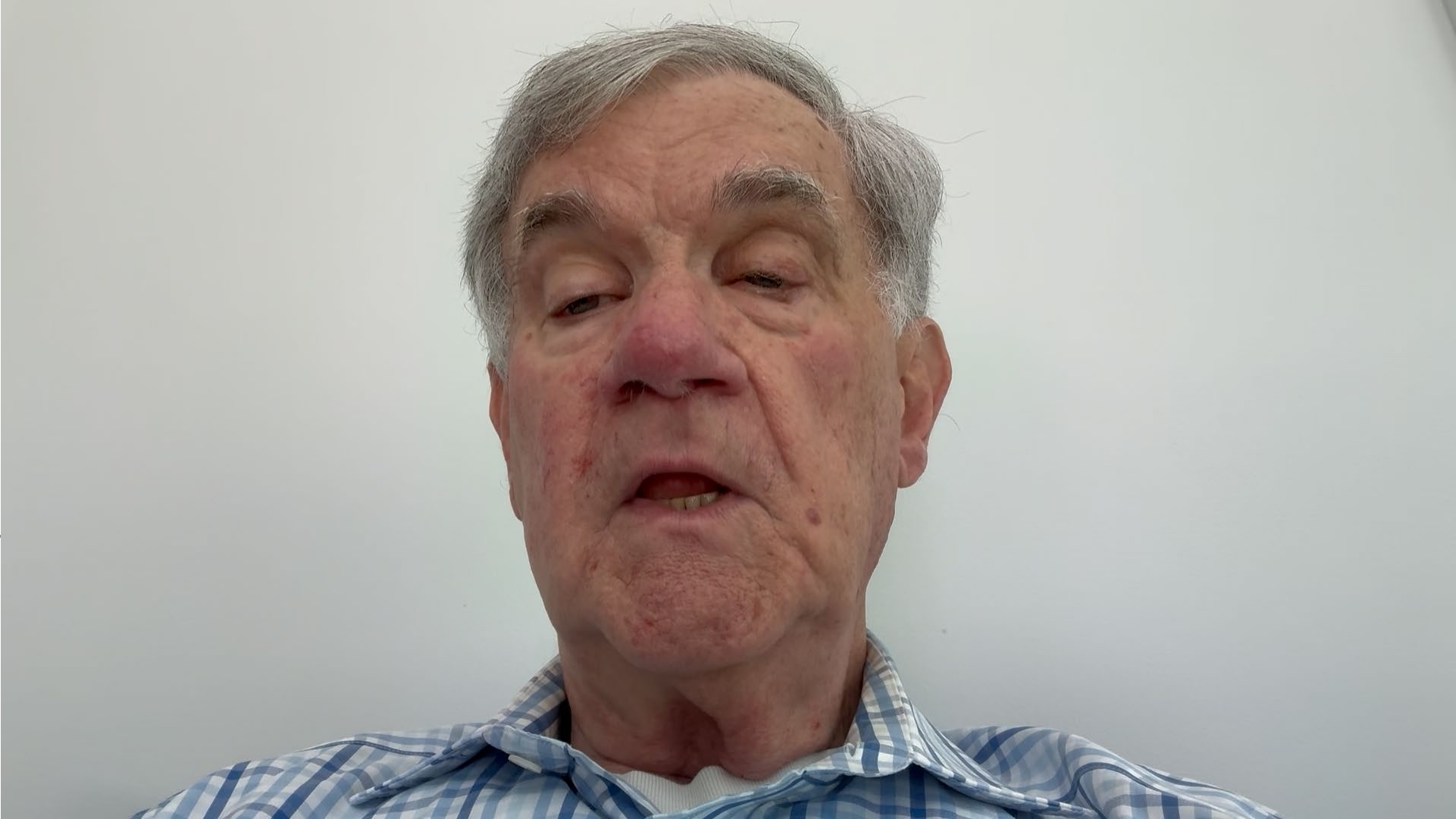
MODERATOR: Will Tracz

SIGSOFT50: Coffee Break

See you back at 4 p.m. for a “forward-looking” part of the celebration



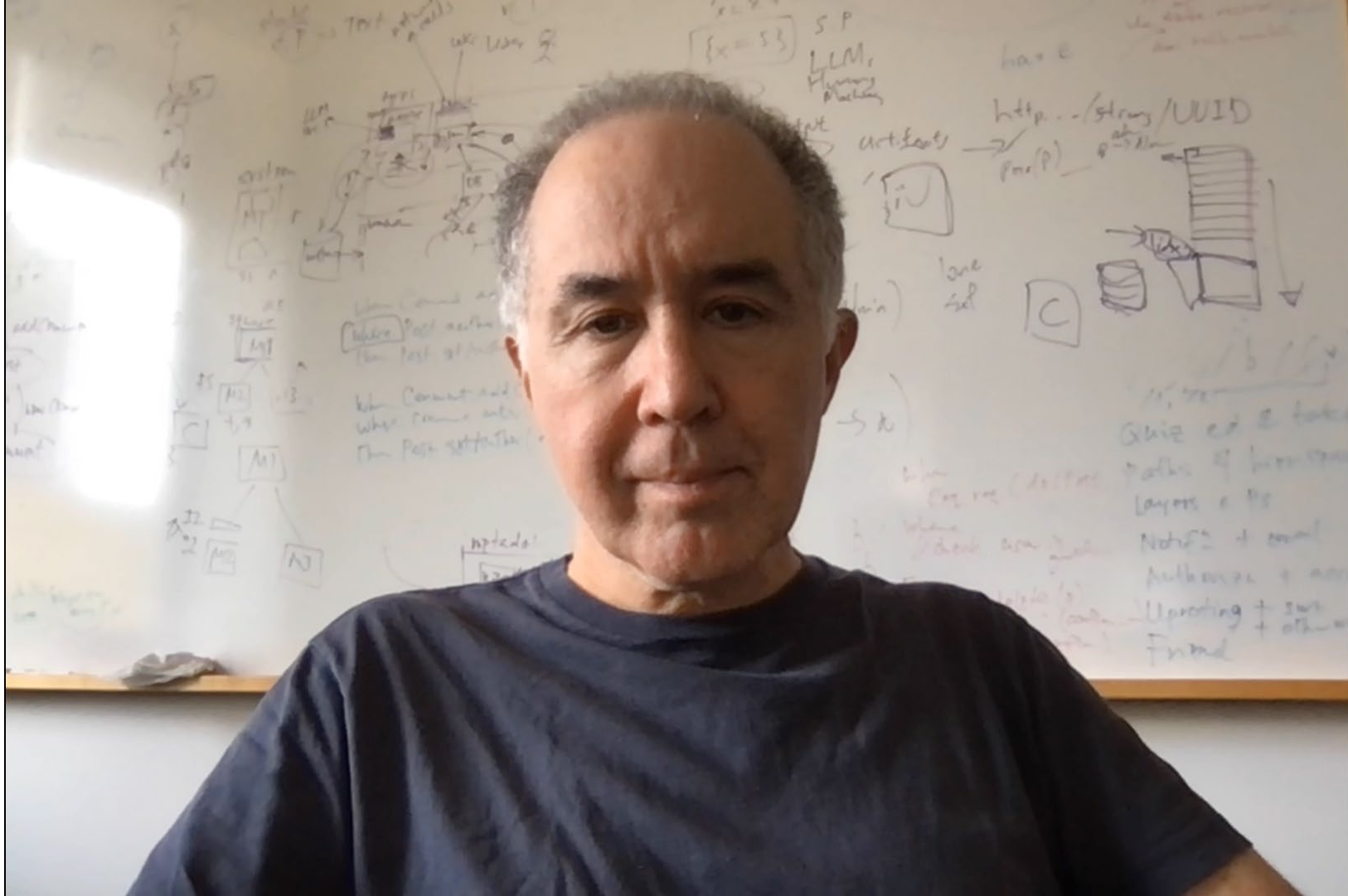
Video -





SIGSOFT50: Looking Forward

Panel followed by “Design the future of SIGSOFT” workshop





SIGSOFT50

ACM SIGSOFT 50th Anniversary Celebration
The Forward-Looking Panel

PANELISTS

Jie Zhang · Foutse Khomh · Miryung Kim · Xin Xia

MODERATOR: Marsha Chechik

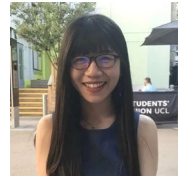
Meet the Panelists



Forward-looking panel

Jie Zhang

King's College London
SIGSOFT 2025 Early Career Award
for pioneering contributions to software engineering for AI



Foutse Khomh

Polytechnique Montréal, Canada
General Co-Chair, ACM FSE'26



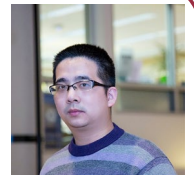
Miryung Kim

UCLA, USA
2022 SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award
for mentoring, diversity, and inclusion in software engineering



Xin Xia

Huawei, China
2022 SIGSOFT Early Career Award
for contributions to AI and software engineering



Questions for the panelists



- When you imagine SIGSOFT celebrating its 100th anniversary, what would you most hope the community is proud of having accomplished?
- What important software engineering problem, challenge, or opportunity do you think deserves more attention from the community than it currently receives?
