

SIGCHI FY2006 Annual Report
July 2005 - June 2006
Submitted by: Joseph Konstan, SIGCHI President

Awards

SIGCHI's 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award: jointly to Judith S. Olson and Gary M. Olson, pioneers in the field of computer-supported collaboration.

SIGCHI's 2005 Lifetime Service Award was awarded to Susan M. Dray.

SIGCHI inducted the following new members into the CHI Academy: Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Scott Hudson, Hiroshi Ishii, Jakob Nielsen, Peter Pirulli, and George Robertson.

SIGCHI's Social Impact Award was awarded to Ted Henter.

In addition to these awards, several SIGCHI Conferences conveyed awards:

CHI 2006 awarded three best paper awards:

A Role for Haptics in Mobile Interaction: Initial Design Using a Handheld Tactile Display Prototype
Joseph Luk, University of British Columbia, Canada
Jérôme Pasquero, McGill University, Canada
Shannon Little, University of British Columbia, Canada
Karon MacLean, University of British Columbia, Canada
Vincent Lévesque, McGill University, Canada
Vincent Hayward, McGill University, Canada

Embedded Phenomena: Supporting Science Learning with Classroom-sized Distributed Simulations
Tom Moher, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Trackball Text Entry for People with Motor Impairments
Jacob Wobbrock, Carnegie Mellon University, USA
Brad Myers, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

UIST 2005 gave two awards:

SIGCHI BEST paper awards:

Automation and customization of rendered web pages
by Michael Bolin, Matthew Webber, Philip Rha, Tom Wilson, and Robert C. Miller (MIT)

Lasting Impact Award

Gordon Kurtenbach for his work on marking menus

Other conferences have also given "outstanding paper" and "best paper" awards, but we do not have these centrally tracked (one more thing to work on!).

Significant Programs and Key Issues

1. Conferences. SIGCHI continues to sponsor a mix of long-running and newer conferences which provide the highest-prestige outlets for research while also serving as venues for emerging work (e.g., the workshop programs and poster sessions in many of our conference), promoting

student education

(e.g., the doctoral colloquia and student volunteer programs in our conferences), and promoting continuing professional education and networking (e.g., the tutorial and course programs and our special interest group gatherings and recruiting and networking events). Most of our conferences are stable, and are well run by the communities they serve. We put substantial direct effort into our flagship CHI conference, which has undergone substantial redesign in the past few years.

In particular, now that CHI 2006 is complete, we can report success in our effort to redesign the conference to bring back a segment of the practitioner community that has been in decline at CHI. The changes were outlined last year, but highlights include moving from expensive pre-conference tutorials to a higher registration fee with a four-day (instead of three-day) main conference in which courses are offered in parallel with other technical sessions, creating new venues under the control of communities of practice (e.g., usability case studies), adding a recruiting evening reception, and (last year) increasing the number of papers accepted back to historic levels (20-25%). While these changes were not without controversy (and increased fees were a particular source of complaints), we experienced a substantial boost in attendance and initial satisfaction with the program seems to be quite high.

As a result, we are nearly at the point of having rebuilt our fund balance to the point where we can start investing more substantially in new development activities. We are grateful to ACM's financial operations staff, to ACM SIG services staff, and to the volunteers that have helped us change CHI to reflect today's conditions and to help us emerge stronger.

2. Chapters

The SIGCHI chapters program continues to serve thousands of members worldwide. We continue to work with the MSB to explore ways of better communicating with chapters and their members, and have been active in expanding chapters in India and China.

3. Publications

We have been working with the ACM Publications Board on issues related to interactions magazine, helping to support the magazine and develop new management structures that allow it to succeed among design-sensitive readers while making use of ACM's in-house talent and structures.

We have not make as much progress as we'd hoped either on the idea of encouraging more conference paper authors to develop their work further into journal papers or on standards and review criteria for evaluating contributions from communities other than the research community. More work remains here.

4. Elections

We have had substantial success in our election process. Most offices had more than the required number of candidates (including 3 pairs of candidates for President/Executive vice-President). We held an electronic election which gave us the benefit of announcing the winners in time for the annual CHI conference and making that conference a useful venue for hand-off and get-up-to-speed activities. We are now working to find volunteer opportunities for and make good use of those candidates who were not elected.

Thanks to the willing volunteers who stood for election and the hard work of our election committee, we have a capable set of new officers to take SIGCHI forward through the next three

years.

5. Electronic Infrastructure

While we have maintained our electronic infrastructure (mailing lists, web sites), we have not made the progress we hoped for. This is an area that we know will need further development in the coming years. It is also one where we hope to leverage the expertise and staff support of ACM.

6. US Public Policy

SIGCHI's US Public Policy committee has been active (including a successful workshop held at CHI 2006). We are currently in coordination discussions with USACM to help ensure that ACM can speak with one voice while not neglecting issues of importance to the HCI community.

