

Candidate for Chair

Diane Kelly
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2004, Information Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2014 – Present;
Associate Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2010 – 2014;
Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2004 – 2009.

Professional Interest:

Interactive Information Retrieval; Search Behavior; Human Computer Interaction;
Research Design.

ACM Activities:

CHIIR Co-Chair, SIGIR, 2015 – Present;
SIGIR Treasurer, SIGIR, 2013 – Present;
SIGIR Program Co-Chair, SIGIR, 2012 – 2013;
SIGIR Forum Co-Editor, SIGIR, 2007 – 2012.

Awards Received:

Academic Leaders Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016;
ASIST Research Award, 2014;
BCS's IRSG Karen Spärck Jones Award, 2013;
ASIST Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award, 2009.

STATEMENT

I am excited to run for Chair of SIGIR. Serving as your treasurer for the past three years has allowed me to learn about SIGIR's finances and operations, and participate in the implementation of many new programs, including the student travel grant program. Part of my interest in running for Chair is to continue to shepherd these initiatives.

One of my primary goals is to increase membership, which has been static for some time. It is no longer sufficient to assume everyone will want to join SIGIR just because it is SIGIR. I plan to create targeted advertising campaigns and better branding. I want to make visible the many ways SIGIR supports our community.

Another goal is to create alternative ways for people to be involved. Last year, several students formed the Women in IR group. I will continue to support these types of initiatives and encourage others to consider creating affinity groups or initiatives that appeal to them.

A final goal is to increase the amount of time devoted to discussion at the SIGIR Business Meeting and create additional forums so people can discuss SIGIR-related issues and programs on an ongoing basis.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Jaap Kamps
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Amsterdam, 2000, Knowledge representation.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2012 – Present;
Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2003 – 2011;
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1999 – 2002.

Professional Interest:

XML/focused/semantic/graph search; Web search (links, anchors, logs);
Evaluation and user studies; Context and complex task support; Cross-language IR.

ACM Activities:

SIGIR Secretary, ACM SIGIR, 2013 – 2016;
ICTIR Steering Committee Member, ACM SIGIR ICTIR, 2014 – Present;
CHIIR Steering Committee Member, ACM SIGIR CHIIR, 2014 – Present;
PC Chair, ACM SIGIR/CIKM/WSDM workshops (various), 2007 – 2015.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Co-chair, Initiative for the Evaluation of XML retrieval (INEX), 2007 – 2014;
Track Organizer, TREC Contextual Suggestion Track, 2012 – Present;
Track Organizer, CLEF Social Book Search Track, 2015 – Present.

Awards Received:

JASIST Best Paper Award, 2012.

STATEMENT

It is my pleasure to run for vice-chair of SIGIR.

SIGIR has enjoyed a very successful last decade, even to the point that outsiders think of search as a solved problem. But there is no time for complacency. There are massive challenges in the way the information available is changing in quantity and in character, and in the ways we create, publish, share, and use information in the always-online world.

This urges us to keep 'reinventing search' and redefine the field of information retrieval

and its key research problems and research methods. This requires new collaborations between the field as a whole, and build new bridges between computer science and information science, between theory and experimentation, and between industry and academia. It needs to be clear what common goals we pursue, and how we each can contribute to achieving these goals.

As SIGIR secretary, I was actively involved in founding two new sponsored conferences, ICTIR and CHIIR, and I represent SIGIR on their steering committees. But this is only a first step in redefining "IR" and I look forward to working with the rest of the executive committee to make SIGIR even better.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Vanessa Murdock
Microsoft, Redmond, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 2006, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Principal Applied Scientist, Microsoft, Redmond, 2012 – Present;
Senior Research Scientist, Yahoo! Research, Barcelona, Spain, 2008 – 2012;
Postdoctoral Researcher, Yahoo! Research, Barcelona, Spain, 2006 – 2008.

Professional Interest:

eCommerce; Location-based search technologies; Multimedia retrieval;
Computational Advertising; Sentence Retrieval.

ACM Activities:

Co-Chair IR Track, CIKM, 2015;
Senior PC Member, SIGIR, WSDM, CIKM, 2011 – Present;
Reviewer, SIGIR, WSDM, CIKM, 2006 – Present;
Workshop Co-Organizer, SIGIR, WSDM, CIKM, 2006 – Present.

Awards Received:

OAA Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Young Alum UMass, 2014;
Master Inventor Award Yahoo!, 2012.

