Preface

The concept of this book arose out of discussions among the editors on how best to honor the contributions of Jim Thomas to the fields of visual analytics and visualization. It was agreed that a book would be appropriate as a number of summaries of his work had appeared in journals. It was also agreed it should be forward looking rather than simply reflect on his many seminal contributions to the field. One of his favorite sayings was "*The best is yet to come*" and this volume was put together in this spirit. It therefore seeks to explore the frontiers of visual analytics and visualization, concentrating on the new research that is paving the way for future developments and applications.

We are very grateful to all the people who responded to our invitation to contribute and who completed their chapters very efficiently. In a number of cases they involved collaborators, or members of their research group, as co-authors of their papers and we therefore also thank the co-authors for their various contributions.

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Further chapters were contributed by the co-editors.

The book begins with the dynamics of evolving a vision based on some of the principles that Jim Thomas and colleagues established and in which his leadership was evident. It is then followed by chapters in the areas of visual analytics, visualization, interaction, modeling, architecture, and virtual reality. The book concludes with the key area of technology transfer to industry. Each chapter contains a summary of the paper in an Abstract. These Abstracts are also visible on the web in the electronic book corresponding to this volume.

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