

Candidate for Member at Large

Michael Mitzenmacher

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BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., U. C. Berkeley, 1996, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, Harvard University, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Cambridge, MA, 1999 – 2009;

Research Scientist, Digital Systems Research Center, Palo Alto, CA, 1996 – 1999.

Professional Interest:

Algorithms; Randomized Algorithms; Probabilistic Analysis; Networks; Information Theory.

ACM Activities:

SIGACT Committee for the Advancement of TCS, SIGACT, 2005 – 2007;

STOC 2009 Program Chair, SIGACT, 2008 – 2009.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

IEEE FOCS Conference Treasurer, IEEE, 2005 – 2008.

Awards Received:

Other: IEEE Information Theory Society Best Paper Award, 2002.

STATEMENT

As Member-at-Large for SIGACT, my main goal would be to promote theoretical computer science to the rest of the computer science community and other scientific communities. Only recently has the TCS community started to organize and vocalize about its agenda, but we are already starting to see payoffs, including increased consideration in NSF funding and a greater role in groups like the Computing Community Consortium. While the tendency in the TCS community is to let the theorems speak for themselves, we must continue to do a better job promoting our work and our contributions. I would consider that to be my primary job, if elected.

My other main goal is increased education. As many have noted and Jeanette Wing has popularized, computational thinking is far more than programming. The notions of algorithms and complexity are fundamental to computational thinking, and therefore the theory community can and should play a key role in developing and promoting

computational thinking curricula at all levels. Such efforts will improve scientific education overall, enhance the stature of computer science in general and of theory in particular, and improve the pipeline of students looking to computer science as a career.