



Banks of the Boneyard

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Editor: Jim Dobyns

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Faculty Spotlight

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

This issue's "Faculty Spotlight" features Assistant Professor Larry Rendell. Professor Rendell earned his B.S. in Honors Physics from the University of Toronto in 1967. He then worked at the Institute for Quantitative Analysis of Social and Economic Policy. Professor Rendell went on to gain his Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. His thesis topic concerned machine learning systems that induce heuristics for problem-solving. Professor Rendell came to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois in 1984.

Professor Rendell's current research focuses on artificial intelligence with particular interest in machine learning and inductive inference. His work concentrates on the construction of algorithms for fast heuristic methods. Professor Rendell has worked with other UIUC faculty members in areas such as human cognition. He also does research on genetic algorithms and performance measurement of learning systems.

Professor Rendell enjoys working here in the Department since it allows him to teach courses which either relate to or are directly involved with his primary interests in artificial intelligence research. He also enjoys working with his graduate students and with students taking the 300-level courses he teaches this semester.

Professor Rendell advises students who are making a career decision to look into fields that are interesting, not just those which are popular or high-paying. A balance between these two factors, Professor Rendell feels, can make a person happier and more content with his job, and thus truly successful in life.

— *Tom Beqnel*

Kuck and Associates, Inc.

Kuck and Associates, Inc. will be featured at the next ACM general meeting on Wednesday November 5th at 3:00 pm in 151 Electrical Engineering Building. KAI was formed by Professor Kuck of the CS Department as a super-computer consulting firm. Two KAI representatives will discuss "High Performance Scientific Computers: Market and Technical Projections" at the meeting.

At the November 19th ACM general meeting, a representative from IBM in New York will talk about how IBM tests new large computer systems.

As always, refreshments will be served.

— *Pete Hlavach*

ACM Film Series

ACM films are shown on Monday afternoons at 3:00 pm in room 115 DCL. Admission is free. The running length of features is usually between 45 minutes and one hour.

On November 3rd, ACM is presenting "A Matter of Survival" and "Coping with Technology—Beyond Bureaucracy," two features on the many uses of computers and computer-related technologies in modern society.

On November 10th, we are presenting "The Billion Dollar Bubble," an informative film about the technology behind and the applications of bubble memory.

The feature on November 17th is "Now the Chips are Down," a film illustrating the techniques used in the production and use of modern micro-electronics.

— *Steve Glenner*

Artificial Intelligence

In the past few years there has been a growing interest in artificial intelligence at the University of Illinois. With the establishment of the Beckman Institute and the announcement of several major grants in this field, the future of AI at the University looks very promising.

To promote interest in AI and to provide a general forum for discussion, ACM is announcing the formation of the Special Interest Group in Artificial Intelligence (SIGART). Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the organizational meeting on Tuesday Nov 11th at 4:00 pm in the ACM Lounge (the 3rd floor of the ACM building at 1204 W. Springfield Avenue in Urbana). No previous experience with AI is necessary.

As of yet, SIGART is still in its infancy. If you are interested in joining SIGART or becoming involved as an officer or executive, or if you would just like more information, please contact Subutai Ahmad (398-4940 or 333-1681) or the ACM office (333-5828).

— *S ub A hmad*

Graphics SIG

The new computer graphics special interest group (SIGGRAPH) has been formed for those members of ACM who have a keen interest in this area of computer science. Professor Dwight Hearn, who teaches CS 318 Computer Graphics this semester, as well as an advanced graphics course, is sponsoring this group.

Several possible directions for the group were discussed at the first meeting, including involvement in Engineering Open House in coordination with the new computer electronic music special interest group SIGEMUS. Talks and tours from local users and researchers of graphics, both within and outside the University, are also being planned. We would also like to conduct workshops concentrating on various facets of computer graphics.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday November 12th at 3:00 pm in 237 DCL. The speaker for this meeting will be announced at the ACM general meeting on November 5th. All who are interested in learning more about computer graphics are invited to attend. It does not matter how much experience you have, or in which area of computer graphics you are interested. To join SIGGRAPH, please contact

David Trant (359-0742) or the ACM office (333-5828).

