The Educational Pearls column

Education matters. The lack of education on functional programming languages and techniques is visible on a daily basis. Our students, co-workers, friends and colleagues just don't know enough about these ideas and therefore often fail to implement the best possible solutions for their programming problems.

The purpose of Educational Pearls is to address the education problem of our community from many different angles. It will include contributions on curricula issues, educational software support, and educational experiences. They will help teachers, professors, researchers, and software developers to promote functional programming languages and techniques in their respective contexts.

— Matthias Felleisen

We are delighted to introduce Matthias Felleisen as Editor of a new *Journal of Functional Programming* column called *Educational Pearls*. Matthias is outstandingly well qualified to edit this column. The TeachScheme! project that he founded is one of the most visible and successful applications of functional programming to education in the world. Matthias has devoted enormous zest and energy to engaging with high school teachers and students, and finding ways to convey the key principles of programming to them.

With Daniel Friedman, he has authored a series of 'little books' (*The Little Schemer*, *The Seasoned Schemer*, *A Little Java*, *The Little MLer*) that convey the essence of Scheme, Java, and ML through questions, humor and food. More recently, with Robert Bruce Findler, Matthew Flatt and Shriram Krishnamurthi, he has written *How to Design Programs*, which is poised to succeed Abelson and Sussman as the standard introductory programming text on how to design well.

With his leadership, this column is going to be a cracker!

Simon Peyton Jones
Phil Wadler