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Eelco Visser (12 October 1966 – 5 April 2022) was Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Professor of Computer Science and Chair of the Programming Languages Group in the Department of Software Technology at TU Delft. He obtained his Master’s degree and PhD in Computer Science from the University of Amsterdam, supervised by Paul Klint. He subsequently held positions at Oregon Graduate Institute, Utrecht University, and TU Delft. He was a founding member of IFIP Working Groups 2.11 (Program Generation) and 2.16 (Programming Language Design).

Eelco was highly influential in the software language engineering and programming language design communities. His many scientific contributions on meta- and domain-specific languages have been of high importance in both the scientific and industrial communities. His work on the cutting-edge language workbench Spoofax started with a ground-breaking publication in 2010, for which he received a Most Influential Paper award at OOPSLA 2020. As a strong advocate of tool-supported programming education, he led the development of WebLab, a learning management system that is in use for a range of programming languages and courses at TU Delft. He also led the design, implementation and use of conf.researchr.org, a content management system for scientific events used for hundreds of international events since 2014.

On 5 April 2023, the first anniversary of Eelco’s untimely passing, many of his collaborators, peers, and friends are gathering at TU Delft to hold the Eelco Visser Commemorative Symposium (EVCS). The proceedings of the EVCS preserve the spirit of this event: cherishing the memory of Eelco as a researcher, as a developer, and as a leader. The reader will easily recognise all three sides of Eelco when studying the individual contributions captured in these proceedings, and will grasp the immensity of his loss and what it means to the affected communities.

Conceiving, planning, organising, and carrying out the EVCS, as well as writing, reviewing and publishing its 32 contributions, was the joint effort of a great many. The communities of SLE, GPCE, OOPSLA (SPLASH), IFIP WG 2.11 and 2.16, as well as CWI and TU Delft, supported the EVCS, and delegated representatives to its Programme and Organising Committee. The reviewing of the submissions that followed the call for papers involved 35 external reviewers, whose diligence and constructiveness helped shape the final contributions. We are especially grateful to the Department of Software Technology, TU Delft, for funding the EVCS, and to the local organisation committee for logistic and administrative support. The Dagstuhl Publishing team made producing these proceedings as a volume of the Open Access Series in Informatics an exceptionally smooth experience.

Helping to make the EVCS happen was very dear to us. We hope that those attending the symposium, and reading its proceedings, will be rewarded with many recollections of Eelco and his academic activities, and with inspiration for their own future work – work which, sadly, Eelco himself is denied. His memory and influence will stay with us.

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