Candidate for Member-at-Large
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Odest (Chad) Jenkins
Professor of Robotics
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
U.S.A.

BIOGRAPHY

Odest Chadwicke Jenkins, Ph.D., is a Professor of Robotics and a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. Prof. Jenkins is the inaugural Program Chair of the Robotics Major Degree Program launched in 2022 for undergraduates at the University of Michigan. Prof. Jenkins is concluding his second and final term as Editor-in-Chief for the ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction. His research addresses problems in autonomous robotics and human-robot interaction, primarily focused on mobile manipulation, robot perception, and robot learning from demonstration. Prof. Jenkins is currently serving on the board of the CRA Committee on Widening Participation in Computing Research (CRA-WP) and as Vice President for Educational Activities for the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society. He has previously served on the CRA Computing Community Consortium (2019-22) and the Defense Science Study Group (2018-19). He has been recognized as a Sloan Research Fellow and is a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). Prof. Jenkins earned his B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics at Alma College (1996), M.S. in Computer Science at Georgia Tech (1998), and Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Southern California (2003).

STATEMENT

It has been an immense privilege to be a member of ACM throughout my career, since first joining as a college student in 1994. As the flagship society for computing, ACM has shaped our field and its leaders, enabled the continued growth of the computing ecosystem, and cultivated transformative scholarly, scientific, and technological advancements. This progress, however, also leads to new challenges and opportunities for ACM as computing continually evolves, especially with the transformational capabilities that have emerged in AI. First and foremost, ACM must lead in fostering innovations in training and education that prepare future generations to meet the rapidly accelerating need for computation and computational literacy across our society. ACM must continue its stalwart commitment to grow a diverse range of professional pathways into the computing professions that span theory and practice. This growth mindset will require a more expansive and inclusive approach to computing curricula and synergies with related emerging disciplines, such as robotics. The portfolio of premiere venues and sponsored conferences of ACM remain uniquely essential to the membership, the larger scientific and professional community, and the long-term intellectual health of computing. ACM must continually reaffirm its stewardship of computing in our highly dynamic world with a renewed focus on sustainable and open minded peer review processes. As ACM is the foundation for establishing integrity for the high professional standards of the computing disciplines, I will strive to help ACM adapt, innovate, and include such that we realize our ideals for both equity and excellence.