Festschrift at the Occasion of the 60\textsuperscript{th} Birthday of Derrick G. Kourie

Stefan Gruner (guest-editor)
Department of Computer Science, University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Road, 0002 Pretoria, South Africa

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

This year 2008 has not only seen the 40\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of Software Engineering as an academic and professional discipline and the 50\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the programming language LISP. It has also seen the 60\textsuperscript{th} birthday of our teacher, colleague and friend Derrick G. Kourie who is well-known not only to the readers of this journal.

In June 2008, Derrick G. Kourie’s birthday had been celebrated in the form of a Fests-Colloquium at Windy Brow, South Africa, by a small circle of some of his closest friends and colleagues. That Fests-Colloquium, secretly organised as a birthday surprise for Derrick by Bruce Watson and myself with help of Loek Cleophas and Vreda Pieterse, is reflected in a small Festschrift titled “From Operations Research to Software Engineering and Beyond”. That Festschrift is characterised by a colourful variety of interesting contributions, however it was not rigorously reviewed and published only as online technical report [1], except of the one and only printed and bound specimen which Derrick received as a birthday present during his Fests-Colloquium.

Thanks to Lucas Venter, the new editor-in-chief of this journal, it was possible to reproduce a fine selection of revised Festschrift papers in this Special Issue of SACJ as follows.

All authors of the 16 technical papers (excluding short messages of the category “personal greetings”) of the preliminary Festschrift [1] were invited to submit revised and improved versions of their papers for possible publication in this journal. 10 of 16 authors followed the invitation and submitted revised versions of their work. Each of these 10 revised papers was thoroughly reviewed by at least two reviewers. As a result of this review process, 3 papers were rejected and 7 papers were conditionally accepted — as usual with the obligation of making even further improvements before the re-submission of their final camera-ready version. The papers on the following pages of this Festschrift part of this journal are the ones which made their way through that rigorous process. I hope that the readers will enjoy them as much as Derrick Kourie, for whom they have been written.

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Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Derrick Kourie, who’s 60\textsuperscript{th} birthday we have celebrated this year, for being such an inspiring colleague and friend. Thanks to Lucas Venter, the new editor of SACJ, who has actively supported the idea of having the revised Festschrift published in this journal, which is most appropriate as it had been Derrick’s “own” journal for almost twenty years; see other reports in this issue of SACJ. Many thanks also to the members of the Programme Committee and the additional reviewers for their good work in spite of the notorious shortage of time towards the end of the year. Last but not least thanks to all authors who have submitted their papers without which no Festschrift could have been compiled at all.

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