

Candidate for Chair

Lance Fortnow
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., MIT, 1989, Applied Mathematics.

Professional Experience:

Professor, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2008 – 2009;
Professor, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2003 – 2007;
Senior Research Scientist, NEC Research Institute, Princeton, NJ, 1999 – 2003.

Professional Interest:

Computational Complexity; Electronic Commerce.

ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, SIGACT, 2005 – 2009;
Editor-in-Chief, ACM Transactions on Computation Theory, 2007 – 2009;
General Chair, ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce, 2008 – 2008;
Editor, JACM, 2005 - 2009

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Chair of Steering Committee, IEEE Conference on Computational Complexity,
2000 – 2006;
Organizer, Focus on Computation and the Socio-Economic Sciences, DIMACS,
2004 – 2007.

Awards Received:

ACM: Fellow, 2007.
Other: Fulbright Scholar in The Netherlands, 1996; NSF Presidential Faculty Fellow, 1992.

STATEMENT

During the past four years as vice-chair I have seen SIGACT continue its role as the leading organization for theoretical computer science. SIGACT has had great success in increasing NSF funding in theory through its Committee for the Advancement of Theoretical Computer Science. Personally, I led the launch of the new SIGACT sponsored journal ACM Transactions on Computation Theory. SIGACT continues to successfully run STOC and other major conferences, maintains a strong newsletter and remains fiscally very strong.

Still the theory community has many challenges and SIGACT should lead the way.

As theory grows we find ourselves fracturing somewhat into the various subfields. SIGACT needs to work to keep the theory community strong as a whole, in particular making sure that the SIG fairly treats the needs of all members of our community.

SIGACT should work with other SIGs in joint projects to bring new directions to our field as well as keep others aware of the importance of theory in our community.

The current state of the economy will pose challenges to recruiting and beyond. SIGACT must take a leadership role in helping the theory community, individually and as a whole, to grow and remain successful.