Faculty Spotlight

["Faculty Spotlight", a regular feature of the ACM Newsletter, attempts to introduce one CS faculty member to our readers. --Eds.]

In this issue the "Faculty Spotlight" focuses on Assistant Professor Larry Jones. Professor Jones earned a B.S in Computer Science in 1978 from Pennsylvania State University. From 1978 to 1980 he worked as a systems programmer for Data General Corporation where he designed and implemented compilers, compiler generators, and other programming tools. He then returned to Penn State in 1980 for graduate study and was a research assistant investigating computer-aided design techniques for VLSI. Professor Jones received an IBM Fellowship in 1985 for his research on incremented VLSI systems and the efficient evaluation of circular attribute grammars. He received his PhD from Penn State in 1986 and arrived here at the Department of Computer Science in the fall of that year.

Professor Jones' primary research interest is in computer-aided design of VLSI. In particular he is developing an incremental and integrated environment for circuit design, verification and mask layout. Since his system is incremental he has adapted methods used in systems for the incremental design of software. His system is currently based on attribute grammar evaluation techniques similar to those used by the Cornell Program Synthesizer. Professor Jones is also interested in incremental software development systems, software debuggers, and all aspects of compiler construction.

Professor Jones likes the Computer Science Department here because of its large size, the large number of experienced faculty members with different perspectives on computer science, the good facilities and support staff, and also the support given to junior faculty members. He recommends that students should not try to squeeze by with the minimum number of courses required

An ACM Semester in Review

Last semester the ACM held six general meetings, five of which had corporate or organizational speakers. The first two speakers were from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and the NSA. Later on, speakers for the general meetings included representatives from IBM, Convex, and KAI, a local supercomputing software applications company.

This semester, in addition to providing speakers from Gould, Bell Laboratories, and Advanced Micro Devices, the ACM sponsored a Job Fair held in the Illini Union. Fourteen companies attended including AT&T, GTE, Wang Labs, TI, Tellabs, Du Pont and many others. Over 750 students took advantage of the opportunity to discuss permanent and co-op job opportunities with the representatives.

Next semester will prove to be even more informative as ACM membership continues to grow. ACM is dedicated to bringing its members current information in computer science and related fields.

--Pete Hlavach

In the Boneyard...

Stay Tuned!

For next semester, we would like to try several different approaches to our general meetings. We would like to have speakers other than corporate representatives talk at the meetings. Possibilities include presidents or department heads of prestigious universities, researchers from univerisities and the industry, and reknowned personalities in the field such as Nicholas Wirth. Also, we would like to spend more time with the general membership discussing up-coming functions and ACM committee activities so that we can get feedback on our proposals.

We are also considering the possibility of holding the next Job Fair in early November to accomodate the schedules of many recruiters who are unavailable in the spring. By having the Job Fair in the fall, students can get a feel for the companies with which they would like to interview in the spring.

--Robert Camp

Real Programming in CS 290

The ACM and the Department of Computer Science are coordinating their efforts to give students a greater awareness of some intriguing courses in the CS curriculum. "CS 290 -- Individual Study" is one of many such courses being offered this fall.

Ever wonder what it would be like to program in a *real* work environment, where *machine problems* weren't just some exercises out of a book? Does the thought of working on a project at the forefront of computer technology sound exciting? Then maybe CS 290 is for you!

CS 290 is an individual study course allowing students to work closely with their professor on programming jobs within the department. Not only do you earn 1-3 repeatable credit hours, but CS 290 also gives you the opportunity to meet professors and graduate students working in your particular areas of interest. And of course, working on a real programming project always looks good on your resume.

For more information, contact the Department of Computer Science, leave a message at the ACM Office (333-5828), or e-mail your interests to uiucdcss!dobyns or uiucdcss!rbloch.

--Rich Bloch and Jim Dobyns

Computer Fee Passed by UIUC Trustees

The U of I Administration recommendation for a computer lab access and support fee to be instituted starting this fall semester has been okayed by the Board of Trustees. The funds generated will be used to expand computer hardware and software availability and provide critical computer support programs for University students.

A student, faculty/staff committee will review proposals from colleges and departments and recommend funding to supply these services. Future fee levels will be based upon their evaluation of the student needs and the proposals submitted for funding.

