

TUG Business

TUG 2015 election report

Nominations for TUG President and the Board of Directors in 2015 have been received and validated.

For President, two individuals have been nominated: Kaveh Bazargan and Jim Hefferon. Thus, an election ballot is required, in accordance with the TUG election procedures (tug.org/electproc.html), and has been mailed. This year, voting online is also allowed, through the TUG members area, <https://www.tug.org/members>.

For the Board of Directors, the following individuals were nominated:

Pavneet Arora, Barbara Beeton, Karl Berry, Susan DeMeritt, Michael Doob, Cheryl Ponchin, Norbert Preining, and Boris Veytsman.

As there were not more Board nominations than open positions, all these nominees are duly elected for the usual four-year term. Thanks to all for their willingness to serve.

Terms for both President and members of the Board of Directors will begin with the Annual Meeting. Congratulations to all.

Board members Taco Hoekwater, Ross Moore, Steve Peter, and Philip Taylor have decided to step down at the end of this term. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank them for their service, and for their continued participation until the Annual Meeting.

Statements for all the candidates are appended, both for President (order determined by lot) and for the Board (in alphabetical order). They are also available online at the url below, along with announcements and results of previous elections.

◇ Kaja Christiansen
for the Elections Committee
<http://tug.org/election>

Kaveh Bazargan



(Candidate for TUG President.)

About me

I fell in love with \TeX in 1983, after discovering Don Knuth's " \TeX and MetaFont". I was the first \TeX user in Imperial College, London, and the first to submit a PhD written in \TeX . In 1988 I set up Focal Image Ltd (now River Valley Technologies) to deliver

\TeX typesetting to publishers. 25 years on, we are one of few typesetters paginating exclusively with \TeX . I feel I am well connected in the publishing industry and want to use that influence to promote TUG.

How I have supported TUG

- Hosted and funded two TUG meetings and donated back to TUG much of the registration fees.
- Personally recorded 7 TUG meetings (and 5 local TUG meetings) and arranged post-processing and hosting, gratis — TUG 2014 is in progress. The recordings have generated 100,000s of views on zeeba.tv.
- Since 2004, I have worked on a \TeX GUI to attract non- \TeX ies, including funding a free open version.

My plans for the future of TUG

Were I to be honored with the TUG presidency, here are some suggestions for building on TUG's outstanding reputation:

Increase institutional memberships and revenue

- Attract more publishers and typesetters to be members. Currently Springer is the only major publisher who is an institutional member.
- Broader pricing options: Reduce the entry to institutional membership, but increase the top rate, possibly linked to turnover.
- Offer a prominent badge for their web sites, e.g. "Supporting TUG" for institutional members. This will help publishers win support of \TeX authors.

Educate the publishing industry

- \TeX is a headache for publishers and typesetters. Sadly, the "industry standard" for handling \TeX submissions is to convert them to Word! TUG can play a part in organizing \TeX workshops which are badly needed.

Attract younger members

- Update the TUG home page with a modern "responsive" theme, and extend the current functionality.
- Add a modern front-end to CTAN, with thumbnails for each style file, graphical browsing, etc.
- Commission page designers to create non-technical templates for brochures etc.

Increase TUG meeting attendance

- Include sessions aimed at the publishing industry.
- Set up one-day conferences for publishers, through TUG, or via local TUG groups.

- Stream conferences live. Ironically this seems to increase attendance at conferences. (River Valley can offer this through Zeeba.tv.)

Jim Hefferon



(Candidate for TUG President.)

Statement: \TeX and friends are widely used today, part of the infrastructure of mathematics and science around the world. But we have challenges. Things change so quickly in this area and we must be sure to keep our tools sharp, so that they still do the job that users need the tools to do.

TUG must continue to try to understand the needs of our members and of the entire community, and to see how we can help with those needs. We must promote the \TeX suite in wider areas and to a new generation of users. And, crucially, we must take what steps we can to address the decline in our organization's membership.

As in the past, key is coordinating with our partners in other user groups around the world, continuing to hold conferences and to publish *TUGboat*, continuing to sponsor development including that of \TeX Live, and continuing to help fund new projects where feasible. But we must in addition try to find new ways to make \TeX and friends more visible, and to make TUG membership as attractive as possible.

