

Dear IWCE-12 participant:

We would like to thank you for your contribution and participation in IWCE-12 and would like to give you some additional information. We would also like to solicit your feedback regarding your participation in the events described below, so that we may finalize the organizational details.

CONFERENCE ROOM

The conference will be held in the Auditorium, located on the bottom floor of the Campus Center (see the maps on the IWCE-12 Web site for directions): Entering the Campus center, take the escalators down. The Auditorium will be on your right. Both poster sessions will be held in the concourse area outside the Auditorium. Labeled poster boards (4'x6' in landscape format) will be set up around 12 noon on Monday and Tuesday and we kindly ask posters to be set up before the end of the afternoon session.

REGISTRATION TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Registration will be held on the 11-th floor (elevators are on the ground floor, opposite to the escalators going down to the Auditorium) of the Campus Center 5-8 pm on Sunday, outside the Auditorium on October 7, 8-11 am and 1-3 pm on Monday, October 8. Registration after 3 pm on Monday will be available at the Conference Services Operations Office on the 9-th floor of the Campus Center. A welcome reception (drinks and snacks) will be held also on the 11-th floor of the Campus Center (next to the registration desk), 5-8 pm on Sunday, October 7.

“FOLIAGE SEEING” TRIP ON SUNDAY

For those arriving in Amherst on Saturday, October 6, we are considering organizing a "foliage seeing" tour in the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts for Sunday, October 7. Massachusetts Route 2, connecting Western Massachusetts to New York State, follows the ancient "Indian" Mohawk Trail (<http://www.mohawktrail.com>) crossing the Berkshires (part of the Appalachian Mountain Range) along the meandering path of the Deerfield river. The route climbs over the mountains and, counting on perfect weather and good timing for the "foliage" this year (the colorful show displayed by tree leaves in the Fall), from the top one should have a perfect view of the colorful forests in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Eastern New York. On clear days one may be able to see (barely) Mount Washington, the tallest mountain the East Coast (<http://www.mountwashington.com>, also site of the strongest winds ever recorded, 231 mph... bring your kites). Bavarian, Austrian, and Rocky Mountains attendees are excused if they will utter jokes about the height of the mountain, but let's blame erosion for having reduced the Himalaya-like Appalachians (that was a few tens of Myears ago) to little more than "hills". The excursion will likely bring us down on the western side of the Berkshires to North Adams for an optional visit to the exhibition at MASS MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, <http://www.massmoca.org>) and Williamstown (picturesque village site of Williams College and of the Clark Art Institute, <http://www.clarkart.edu/>), perhaps for a late lunch. If you are interested on such an excursion, please let us know, so that we may proceed with the necessary reservations (bus, restaurants, museums, etc.). In case of inclement weather (not an unusual occurrence in the mountains), we may still be able to enjoy MASS MoCa in North Adams and/or the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown. We may have to charge a fee for the excursion (depending on budget considerations still in a "fluid" state). More details will be sent out as soon as we will have collected information from those interested.

NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY NIGHT

On Monday night we will hold the "usual" dinner for the members of the International Advisory Committee and of the Program Committee and for the invited speakers. For all other attendees we are organizing a bus service to the nearby (about 6 miles or so) town of Northampton. Besides the nice "New England" atmosphere, Northampton offers a wide variety of attractions, including several

restaurants (a partial list of recommended restaurants will be soon posted on the IWCE-12 Web site) and the Smith College Museum of Art (<http://www.smith.edu/artmuseum>). We are pleased to let you know that we have arranged for IWCE-12 participants to be able to visit the museum (open only to IWCE-12 attendees) during the hours 8-10pm. Transportation will be available after 10 pm to get back to the Hotels in Amherst and at the Campus Center.

MEALS

Lunch (free for registered attendees) will be held on the 11-th floor of the Campus Center on Monday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 9. On Wednesday, October 10, lunch will consist of an outdoors barbeque (BBQ, as spelled in the US) under a tent (see comment above about the New England weather). The banquet will be held on the evening of Tuesday, October 9, in the Student Union Ballroom of the Campus Center. We would appreciate if anyone requiring special dietary requirements (fat-free diet, vegetarian or vegan diets, etc) could notify Cathy Sachs (csachs@ecs.umass.edu) about it. A banquet ticket is included in the registration package. Additional tickets will be available at the registration desk or via the conference organizers.

PARKING

For those arriving by car, parking is available at the Campus Center Garage, directly connected to the Campus Center. Discounted parking tickets (\$5.00/day, instead of the regular \$10.00/day rate) will be available at the registration desk.

BEER TASTING AT ABC

Finally, following the commendable tradition initiated by professor Selberherr and professor Kosina in Vienna at IWCE-11, on Wednesday night, those brave souls who will still be around after the end of the workshop will enjoy a very informal evening of beer tasting at ABC (Amherst Brewing Company), offering a wide selection of their own brewed beer as well as imported beer (and American pub-like food). Again, would appreciate if you could let Cathy Sachs know if you are planning on attending, so that we may proceed with the reservations. Tickets will be available at the registration desk or via the conference organizers.

We have not talked here about the technical content of the conference. Judging from the quality of the speakers who have accepted our invitations and of the contributed abstracts, we are expecting an excellent conference. We thank you all once more for your contributions and we are looking forward to seeing you in Amherst.

Best regards,

Max Fischetti
Eric Polizzi
Neal Anderson