The initial fee will be set tentatively at $20.00 per student per semester. Although this will not generate all the funds needed, the level of funding being requested will get the program started, familiarize the campus with the process, and allow the University to start addressing some of the more critical needs.

The proposed benefits of the fee will include the following:

- New lab sites possibly in the Illini Union, English Building, Undergrad Library, and Orchard Downs

- 200-250 new open-access workstations

- Free access for students to Unix machines

- Expanded software lending and discount software

--Tom Begnel and Rich Bloch

ACM Presents...

At our next general meeting, C.L. Liu will speak on a mystery topic which has not been released as of the time of this publication. It is rumored that his talk will address that all important question: How to get A's in CS classes without really trying. In addition, he will hopefully share his secrets on how to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. You loved his lectures, so don't miss him when he talks at the last general meeting of the semester; Wednesday, May 6th. in 151 Electrical Engineering at 3:00 pm.

--Robert Camp

ACM Questionnaire 1987

When did you become an ACM member? _____
Are you a national member?_____

How did you first hear about ACM?
    _ Other members
    _ Newsletter
    _ Professors/TAs
    _ Announcements/postings
    _ Other _____

What encouraged you to join ACM?
    _ Meeting department faculty
    _ Special interest groups (SIGs)
    _ Interacting with other people in
      the field of computer science
    _ Looks good on a resume
    _ Other _____

How active are you as a member?
    _ Very active
    _ Somewhat active
    _ I just read the newsletter

How many general meetings do you attend each
semester?
    _ All
    _ Some
    _ None

What would you like to see changed at the ACM
general meetings?
    _ More corporate speakers
    _ Increased ACM discussions
    _ Both
    _ Nothing

What kind of speakers would you like to hear
from?
    _ Corporate (IBM, DEC, Microsoft)
      _ Telecommunications
      _ Research and development
      _ Systems manufacturers
      _ Other _____
    _ Academic (UIUC, MIT, Stanford)
      _ Administrators
      _ Professors
      _ Graduate Students
    _ Other _____

On which afternoons would you prefer general
meetings to be held?
    _ Monday
    _ Tuesday
    _ Wednesday
    _ Thursday

At what time?
    _ 1:00 pm
    _ 2:00 pm
    _ 3:00 pm
    _ 4:00 pm

Would you be interested in entering a project for
the CS exhibit at Engineering Open House next
year?
    _ Yes
    _ No
    _ Interested, but would like more
      information
    _ Other _____

ACM Change of Address Form

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Phone _____

(continued from page 3)

Would you be interested in participating in social events with ACM such as picnics, dances, or a trip to the ACM National Convention in Atlanta?
- Yes
- No
- Interested, but would like more information

Have you ever called or visited the ACM office?
- Yes
- No

Are you aware that ACM has a study lounge above its office at 1204 W. Springfield?
- Yes
- No

Are you currently a member of any student interest groups (SIGs)?
- Yes
- No

Where did you first hear about the SIGs?
- ACM newsletter
- Other ACM members
- Professors
- Postings/slides in classes
- Other _____

On a scale of 1 to 6 (1=least, 6=most) how would you rank the following newsletter articles in terms of importance and interest?
- Faculty Spotlight
- Professor Symposium
- General Meetings news
- SIG Updates
- Bits and Pieces cartoon
- Calendar of Events

Any ideas on how ACM might be improved?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CAMPUS MAIL

QUESTIONNAIRE

ACM c/o RBloch
240 Digital Computer Laboratory
 1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Corporate Liaison
(Getting Your Foot in the Door)

Can't figure out how to get your foot in the door of that company you really want to work for? Well, here's your chance.

ACM is setting up a Corporate Liaison Committee. The purpose of a corporate liaison is to establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with a specific company. By having one person (rather than half a dozen) dealing with any given corporation, that one person will hopefully know who to talk with about specific areas of interest to ACM, not to mention yourself.

Since it's almost the end of the semester, there is not a lot of time to get this committee into high gear. We would, however, like to get people signed up for next fall so we can start off the year full steam.

If you are interested in being a Corporate Liaison, or if you have any ideas, call me at home (384-8444) or leave a message for either myself or John Tullis at the ACM Office (333-5828). You can also send me electronic mail (uiucdcss!dobyns or jad357@uxf).

--Jim Dobyns

Graphics Special Interest Group
Needs Members!

