



# Banks of the Boneyard

A Journal of the Association  
for Computing Machinery at UIUC

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Special Quad Day Issue

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## What is the ACM?

The ACM is the Association for Computing Machinery. Founded in 1947, the ACM is the oldest national scientific society serving the computing community. ACM currently has more than 80,000 members nationwide.

The major purposes of the Association are: (1) To advance the sciences and arts of information processing, (2) To promote the free interchange of ideas about the sciences and arts of information processing, and (3) To develop and maintain the integrity and competences of individuals in the practices of the sciences and arts of information processing.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Student Chapter of the ACM is the official professional society of the Department of Computer Science. As one of the largest student chapters in the country, the ACM at UIUC provides its membership throughout the year with: corporate speakers, discussing their work environment and life in the computer industry; sponsors the annual **Career Day** which exposes students to the opportunities that companies have to offer in the field of computer science; represents the Department of Computer Science at the **Engineering Open House**, and supports Special Interest Groups focusing on a variety of computer-related areas.

Other committees that the ACM organizes are: the **Banks of the Boneyard** newsletter that published over a dozen issues last year, the **Professor Symposium** series that features research projects of the faculty in the Department, and the **High School Programming Contest** which acknowledges outstanding work in computer science by high school students. ACM has two seats on the Engineering Council and also appoints students to various Departmental committees.

--Robert Camp, Chairman

## The ACM & You

Thinking about joining ACM? If you are hesitant and are asking what good will come from joining ACM, let me tell you a few of the benefits that are available to any member who becomes active in the ACM.

As a member of the ACM, you will be interacting with many other CS students with similar interests. You will find that these students are taking the same classes, doing the same homework, and studying for the same tests as you. In addition, other members may have had the classes that you are taking or will take and can offer much advice on courses, professors, and class material. Networking with fellow students makes going to college a bit more interesting knowing that you are not alone in your quest for a degree.

Besides working with fellow students, members of the ACM have many opportunities to become acquainted with the Department faculty. Having an open channel of communications with the faculty members is most advantageous when interested in working on research projects and Open House exhibits. And when the time comes for you to gather references for graduate school and employment, faculty members with whom you have worked will be most cooperative.

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## ACM & You

The ACM also deals with many corporations throughout the year. The annual **Career Day** brings hundreds of students and companies together. Corporate speakers and plant trips are other activities that the ACM organizes for its members. Participating in these events can lead to corporate contacts that may be fruitful in the future. Exposure to different companies also gives you a better feeling for the type of company that you would like to work for after graduation.

Although contacts are important, the greatest benefit that you can receive by being a member is the development of your leadership, organizational and communication skills. These are not just empty words that all societies tell their perspective members, but good advice for all future professionals. No matter what your position may be in the work environment, your ability to discuss assignments, organize projects, and meet deadlines will be well developed if you have experience early on. The ACM has many opportunities for motivated members to better these skills. There are over twenty committees that need members to organize activities and run events.

We have a strong Special Interest Group (SIG) program that unites CS people with common interests. The SIG's have all the support of the ACM as well as additional resources within their own organization. If there is not a SIG that addresses your particular interest, with little effort a new SIG could be formed and bring together more people like yourself.

As you can see, the UIUC student chapter of the ACM has many benefits for its members, and since the ACM is the official society of the Department of Computer Science, we have the full support and cooperation of the Department. I hope that if you were unsure about joining the ACM, I have convinced you that there is a lot to gain from being a member of the ACM.

Hope to see you get involved this year. Attend our first general meeting, September 9th, or stop by the ACM office located at 1204 W. Springfield Avenue, Suite 201, and pick up a membership form.

--Robert Camp, Chairman

## The ACM NEWSletter A Bigger and Better "Banks"

Much has changed in the ACM over the past few semesters. The ACM membership has increased so much in so little time that the ACM at UIUC student chapter is now one of the largest, most active chapters in the country. And we're still growing.

With all of this growth comes the need to bring you, the membership, more of what's happening in the ACM...announcing the new ACM newsletter, a bigger and better **Banks of the Boneyard**:

- Feature articles will become farther reaching, bringing ACM members into contact with professionals outside of the field of computer science in "**Applications Only**": lawyers, bankers, and teachers using the computer as a tool in their business world.
- The ACM's "**Faculty Spotlight**" will expand to include the business world in "**Corporate Spotlight**", featuring interviews with executives outside of the academic world.
- Regular columns will brief ACM members on current activities at the University, including coverage of events at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) and the Cray supercomputer, and the development of the Beckmann quadrangle now under construction.
- In addition to a broader content, future issues of **Banks of the Boneyard** will appear with a new look on stands in University buildings across campus. Only the first issue of every semester will be sent by mail, so that members and non-members alike can read about the ACM here at the University.

A bigger and better **Banks of the Boneyard** means that more than our current newsletter staff will be needed to bring these improvements to the ACM. Anyone that can string a few words together and is interested in new happenings in computer science is qualified and is in great demand. Contact me, Rich Bloch at the ACM Office at 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201 (333-5828), or leave a message with the ACM committee.