STATEMENT

Two opportunities to improve the IR community are: diversity, and tech transfer.

1. It is imperative that the community be inclusive with respect to ethnicity, age, gender, and nationality. To accomplish this, positions of authority such as the conference leadership, senior program committee, reviewers, invited speakers, and session chairs must represent as broad a spectrum as possible. Although the decisions about filling these positions are made by the individual conference organizers, the ACM has the power to ensure that the organizers diversify their line-up. There is no excuse at this point for having a lack of diversity in conference leadership.
2. There is pressure on academics by funding agencies to align their research to the goals of industry. Unfortunately, industrial research is focused entirely on the needs

of their products, and this limits the resources that can be directed toward long range research problems. At the same time, much academic research that could be applied does not satisfy the production constraints. As a community we need to direct applied research to make it transferable, but not limit the academic community to the product horizon. Finding ways to accomplish both goals is an open challenge.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Tetsuya Sakai
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Waseda University, 1999, Information filtering.

Professional Experience:

Professor, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, 2013 – 2016;

Lead Researcher, Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, PRC, 2009 – 2013;

Director, Natural Language Laboratory, NewsWatch, Inc., Tokyo, Japan, 2007 – 2009.

Professional Interest:

Information retrieval; Information access; Human computer interaction; Natural language processing.

ACM Activities:

SIGIR 2017 General Co-chair, SIGIR, 2017;

TOIS associate editor (IRJ representative), TOIS, 2015 – Present;

SIGIR 2013 Programme Co-chair, SIGIR, 2013.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editor-in-Chief (Asia and Australasia), Information Retrieval Journal, Springer, 2014 – Present;

NTCIR General Co-chair, NII Testbeds and Community for Information access Research, 2014 – Present;

Chair, Asia Information Retrieval Societies (AIRS), 2012.

Awards Received:

MobileHCI 2014 Honorable Mention;

SIGIR 2013 Best Paper Shortlisted Nominee;

AIRS 2012 Best Paper Award.

STATEMENT

My goals:

- 1) Listening to diverse voices.

Gender: Whenever we delegate responsibilities to our community members (e.g., for running a conference), my target female:male ratio will be 50:50.

Countries and Regions: From my experiences of running AIRS and NTCIR, and of living in UK and China, I know the importance of listening to the views of regional IR communities. I will strive to bring a SIGIR to wherever there is an excellent IR community.

2) Industry-academia collaboration.

I am now an academic but I spent 20+ years in industry. I will strive to foster industry-academia collaboration. SIRIP is a good direction towards this goal, but I will seek to provide more opportunities for academics to specifically sell their ideas to industry, and for industry professionals to specifically seek solutions to practical problems from academia.

3) Conference-journal collaboration.

By leveraging my experiences as a past SIGIR PC co-chair and the current Information Retrieval Journal editor-in-chief (Asia/Australasia), I will explore systematic ways to make our conference-journal collaboration mutually beneficial. Specifically, I will seek ways for SIGIR and IR-related journals to collectively speed up the reviewing process while ensuring high quality.

Candidate for Secretary

Falk Scholer
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., RMIT University, 2004, Information Retrieval.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2016 – Present;
Senior Lecturer, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2008 – 2015;
Lecturer, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2004 – 2007.

Professional Interest:

Evaluation of information retrieval systems; Relevance and user perceptions;
Document summarization; Interactive search and user modelling; Efficient indexing.

ACM Activities:

Publicity Chair, ACM SIGIR, 2017;
Tutorial Chair, ACM SIGIR, 2014;
Poster and Demo Chair, ACM SIGIR, 2012.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Program Chair, Asia Information Retrieval Societies Conference (AIRS), 2015;
Program Chair, Australasian Computing Doctoral Consortium (ACDC), 2011 – 2012;
Program Chair, Australasian Document Computing Symposium (ADCS), 2010 – 2011.

Awards Received:

SIGIR best paper honorable mention, 2015; AIRS Best Paper Award, 2009.

STATEMENT

Since attending my first SIGIR conference in 2002 I have enjoyed participating in the SIGIR community in various roles, including as author, reviewer, SPC member, poster and demo chair, and tutorial chair. By applying for the position of secretary, I would like to contribute to the running of SIGIR and to support our community.

