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TUG Business

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Report: TUG 1999 Election

The number of candidates nominated for the open offices in the 1999 TUG election fell short of the number which would require a ballot.

The office of President was open, as were up to 12 positions on the Board of Directors. There was one candidate for President, Mimi Jett, and 11 candidates for the Board: Barbara Beeton, Karl Berry, Kaja Christiansen, Donald DeLand, Susan DeMeritt, Stephanie Hogue, Judy Johnson, Ross Moore, Cheryl Ponchin, Kristoffer H. Rose, and Philip Taylor.

According to the TUG Election Procedures, when the number of candidates is fewer than the number of open positions, all candidates who have met the qualifications are declared elected by acclamation. The term of the President expires as of the annual meeting in 2001; the terms of Board members in this class expire at the meeting in 2003. Since the Board was not at full strength before the election, the President has exercised her prerogative and appointed those candidates who were not already on the Board to assume office immediately. Please welcome Stephanie Hogue and Cheryl Ponchin. A current list of members of the TUG Board of Directors can be found inside the front cover.

Since no ballots were mailed, TeX Users Group members have not had the opportunity to read the biographies and personal statements of the candidates. Without this information it is difficult to know each candidate's particular interests, and their vision for the future of TeX Users Group. The information which would have accompanied the ballot follows this report, to introduce these individuals to the membership.

> Christina Thiele
> Arthur Ogawa
> For the Elections Committee

Members of the TUG Board with Terms through 2003

Barbara Beeton

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Biography:

TUG: charter member of TUG; charter member of TUG Board of Directors; *TUGboat* production staff since 1980, Editor since 1983; committees: publications, bylaws, elections; chair, Technical Working Group on Extended Math Font Encoding; liaison from Board to Knuth Scholarship Committee 1991–1992

Employed by American Mathematical Society: Staff Specialist for Composition Systems; involved with typesetting of mathematical texts since 1973; assisted in initial installation of TeX at AMS in 1979; implemented the first AMS document styles; created the map and ligature structure for AMS cyrillic fonts

Standards organizations: active 1986–1997 in: ANSI X3V1 (Text processing: Office & publishing systems), ISO/IEC JTC1/SC18/WG8 (Document description and processing languages); developing the standard acroISO/IEC 9541:1991 Information technology—Font information interchange

AFII (Association for Font Information Interchange): Board of Directors, Secretary 1988–1996

STIX representative to the Unicode Technical Committee for adoption of additional math symbols

Personal statement:

TUG has changed over the years, with its transition from an appointed to an elected Board. Those charged with shaping its future direction have tried to do so in a way that encourages participation by all members, not just a few. Similarly, the typographic landscape has changed as well, and though the object that is our focus—TeX—is still a tool of undeniable utility, it is just part of a growing pool of text processing software, some of it borrowing from the features that first attracted us to TeX. I maintain my commitment to Don Knuth's original goals for this tool: high

typographic quality and portability. Within this framework, my goal is to continue working for unconstrained communication among TEX users, to encourage exploration of techniques consistent with the typographic excellence we have come to expect, and to act as a historian of the TEX community when that is appropriate.

Karl Berry

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Biography:

First contact in 1982. Subsequently, many installations at many organizations (not to mention many readings of the *TEXbook* and *Metafontbook*). Co-author of *TEX for the Impatient*, one of the first comprehensive non-Knuthian books on TEX. I took over maintenance of the Unix port of TEX (i.e., Web2c) in 1990 from Tim Morgan (and have since happily given it to another volunteer). Along with Web2c, I developed kpathsea, a freely redistributable library for path searching and variants of three DVI drivers that use it; Eplain, a macro package that extends plain TEX(and an unpublished alternative to LaTEX based on it); `modes.mf`, a collection of Metafont modes and adaptations; a list of short fontnames for portable use within TEX across platforms; and adapted the Adobe Lucida Math fonts for TEX. I am also the maintainer and primary developer for GNU Texinfo, a TEX-based documentation format. Besides such programming tasks, I've also produced the usual books, articles, collections, and ephemera, studied typeface design, and co-written several articles on reading research and mathematical analysis of type. For TUG, I serve as the system coordinator for Unix, and participate on several committees (notably CTAN, DVI standards, and TEX directory structure), as well as acting as principal system administrator of the `tug.org` and `ctan.org` machines and domains.