-- Rich Bloch, Editor

## SIG Update

### *Special Interest Groups at UIUC*

One of the most successful services that the ACM has brought to its members is special interest groups, or SIGs. Every SIG is different in terms of interest, but the same in one important respect: to bring students together with similar interests in the fields of computer science and computer applications.

The ACM begins this year with seven special interest groups, introducing a new SIG to the UIUC membership: SIGPLAN (programming languages). The following is a brief description of the ACM SIGs for the fall semester:

**SIGUUCP (Unix/C)** -- by far the most active ACM special interest group, providing information to those students using the Unix operating system and/or the C programming language.

**SIGART (artificial intelligence)** -- probably the fastest growing SIG, SIGART has seen an increase in meeting attendance due to the growing interest and support in artificial intelligence at the University.

**SIGMUSIC (electronic music)** -- incorporating the latest technology in computer science with music, SIGMUSIC has managed to bring together members from completely separate fields of study, and increased their understanding of computer-assisted composition and music production.

**SIGGRAPH (graphics)** -- formed to promote the growing field of computer graphics in computer science, SIGGRAPH has recently produced demonstrations using current graphics technology, and traveled to the ACM National Convention in St. Louis earlier this year.

**SIGNET (networking)** -- brings together ACM members interested in computer communication via networking. Over the past few semesters, SIGNET has provided the ACM with networking capabilities, allowing the ACM to communicate directly with department faculty.

**SIGMICRO (microcomputers)** -- one of the newest ACM special interest groups, SIGMICRO was formed late last year, and its potential has yet to be realized. SIGMICRO is aimed at ACM members who own microcomputers and want to learn more about their machines. Future plans for SIGMICRO include the formation of sub-groups such as SIGIBM (IBM users), SIGATARI (Atari users), and SIGAPPLE (Apple/Mac users).

**SIGPLAN (programming languages)** -- faculty members in the Department of Computer Science have already expressed an interest in forming the new ACM SIGPLAN. This special interest group will be geared toward all aspects of programming languages including language theory, application, and proper programming procedures.

-- Greg Freeman, SIG Coordinator

-- Rich Bloch, Editor

## SIGUUCP

Welcome back. The Unix Users and C Programmers (UUCP) is looking forward to seeing you during the fall semester. We will be sponsoring workshops dealing with the use of Unix, the C programming language, and related topics. We also will have several social events including our **Delight's Pigout**. Our first general meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16th. Our first workshop, Introductory vi Editing, will be on Wednesday, September 2nd. Both are at 7pm. Watch for announcements as to the locations. Come see our booth on Quad Day. We'll be right next to the ACM booth. Hope to see you there!

-- Doug Drew, UUCP President

## ACM Officer Changes

During the summer months a few changes were made in the four officer positions. Our previous chairman, Jim Dobyns, will not be returning to the organization this fall, so Bob Camp is stepping up to fill the vacancy. Pete Hlavach is returning to the Vice Chairman position which he held last year until a new Vice Chairman comes forth. The office of treasurer has also had a change. Chris Gerrib relinquished his position to Nick Petrone but will still be a part of the Association. The current officers are as stated below:

Chairman	Robert Camp
Vice Chairman	Pete Hlavach
Secretary	Kathy Boka
Treasurer	Nick Petrone

There will be a special election at the October 7th general meeting to confirm the appointments of the officers.

--Kathy Boka, Secretary

## Calendar of Events

- Wed Aug 26th    **QUAD DAY**  
Noon-5:00 p.m.
- Wed Sep 2nd    **SIGUUCP Workshop**  
The vi Editor  
7:00 p.m.  
Location TBA
- Wed Sep 9th    **ACM General Meeting**  
Topic: Organizational  
3:00 p.m.  
Location TBA
- Wed Sep 9th    **SIGUUCP Workshop**  
Beginning UNIX  
7:00 p.m.  
Location TBA
- Wed Sep 16th    **SIGUUCP Organizational Meeting**  
Time and Place TBA
- Wed Oct 7th    **ACM General Meeting**  
Topic: Special Interest Groups  
3:00 p.m.  
Location TBA
- Fri Oct 16th    **Resumes due for Career Day Resume**  
Book  
ACM office, 1204 West  
Springfield, Room 201  
5:00 p.m.
- Mon Nov 9th    **CAREER DAY**  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Illini Union Rooms A & B
- Wed Nov 11th    **ACM General Meeting**  
Topic: CS Open House (EOH)  
3:00 p.m.  
Location TBA

## ACM Membership

*Become active in the ACM*

Are you an ACM member yet? Would you like to join the growing number of students, professors and CS professionals here at the University of Illinois expressing an interest in computer science and applications? Become a member of the **ACM Student Chapter at UIUC**. Pick up a membership application at the ACM booth on Quad Day, August 26th, or contact the ACM Office on 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201 (333-5828) and join. Membership fees are \$5.00 a year and benefit you as well as helps the ACM bring its members more services and benefits in the field of computer science.

*--Rich Bloch, Editor*