12th Knuth Prize: Call for Nominations

Joan Feigenbaum

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 (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 presented alternately at STOC and the IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) with occasional adjustments to ensure that the prize is presented at STOC when STOC is part of the ACM Federated Computing Research Conference. The winner is invited to give a lecture at the conference.

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 Computing 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 inexorably linked branches of the same whole.

The next Knuth Prize will be awarded at FOCS 2012. **Nominations are due on March 2, 2012.** The winner will be selected by a Prize Committee consisting of six people appointed by the SIGACT and TCMFC Chairs. The Prize includes a $5000 award and a $1000 travel stipend (for travel to the award ceremony) that are paid by SIGACT and TCMFC.

The Prize Committee for the 12th Knuth Prize consists of:
- Joan Feigenbaum, Chair (Yale University)
- David Johnson (AT&T Labs)
- Ravindran Kannan (Microsoft Research)
- Ronitt Rubinfeld (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tel Aviv University)
- Alistair Sinclair (University of California, Berkeley)
- Eli Upfal (Brown 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 based partly on educational accomplishments and contributions such as fundamental textbooks and high-quality students. The award is not given for service to the theoretical computer science community, but service might be included in the citation for a winner if appropriate.

Nominations   *Arrival deadline: Friday, March 2, 2012*

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

> Joan Feigenbaum
> Computer Science
> Yale University
> P.O. Box 208285
> New Haven, CT 06520-8285
> USA
> joan.feigenbaum@yale.edu

The nomination should state the nominee's name, summarize his or her contributions in one page, and give telephone, postal, and email contact information for the nominator. Any supporting letters from other members of the community should be included in the package that the nominator sends to the Committee chair. All nominations will be considered by the Committee, but nomination is not a requirement to receive the Prize.

Past Winners

> 2011: Ravindran Kannan
> 2009: David Johnson
> 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