

## Candidates' Personal Statements

### **Teacher Education Representatives**

#### **Barbara Ericson**

Director, Computer Science Outreach, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.

My goals as Director of Computer Science Outreach for Georgia Tech are to increase the quantity and quality of computing teachers at the secondary level, and to increase the quantity and diversity of computing students. I have been working to achieve these goals since 2004. In order to achieve the first goal, I develop curriculum and teach workshops for secondary computing teachers. For the second goal I create curriculum for computing summer camps for middle and high school students. I also hold computing workshops for girl scouts and for YWCA afterschool programs. I have been a CS AP reader since 2006 and a frequent contributor to the field.

#### **John Thompson, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Educational Computing, Computer Information Systems Department, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York.

My motivation is to give back to the profession by helping CSTA assist K-12 students and teachers to study about computers. Being on the Board aligns with my personal desire to bring K-12 and higher education together in a collaborative effort to better promote computer science opportunities for all students. Commitment to public service is a top priority for me. The CSTA Board offers a tremendous platform to practice, develop and leverage my leadership abilities to help all those involved in computer education. My extensive experience in K-12 and higher education, coupled with my experience in government and private sectors and on nonprofit boards, will benefit the organization. The Board will get a hard-working individual who is dedicated and committed, and who wants to contribute and make a difference.

### **State Department Representatives**

#### **Ghada Khoury, Ph.D.**

Higher Education Coordinator for Teacher Quality Preparation and Certification programs, State of Michigan Department of Education, Lansing, Michigan.

Currently, I work with the State of Michigan in a capacity devoted to improving the quality of K-12 teacher preparation in content areas, including Computer Science. As a result of my current state position and my previous work with CSTA, I am very familiar with the current issues facing the preparation of teachers in Computer Science across states and what should be done for a better understanding of this discipline and its importance by state officials and for improving the education quality of K-12 computer science teachers. By serving on the CSTA board, I am confident that I can share that vision and work with other state's officials to complete what I already started to meet my goal in promoting the quality of computer science education in K-12 schools, nationwide.

#### **Deborah Seehorn**

Education Consultant, Business and Information Technology Education, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, North Carolina.

With my strong background in mathematics and business education, computer science education is near and dear to my heart. Teaching in the early 1980's, I was quick to embrace the concept of incorporating desktop computers into the high school curriculum. Later exploits led me to teach computer courses at the community college. Subsequently I taught high school business computer courses. After becoming an education consultant at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI), I accepted responsibility for business courses in the Information Technology (IT) career cluster, including the AP Computer Science course. Serving on the CSTA Special Committee on Certification rekindled my interest in computer science education. I welcome the opportunity to serve in any capacity that will further computer science education in our K – 12 schools.

## **International Representatives**

### **Judith Gal-Ezer**

Professor, Computer Science Department, The Open University of Israel, Raanana, Israel.

The most important goal of my professional life is promoting CS education in schools and as CSTA's first international director I have worked hard to build knowledge of CSTA across the globe and to represent the interests of CSTA's international members at the Board level. Besides serving as a CS faculty in the Open University of Israel, I chair the Ministry of Education CS professional committee and co-chair of the CS program committee. In this capacity I have helped to design and implement a well established and rigorous CS curriculum for high schools. I have also worked improve pre-service education and professional development for teachers. By serving on the CSTA board I hope, with the assistance of all directors and volunteers, to bring similar benefits to all of CSTA's members.

### **Margot Phillipps**

Teacher and Executive Director of New Zealand Olympiad in Informatics, Lynfield College, Auckland, New Zealand.

I am a teacher of Programming at a high school (Lynfield College, 6 years) in Auckland, New Zealand. Prior to that I had 18 years teaching programming and CS related topics at 2 Polytechnics. I have been involved for several years with the various government initiatives to improve the teaching/curriculum of CS at the secondary school level. I have been a member of various working groups and have been invited to address symposiums devoted to these issues. I have also established the New Zealand Olympiad in Informatics organisation. Until 2006, New Zealand had never entered an IOI and there was no organisation with this responsibility. I led our first team in 2006, then established an organisation and summer training camp and was the team leader in 2007. I am executive director of this organisation. I have a deep commitment to, and passion for, CS in high schools and an interest in what is happening in other countries with respect to CS education.

## **At-Large Representatives**

### **John Harrison**

Teacher, Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I strongly believe that computer science is a crucial ingredient of high school education. In today's technologically complex and rapidly evolving world, we can no longer reserve computer science for just our "best and brightest" students. These courses develop logical thinking and problem solving, skills which are crucial to success. The evolution of powerful desktop computers and the development of software packages such as Alice have made computer science education affordable and accessible. We cannot afford to ignore this requirement. I have taught high school Computer Science since 1999, teaching BASIC, C++, Java, and Alice. These courses' positive impact on all students is evident in the development of their independence, logical thinking, and problem solving. As a CTSA Director, I will work to expand High School Computer Science accessibility.

### **John Landa**

Lead Teacher, Technology and Media University Academy, South East High School (Los Angeles Unified), Long Beach, California.

I was going to major in "Undecided". Then I took AP Computer Science in high school. That class inspired me to earn a degree in Electrical Engineering / Computer Science from Berkeley. After a few years in industry, I decided that I wanted to share my passion. During the past 4 years, I have been teaching AP Computer Science and programming classes at a high school in South Gate. South East High School is an inner-city school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The student population is 99% Latino. As the At-Large member, I plan to share the inner-city student's perspective with the board. I want to help make decisions that will promote computer science awareness and opportunities, especially in underrepresented populations.