

## Candidate for Chair

Andrew Sears  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD USA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park, 1993.

#### Professional Experience:

Chair, Information Systems Department, UMBC, Baltimore, MD, USA, 2002 – 2008;  
Professor of Information Systems, UMBC, Baltimore, MD, USA, 2003 – 2008;  
Affiliate Professor of Aging Studies, UMBC, Baltimore, MD, USA, 2005 – 2008.

#### Professional Interest:

IT accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities; IT accessibility for older adults;  
Speech-based interaction solutions; Situationally-induced impairments and disabilities;  
Mobile computing.

#### ACM Activities:

Vice Chair, SIGACCESS, 2006 – 2008; Secretary/Treasurer, SIGACCESS, 2001 – 2006.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, ACM, 1989 – 2008;  
Member, ACM/SIGACCESS, 2001 – 2008;  
Member, ACM/SIGCHI, 1997 – 2008.

#### Awards Received:

ACM/SIGACCESS Recognition of Service Award: Chair, ASSETS 2005; Program Chair, ASSETS 2004; ACM/SIGCHI Recognition of Service Award: Co-Chair, CHI 2001; Chairing Chicago Chapter, 1999.

### **STATEMENT**

It has been my pleasure to have served as both Secretary/Treasurer and Vice Chair for SIGACCESS. This year, I am pleased to be running for Chair. Since I joined the SIGACCESS Executive Committee, we have updated the organization's name, membership has increased by more than 75%, the number of volunteers has increased significantly, our finances have stabilized, ASSETS has become an annual conference, ASSETS attendance has increased by approximately 50%, and we worked with ACM to establish the ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing. SIGACCESS is now a healthy, growing community, but I see great potential for new and exciting opportunities. If elected, I will continue working with SIGACCESS officers and members to spread the word regarding

our mission, grow the organization, and ensure the health of our conference. At the same time, we will identify opportunities for the SIG to give back to the community through new services, publications, and events such as (1) specialized workshops held in conjunction with and separate from the ASSETS conference, (2) videos highlighting accessibility activities and technologies, (3) educational initiatives aimed at integrating accessibility into IT curricula and making IT education accessible to students with disabilities, and (4) increasing our international presence.