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# GROUP'12

**Proceedings of the ACM 2012 International Conference on  
Support Group Work**

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# GROUP 2012 Welcome Message from the Conference Co-Chairs

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the *2012 ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work – GROUP’12*. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> gathering in this influential international conference series which despite sporadic name changes – from Organizational Information Systems, to Organizational Computing Systems, to Group – remains focused on the challenges of evaluating and developing socio-technical systems to support collaborative work among individuals, within and across groups, organizations, and geo-political boundaries. We find ourselves again on lovely Sanibel Island, Florida. We are very pleased with the commitment to GROUP by our colleagues who have generously contributed their time and effort to organize the conference, review papers, lead the Doctoral Colloquium, convene workshops, chair sessions, and be student volunteers. The conference would not be possible without their efforts.

The GROUP’12 call for papers attracted 94 submissions (64 papers and 30 notes) from Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America. The program committee accepted 24 papers and 11 notes covering a wide variety of topics including: awareness and avatars – visualizing speech, workflow and identity; understanding collaboration in organizations; citizen science and healthcare – real world communities; collaborative systems and group editing; cross-cultural chat, file sync and real-time dating; behavior patterns in online communities; understanding information in social media; and methods for understanding and supporting online communities. In addition to two pre-conference workshops, we are able to host our fourth Doctoral Colloquium. Generous funding from the National Science Foundation allows us to bring together advanced Ph.D. students from around the world for a full-day program of interaction with leading researchers in our field. During the poster session you will be able to see what these students are working on, and you will also find posters from other researchers in academia and industry.

Organizing GROUP’12 has been a truly international collaborative effort. First of all, we would like to deeply thank our technical program team led by Kori Inkpen (Microsoft Research) and Tom Gross (University of Bamberg) as program co-chairs; Volker Wulf (University of Siegen) and Jennifer Thom-Santelli (IBM TJ Watson Research) as panel co-chairs; Libby Hemphill (Illinois Institute of Technology) and Stephan Lukosch (Delft University of Technology) as poster co-chairs; Luigina Ciolfi (Limerick University) and Gregorio Convertino (Xerox Research Center Europe, Grenoble) as workshop co-chairs. We are also grateful to Dan Cosley (Cornell University), Aleksandra Sarcevic (Drexel University), Dave Randall (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Pernille Bjørn (IT University Copenhagen) for chairing the Doctoral Colloquium. We acknowledge the hard work of David Gurzick (Hood College) as webmaster, Sean Goggins (Drexel University) and Isa Janke (Umeå University) as our publicity co-chairs and indefatigable masters of all social media. We also thank Stephen Hayne (Colorado State University) who as the treasurer, once again kept a watchful eye on our finances, Stephanie Teasley (University of Michigan) who took care of local arrangements, and Norman Su (University College Dublin) who was in charge of organizing the production of the proceedings. Xiaomu Zhou (Rutgers University) recruited and organized the important cadre of student volunteers. We appreciate the work of Lisa Tolles and her team at Sheridan Printing Company for assembling our proceedings on a tight timetable. We would like to express our gratitude to the 35-member international program committee and additional external reviewers who expertly critiqued our submissions in order to provide constructive feedback to all authors.

Finally, we would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of these successful conferences. We hope that you will find this program interesting and thought provoking, and that you will be able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to be inspired as you share and discuss ideas with colleagues from around the world on the beautiful Gulf Coast.

**Hilda Telliöglu**

*GROUP'12 General Chair*

*Vienna University of Technology, Austria*

**Thomas A. Finholt**

*GROUP'12 General Chair*

*University of Michigan, USA*

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