RICHARD VAUGHAN, CANADA

Richard Vaughan (M'07) received his DPhil in Computation from Oxford University in 1998, and spent three years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Robotics Research Labs at the University of Southern California, before joining the Intelligent Systems Group at HRL Laboratories in 2001. He became a faculty member in Computing Science at Simon Fraser University in 2004, where he is currently Associate Professor of Computing Science, and formerly Director of Undergraduate Programs.

His research interests include long-term autonomous robots, multi-robot systems, behavioural ecology, human-robot interaction, and devising tools and techniques for developing and experimenting with robots. He directs the Autonomy Lab at SFU, and with his students has published over 90 articles, mostly in RAS conferences and journals.

IEEE RAS Activities:
Program Chair, IROS 2017
ADCOM member 2015-2017
- Technical Activities Board
- Conference Activities Board
- Strategic Planning Committee 2017

Senior Program Committee, IROS 2014
Associate Editor, ICRA 2010-2013

Qualifications:
Editorial Board member for the journal Autonomous Robots since 2010
Consultant to the government of Canada on Lethal Autonomous Weapons in 2017
Program Chair for the Canadian Conference on Computer and Robot Vision in 2007 and 2008

Major Accomplishments: Co-created the Player/Stage robot networking and simulation system in 2001. Brian Gerkey and I led this influential project for more than a decade, and played a significant part in changing for the better the expectations of the community about code sharing, open licensing, and experimental methodology.

Position Statement: I aim to contribute to the current vigorous debate on the formats of our largest conferences as they grow. Protecting the quality of our flagship conferences should be a top priority.

Our conferences could do more to recognize the contribution and catalyzing effects of sharing innovative software. I hope to focus additional energy in this area.

As RAS expands, we can afford to do more to inform and fascinate people who are not "into" robots. If elected I will help expand our outreach to nontraditional, popular and junior audiences. This year robots are probably more visible in the media and public discussion than ever before, with positive and negative views being expressed. This is an important time to insist on having a say in the public debate, to explain ourselves and our work in public, and to seek ways to help K-12 educators talk sensibly about robotics and AI to all kids, not just the kids like us.