Personal statement:

For TEX to grow, and perhaps even to survive, I believe there must be substantive development of the basic TEX program, and that TUG should support such. I am particularly interested in furthering the cause of TEX as a public program and competitive alternative to commercial typesetting programs.

Kaja P. Christiansen

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Biography:

I was born in Warsaw, Poland. After obtaining an MSc in Mathematics at the University of Warsaw, I eventually moved to Denmark. I came to love my new country, where I have now lived and worked for more than 20 years.

My job at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Aarhus involves system administration, system and software support for our SUNs and responsibility for all aspects of a well-functioning TEX system on our Unix and Macintosh platforms: maintainance, local styles, in-house classes and (very) frequent user support, both at our department and others. The department has about 550 students, 80 employees, a large number of active research groups, close ties to the National Centre for IT Research (CIT), and it hosts the BRICS Research Centre and International PhD School.

Personal statement:

The first time I heard about TEX was in 1979. On leave in Palo Alto, I wanted to take some courses at Stanford and my top priority was lectures by Prof. Donald Knuth. That's impossible, I was told, Prof. Knuth was on leave due to work on *a text processing project...* Back home, it didn't take long before we had installed a runnable system and thus introduced an early version of TEX in Denmark. Times were different: we were on friendly terms with TANGLE and WEAVE, and local modifications (Danish!) were managed with our own style files. Since then, TEX (and later LaTEX) has been used by our faculty, students and staff for research publications and all sorts of documents.

TEX is more than a task to me — it is also a hobby. Much has changed over the years. There are impressive developments within package libraries, font area and multilingual support — just to name a few. New tools are designed for a portable and standarized system. In an ever changing and dynamic field, TEX remains to be an irreplacible tool, used and loved by a worldwide TEX community. As a member of the board, I am committed to help promoting TEX related projects. My special interests are projects of immediate value to TEX users: TEXLive, *TUGboat* and TUG's WEB site, and I would like to continue working on them.

Don DeLand

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Biography:

In 1991 I founded Integre Technical Publishing, a full-service composition house that specializes in producing STM (science, technical, and medical) books and journals. The core of our business has been the production of books and journals using TeX and LaTeX, and we are currently developing full-text SGML and online projects using a variety of TeX-related tools such as IBM's `techexplorer`, Scientific WorkPlace, and Advent 3b2.

I have served as treasurer and board member of the TeX Users Group since the summer of '97. As treasurer I have been working with the office staff to put TUG's financial records in order, create a budget, and generate a realistic picture of TUG's financial situation. I have also been involved in organizing the TeXNE and TUG'99 conferences.

Personal statement:

There are three goals I would like to see TUG accomplish in the coming years:

(1) Make TUG more responsive to the needs of its members. TUG needs to publish articles and present conferences that are relevant to the average TeX user; we need to revive the teaching of courses; and we need to ensure the continued delivery of the CTAN and TeX Live CDs.

(2) Increase TUG membership and revenues. New members are necessary to the vitality of TUG. TUG can attract and retain members by increasing responsiveness, distributing *TUGboat* in a timely manner, and increasing TUG's visibility particularly within math/science societies and at colleges and universities. With a larger membership TUG could better afford to sponsor specialized conferences and subsidize developmental efforts that members have requested.

(3) Continue improving the organization of TUG and the TUG office. The TUG office has made herculean efforts in the past year toward better organization and improved response time to inquiries, but a great deal of work remains. In addition, TUG's archives for membership, finances, and past board proceedings are not well organized, and there currently exist no organizational guidelines for the board. The result has been inadequate transition between successive boards.

Susan DeMeritt

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Biography:

I have been employed by the Center for Communications Research–La Jolla (CCR–LJ) since its inception in 1989, as the Senior Technical Publications Specialist. My responsibilities include coordinating the production of technical working papers and organizing conferences. I manage the inputting, editing, and publication preparation of working papers for 30 full-time (in-house) mathematicians, plus 20–30 more who participate in our summer program. Our authors use various forms of TeX as well as LaTeX!

I also assist with organizing conferences and meetings for groups of people numbering anywhere from 10–75.

Personal statement:

As a member of the Board of Directors of the TeX Users Group, I enjoy meeting TeX users from around the world and I enjoy the challenge of being involved in the workings of the group.

