

Candidate for Chair

Rui Lopes
LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

MSc., University of Lisbon, 2005, Time-based hypermedia processing models and applications.

Professional Experience:

Researcher, LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, 2005 – 2008;
Junior researcher, LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, 2003 – 2005.

Professional Interest:

Universal usability; Web accessibility; Web science; Semantic accessibility assessment; Information credibility.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Invited expert, W3C, 2005 - 2008

Awards Received:

Other: Best paper award at W4A 2008, 2008.

STATEMENT

We are seeing an interesting convergence of factors regarding the importance of accessibility in our lives. Legislation throughout the World is pushing forward the Accessibility agenda as a matter of Rights; an ageing population is increasingly more active; developing countries are becoming more connected, especially due to mobile devices. Accessibility is, hence, an “umbrella” keyword for all efforts on levelling information access and interaction across a large, rich, and diversified spectrum of users.

Consequently, as Chair for SIGACCESS, I will be pushing forward an agenda aligned to these principles, as follows:

- 1) Promote universal usability and universal accessibility practices, by augmenting the perception of Accessibility as something essential for the disabled as well as the elderly, the illiterate, etc.
- 2) Fight for a scientific and multidisciplinary approach to understand the fundamentals of Accessibility, serving as a framework for supporting better engineering solutions.

3) Bridge the gap between research and industry on the application of Accessibility best practices in the real world. Without this proximity, all of the best efforts coming out of SIGACCESS members might be of limited practical use.

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.

Candidate for Vice Chair

Noëlle Carbonell
Henri Poincaré University, Nancy, France

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D. + HDR, Henri Poincaré University, Nancy France, 1991, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, Henri Poincaré University, Nancy, France, 1991 – 2008;
Associate Professor, Nancy 2 University, Nancy, France, 1981 – 1991.

Professional Interest:

Multimodal Human-Computer Interaction (gestures, gaze, speech); Computer Accessibility (cognitive disabilities: autism); Ambient Assisted living; Embodied Conversational Agents; Contextual online help.

ACM Activities:

Secretary/Treasurer, SIGACCESS, 2006 – 2009.

STATEMENT

For many years I have been contributing to the promotion of research on Computer Accessibility through the organization of international scientific events and participation in collaborative research activities in this area: Program Committees of international conferences, the UI4All European Working Group (ERCIM) and the EU funded IS4All research network. As Secretary/Treasurer of SIGACCESS, I have contributed to promoting the SIG's scientific activities, especially ASSETS annual conferences and the new TACCESS Journal. I have also encouraged student involvement and synergies between researchers, assistive technology stockholders and end user communities. As Vice Chair, I shall further these aims, and encourage the development of international scientific collaborations for advancing research on Computer Accessibility and Assisted Living.

Candidate for Vice Chair

Enrico Pontelli
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., New Mexico State University, 1997.

Professional Experience:

Professor of Computer Science , New Mexico State University, Dept. of Computer Science, Las Cruces, NM, 1997 – Present;

Lecturer, University of Texas at El Paso, Dept. of Computer Science, El Paso, TX, 1996 – 1996;

Consultant, EniData, Bologna, Italy, 1990 – 1991.

Professional Interest:

Accessibility (Web and Mathematics); Semantic Web; Knowledge representation and reasoning; Declarative Programming; Bioinformatics.

ACM Activities:

General Chair, ASSETS, SIGACCESS, 2007;

Program Chair, ASSETS, SIGACCESS, 2005;

Doctoral Consortium Chair, ASSETS, SIGACCESS, 2004;

SIGACCESS Impact Award Committee Chair, SIGACCESS, 2008.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

PC Member and Co-Chair of Young Investigators Program, ICCHP Conference, 2008;

PC member, ICCHP, 2006;

PC Member, W4A Conference, 2005 – 2008.

Awards Received:

ACM: Recognition of Service Award (PC Chair, ASSETS 2005), 2005; Recognition of Service Award (General Chair, ASSETS 2007), 2007; Best Paper Award (CUU 2003) 2003, OTHER: First Prize, Non-det. Track, International Planning Competition, 2008; Distinguished Career Award, NMSU, 2007.

