

Candidate for Member at Large

Matthew Flatt
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Rice University, 1999, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 2006 – 2009;

Assistant Professor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 2000 – 2006.

Professional Interest:

Extensible programming languages; Programming environments; Run-time systems; Education of beginning programmers.

ACM Activities:

Steering Committee member, ICFP, 2004 – 2007.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Steering Committee member, Scheme Workshop, 2002 – 2004.

STATEMENT

As a SIGPLAN member at large, I would be a voice for those who believe that conferences have become too important relative to journals. Our conferences have taken over the prestige that other disciplines reserve for journals, so that our conferences tend toward more conservative acceptances and more complex reviewing processes (including double-blind submission and author-response periods), which work against the goal of broadcasting new research directions and ambitious new ideas. In comparison, our journal system, which offers the time and expertise needed for the careful review of enduring results, is left under-used and under-supported (especially by paper referees) despite the admirable efforts of journal editors. I have no easy fixes, nor do I think that immediate radical change is appropriate, but I think we should do all we can to nudge the balance back in favor of journals.