

Candidate for Vice President at Large

John Charles Thomas
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1971, Experimental Psychology.

Professional Experience:

Research Staff Member, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY USA, 1998 – 2009;

Executive Director, AI Lab, NYNEX Science and Technology, White Plains, NY USA, 1986 – 1998;

Research Staff Member, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, USA, 1973 – 1986.

Professional Interest:

HCI for Community and International Development; HCI and Green IT; Tools for High Performance Computing; e-learning; Business Use of Stories and Storytelling.

ACM Activities:

Mentoring, Creativity and Cognition Conference; SIGCHI, 2007 – 2008;

CUU Publications Co-chair; SIGCHI, 1998 – 2000;

CHI '94 Advisor, SIGCHI, 1992 – 1994;

CHI '91 General Co-Chair, SIGCHI, 1989 – 1991.

Awards Received:

ACM: Service Award for CUU, 2000.

Other: Invention Plateau, 2006; Technical Group Award, IBM, 2006; NYNEX Recognition of Excellence Award, 1991; First and Third Prize Winner, National Creativity Contest, 1979.

STATEMENT

Clearly, HCI is critical to solving the crucial issues we face as a species. In recognition of this, the field is expanding in several critical ways including a much vaster array of application areas, a wider range of users living in wider geographical areas and potentially using a wide range of technologies. To expand on just one of these; wider geographical areas entail:

- Different languages
- Different climate

- Different infrastructure
- Different cultures
- Different needs

These are times of great opportunity and great challenge raising questions such as:

How do we effectively cumulate scientific, technical, practical and artistic knowledge in a field that has become so broad?

How do we communicate effectively with other related fields and groups?

How do we construct a conference that is both coherent and comprehensive?

How do we become more inclusive to a wider group of stakeholders and yet sustain a sense of community?

How can we use modern social computing technology to make SIGCHI more democratic, intelligent, and responsive?

I believe the last one will be key in addressing the others and here is where I plan to focus my efforts.