

# bulletin

## New Beginnings

It is with great respect and gratitude that I assume the editorship of the *SIGCHI Bulletin*. Respect for the membership of SIGCHI and the value that you receive from the columns and content in the *Bulletin*, and gratitude to the many people whose past and continued efforts make this newsletter possible.

As some of you know, I was asked this summer to succeed Steven Pemberton as editor. Steven has been doing "double-duty" editing *interactions* and the *Bulletin*, while still finding time to work as a leader in the HTML standards community and take on special projects (such as serving as co-chair of CHI 97!). I am honored to be asked to fill this role, and I welcome the high standard Steven has set for the *Bulletin*.

It takes the work of many dedicated people to produce each issue of the *Bulletin*, and I would especially like to express my gratitude to the contribut-

ing editors. Each of these editors solicits and writes regular columns on topics of interest. The entire editorial team has been generous in this transition, and I am pleased to say that almost all of them will be continuing (and those few who are leaving are doing so to take on other responsibilities within the CHI community). Over the next few issues, you will see additions to the editorial staff as we attempt to provide even more of the content that you have requested.

### The Role of the Bulletin

In September I sent e-mail to chi-announcements (if you're not on the list, see the SIGCHI web page to join!) asking for feedback on what people want the *Bulletin* to be. While there was little overall consensus, I was able to identify two strong themes.

Many people identified the *Bulletin* as a medium for learning about and experiencing events that they could not per-

sonally attend. People referred to workshop summaries, conference reports, and other first-hand accounts of informative and important events in the CHI community. The *Bulletin* has long served as a venue for CHI conference activity reports, and I will be appointing an editor to extend that role by soliciting "scouts" to report on a wider range of conferences of interest to SIGCHI members. We will also continue to strengthen our coverage of the CHI conference, soliciting volunteers to cover more panels, invited talks, and other activities.

The second theme is community. As a newsletter, the *SIGCHI Bulletin* can serve a special role in the CHI community. This is a forum where you, the members of SIGCHI, can contribute ideas, express opinions, and discuss

the issues we face as a discipline. Starting with January 2000, the *Bulletin* will include a "Letters to the Editor" department. I encourage you to wield the power of the pen to speak out on issues of importance. Letters may include reactions to content that is published, but also any commentary on issues related to SIGCHI and its membership. Later in 2000, we will be adding additional community-oriented features including an "op-ed" department that will feature editorial opinion articles.

I hope you will enjoy these new features, and I hope you will take the time to drop me a note with your thoughts on how the *Bulletin* can better serve you. A quick e-mail message to [chi-bulletin-editor@acm.org](mailto:chi-bulletin-editor@acm.org) can provide me and the editorial team with the guidance we need to keep the *Bulletin* relevant and valuable.

One more thing; please consider volunteering to help produce the *Bulletin*. I have placed a list of open positions on the web site (<http://www.acm.org/sigchi/bulletin>) and encourage you to think about whether you would be willing to serve the CHI community in one of those positions. Or, send me a message suggesting other ways in which you can help.

Best wishes for the new year, and I look forward to hearing from you!