Graduate Student Activities at the 2012 IEEE VLSI Test Symposium
TTTC's E. J. McCluskey Best 2012 Doctoral Thesis Award
April 23rd – 26th, 2012
Maui, Hawaii, USA

<u>Organizer</u>: Haralampos-G. Stratigopoulos, TIMA Laboratory/CNRS, Grenoble, France

1. About the contest

As part of the 2012 IEEE VLSI Test Symposium (VTS'12), the TTTC Student Activities Committee is organizing one of the three semi-finals of the TTTC's E. J. McCluskey Best 2012 Doctoral Thesis Award contest. The other two semi-finals will be held at the IEEE Latin American Test Workshop (LATW'12) and at the IEEE European Test Symposium (ETS'12). The winners of the three semi-finals, determined by juries composed of academics and industrial experts, will compete against each other in the finals which will be held at the IEEE International Test Conference (ITC'12). The contest provides graduate students with an opportunity to disseminate their research, obtain visibility in the international test community, and win recognition for their achievements. This major Award has been named after Prof. Edward J. McCluskey, a key educator and mentor in the fields of test technology, logic design, and reliability.

2. Eligibility criteria

Ph.D. students who graduated in 2011 or 2012 or are expected to graduate in 2012 and whose research area is in the scope of topics outlined in the VTS call for papers are eligible to participate. An individual can only participate in the contest once in a lifetime. Submissions to multiple regional sites are prohibited.

3. Submission instructions

Ph.D. students are invited to submit a summary of their thesis (up to 2000 words) including their name and affiliation, the title of the thesis, and the expected date of graduation. An additional page is allowed for references and/or figures only. In addition, please submit an endorsement by the advisor (i.e. a signed statement that he/she supports the student's participation in the contest) and a 1-page curriculum vitae. You are free and encouraged to submit up to three of your published papers as supporting material. Prospective participants are encouraged to apply when they are close to thesis completion and have obtained sufficient results.

The abstract should clearly address the following: (i) define the problem and its relevance to industry, (ii) describe existing industrial practices for solving the problem, and (iii) explain the proposed methodology (and any pertinent case study) and how it advances the theory and/or practice in the particular field.

4. Contest description

Based on the submitted abstracts, a set of semi-finalists will be selected for the semi-final of the contest. For each semi-final, there will be a two-stage evaluation process. First, a jury of academics (Jury I) will judge the submissions of the contestants and will assign scores. Second, there will be a "live" contest during a dedicated session at the semi-final event where each contestant will be given a short slot for oral presentation. A jury of industrial experts (Jury II) will evaluate the quality and practical relevance of the presentations and they will turn in their own scores. The scores will be averaged (50% weight to each of the two juries) to arrive at the semi-final winner who will be announced during the event.

The winners of the semi-finals will present their work in a 30-minute presentation at ITC'12 and the final winner will be determined by a panel of industrial experts. The Award is given to the winning student and the adviser of the thesis and includes an invitation to submit a paper on the presented work to the IEEE Design & Test of Computers.

5. VTS semi-final logistics

Submissions are to be made via email to haralampos.stratigopoulos@imag.fr and ilia.polian@uni-passau.de. Please address any questions to the same e-mails. Deadline for submissions is February 7th 2012. Notification about the disposition of the submissions will be sent out by March 7th 2012. In addition to the "live" contest, there will be a poster session with aim to offer the opportunity to the students to meet with the members of Jury II and discuss with them in-depth about their thesis. Both the poster session and the "live" contest will be open to the public. The winner of the semi-final will be announced during the social event of the Symposium, to which all finalists will be cordially invited.