Biography: I am a mathematics professor at Saint Michael's College in the US. I first extensively used \TeX in the early 90s when I wrote a freely-available textbook. Some people may know me from my time working on CTAN. I am also a long-time TUG Board member and am now Vice President.

Pavneet Arora



I design and engineer control and automation systems for residential and commercial projects such as lighting, audio/video, HVAC, security.

One great shortcoming in such projects is the lack of adequate documentation — caused in no small part because few systematic methods exist with which to capture either the design or the implementation specific information. As such, my current research interests involve the specification driven documentation of signals using the \TeX family of

tools. I firmly believe that \TeX toolsets distinguish themselves not only for the beauty of the output they produce, but also by the ease with which they integrate into modern documentation workflows as well as their ability to handle the demands placed upon them.

I am also passionate about mathematical literacy in young children, especially in cases where these students are shunted out of the mainstay curriculum, and continue to explore the development of dynamically generated math worksheets using \TeX to aid in their learning.



Barbara Beeton

Biography: For \TeX and the \TeX Users Group:

- charter member of the \TeX Users Group; charter member of the TUG Board of Directors;
- *TUGboat* production staff since 1980, Editor since 1983;
- Don Knuth's " \TeX entomologist", i.e., bug collector, through 2014;
- TUG committees: publications, bylaws, elections;
- liaison from Board to Knuth Scholarship Committee 1991–1992.

Employed by the 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 ISO/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, 1998–2012, with continuing informal connections.

Statement: Once again I've decided it's not quite yet time to retire. \TeX continues to provide interesting problems to work on, and TUG still provides a focus for dedicated \TeX users.

I believe there's still a place in the TUG ranks for one of the "old guard", to provide institutional memory when it's appropriate, and cheer on the younger folks who are trying new things.

With support from the members of this wonderful community, I'd like to continue for four more years.

Karl Berry



Biography: I served as TUG president from 2003–2011 and was a board member for two terms prior to that, and one term subsequently. I am running again for a position on the board.

I have been on the TUG technical council for many years, and co-sponsored the creation of the \TeX Development Fund in 2002. I'm one of the primary system administrators and webmasters for the TUG servers, and the production manager for our journal *TUGboat*.

On the development side, I'm currently the editor of \TeX Live, the largest free software \TeX distribution, and thus coordinate with many other \TeX projects around the world, such as CTAN, \LaTeX , and pdf \TeX . I developed and still (co-)maintain Web2c (Unix \TeX) and its basic library Kpathsea, Eplain (a macro package extending plain \TeX), GNU Texinfo, and other projects. I am also a co-author of *\TeX for the Impatient*, an early comprehensive book on plain \TeX , now freely available. I first encountered and installed \TeX in 1982, as a college undergraduate.

Statement: I believe TUG can best serve its members and the general \TeX community by working in partnership with the other \TeX user groups worldwide, and sponsoring projects and conferences that will increase interest in and use of \TeX . I've been fortunate to be able to work on TUG and \TeX activities the past several years, and plan to continue doing so if re-elected.

Susan DeMeritt



My name is Susan DeMeritt, I live in Lakeside, California, a suburb of San Diego.

I have been employed by the Center for Communications Research, La Jolla, in San Diego, California for almost 22 years now as the only employee in the Publications Department; I perform the technical typing duties required as well as serving as a resource for other employees with questions regarding the usage of \LaTeX . I started the position learning \TeX and am now working with $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$. I continue to enjoy using $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$ to typeset mathematical and scientific papers; there is always something new to learn and always another challenge to figure out.

I have been a member of the \TeX Users Group since 1989. I have been a member of the Board of Directors since March of 1998, and Secretary since 2001. I really enjoy being part of the Board of Directors of the \TeX Users Group.

Michael Doob



I have been using \TeX for more than a quarter-century. In 1984 I wrote one of the first books in pure mathematics to be printed using \TeX and camera-ready copy. In those pre-laser printer days, the output used a dot-matrix printer (at a glorious 240dpi using my home-written device driver). It was entitled *Recent Results in the Theory of Graph Spectra*, and the book, the printer, and the device driver have all happily disappeared in the mists of bygone days.