— *D ave T rant*

Networking SIG

Yet another ACM special interest group has been formed. This one focuses on networking, communications, and the like. Anyone interested in any type of system (VAXs, PLATO, 3B2s, PCs, mainframes, etc.) is encouraged to join. Members can swap information and little-known secrets of networking. With the \$30 million computer sewage pipes (a.k.a., communication system) being installed, networking at UIUC will become even more important in the near future.

SIGNET is still in the organizational stage, so now is your chance to come forward and help start up an ACM special interest group. The time and place for the first SIGNET meeting will be announced at the next ACM general meeting on November 5th. For more information, contact me at the ACM office (333-5828).

— *Russ P rice*

Electronic Music

Electronic music enthusiasts can now join an official ACM special interest group. SIGEMUS is for everyone, regardless of experience or background, who is interested in electronic music.

Our first tour will be Monday November 3rd at 4:30 pm in 5045 Music Building. Rob Maher, a graduate student in EE, will conduct a tour of the music lab. The next general meeting of SIGEMUS will be Tuesday November 4th at 7:00 pm in the ACM Lounge (3rd floor of 1204 West Springfield Avenue). On Thursday November 13th, Steven Curtin, a graduate student in music, will demonstrate how a Macintosh microcomputer can be used as a MIDI music computer. A video tape generated on the Cray supercomputer concerning fractals will also be shown. For more information on SIGEMUS, contact Ms. Metaxia Lianos or Steve Glenner at the ACM office (333-5828).

— *M etaxia L ianos*

Microcomputer Group

ACM is looking for members who are interested in personal computing who wish to start a special interest group (SIGMICRO). This group will probably have a large membership (well over 100) in a short time, since so many people have microcomputers of various flavors. Members can get together and exchange ideas and whatnot about their favorite machines, conduct workshops on how to use particular software packages, and hold seminars related to microcomputers. The possibilities are virtually endless.

Many ACM members have expressed an interest in a SIG of this nature, but we need someone (actually, several someones) who want to organize the group and get things going. If you are that someone, please contact the ACM office and leave a message. We'd like to get this SIG off the ground by the end of the semester.

— Jim Dobyns

Unix/C Workshops

The Unix Users and C Programmers special interest group (SIGUUCP) will hold several workshops during the next few weeks concerning Unix and C. "Bellmac-32 Architecture" will be discussed on Thursday October 30th. On November 13th, "Advanced UNIX" is the topic. On November 20th, "Programming is C" is scheduled. The next general meeting of UUCP is Thursday November 6th.

All meetings and workshops are at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL. If you would like more information, or if you would like to teach workshops or any suggestions, please contact Michael Stegeman (359-0477) or Leah Kleidon (328-4994) or call the ACM office (333-5828).

— Dan Usher

Job Fair '87

ACM is sponsoring a computer science job fair on Monday February 16th. The Job Fair Committee is looking for members to help run this event. The current executives for this committee are:

President...Dan Comenduley
Treasurer...Kathy Boka
Secretary...Kim Griffin

More people are needed to help make this job fair a success. We need anyone who is interested in corporate correspondence, publicity, and researchers to dig up more companies. The committee will also need people to help run the fair on the day of the event.

This is a great opportunity for graduating seniors and co-op students to talk with company recruiters in a non-interview situation. If you are interested in helping with the job fair, please call the ACM office (333-5828) and leave a message for Dan or myself.

— Peter H. Lavach

Placement Office

The Engineering Placement Office is holding an important meeting for students planning to graduate in May, August, or December 1987 and who wish to schedule on-campus interviews.

The meeting is Thursday November 6th at 7:00 pm in the Illini Union Ballroom. There will be a brief explanation about the operation of the Placement Office and specific comments about the preparation of resumes. The second half of the meeting (to begin around 7:30 pm) will feature information about "Careers in Manufacturing Engineering." Dwight Depeau, Supervisor of Manufacturing Engineering for United Technologies-Hamilton Standard, will be the featured speaker.

So for all you CS majors who plan to terminate normally your college career through graduation (pardon the allusion), make note of this important meeting.

— Jim Dobyns

ACM Office and Lounge

Our office is located in Room 201 at 1204 West Springfield Avenue (a.k.a., the "ACM Building"). Officers and committee chairpersons staff the office from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Our telephone number is 333-5828.

The ACM Lounge is open during office hours for general use, and after office hours for Special Interest Groups and other committees who have made reservations.

