

by Steve Feiner: Talk introduction, May 8, 2017, Denver, CO

Brad Myers (Lifetime Research Award)

Good morning. My name is Steve Feiner. I'm here as Chair of the SIGCHI Achievement Awards Committee and it's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 SIGCHI Lifetime Research Award talk by Brad Myers of CMU. The SIGCHI Lifetime Research Award is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to the study of HCI. This award recognizes the very best, most fundamental, and influential research contributions. It is awarded, as the name indicates, for a lifetime of innovation and leadership and carries an honorarium of \$5000. The criteria for the award are: Cumulative contributions to the field, influence on the work of others, and development of new research directions. One of the benefits of the award, and it's really a benefit for us, the CHI community, is that we get to hear the award winner discuss their research in a format that is unconstrained by the narrow scope of a single paper talk. So, that brings us to today's speaker.

Dr. Brad A. Myers is a Professor in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon. He is a member of the CHI Academy, a Fellow of the IEEE and ACM, and winner of many best-paper awards and three Most Influential Paper awards. He has authored or edited 475 publications, including 85 at CHI (two being presented this year). And he is one of a select few who has attended every CHI conference. You can see documentation online of his extensive collection of CHI ribbons. Brad's MIT Master's thesis was one of the earliest data visualization systems. While working for PERQ Systems Corporation in the early 80s, Brad created Sapphire, one of the first commercial window managers with a number of features that later became widespread. For example, you're all familiar with icons with progress bars that show you how far a directory copy has come. These finally appeared in the major commercial operating systems just a few versions ago. Yet, they were first in Brad's window manager! His University of Toronto dissertation described Peridot, a programming-by-demonstration system that specified the look and behaviors of widgets without conventional programming. When I teach about programming by demonstration, I still cover Peridot and its elegant approach to inferring loops. At CMU, Brad created numerous toolkits, such as Garnet, with novel designs for objects, constraints, input and output handling, command objects, and interactive tools. Many of the innovations in these projects have been adopted by later research and commercial systems. Brad was also an early researcher on innovative uses for handheld devices in systems such as Pebbles. More recently, he has focused on using HCI techniques to improve programming for novice, expert, and end-user programmers. Brad has advised over 200 students, including 16 PhD students, many of whom are also professors, or are at top research labs, and many of whom are here. And, from the titles of his many projects and his award talk, it's clear that Brad's research rocks!

It's now our pleasure to hear him speak.