Candidate for Member at Large

Alan L. Selman
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BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:
Ph.D., Penn. State University, 1970, Mathematics.

Professional Experience:
Professor, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY, 1990 – Present;
Professor and Chairman, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY, 1990 – 1996;
Professor, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 1986 – 1990.

Professional Interest:
Computational complexity.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
Member of the Executive Board, Technical Committee on FOCS, IEEE Computer Society, 1985 – 1988;
Conference Chair, Structure in Complexity Theory Conference, IEEE Computer Society, 1986 – 1988.

Awards Received:
ACM: Fellow, 1997; SIGACT Distinguished Service Award, 2001.
Other: Meritorius Service Award, IEEE Computer Society, 1989.

STATEMENT

As a sponsor of several major annual conferences, SIGACT is a large and successful organization. The Committee for the Advancement of Theoretical Computer Science (CATCS) has the important responsibility of influencing and advising funding agencies and of increasing visibility of theory of computing. CATCS has been especially successful in advising NSF and in assisting in recruiting for positions. CATCS needs to continue to establish ongoing programs to tell our story, for good theory of computing is essential for good computer science. We should make this case in many different ways to several different constituencies. SIGACT needs to continue to play the leadership role in the effort to raise funding levels.

Peter Lee, Head, Department of Computer Science, CMU, wrote “it seems pretty clear that, over the next decade, the best CS departments will be required to have the best theory

research." It would be wonderful for computer science and for our students if SIGACT could influence CS departments broadly to invest in research in theory of computing.

Members may learn more about my view of theory of computing by reading the report, sponsored by NSF, "Challenges for Theory of Computing" at http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/~selman/report/.