



# Method to the Madness

A Journal of the Association  
for Computing Machinery at UIUC

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*(This is a special EOH issue of the ACM's newsletter. In this issue, we will try to introduce you to the activities of the local ACM Chapter, the Department of Computer Science, and their contributions to EOH. -Ed.)*

## What is ACM?

The Association for Computing Machinery has over 69,000 individual members as well as 400 university and corporate members. ACM is the oldest scientific and technical association in the computer field.

ACM promotes the development of computer technology and information processing through research, publications, and conferences. Its efforts during the past 37 years have resulted in the development of seminal concepts currently receiving practical application in computer methodologies, systems, programming, and computing applications.

While participating in some national ACM activities, our local student chapter operates independently of the national association. The University of Illinois Chapter of the ACM is the official professional society of the Department of Computer Science. Our student chapter tries to increase the level of computer awareness to students by hosting technical speakers at our general meetings. ACM also sponsors many computer-related technical projects and social events to get its members together. One of ACM's largest local activities is the Programming Contest for Illinois students in grades 7-12.

ACM has something for everyone. If you are interested in any aspect of computing or just want to learn something about computers, join ACM today. Hardware enthusiasts, software enthusiasts, and people dwelling on the business side of computers have all learned a great deal through participation in our events.

*-- John Chris Ravencroft  
Chairman, UIUC ACM*

## Computer Science Open House

This year's Engineering Open House is Friday, March 1st from 9am to 4pm and Saturday, March 3rd from 9am to 3pm. The Department of Computer Science has several exhibits in the Digital Computer Laboratory (DCL) with its central exhibit located in the main hall at Loomis Lab.

Among the projects at CSOH this year is the ACM 5th Annual Programming Contest. Other projects include "WARZONE-A Computer-Based Naval Simulation", "Sleep Stage Scoring", and many graphics projects. Hewlett-Packard and Sperry will also be joining the department for this year's EOH.

Information about these and other exhibits/projects can be found in the CSOH handout, which is available in the DCL lobby.

## Programming Contest

The ACM Programming Contest is an annual event sponsored by the University of Illinois chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery.

The contest is open to students from junior high and high schools across the state of Illinois. This competition was created to give budding young programmers a chance to display their ability and receive evaluation and helpful advice to improve their skills. The best programmers in each of the four categories of games, graphics and simulations, computer-aided instruction, and general computer science are awarded prizes at a banquet held on Friday, March 1st, the first day of Engineering Open House. The programs are judged in early February.

*-- Rob Ehblaw*

## Faculty Spotlight

*("Faculty Spotlight, a regular feature of the ACM Newsletter, attempts to introduce one CS faculty member to our readers. -Ed.)*

Associate Professor William J. Kubitz has long been a part of the University of Illinois. After doing his undergraduate work in Engineering/ Physics, he then completed his Master's Degree here. He spent two years working for General Electric before coming back to obtain his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with the Digital Computer Lab (An interesting note: In 1968 the Department of Computer Science didn't yet exist as such). After receiving his doctorate he joined the faculty as a research professor and then decided to join the faculty for good.

Terming himself a "computer technologist," Professor Kubitz has done work in both software and hardware. In the early 1970's, he worked on the actual construction of hardware and later he researched methods of implementing high speed arithmetic. Recently, however, Professor Kubitz has been devoting time to the automated design of digital integrated circuits and to the improvement of the computer graphics systems. He sees very powerful graphics coming into its own within five years, but realizes that there must be an improvement in computer-human interface for the power of computer graphics to be fully realized.

It is his expertise in graphics that has Professor Kubitz working on Engineering Open House this spring. He personally thinks CSOH is a great opportunity for high school students to "come here and get a feel for what's going on in Computer Science." Although he'd like to see more student involvement in CSOH, he acknowledges that we're still a relatively young department, and that the involvement has improved steadily with time.

Professor Kubitz believes that computer scientists today face a future with many challenges awaiting us. He notes that software and human interface progress has been much slower than the progress in hardware, and summed it up this way: "We've only scratched the surface in Computer Science."

-- John Bradford

## ACM Office

ACM has moved their office to room 201 at 1204 W. Springfield. The phone number is 333-5828. Throughout the semester it is staffed by ACM officers and exec members.

## ∞ Membership ∞

In order to become a member of U of I's ACM chapter, simply fill out an application form, located in the lobby of DCL or at the ACM board across from the DCL library (Room 260). Send the form, along with \$3.00 annual membership fee, to ACM's mailing address.

## ✕The Social Calendar✕

ACM is sponsoring two movies on campus this semester. The first will be "Silent Running". It will be shown on March 8 and 9 at 7,9, and 11 p.m. in 112 Greg Hall. The second will be "Star Wars"! This movie will be shown in 223 Greg Hall on March 22 and 23.

Mark your Illinibook today because you won't want to miss either movie!

## ACM @ UIUC

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*On behalf of ACM, we hope you enjoy CSOH, EOH, and your visit to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*