\TeX , on the other hand, has had an amazing evolution. It has not only developed as an elegant piece of software, but its syntax has become a *lingua franca* for many scientific fields. The basic engine has driven many applications that have revolutionized mathematical publishing among other areas. Watching these changes has been exciting and exhilarating. These applications continue to evolve and set new standards in many unexpected ways. For example, *beamer* has become the standard for many types of mathematical presentations.

The \TeX Users Group has done a wonderful job of supporting the variations on the theme of \TeX : there are useful annual meetings with interesting presentations, there are the publications *TUGboat* and *Prac \TeX* which appeal to both novice and expert, and there is support on the web using CTAN in general and \TeX Live in particular. These efforts are spearheaded by the Board of Directors. I believe I can bring to this Board a background that will

facilitate its efforts. I have experience as a mathematician, as the founder of the \TeX publishing office for the Canadian Mathematical Society, and as a former Board member. I would appreciate the support of you, the members, and, if elected, will give my best efforts to encourage the wider and more varied uses of \TeX .

Cheryl Ponchin



My name is Cheryl Ponchin, I am employed at the Center for Communications Research in Princeton. I have been typesetting mathematical papers using (\LaTeX) since 1987.

I have been a member of the \TeX Users Group since 1989 and a member of the TUG Board since March of 1998. I have done many workshops for TUG as well as at several universities. I really enjoy being part of TUG.

Norbert Preining



Biography: I am a mathematician and computer scientist living and working wherever I find a job at a university. After my studies at the Vienna University of Technology, I moved to the Tuscany area of Italy for a Marie Curie Fellowship. After another intermezzo in Vienna I have (temporarily?) settled in Japan since 2009, currently working at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, working on intermediate logics and algebraic specification languages.

After years of being a simple user of (\LaTeX) , I first started contributing to \TeX Live by compiling some binaries in 2001. In 2005, I started working on packaging \TeX Live for Debian, which has developed into the standard \TeX package for Debian and its derivatives. During EuroBach \TeX 2007, I got (by chance) involved in the development of \TeX Live itself, which is now the core of my contribution to the \TeX world. Up till now I am continuing with both these efforts.

Furthermore, with my move to Japan I got interested in its typographic tradition and support in \TeX . I am working with the local \TeX users to improve

overall Japanese support in \TeX (Live). In this way we managed to bring the TUG 2013 conference for the first time to Japan.

More details concerning my involvement in \TeX , and lots of anecdotes, can be found at the TUG interview corner and my web site, preining.info.

Statement: After many years in the active development, I want to take up more responsibility by becoming a board member of TUG. In my eyes, TUG is the most influential user group, and its involvement in the development, promotion, and support of the whole \TeX micro-cosmos is of essential importance for the future survival.

The challenges I see for TUG in the next years are the increase of members and funds, and technical improvement of our software. Promoting \TeX as a (self-)publishing tool also outside the usual math/CS environment will increase the acceptance of \TeX , and by this will hopefully bring more members to TUG.

Boris Veytsman



Biography: I was born in 1964 in Ukraine and have a degree in Theoretical Physics. I worked for various scientific and high-tech employers in Ukraine and US: universities, research companies, government contractors, etc. I participated in many different projects: from the design of industrial vacuum cleaners to the research in the thermodynamics of complex systems to the development of Internet in space to the design and implementation of air traffic surveillance system to medico-biological research — as well as teaching and writing. My CV is available at <http://borisv.lk.net/cv/cv.html>.

I have been using \TeX since 1994 and have been a \TeX consultant since 2005. I published a number of packages on CTAN and papers in *TUGboat* & *Prac. \TeX J.*

Statement: As a TUG Board member I am interested in making TUG more useful for the members and attracting new members. We need this to ensure the long term relevance of our group for the community.

I arranged some discounts for TUG members from publishers and other vendors. I convinced Google to join TUG as an institutional member. Recently I helped to organize a membership drive for TUG.

If the TUG community allows me to serve this next term, I am going to continue this activity.