I have particularly enjoyed working on the annual (and semi-annual) conferences. I have been involved, at increasing levels of responsibility, with the conferences in San Francisco and New York City, and I am currently participating in planning the 1999 annual conference in Vancouver. Having worked on these conferences, as well as others for CCR-LJ, I am very motivated to keep improving the quality of the annual meeting so that everyone from the developer to the end user will benefit. I also want to work on assuring that the cost of the annual meeting allows for as many people to attend as possible.

Stephanie Hogue

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Biography:

For over 14 years, I worked for the Finance Department of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. In the '80s, we used proprietary word-processing and desktop-publishing equipment to produce research papers, data tables, and graphs for 30–40 professors. I managed this office and was also responsible for the department's LAN. When Word Perfect announced its first equation editor, the Finance Dept. formed a committee to consider the feasibility of migrating from the word-processing system to PC's. Appointed to this committee by the Department's Chairman, I was not impressed with the equation editor, which one of the assistant professors characterized as "watered-down TEX." He proposed adopting LATEX and showed me a file, cautioning me that "It's not as bad as it looks at first!" Once I tore my eyes away from that preamble, I agreed that LATEX seemed to have much more potential than Word Perfect.

About four weeks after starting to use LATEX, I received the first request for a style change! "Please figure out how to change the footnote mark for `\thanks` from a number to an asterisk when the titlepage option is used in an article." Thinking that all these commands are defined somewhere, I started rummaging in the style files. Comparing the definitions of `\maketitle` with and without the titlepage option led to the necessary code, and that was my first hack.

My job at Wharton evolved into providing TEX support — macro-writing, assisting users, installing and upgrading — as well as processing research and class materials. In 1996, I left Wharton and started freelancing. I now do business as "The TypeWright"; most of my clients are academicians in the fields of finance and econometrics. Last year, I had the chance to work with some terrific volunteers organizing the TEXNortheast conference, and I am currently Co-Chairman of the Program Committee for the 1999 meeting in Vancouver.

Personal statement:

While TEX is unsurpassed at mathematical typesetting, and the latest developments are exciting, and TEX on the Web offers new possibilities, the sheer amount of information is overwhelming. I think the challenge facing TUG is to help users access and understand what is available.

The enthusiastic response to TEXNortheast indicates that people need programs of this kind. I am interested in helping to design such conferences and in revitalizing TUG's training programs.

Judy Johnson

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Biography:

I have spent the last 8 years working directly with TEX and LATEX in commercial book publishing. My years of experience as a board member has turned my focus to the operations of the TUG Office.

Personal statement:

I wish to continue on in that direction, as I feel that our members and the service that we provide to them is our most important goal. We have established a cohesive office staff, corrected and updated our member data base, and are currently working towards making training available again. We are eager and excited about the future of the TUG Office!

Ross Moore

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Biography:

After obtaining a first degree from the University of Melbourne, Ross studied Mathematical Physics at the University of Oxford, emerging with a doctorate in 1981. Then followed 5 years at the Australian National University, before moving to Sydney in 1986 to work at Macquarie

University where he now teaches Mathematics, with an emphasis on Geometry and Computing.

Ross's current work is mainly about developing software useful for the presentation, display and publication needs of the scientific community, and mathematicians in particular. (For those in the know, this means TEX and related products.) Notable in this area is his contribution to XY-pic, being a primary author along with Kristoffer Rose. His work on LATEX2HTML during the past few years has made this into one of the most versatile and easy-to-use interpreters for LATEX, adding an important tool for the creation of Web pages, for academics and scientists, starting from LATEX source.

Ross joined the TUG board of directors at the 1997 meeting, in San Francisco and attended the TEX-NorthEast meeting in 1998. He frequently gives help and advice on the Textures and LATEX2HTML discussion lists.

Personal statement:

I have expertise programming in several languages: e.g. PostScript, Perl, HTML, *Mathematica* as well as TEX and LATEX, and have experience in combining these, as is needed in the production of technical documents.

As a member of the TUG board of directors, I intend to continue to offer my services and experience in these areas, and to help promote the use of TEX, LATEX and related products, as a useful tool for mathematicians, scientists, students and others.

Cheryl Ponchin

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Biography:

My name is Cheryl Ponchin and I am employed at the Center for Communications Research– Princeton (CCR-P) as a Technical Document Specialist III. My responsibilities at IDA/CCR-P include the production of technical working papers. I do papers for many mathematicians, plus many others who participate in our summer program. Our authors use various forms of TEX as well as LATEX!

