Dear colleagues,

First of all, let me wish you a belated happy 2015. I hope that this will be a healthy and fruitful year for all of you, and I look forward to working together with all of you in order to continue promoting the development of theoretical computer science, broadly construed, and to increase the influence of the EATCS within the theoretical-computer-science community.

I hope that many of you will submit their best work to ICALP 2015 (deadline: Tuesday, 17 February 2015). As you know, ICALP 2015 will be held in Kyoto, Japan, and will be co-located with LICS 2015. It promises to be a mouthwatering scientific meeting, with five invited talks (two joint with LICS 2015) delivered by Ken Kawarabayashi (NII, Japan), Valerie King (University of Victoria, Canada), Thomas Moscibroda (MSR Asia, China), Anca Muscholl (Université Bordeaux, France) and Peter O'Hearn (Facebook, UK) as well as a masterclass on algoritms and complexity for Japanese puzzles by Ryuhei Uehara (JAIST, Japan) and three invited tutorials (joint with LICS) that will be presented by Piotr Indyk (MIT, USA), Andrew Pitts (University of Cambridge, UK) and Geoffrey Smith (Florida International University, USA).

I am happy to inform you that the EATCS Awards Committee 2015 consisting of Fedor Fomin, Kim G. Larsen and Vladimiro Sassone (chair) has selected Christos Papadimitriou (UC Berkeley, USA) as the recipient of the EATCS Award 2015. Congratulations to Christos! The award, which is given to acknowledge extensive and widely recognized
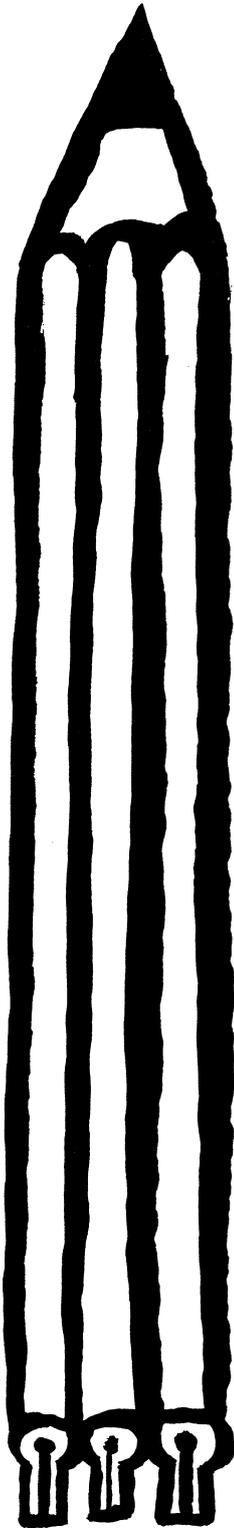
contributions to theoretical computer science over a life-long scientific career, will be presented to Christos at ICALP 2015. Moreover, during the conference, we will hand out the Presburger Award 2015 and honour the EATCS Fellows vintage 2015.

If that weren't enough to whet your scientific appetite, ICALP 2015 will also feature a couple of events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the journal Theoretical Computer Science. More details about this celebration will be available in due course on the ICALP/LICS 2015 web site at http://www.kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp/icalp-lics2015/.

ICALP 2016 will be held in Rome, Italy, and Tiziana Calamoneri and her team are already busy working on the organization of the conference. The PC chairs for ICALP 2016 will be Yuval Rabani (Track A), Davide Sangiorgi (Track B) and Michael Mitzenmacher (Track C). On behalf of the community, I thank these colleagues for accepting this demanding responsibility. As usual, the call for papers for ICALP 2016 will be ready for distribution at ICALP 2015.

As you might know already, from ICALP 2016 there will be an important change in the publication of the proceedings of ICALP. Since the contract between the EATCS and Springer will expire at the end of 2015, the council of the EATCS has discussed the publication outlet for the proceedings of ICALP from 2016. Based on the discussion and on the ensuing vote, the council of the EATCS has decided that, starting from ICALP 2016, the proceedings of ICALP will be published in open-access form in LIPIcs (Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics).

The EATCS has had a long and good working relationship with Springer, which we really appreciate. However, the council overwhelmingly thought that it is time for a change, as far as the publication of the proceedings of ICALP is concerned, and that it was best to make this decision well before the end of our current contract, which we will, of course, honour. We hope that this new development will be good for the EATCS, and that it will be popular with our members and with the TCS community at large.

As announced in the piece authored by Edward Hirsch that appears in this issue of the Bulletin, our association now has a Russian Chapter. This is the first chapter of the EATCS in Eastern Europe and I hope that it will help the development of TCS research and education in Russia. Having a chapter of the EATCS might also further strengthen the Russian community of TCS researchers and its ties with researchers elsewhere. I am truly excited by this development and I wish Edward and the other funding members of the Russian Chapter the best of luck with their work in making their chapter an important voice in Russian computer science.

