

Chairman's Preface

THE Center for Micromagnetics and Information Technologies (MINT) on the beautiful campus of the University of Minnesota hosted the 12th annual Magnetic Recording Conference (TMRC) on August 20–22, 2001. This year's theme was magnetic recording heads. The conference session chairs were Prof. Shan Wang, Dr. David Seagle, Dr. Sining Mao, Prof. David Bogy, Dr. Terry McDaniel, and Prof. Hiroaki Muraoka. Their efforts to ensure that digests and manuscripts were submitted on time and that referee reports were completed, as well as their participation in the smooth running of the conference were much appreciated.

Dr. Giora Tarnopolsky and the Program Committee drew together an outstanding technical program, with 36 invited papers in six topical areas related to head technology. As always, much of the emphasis was on how to design and build heads capable of achieving higher areal density. One of the highlights of the week was Fujitsu's announcement, during the talk by Dr. Jongill Hong, of having achieved a recording demonstration at 16.4 Gb/cm^2 (106 Gb/in^2). The topical areas included talks on advances in spin-valve technology, writer technology, recording systems, tunneling and novel magnetic sensors, mechanical integration and tribology, and perpendicular recording heads.

In addition to the invited papers, Dr. Sally Doherty organized a fine poster session. In addition to the posters from each of the invited speakers, 18 contributed posters, nine of them from students, were presented over two days.

Prof. Jack Judy and Dr. Dean Palmer served as the Local Arrangements and Publicity Chairmen, respectively. They took care of all the details of publicizing and running the conference. As a result of their work, attendance was excellent at 250 registrants, with significant representation from outside the U.S. (especially from Japan), and all the arrangements came off smoothly.

The conference banquet was a particular hit this year. It was held at the new Science Museum of Minnesota, on the bank of the Mississippi River in St. Paul. The banquet ticket included admission to this hands-on science museum.

Dr. Bruce Gurney served as Publications Chairman, certainly the most demanding job of the Organizing Committee. He did an excellent job in securing abstracts and reviewers, ensuring that the Digest Book was done superbly, and that the final accepted papers were properly prepared for this issue of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MAGNETICS.

My special thanks goes to Dr. Joost Mortelmans for his work both as Treasurer and as the unofficial "memory" of TMRC. His long experience as Treasurer for all of the 12 conferences was invaluable in making sure that nothing significant was overlooked and that the conference was financially as well as technically sound.

ED MURDOCK, *Chairman*
The Magnetic Recording Conference
Seagate Technology
Minneapolis, MN