

SGB Position: SGB Council Representative

Joseph A. Konstan

Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Konstan received an A.B. from Harvard College (1987), and M.S. (1990) and Ph.D. (1993) from the University of California, Berkeley, all in Computer Science. Since then, he has been a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. He has also been an Adjunct Professor of Public Health since 2007, and Associate Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering since 2008. He has served as director of graduate studies in both computer science and software engineering. He has also served as the University of Minnesota's representative to the Federal Demonstration Partnership (a partnership of funding agencies and about 100 universities focused on reducing the administrative burden associated with grants) and as vice-Chair of the FDP.

His work in human-computer interaction broadly covers online community, personalization technology and applications, and online health-promotion applications. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and articles, holds 6 US patents, and co-authored a book on recommender systems. He has advised 7 Ph.D. graduates and 50 M.S. graduates. He has given over 250 invited talks in more than 25 countries worldwide (some of them while serving as an ACM Distinguished Lecturer).

He is co-founder of Net Perceptions, Inc. (1996), a company that commercialized recommender systems software. He consults widely with businesses on UI design and personalization technology.

Within ACM, he has served as SGB Chair (2006-2008), President of ACM SIGCHI (2003-2006), SGB VC Operations (2004-2006), MSB vice-Chair (2004-2006), and on the SIGCHI and SIGMM executive committees. He has chaired ACM UIST 2003 and ACM Recsys 2007, and was program co-Chair for ACM Multimedia 2000 and was on the editorial board of the ACM/Springer Multimedia System journal, among many other roles. He served on the Task force on ACM-W (2006-2007).

Dr. Konstan was named an ACM Distinguished Scientist in 2006 and ACM Fellow in 2008.

STATEMENT FOR PUBLICATION:

I have been actively involved in SIG leadership for ten years (joining the executive committees of SIGCHI and SIGMM in 1999), and an active consumer and volunteer of ACM's conferences and technical activities for much longer. I've learned that ACM's SIGs are the core of the organization—the place where volunteers are engaged and where individuals come in contact with technical and organizational excellence. I've also learned that there are areas where ACM could do better—areas of importance not only to the SIGs, but to the health of ACM and the field as a whole. I'd like the opportunity to work, on Council, to address some of these areas:

Chapters and Local Activities. While ACM has excelled at delivering the best content worldwide (through the DL, journals, and conferences), it has fallen behind in its ability to support individuals connecting together through local activities. This area is being addressed, and would like to bring my experience in the SIGs to help explore models for adding local connection to ACM's broader membership experience.

Online Community and Connectivity. The tools for online community have grown substantially. ACM must support its members, and the SIGs, more effectively through more active engagement with everything from social networking to conference capture and virtual conferences. I want to help ensure that these steps happen together with the SIGs, and not in competition with them.

Internationalization. We have made great strides in holding conferences overseas, in diversifying our editorial boards, and in making the DL available worldwide. But this is an area where we must not rest; we must continue to reduce barriers to participation and location to serve the entire field.

Advancing the Field. Perhaps ACM's most important role is advancing computing, from education to diversity, from professional development to recognition.

I am honored to have been nominated. And I would be honored to serve in this role.