Personal statement:

I have previously worked on the San Francisco and New York City conferences. I am currently participating in planning the 1999 annual conference in Vancouver. I have enjoyed working on these conferences very much and I would like to continue to offer my services to the TEX community.

Kristoffer Høgsbro Rose

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Biography:

I am a researcher in computer science, more specifically in the theory of programming languages. I began working with TEX in 1984, getting the TEX82 software from Stanford and making it work with Nelson Beebe's DVI driver suite. Once I started macro programming with TEX I was hooked: the fact that one can write formulae and programs that directly result in beautifully typeset output fascinates me still. The largest TEX thing I have written, and the one that got me onto the TEX stage, is a drawing system called XY-pic. One of its most important features is that one can easily produce drawings by automatic means, something that I hope to look into more in the future. The development of standardised markup formats in the SGML/XML context makes this realistic now, I think, so I have work ahead of me.

There is more information about me (and XY-pic) on my home page, `http://www.ens-lyon.fr/~krisrose`.

Personal statement:

I believe that the world is finally maturing to a point where documents are available in electronic form: instead of each document being an incomprehensible monolithic binary-format blob of data, it should be searchable, categorisable, etc. We in the TEX community are used to the luxuries provided by text files with well-defined markup. However, it has taken more than ten years for SGML to become accepted. A workable standard for mathematics, MathML, is now emerging, thus SGML is quickly invading the domain where TEX has been reigning for more than a decade.

This is a huge challenge for us in the TeX community, and many principles will have to be bent in the time to come. For example, should we encourage TeX engines to convert directly from SGML to PDF, completely bypassing text with \s and the venerable DVI format that we all know and love? I believe so, and hope that it will be as easy to interchange documents with advanced mathematics (and drawings!) as it is to exchange textual mail. I am certain that TeX has its place as the typographical engine producing output for a multitude of devices in the highest quality available for mathematical typesetting.

In my opinion we are ready to tackle that challenge in earnest; and the two international TeX conferences this year, TUG and EuroTeX, both have themes related to electronic publication.

Philip Taylor

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Biography:

Philip Taylor has been a TeX devotee ever since a visit (many years ago) to British Petroleum where he saw equipment *identical* to that which he was using (a Digital VAX, with Digital LN03 printer) producing output infinitely better than anything he could manage. Having found that BP were accomplishing this using TeX, he immediately took a copy on magnetic tape, and has never looked back. Although he now spends more time on electronic publishing than on typesetting *per se*, he is still a staunch advocate of TeX, and is currently Chairman of the UK TeX Users' Group, a member of the TUG Board, Programme Committee Chairman for EuroTeX'99, and Technical Director of the $\mathcal{NTS}$ project. He believes that, above all else, TUG should remember that its *raison d'être* is TeX, and that TUG should therefore concentrate on the furtherance of TeX rather than its own existence. If elected to the Board, he undertakes to

continue to press for the needs of the member to be put before the needs of the TUG office.

Position of President

Mimi Jett

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Biography:

Mimi Jett started her first business in the graphics and publishing industry in 1977, The Renaissance Press. Ten years later Electronic Technical Publishing (ETP) was her start-up that grew from the basement into a full-service provider of technical book composition and related services to college and professional publishers. For the past year, she has been working closely with Interactive Composition Corporation on the evolving requirements of publishing on the Internet. Beginning in April, Mimi will become the techexplorer Evangelist for Advanced Internet Publishing at IBM. Mimi and her husband Mike have four daughters ranging from 17 to 27 years of age, and two 8-month old puppies.

Personal statement:

Working for TeX Users Group over the past two years has been much more challenging, but also more rewarding, than I had imagined it could be. This is such an exciting and diverse combination of people, with so many opinions, ideals, and creativity.

It was through TUG that I met Gordon Johnson, the owner of Interactive Composition. Gordon is a very special man, who has contributed greatly to the success of many people, myself included. ICC continues to provide office space to TUG rent-free. Thank you, Gordon and Scott! It was also through TUG that I was introduced to the work IBM has done with techexplorer — utilizing LaTeX or MathML code in a dynamic hypermedia display — which changed my outlook on publishing, and subsequently, my life. I am very excited now to work with IBM, a truly great company.

It is an honor to represent our organization in the world community. If elected president, I will continue to work for the benefit of all our members. Thank you for your support.