

## Candidate for Vice President at Large

Paula Kotzé

Meraka Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of York (UK), 1997, Computer Science (Human-Computer Interaction).

#### Professional Experience:

Principal Researcher, Meraka Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa; 2008 - Present (held various other lecturing positions since 1981 at Unisa);

Director, Centre for Software Engineering, 1999 – 2008; Director School of Computing, 1999 – 2006. University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa;

Professor Extraordinaire: University of South Africa; Pretoria, South Africa; 2008 – Present.

#### Professional Interest:

ICT for Development (including multi-cultural issues, accessible design and usability (focusing on the physically and cognitively disabled / challenged, and social development); Human-computer interaction education; Enterprise Engineering; Human Factors Engineering; Software Engineering.

#### ACM Activities:

Vice President at Large, SIGCHI, 2006 – 2009;

Programme Committee Member, CHI 2002 Development Consortium;

Guest Editor, Interactions Special Issue 2003 (Winds of Change);

Professional Member, ACM, 1999 – Present.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

President, SAICSIT (South African Institute of Computer Scientists and Information Technologists (ACM Affiliated), 1999 – 2004, Vice-President, 2008 - 2010;

Chair, IFIP Working Group 13.1 – HCI Curriculum and Education, 2005 – Present, (previously vice-chair from 2001);

Professional Member, IEEE, 2003 – 2008.

#### Awards Received:

Chancellors Prize for Best Researcher, University of South Africa, 2003; Several best paper awards; Elected Member of the European Academy of Science; IFIP Silver Core Award.

### **STATEMENT**

With a background in both computing and industrial psychology, and a history of combining the two fields in my research and professional life since the early 1980's, the advancement of the field of human-computer interaction is a major objective (and passion) of mine, firstly on the continent of Africa but also worldwide. The request to make myself available to serve the SIGCHI committee is therefore not only a great honor, but, if elected, would also provide me a further platform from which to promote the field. My last three years as Vice President at Large of SIGCHI gave me valuable experience and insights in the operation of the ACM and SIGCHI. It also made me realize that the criticism often levelled at SIGCHI for being too North American focused, largely neglecting the customs and cultures of the wider world, is indeed not too far off. Being an African I feel that I can play a major role in promoting a greater international culture for SIGCHI and help move this organization forward towards becoming truly international. If elected I wish to focus my energy on this issue over the next 3 years.