— Tony Alonso

CS Open House '87

Planning for the Computer Science Open House has begun! March 6th and 7th will be the weekend for us to show off all the wonderful projects that the Department of Computer Science has been involved with this year.

For CSOH to be a smashing success, we need your support. There are several committees looking for exciting and enthusiastic individuals with good ideas.

The Central Exhibit Committee will be in charge of a project display concerning "Technology Developing Nations," demonstrating how computers aid in the development of Third World nations.

The Posters and Publicity Committee needs creative people to "show and tell" the world about CSOH.

Graduate and Professor Projects Committee and Undergraduate Projects Committee needs outgoing and persuasive people to solicit projects and to keep tabs on the progress of these projects throughout the year.

The Companies Committee will be contacting local and not-so-local companies to contribute ideas and projects to our endeavor.

Last, but not least, our Special Events and Contests Committee will be in charge of CSOH parties, good times, and anything else we can think of.

Come to our next general organizational meeting on Wednesday Nov 5th at 6:30 pm in 115 DCL. Thank you for your support.

— Amy Moore

Ice Cream and 'Za

Since the ACM Ice Cream Pig-out at Delight's went so well, we're planning yet another social event. This time, we'll stuff our faces with pizza! The pizza pig-out will probably be in the ACM Lounge in the middle of November. Slices will cost around \$1.50 each--drinks will be provided.

The time and place will be announced at the next ACM general meeting on November 5th. Everyone is welcome. See you there!

— Lisa Marchese

C Programming Contest

ACM is proud to announce a programming contest in the C language. \$300 in prize money will be distributed among the winning teams in two divisions, undergraduate and graduate. A team consists of up to three full-time students. Each team will have one terminal per member. There will be six problems per team.

The contest will be held in 200 Woodshop using the AT&T 3B2 supermicrocomputers. All teams must register by Thursday November 20th. Signups are in the ACM office at 1204 West Springfield Avenue. Please call the ACM office (333-5828) for further information.

— Chris Greib

Display Case

During November, the ACM display case is featuring books written by the CS Department faculty. Next month, the ACM videos will be highlighted. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the display case, please contact me or leave a message at the ACM office (333-5828).

The ACM display case is located next to the couch in the lobby of DCL by the Springfield Avenue entrance. Come by and take a look.

— Laura Maravi

Meeting Wrap-Up

The ACM general meeting on October 15th featured Lynn Wechselberger from the National Security Agency. She discussed the history of the Agency, and what it is like to work there. If you would like more information or an application, the address is:

College Recruitment Program
National Security Agency
Attn: Office of Employment (M322)
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

The ACM videos were also shown at the meeting. These commercials were conceived, written, and performed by ACM members and appeared on MTV and CNN in early October. Every few months, we will show these videos at general meetings.

— *Chris G. Gribb*

Murphy's Law

Every Friday afternoon at 4:00 pm you can find many ACM executives and members topping off another hard week at Murphy's on Green Street. Come by and join the party. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know ACM execs better and to make suggestions. Not to mention it's a lotta fun. See you there!

— *Lisa Marchese*

Newsletter Questionnaire

Due to your overwhelming response, the results of the questionnaire which appeared in the previous issue of the newsletter have not yet been tallied. We've also had a lot of midterm exams to contend with. The results will be posted in the next issue.

I would like to thank everyone who filled out the questionnaires and who made suggestions. We are always open to suggestions and comments on how to serve you, the ACM membership, better. Feel free to call the ACM office (333-5828) or stop by (1204 West Springfield Avenue Room 201) anytime and talk with an officer or executive.

— *Jim Dobyns*

Status Report

Looking back over the last few weeks, ACM has made a lot of progress. Many of you may remember the condition of our organization at the end of last year. It was not in good shape. For example, for our last general meeting last year we had a speaker from Convex, which is a supercomputer corporation. The guy was a Vice President, he flew up from Texas, and was actively looking to recruit some people. However, only about twenty people showed up. Pretty sad. Those of you who were involved with ACM last year may remember other problems.

