

Candidate for Chair

Sven Koenig
University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, 1997, Artificial Intelligence.

Professional Experience:

Full Professor, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA, 2011 – Present;
Program Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), Washington, DC, 2010 – 2012;
Associate Professor, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA, 2003 – 2011.

Professional Interest:

Heuristic Search and Planning; Probabilistic Reasoning; Decision Making;
Coordination of Multi-Agent Systems; Robotics.

ACM Activities:

Conference Coordination Officer, SIGAI, 2014 – Present;
Research Highlights Editor, Communications of the ACM (CACM), 2015 – Present;
Distinguished Speaker, Distinguished Speakers Program, 2013 – Present;
Student Mentor for the AAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Consortium, (event supported by SIGAI),
2002 – Present (frequently).

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Council Member, AAI, 2013 – 2016;
Program Co-Chair, ICAPS 2004, AAMAS 2005, AAI 2015, EAI, 2016 – 2017;
Associate Editor, JAIR 2006 - 2007, JAAMAS 2010 – Present, AIJ, 2014 – Present.

Awards Received:

Dean's Award for Innovation in Teaching and Education (USC), 2015;
Fellow (AAI), 2013;
Director's Award for Collaborative Integration (NSF), 2011.

STATEMENT

AI is an exciting field to work in. I believe that SIGAI will be able to support its members even better by taking more advantage of us being part of ACM. For example, I am a liaison to the Research Highlights track of CACM, which provides a great opportunity to make AI research visible to a large number of computer scientists worldwide. In my current role

as SIGAI officer, I have also helped to start the AAAI/ACM SIGAI job fair at the AAAI conference and intend to grow it further. I also intend to pursue activities such as:

- 1) extending our newsletter "AI Matters" and including more material for AI practitioners and AI students (such as internship opportunities);
- 2) creating additional resources, such as a database with abstracts of recent AI dissertations, and investigating whether journalism students are interested in creating webcasts on AI topics with leading AI experts; and
- 3) reaching out to the public, other ACM special interest groups and professional organizations in neighboring disciplines (such as operations research, robotics and cognitive science) to give them a better idea of the state-of-the-art in our field and help to cross-fertilize communities.

Candidate for Chair

Kiri Wagstaff
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Cornell University, 2002, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Principal Researcher, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, 2003 – Present;
Senior Research Scientist, JHU Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD, 2002 – 2003.

Professional Interest:

Machine Learning; Spacecraft Autonomy; Artificial Intelligence;
Natural Language Processing.

ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, SIGART, 2005 – 2007.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Council Member, AAI, 2015 – Present;
Member, AAI, 2000 – Present.

Awards Received:

NASA Group Achievement Award (Mars Exploration Rover Team), 2014;
NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal, 2012;
AAAI Outstanding Program Committee Member, 2012;
JPL Lew Allen Award for Excellence in Research, 2008.

STATEMENT

I am delighted to run for Chair of SIGAI. I previously served as the Vice-Chair of then-SIGART from 2005-2007, and I have been actively involved in the SIGAI/AAAI Doctoral Consortium for over a decade. I am passionate about keeping AI relevant to real-world problems. I served as the founding Editor of the SIGAI newsletter, AI Matters, from 2014-2015, and I continue to support its goals of promoting the visibility of (1) young AI researchers and (2) AI innovations with societal impact.

I believe that SIGAI can be a vocal agent to shape how AI is perceived by those outside the community. In addition to fostering these SIGAI efforts, I would also like to identify ways to make SIGAI membership more rewarding for members. Social events? Competitions? Webinars? Opportunities for recognition? Tell me what matters to you!

Candidate for Vice-Chair

George Bekey

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., UCLA, Engineering, 1962.

Professional Experience:

Beckman instruments, Computer applications engineer, 1956 - 1958;

TRW Systems, Member of the technical staff, 1958 -1962;

USC, Professor of computer science, electrical and biomedical engineering, 1962 – 2002,
(Chair, Computer Science, 1984-89; Associate Dean of Engineering, 1996-2000).

Professional Interest:

Robotics; Robotic applications in biology and medicine; Robot ethics.

ACM Activities:

Member, ACM and SIGAI.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

IEEE, ACM, AAI, AAAS;

IEEE Robotics and Automation society, President, 1998 – 2000.

Awards Received:

Fellow: IEEE, AAI, AAAS, AIMBE;

Member, National Academy of Engineering;

Distinguished Faculty Award, USC School of Engineering;

Distinguished Alumnus in Academia Award, UCLA School of Engineering and Applied Science.

STATEMENT

As one of the older members of the SIG, I can provide some historical perspective to the group. The first computer I worked on was a mechanical differential analyzer, a machine developed by Vannevar Bush during the second world war to calculate and plot trajectories of bullets and anti-aircraft shells. In 1962, I published a book on hybrid analog-digital computers, jointly with the late Walter Karplus from UCLA. My earliest AI experience was development of an expert system for diagnosis of abnormal gait in orthopedic patients. Also, for a number of years I taught the undergraduate AI course at USC, using the first edition of Russell and Norvig. I'm a AAI Fellow, but I don't have a long grey beard; I trust that this will not be held against me.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Sanmay Das
Washington University in St. Louis, MO, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., MIT, 2006, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, 2013 – Present;
Associate Professor, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 2012 – 2013;
Assistant Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 2007 – 2012.