- In a world where AI systems increasingly participate in design, coding, testing, maintenance, and decision-making, what remains distinctively “software engineering”?
- If you could change one thing about how our community evaluates research, what would it be?
- What kind of community do younger researchers need SIGSOFT to become?
- What should SIGSOFT do in the next decade that it is not currently doing enough of?
- If time, a short lightning-round question:
 - “In 2076, SIGSOFT will have succeeded if...”
 - or “SIGSOFT will have failed if...”



Interactive futures workshop

Designing SIGSOFT's next chapter

Goal



Workshop goal

Identify opportunities, challenges, and concrete ideas for SIGSOFT's next 50 years.

Sticky-note prompt (5 min)



Looking ahead to 2076, what are the biggest challenges SIGSOFT must face, and what are the biggest opportunities SIGSOFT should seize?

One idea per note; write large enough to read

At most 3 challenge sticky notes

At most 3 opportunity sticky notes

Challenge note (pink or yellow)

What is the biggest risk to SIGSOFT in the next 50 years? What could prevent SIGSOFT (or the SE community) from thriving?

Opportunity note (green or purple)

What is the biggest opportunity? What could SIGSOFT help the field become, build or achieve?

Themes



Conferences, publications, open science

Industry, practice & societal impact

Governance, community & volunteer sustainability

Students, early-career researchers, mentoring

Global inclusion and participation

AI and the future of software engineering

Wildcard (everything else)

(5 min) Put your stickers on the right board

*(5 min) Read the boards and put your dots for most promising challenge and most promising idea
(can put 1-2 dots)*

Pick a board you most care about

Questions to discuss within your group (15 min)



Use these to fill in the group canvas

By 2076, SIGSOFT should have helped the field solve...

One thing SIGSOFT should preserve is...

One thing SIGSOFT should be willing to change is...

One new program, service, venue, award, or community initiative SIGSOFT should consider is...

One risk to the community if we do nothing is...

Showtime! (5-6 min)

60-75 sec. per board

One major challenge

One major opportunity

One proposed initiative



Discussion and Thank you!



What happens next

Boards to stay up throughout the conference

People can add comments

We will photograph, transcribe and synthesize the results!

Thank you for helping imagine the next 50 years of our community!



Cheers to the
— next —
50
years