I see a key aspect of the secretary role as facilitating communication, and if elected I will strive to further enhance communication both between the executive committee and the community, as well as within the community. Approaches might include virtual discussion forums and online feedback technologies, as well as creating additional opportunities for face to face themed

discussions at conferences. Such initiatives might also further strengthen the voice of the SIGIR community externally.

A great strength of SIGIR is its support of students, for example through travel grants. It is vital that we build on this success. Together with fellow executive committee members I would like to devise ways to offer further support, including for early career researchers who often don't have extensive resources of their own. Examples to consider could include the provision of central resources, or offering stipends, for carrying out experimental work.

Candidate for Secretary

Ryen W. White
Microsoft Health, Redmond, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Glasgow, UK, 2005, Computer Science (Information Retrieval).

Professional Experience:

CTO, Health Intelligence, Microsoft Health, Redmond, WA, 2015 – Present;
Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, 2006 – Present;
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2004 – 2006.

Professional Interest:

Search interaction; Health; Machine learning; Data mining; Psychology.

ACM Activities:

Program Co-Chair, SIGIR Conference, 2017;
Short Papers Co-Chair, SIGIR Conference, 2015;
Associate Editor, Transactions on Information Systems, 2010 – Present;
Treasurer, CIKM Conference, 2008.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, ACM and SIGIR, 2005 – Present;
Chair, Steering Committee for ACM SIGIR CHIIR, 2014 – Present.

Awards Received:

BCS-IRSG Karen Spärck Jones Award, 2014;
SIGIR Best Paper Award, 2013;
SIGIR Best Paper Award, 2010;
SIGIR Best Paper Award, 2007.

STATEMENT

I am immensely proud to have been a SIGIR member for over a decade. I applaud the outgoing executive committee for their work to broaden the influence of the SIG via sponsored conferences, support students (through dedicated events and conference travel assistance), and maintain a healthy financial situation. As SIGIR secretary, I will uphold these traditions, while also finding further ways to increase student engagement with SIGIR. Additionally, I will strive to grow SIGIR membership and conference submissions/attendance via outreach to related communities, and by ensuring that we broadly communicate the value and breadth of our offering. In doing so, I will seek out ways to embrace richer and more

diverse interpretations of the SIG's mission and focus areas to broaden engagement with our colleagues in machine learning, data science, and human-computer interaction, among others. Also, I believe that we can further enhance our location rotation of SIGIR to minimize overlap with related events, and maintain and build the SIGIR community globally. I will be receptive to your feedback, and I am open to additional suggestions for other action items. It would be an honor to join the SIGIR executive committee and serve as your SIG's secretary.

Candidate for Secretary

Emine Yilmaz
University College London, United Kingdom

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Northeastern University, 2008, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University College London, UK, 2015 – Present;
Research Consultant, Microsoft Research Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, 2013 – Present;
Assistant Professor, University College London, UK, 2014 – 2015.

Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval; Data Mining; Crowdsourcing; Data Science; Machine Learning.

ACM Activities:

Steering Committee, ACM ICTIR, 2016 – Present;
Practice and Experience Chair, ACM WSDM, 2017;
Area Chair, ACM SIGIR, 2014 – 2016;
Area Chair, ACM CIKM, 2011 – 2014.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Organizing Member (Elected), British Computing Society, Information Retrieval Specialist Group, 2014 – Present;
Co-organizer, Center for Statistics and Machine Learning (CSML), 2013 – Present.

Awards Received:

Karen Spärck Jones Award, 2015;
Google Faculty Research Award, 2014;
Northeastern University Outstanding Researcher Award, 2006.

STATEMENT

It is a great honor and pleasure to run for Secretary of ACM SIGIR. If elected, I would focus on the following objectives:

- To work with other SIGIR officers to increase the membership in SIGIR.
- To enable increased representation of start-up companies at SIGIR (possibly by organizing an entrepreneurship session) in order to facilitate interactions between startups and other researchers.

- To facilitate increasing collaborations between the natural language processing (NLP) and information retrieval (IR) communities.
- To encourage higher participation of women, and enable more interactions between women at SIGIR by organizing lunch time events, etc.

Candidate for Treasurer

Krisztian Balog
University of Stavanger, Norway

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Amsterdam, 2008, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Stavanger, Norway, 2013 – Present;
Postdoctoral Researcher, Norwegian University of Science and Technology,
Trondheim, Norway, 2011 – 2012;
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2008 – 2011.