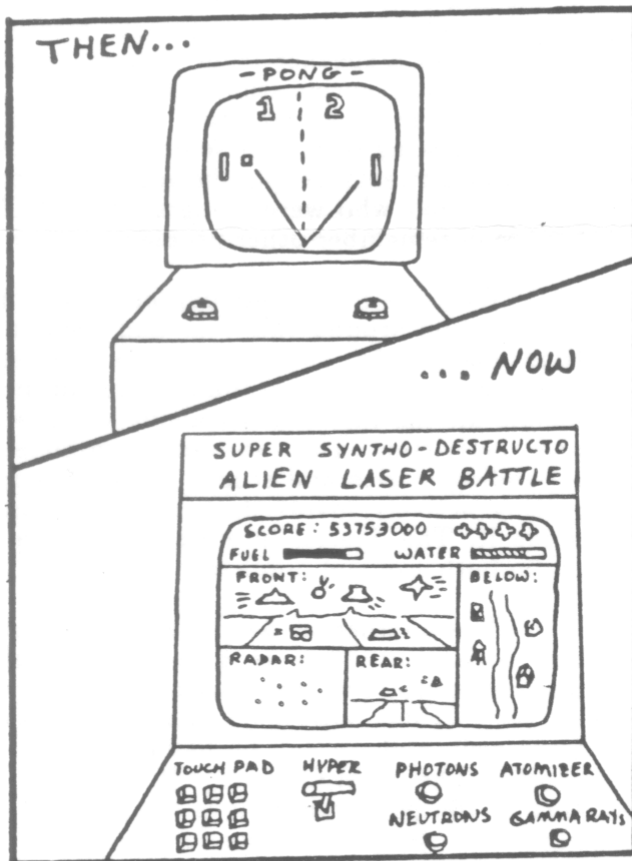
Well, we have done our best to swing the organization around this year and spent a lot of time on it. As you may have noticed, the newsletter has had to gradually expand in size to handle all the information about various events and activities. The various committees are expanding in size and scope. A lot of people are getting actively involved...and having fun while doing it. The Special Interest Groups are growing in both size and number.

The number of people getting involved in our social activities is growing as well. We already occupy two large tables at Murphy's Pub on each Friday afternoon. The Ice Cream War went well, and we will be having a Pizza Event shortly. The ACM CS lounge (Club ACM) is getting to the point where it is booked every other night with people meeting for various activities. We are also reaching the point where we will have room 115 DCL booked most weekday evenings for SIG workshops, meetings and special events.

If you are a member but haven't been very active, you ought to come on over and check us out. I know some of you can't make it to all the general meetings due to the 3PM meeting time conflicting with a course...so cut class! Yeah, just cut and come to the next general meeting. Come over to the ACM office any time during the day. Look the lounge over. Talk to people. See what's happening. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

— *John Tullis, Chairman*

Digressions



THE HISTORY OF VIDEO GAMES.

— Jim Rygel

Calendar of Events

ACM and its SIGs and committees have a lot of meetings and tours scheduled for the first three weeks of November. This is a summary of those events. For more details, refer to the appropriate articles in this newsletter.

- Thu Oct 30 UUCP Workshop: "Bellmac-32 Architecture." 7:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Mon Nov 3 SIGEMUS Tour: Electronic Music Lab. 4:30 pm 5045 Music Bldg.
- Tue Nov 4 SIGEMUS General Meeting. 7:00 pm ACM Lounge.
- Wed Nov 5 EOH/CS Open House Meeting. 6:30 pm 115 DCL.
- Thu Nov 6 UUCP General Meeting. 7:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Mon Nov 10 ACM Films Series. 3:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Tue Nov 11 SIGART Meeting. 4:00 pm ACM Lounge.
- Wed Nov 12 SIGGRAPH Meeting. 3:00 pm 237 DCL.
- Thu Nov 13 UUCP Workshop: "Advanced UNIX." 7:00 pm 105C Woodshop.
- Thu Nov 13 SIGEMUS Presentation: "MacIntosh MIDI Music Computer." 7:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Mon Nov 17 ACM Film Series. 3:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Thu Nov 20 UUCP Workshop: "C Programming." 7:00 pm 115 DCL.
- Sat Nov 22 C Programming Contest. 9:00 am 200 Woodshop.
- Mon Nov 24 ACM Film Series. 3:00 pm 115 DCL.

ACM @ UIUC
 240 Digital Computing Laboratory
 1304 West Springfield Avenue
 Urbana, Illinois 61801