

10th Knuth Prize: Call for Nominations

Mihalis Yannakakis

The Donald E. Knuth prize for outstanding contributions to the foundations of computer science is awarded every 1.5 years by the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computing Theory (SIGACT) and the IEEE Technical Committee on the Mathematical Foundations of Computing. The Prize includes a \$5000 award and a \$1000 travel stipend (for travel to the award ceremony) paid by ACM SIGACT and IEEE TCMFC. The Prize is awarded for major research accomplishments and contributions to the foundations of computer science over an extended period of time. The first Knuth Prize was presented at the 1996 ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC). Prizes are now awarded alternately at the ACM STOC and the IEEE Conference on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS).

The Prize is named in honor and recognition of the extraordinary accomplishments of Prof. Donald Knuth, Emeritus at Stanford University. Prof. Knuth is best known for his ongoing multivolume series, “The Art of Computer Programming”, which has played a critical role in establishing and defining Computer Science as a rigorous, intellectual discipline. Prof. Knuth has also made fundamental contributions to the subfields of analysis of algorithms, compilers, string matching, term rewriting systems, literate programming, and typography. His TeX and MF systems are widely accepted as standards for electronic typesetting. Prof. Knuth’s work is distinguished by its integration of theoretical analyses and practical real-world concerns. In his work, theory and practice are not separate components of Computer Science, but rather he shows them to be inexorably linked branches of the same whole.

The next Knuth Prize will be awarded at STOC 2010. The Knuth Prize winner is selected by a Prize Committee consisting of 6 individuals selected by the SIGACT and TCMFC Chairs.

The Prize Committee for the 10th Knuth Prize consists of:

Anne Condon (University of British Columbia)
Joan Feigenbaum (Yale University)
Ming-Yang Kao (Northwestern University)
Nancy Lynch (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Eli Upfal (Brown University)
Mihalis Yannakakis (chair) (Columbia University)

In selecting the Knuth Prize winner, the Committee will pay particular attention to a sustained record of high-impact, seminal contributions to the foundations of computer science. The selection may also be partly based on educational accomplishments and contributions such as fundamental textbooks and high-quality students. The award is not based on service work for the community, although service might be included in the citation for a winner if it is appropriate.

Nominations *Arrival deadline: 10 December 2009*

Nominations should be sent, by email if possible, to the Chair of the Prize Committee:

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1214 Amsterdam Avenue
Mail Code 0401
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027
USA
Email: mihalis@cs.columbia.edu

The nomination should state the nominee's name, summarize her/his contributions in a page, and give telephone, postal and email contact information for the nominator. Any supporting letters from other individuals should also be included in the material sent to the committee chair. All nominations will be considered by the Committee, but nomination is not a necessary requirement to receive the Prize.

Past Winners

2008: Volker Strassen
2007: Nancy Lynch
2005: Mihalis Yannakakis
2003: Miklos Ajtai
2002: Christos Papadimitriou
2000: Jeffrey D. Ullman
1999: László Lovász
1997: Leslie G. Valiant
1996: Andrew C.-C. Yao