

# Preface

The concept of this book arose out of discussions among the editors on how best to honor the contributions of Jim Thomas to the fields of visual analytics and visualization. It was agreed that a book would be appropriate as a number of summaries of his work had appeared in journals. It was also agreed it should be forward looking rather than simply reflect on his many seminal contributions to the field. One of his favorite sayings was “*The best is yet to come*” and this volume was put together in this spirit. It therefore seeks to explore the frontiers of visual analytics and visualization, concentrating on the new research that is paving the way for future developments and applications.

We are very grateful to all the people who responded to our invitation to contribute and who completed their chapters very efficiently. In a number of cases they involved collaborators, or members of their research group, as co-authors of their papers and we therefore also thank the co-authors for their various contributions.

The following were the invited contributors to this volume—

Prof Mike Bailey, Oregon State University, USA

Prof Mark Billingham, University of Christchurch, New Zealand

Prof Ken Brodrie, University of Leeds, UK

Prof Chaomei Chen, Drexel University, USA

Kris Cook, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USA

Prof Peter Eades, University of Sydney, Australia

Prof Jose L. Encarnacao, Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany

Prof Peter S. Excell, Glyndwr University, UK

Prof Dieter W. Fellner, Fraunhofer IGD and Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany

Prof James D. Foley, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Prof Mikael Jern, Linkoping University, Sweden

Prof Daniel A. Keim, University of Konstanz, Germany

Michael Kluse, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USA

Prof Toshiyasu L. Kunii, Morpho Inc and University of Tokyo, Japan

Prof Haesun Park, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Dr Jon Peddie, Jon Peddie Research, USA  
 Theresa-Marie Rhyne, Computer Graphics Consultant, USA  
 Prof Bill Ribarsky, University of North Carolina, USA  
 Dr Lawrence J. Rosenblum, National Science Foundation, USA  
 Prof Ben Shneiderman, University of Maryland, USA  
 Prof Gabriel Taubin, Brown University, USA  
 Prof Daniel Thalmann, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
 Prof Bodo Urban, Fraunhofer IGD, Rostock, Germany  
 Prof Dr Frank Van Reeth, University of Hasselt, Belgium  
 Dr Turner Whitted, Microsoft Research, USA  
 Prof Jian Jun Zhang, Bournemouth University, UK

Further chapters were contributed by the co-editors.

The book begins with the dynamics of evolving a vision based on some of the principles that Jim Thomas and colleagues established and in which his leadership was evident. It is then followed by chapters in the areas of visual analytics, visualization, interaction, modeling, architecture, and virtual reality. The book concludes with the key area of technology transfer to industry. Each chapter contains a summary of the paper in an Abstract. These Abstracts are also visible on the web in the electronic book corresponding to this volume.

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Simon Fraser University, Surrey, BC, Canada	John Dill
University of Bradford, Bradford, UK	Rae Earnshaw
The Boeing Company, Seattle, WA, USA	David Kasik
Bournemouth University, Poole, UK	John Vince
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA	Pak Chung Wong



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Dill, J.; Earnshaw, R.; Kasik, D.; Vince, J.; Wong, P.C.  
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