STATEMENT

I have been an active researcher in the field of computers and accessibility since 1998. I have actively supported SIGACCESS, serving as committee member, program chair (2005), and general chair (2007) of ASSETS and nomination chair (2006). As a vice-chair, I pledge to dedicate effort towards expanding the visibility of SIGACCESS, facilitating

interaction and collaborations with other relevant organizations and conferences (e.g., I have served in various roles in the ICCHP conference series). I propose to explore new activities, that will expand participation to SIGACCESS, especially targeting undergraduate and graduate students. I strongly believe in the need of nurturing the next generations of researchers and practitioners to ensure a healthy growth of the SIG. I would also like to see SIGACCESS becoming a reference point for other SIGs and other researchers, practitioners, and policy making organizations seeking expertise and knowledge about computers and accessibility. This will ensure that SIGACCESS activities and participant will receive recognition and visibility within ACM and in the more general realm of accessibility and assistive technologies.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Shari Trewin
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Hawthorne, NY, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Edinburgh, 2008, Artificial Intelligence.

Professional Experience:

Research Staff Member, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Hawthorne, NY, USA,
2000 – Present;

Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1998 – 1999;

Applications Scientist, Edinburgh Parallel Computing Center, Edinburgh, Scotland,
1991 – 1994.

Professional Interest:

Accessibility in virtual worlds; Technology for the maturing workforce; Web accessibility;
Interaction techniques for people with motor impairment; Personalization and self-adaptive
user interfaces.

ACM Activities:

General Chair of ASSETS 2009 Conference, SIGACCESS, 2007 – 2009;

Program Chair of ASSETS 2007 Conference, SIGACCESS, 2006 – 2007.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Chair of Human-Computer Interaction Professional Community, IBM T.J. Watson Research
Center, 2008 – 2010.

Awards Received:

ACM: Recognition of Service Award, 2007; ASSETS 1998 Best Student Paper Award,
1998.

Other: IBM Outstanding Innovation Award (Virtual world accessibility), 2008; Best paper
award (W4A Workshop on Web accessibility), 2006; IBM Research Division Award (Web
accessibility technologies), 2003.

STATEMENT

I attended my first ASSETS conference as a Ph.D. student in 1996 and accessibility has
been my core research interest ever since. SIGACCESS plays an important role as a
champion of accessibility and a source of information both within the academic community

and the ACM organization. If elected as secretary/treasurer, I would work to support this agenda.

One of my priorities would be to get accessibility into the production process for the ACM Digital Library. The current process can actually reduce the accessibility level of documents submitted. Another goal would be to forge stronger ties between SIGACCESS and organizations that represent and advocate for people with disabilities and older adults.

As a regular attendee, past program chair and 2009 General Chair of the ASSETS Conference, I have a broad understanding of and deep commitment to the field. I would be delighted and honored to serve the community as the next secretary/treasurer of SIGACCESS.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Jinjuan Heidi Feng
Towson University, Towson, MD, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., UMBC, 2005, Information Systems.

Professional Experience:

Assistant Professor, Towson University, Towson, MD, 2005 – Present.

Professional Interest:

Assistive technology; Speech interface; Security and privacy.

Awards Received:

ACM: Best paper award, ACM ASSETS Conference, 2008.

STATEMENT

I am highly honored to be nominated for this office. Being a member of SIGACCESS since I was a graduate student, I have been enlightened by the activities that SIGACCESS organizes and I hope I will have the opportunity to serve our community. I have a business background that will help me manage the financial activities of SIGACCESS. If elected, I would like to work with the other SIGACCESS officers and members to further strengthen the ties among existing members and keep our community growing.

Beyond performing the specific duties of the Secretary/Treasurer, I will also work to improve the effectiveness of SIGACCESS in promoting the recognition of accessibility concepts and methods to undergraduate and graduate students in IT related majors.