Professional Interest:

Multi-agent systems; Machine learning; Economics and computation;
Computational social science; Sequential decision-making.

ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, SIGAI, 2013 – Present.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, INFORMS, 2007 – Present.

Awards Received:

NSF CAREER Award, 2010.

STATEMENT

I am proud of what Yolanda, Susan, and I have accomplished with SIGAI over the last three years. Increased membership and visibility, a completely revamped newsletter, and a healthy roster of conferences with stable governance structures are just some of the highlights (not to mention the long-awaited name change from SIGART to SIGAI!). I personally took on the responsibility of spearheading the start of a new conference series, the SIGAI Career Network Conference (with tremendous support from the other officers and organizers), and am happy that it was a success that we are building on with the 2016 edition planned for October in Boston (see <http://sigai.acm.org/cnc/>).

I hope to be able to continue my role as vice-chair. My priorities would be to:

1. Bootstrap CNC into a "must attend" event for both junior and senior researchers.

2. Rationalize and improve our relationships with our many "in cooperation" conferences.
3. Provide continuity for the new Chair and Secretary/Treasurer with the knowledge I have gained over the last few years, both within SIGAI and within ACM more broadly.

Thanks for considering me for another term!

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Maria Theresa Earle
IntelliFunda LLC, Spring, TX, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Doctorate in Education, University of Houston, 2011, Curriculum and Instruction.

Professional Experience:

CEO, IntelliFunda LLC, Spring, TX, 2015 – Present;
Adjunct Professor, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ, 2015 – Present;
Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, 2012 – 2015.

Professional Interest:

Intelligent pedagogical learning agents; Big data analytics; Computational Linguistics Algorithms; Software Engineering; Native cross platform app development.

ACM Activities:

Task Force Member, ACM Computational Thinking Task Force, 2015;
Computer Programming Standards Reviewer, ACM/CSTA, 2012 – 2013.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Board Member - WIED Division, American Society of Engineering Educators (ASEE),
2014 – 2015;
Board Member - MIND Division, American Society of Engineering Educators (ASEE),
2014 – 2015;
Grant Proposal Panel Review Board, National Science Foundation (NSF), 2012 – Present.

Awards Received:

AECT - NSF Delegate, 2013;
AERA - Emerging Scholar, 2012.

STATEMENT

I am honored to have this opportunity to seek the SIGAI Secretary-Treasurer position. I have been fascinated with the possibilities of applied intelligent programming since my doctoral dissertation which investigated the use of an autonomous robot to help deepen a student's understanding of computer programming. I have been a member and volunteer for ACM since 2011. I have taught at research universities since 2012 where my research in STEM has led to journal publications and invitations to speak locally, nationally, and globally. I have worked as a computer programmer and systems engineer in the software engineering industry

for over 15 years. Finally, I am Founder and CEO of IntelliFunda, which designs intelligent behavioral tutoring apps. In my role as CEO, I wear many hats including maintaining company records, managing the company budget, and communicating with our team members. Given this role and my prior experience, I feel I am qualified to serve on the SIGAI Executive Committee and provide advice to the Chair on all financial matters of interest to SIGAI. I hold a Doctorate in Education from University of Houston, Masters in Software Engineering from Penn State University, and a Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from Boston University.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Rosemary D. Paradis
Lockheed Martin, Rockville, MD, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Binghamton University, 1998, Binghamton, NY Computational Learning.

Professional Experience:

Research Engineer Principal, Manager, Software Engineer, Chief Architect Lockheed Martin, Rockville, MD, July 2000 - Present;

Lecturer, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, 2013 – 2014;

Associate Professor, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY, 1997 – 2000.

Professional Interest:

Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Computational Learning, Computational Linguistics, Data Science.

ACM Activities:

Member, 1997 - Present (including various subgroups).

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member IEEE, INNS, AAI, AAUW, Cognitive Science Society, Society for Women Engineers, 1997 - Present;

Program Committee, Complex Adaptive Systems Conference, 2010 – Present;

Program Committee, INNS Big Data 2015.

Awards Received:

26 Patents Awarded, 1979 – Present;

Dissertation Year Fellowship, Binghamton University, 1993 - 1994;

Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sussex, England, April 1992 – June 1992;

Residence Study Award, IBM, 1990-1993.

STATEMENT

I am honored to run for the position of Secretary-Treasurer of SIGAI. I have been active in artificial intelligence and computational learning for the majority of my career. I have been a member of the ACM and have attended many conferences and special sessions. I have a great amount of experience organizing workshops and events, led many large research projects and have managed large research budgets. As an educator, I taught AI and machine learning and have relied on ACM information to build my class materials

As the world progresses to relying on smarter technology, the reliability and performance of computer systems and services will become crucial to the future of society. With computer memory and storage growing, learning algorithms will have access to huge stores of data, such as device, medical and social data, that will benefit many areas of society and allow labor-intensive tasks to be automated. If elected, I will work with the other elected officers to further strengthen SIGAI value to industry, academic and research communities. As secretary-treasurer, I would focus on making sure there was a solid financial foundation for the activities of this vital organization.