Professional Interest:

Information retrieval; Semantic search; Evaluation.

ACM Activities:

Associate Editor, Transactions on Information Systems, 2015 – Present;
Information Director, SIGIR, 2013 – Present.

Awards Received:

Best Paper Award at ECIR, 2011;
Best Doctoral Consortium Paper Award at SIGIR, 2007.

STATEMENT

I attended my first SIGIR conference exactly 10 years ago, in 2006, on a student travel grant. SIGIR has a long history of supporting students and the current administration has done an excellent job at expanding it even further. I consider it a top priority that this support continues.

I have been an active member of the community. I serve as a senior PC member at SIGIR and CIKM. I have served as the Information Director of SIGIR since 2013, working alongside the current administration.

If elected, these are some of the issues I would like to open up for discussion:

- (1) Lowering conference registration fees.
- (2) Initiating closer collaboration between IR conferences and journals (e.g., shared review board).

- (3) Reconsidering the positioning of ICTIR. I am very happy for the two new SIGIR conferences. In my opinion, however, theory is core to our field and there has to be room for it at our main conference. At the same time, the Americas would need a regional IR conference. Why not make ICTIR the IR conference of the Americas? In addition, could ECIR perhaps be moved under the auspices of SIGIR?
- (4) Reinstating the Best Doctoral Consortium Paper Award.

Candidate for Treasurer

Ben Carterette
University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2008, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, 2014 – Present;
Assistant Professor, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, 2008 – 2014.

Professional Interest:

Information retrieval; Effectiveness evaluation; Statistical inference; Test collections.

ACM Activities:

General Co-Chair, WSDM 2014, SIGIR/SIGWEB/SIGKDD/SIGMOD, 2013 – 2014;
General Co-Chair, ICTIR 2016, SIGIR, 2014 – Present;
SIGIR Forum Co-Editor, SIGIR, 2014 – Present;
Short Papers Co-Chair, SIGIR 2016, SIGIR, 2015 – Present.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, ACM, 2003 – Present;
Member, ACM SIGIR, 2003 – Present.

Awards Received:

Best Paper Award, ICTIR 2015;
Best Paper Award, ICTIR 2009;
Best Paper Award, SIGIR 2006.

STATEMENT

I submitted my first SIGIR paper as an undergraduate in 1999. It was (rightly) rejected, but I was fortunate to be able to attend the conference in Berkeley anyway, thanks in part to the SIG's volunteer program. My experience was so positive that I stayed with the community, and I'm now running for SIGIR Treasurer with the goal of continuing and expanding SIGIR's tradition of bringing students into the fold by helping them attend events that they wouldn't be able to otherwise.

In particular, I would like to focus on increasing opportunities for traditionally underrepresented groups in computer science to attend our conferences. IR, as one of the most "forward-facing"

areas of CS to the world in the form of web search engines, particularly benefits from a diverse range of views and experiences.

As General Co-Chair of two SIGIR-sponsored conferences (WSDM 2014, which was profitable, and ICTIR 2016 in September), I have experience balancing budgets. As an active member of the SIGIR community for over a decade, I am familiar with the workings of the organization. I would be honored to serve it in this way. I thank you for considering my case.

Candidate for Treasurer

Claudia Hauff
Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Twente, the Netherlands, 2010, Computer Science
(Information Retrieval).

Professional Experience:

Assistant Professor, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands, 2013 – Present;
Postdoctoral Researcher, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands, 2011 – 2013;
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Twente, the Netherlands, Enschede, Netherlands,
2010 – 2011.

Professional Interest:

Web Science; Searching as Learning; Retrieval on the Social Web; Interactive Information
Retrieval; Web Engineering.

ACM Activities:

ACM SIGIR Area Chair, 2015 – Present;
ACM WSDM Proceedings Chair, 2014;

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member of the Steering Committee ICT with Industry NL, NWO, 2016 – Present.

STATEMENT

In recent years, SIGIR has provided increasing amounts of financial aid to students (through student travel support grants) and conferences. While this support has made the supported conferences more accessible to students, the same cannot be said about non-permanent members of staff (postdocs, etc.) at academic institutions with lower levels of financing. There is no easy solution to this problem, but I do believe in more selective financing - not every Ph.D student requires funding (there may be sufficient funding available at the home institution) and not every academic member of staff can be expected to have sufficient funding available to attend a venue such as ACM SIGIR.