The council of the EATCS continues to take steps in order to promote theoretical computer science at large and to support young researchers. This year we will present the first EATCS Distinguished Dissertation Awards to outstanding theses in theoretical computer science. The award committee, consisting of Javier Esparza, Fedor Fomin, Luke Ong and Giuseppe Persiano (chair), is busy examining the excellent nominations they have received. The EATCS
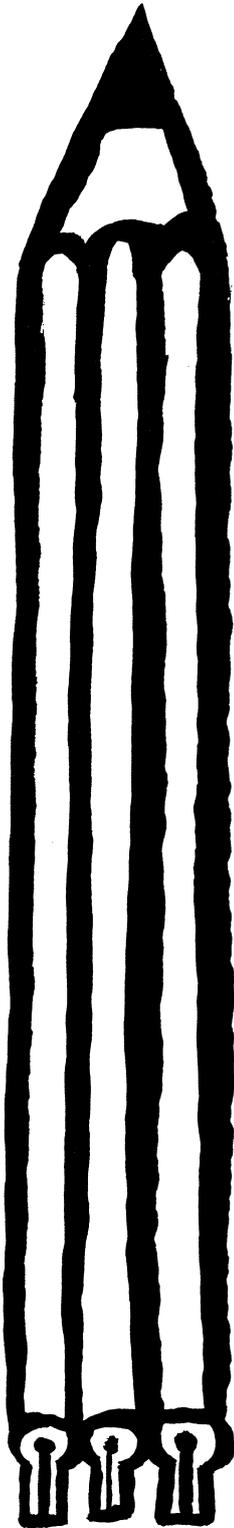
looks forward to honouring the first recipients of this new award for young scientists.

The second EATCS Young Researcher School will be the TOPDRIM International School on Topology and Data: Understanding Complexity and Concurrency through Topology, *which will be organized by Emanuela Merelli in Camerino, Italy, in the period July 13-22, 2015.*

The EATCS Young Researchers School Liaison Committee, chaired by Antonin Kucera, welcomes applications from organizers of graduate schools in theoretical computer science. If you are organizing a young-researcher school next year, please drop Antonin a line.

I hope that you will appreciate the steps that the council of the EATCS has taken on several fronts, even though there is still much more that we could be do if we had suitable resources. I am truly grateful to our institutional sponsors and to our members for their support over the years. It is only with your support that we can continue producing our Bulletin (which is freely accessible to everyone), and that we can support awards, young research schools and other worthwhile activities in TCS. Our goal is to give back to the TCS community what the community gives us by supporting the EATCS with their membership fees. If you are not already a member, I hope that you will join the EATCS and encourage your colleagues and students to do so.

Of course, the EATCS is only one of a collection of sister associations whose goal is to foster the development of TCS research. In order to encourage double
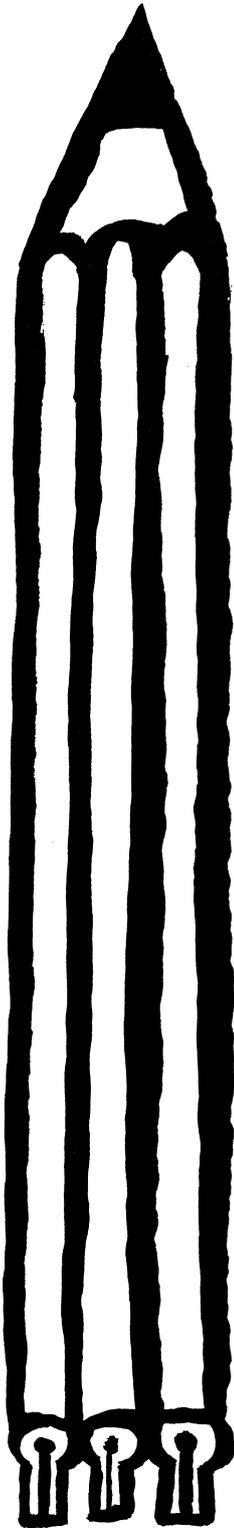
registration, we are offering a discount to members of sister associations with which we have a reciprocity agreement: EACSL, ACM SIGACT and ACM SIGLOG members can join the EATCS for 25 Euros per year (two years for PhD students). In return, those associations offer a discount to members of the EATCS.

As usual, let me close this letter by reminding you that you are always most welcome to send me your comments, criticisms and suggestions for improving the impact of the EATCS on the theoretical-computer-science community at president@eatcs.org. We are here to serve the theoretical computer science community and we will consider all your suggestions and criticisms carefully.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Luca Aceto, Reykjavik, Iceland
February 2015