SIGGRAPH was formed toward the end of the fall semester this year. We have had several speakers on topics ranging from fractals to ray-tracing to video recording of images. Attendence at some of the more popular talks has been in excess of 40 people. We have also had demonstrations and sponsored a few people at the ACM National Convention in St. Louis last February.

Unfortunately, the people who typically attend the meetings are there just for the topic being presented and have not been willing to devote their own time to making SIGGRAPH work. Indeed, only two people (current officers) showed up for the election meeting. As a result, SIGGRAPH has been temporarily disbanded. It is my hope that enough of you who are interested in keeping SIGGRAPH alive and well will come foward next fall (or even now!) and volunteer to help put SIGGRAPH back on its feet. We need people to fill every position: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, publicity, speakers, EOH and others. YOU could make the difference between a defunct organization and an active one. Please contact David Trant (359-0742 or 244-5969) or the ACM Office (333-5828) if you would like to help run SIGGRAPH next year.

--David Trant

Departmental Awards Ceremony

The annual Department of Computer Science Honors Day program was held on Friday, April 24th to recognize outstanding achievements of the Department's students and faculty. Professor Gear, head of the Department, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The **John R. Pasta Award** (in honor of the Computer Science Department Head from 1963 to 1970) is given each year to one student in the CS/Engineering program, and to one student in the CS/LAS program. Susan Hinrichs and Hong Tam were the recipients of this award. The **James N. Snyder Award** (Department Head from 1970 to 1985) is also given to a student in each program. The students receiving the award were Robert Olson (Engineering) and Jeffrey Mantei (LAS).

The **Computer Science Teaching Assistant Award** went to Mike Fluegge, former TA who is now working for Hewlett-Packard in Colorado. And the **Daniel Slotnick Scholarship** (a memorial to a faculty member who was a pioneer in parallel processing research) went to Christopher Nack.

Finally, ACM awarded a plaque to Professor Sylvian Ray, our ACM faculty advisor, in appreciation for his assistance and support of the ACM throughout the year.
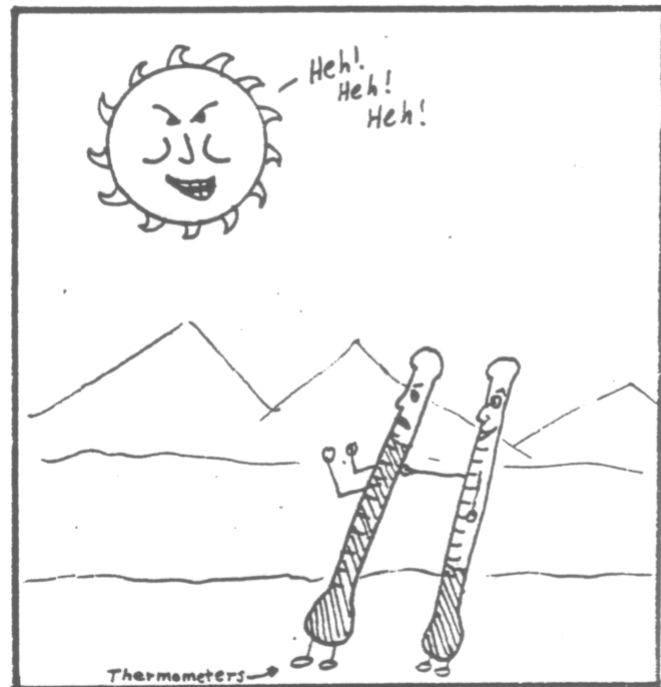
--Jim Dobyns

Spotlight

for graduation but should rather get a broad view of computer science by taking advantage of the large variety of courses offered by this department. He feels that a broad education will be much more beneficial to the student in the long run. Courses in algorithm design and analysis are especially important for students, he says.

--Tom Begnel

Calendar of Events

Wed May 6th   ACM General Meeting:
                     Professor C.L. Liu
                     3:00 pm 151 EEB.

Wed May 6th   SIGART Lecture:
                     Gerald DeJong:
                     "Explanation-Based Learning"
                     4:00 pm 151 EEB.

Bits and Pieces

"HEY MAN DON'T LISTEN TO THAT GUY! HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET A RISE OUT OF YA."

—Tom Begnel

ACM @ UIUC
240 Digital Computer Lab
1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801