Candidate for Treasurer

Paul N. Bennett
Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Professional Experience:
Researcher, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, 2006 – Present;

Professional Interest:
Contextual and personalized information retrieval; Enriched information retrieval; Text classification and mining; Adaptive systems; Data mining & machine learning.

ACM Activities:
Member, ACM, 2008 – 2013;
SIGIR Area Chair, SIGIR, 2013 – Present;
CIKM Senior Program Committee, CIKM, 2011 – 2013;

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:
WSDM Tutorial Chair, WSDM, 2012;
Publication Chair (Budgeting for transition to e-proceedings), ICML/IMLS, 2006;

Awards Received:

STATEMENT

SIGIR is a healthy and well-run organization with advanced organizational planning that exceeds most other professional organizations. As Treasurer, I intend to provide the logistic support to the Executive Committee to continue this tradition. Additionally, given the financial health of the organization, in collaboration with the SIGIR community, I will pursue a fiscally responsible plan to encourage growth in membership of the organization, promote broader involvement in information retrieval research, and increase long-term membership
and participation in SIGIR. Students are the future of the SIGIR community, so I would like to explore methods of increasing ongoing participation by students at SIGIR and SIGIR-sponsored conferences. For example, we could consider: (1) using a small portion of funds to promote repeat attendance by students; (2) exploring how travel support can be extended to SIGIR-sponsored conferences (CIKM, WSDM, JCDL); (3) and investigating the feasibility of supporting student authors of SIGIR papers to present highlight talks of their work at other top conferences. Finally, I will seek your input about opportunities for continuing to increase the visibility of SIGIR.