

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD



*The Journal of the Association
for Computing Machinery at UIUC*

Rich Bloch
Editor

Volume 5, Issue 3
October 15, 1987

From the Chair ACM General Meeting Procedures

To clarify the new format of the **ACM General Meetings**, I wish to explain the structure of several related ACM functions.

The ACM General Meetings are to address the issues of organizing and publicizing current events. The idea behind first presenting ideas to the general membership is to encourage feedback during the planning stage of many functions, to

(continued on page 4)

PLATO and the ACM

In an effort to provide ACM members with networking capabilities, the ACM has established its **ACM PLATO notesfile system**. For those members that are not yet familiar with the PLATO system, PLATO is the computer teaching network created here at the University of Illinois, and used

(continued on page 3)

ACM Lectureship Series "Computers and the Humanities"

The ACM Lectureship Series presents Dr. Michael P. Barnett, Professor of Computer and Information Science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Dr. Barnett will be addressing

(continued on page 3)

Corporate Spotlight Continental Bank

The ACM Corporate Liaison Committee is sponsoring a lecture for the ACM membership on Thursday, October 22nd, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Guest speaker Terrence Tapley, 2nd Vice-President of Computer Systems Services at **Continental Bank**, will lecture in Room 115 DCL. Topics to be covered will be: MIS (management information systems) at Continental, the people and corporate culture, and information systems trends into the 1990's.

—John Tullis, Corporate Liaison

IN THE BONEYARD ...

Professor Symposium	2
Career Day Update	2
Membership Card Delay	2
Officer Confirmation	3
Resume DEADLINE!	3
ACM Membership	4
Newsletter Staff	4
SIG Update	5
ACM Goes to Allerton	5
Supercomputing News	6
8 Commandments ...	6
I/O - Beckman Institute	7
CSO Update	7
ACM Exam File	7
Calendar of Events	8

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

Career Day Update

There's even more news about the '87 ACM Career Day. For those of you who are not familiar with the event, it is a chance for companies to come to the U of I and talk to students at a large informal gathering at the Illini Union. Each company will have a booth with representatives who will be handing out corporate literature and answering any questions you might have about co-oping and job opportunities with their particular company. Last year's event was a big success with over 750 students stopping by. In addition to the 13 companies mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, five new companies have confirmed their attendance:

AT&T

McDonnell Douglas — Whose interest in students interested in

developing on-board flight computer systems. They are also interested in students with Ada programming language experience.

Unysis — from Poali, Pennsylvania
Amoco Information Systems — from Amoco Headquarters in Chicago

Bell Northern Research — A research and development company involved in telecommunications switching systems. Located in Research Triangle Park, NC.

The ACM Career Day will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Illini Union rooms A & B on Monday, November 9th. If you are interested in getting involved with the ACM Career Day committee, call Pete Hlavach at 328-3524 or stop by the ACM Office and leave a message. Help is needed with publicity, setting up on the day of the event, and corporate relations.

We are also looking for people who would like to get involved with next year's ACM Career Day.

—Pete Hlavach, Vice-Chairman

ACM Membership Delays

ACM membership cards are in the mail. There has been some delay in processing the applications and therefore in distributions of the cards. We hope to keep this delay down to two weeks of receipt of application. Please notify the ACM Office if there has been any problems with your membership cards.

—Mary Podborny, Membership

1987 ACM Professor Symposium

We proudly announce the 1987 **ACM Professor Symposium Series** sponsored by the ACM at UIUC.

The ACM Professor Symposium allows faculty members from the Department of Computer Science and other related departments to give presentations on their specific areas of research in the field of computer science. These symposia will be of particular interest to graduate students who are unsure of what area of research to pursue, though of course, they will no doubt prove to be very enlightening to all.

Among the many research areas that the Department of Computer

Science is currently working in are:

- Information Systems
- Database Systems
- Programming Languages
- Compiler Design and Development
- Operating Systems
- Artificial Intelligence
- Numerical Analysis

Professors already confirmed to speak at the ACM Professor Symposium will be:

Professor Kale
October 22
"Parallel Execution of Symbolic Computation"

Cancellation
October 29

Professor Vinzinger
November 12
topic to be announced

Professor Kubitz
November 19
"Research in Automated VLSI Design"

The ACM Professor Symposium will be held every Thursday in Room 115 Digital Computer Lab (DCL). The Symposium will be promptly at 4:00 pm.

—John Moran, Professor Symposium Coordinator

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 1)

Lectureship Series

the ACM membership on Wednesday, October 28. Time and location will be posted when available.

Dr. Barnett's topic for the lecture is entitled "Computers and the Humanities", and focuses on the development of humanistic activities in the field of computer-assisted teaching and research. Such computer-assisted fields include microcomputer graphics, electronic publishing, database and network systems, data structures and language processing. Dr. Barnett will stress the importance of interactions made between computer scientists and fields of research indirectly associated with computer science, including history, modern and classical languages, and the arts.

Dr. Barnett began his career in computer science at London University and IBM UK in 1948,

where he was Associate Professor of Physics and Director of the Cooperative Computing Laboratory. He then became involved in electronic text processing and symbol manipulation, where he began to integrate computer science into other fields of research such as language design, education, and biology. Dr. Barnett has since continued his interest in bringing computer science into different disciplines, including art and law.

Dr. Barnett has been a member of the Information Committee of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, a director of the Information Industry Association, the Newsletter Editor and then Chairman of the ACM SIGOA (Office Automation) and an Area Director on the ACM SIGBOARD.

The ACM at UIUC welcomes Dr. Barnett to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and urges all interested ACM members to attend.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

(continued from page 1)

PLATO

primarily as an educational aid. The structure of the PLATO notesfile system is similar to the Unix notesfile. To access the ACM notesfile, first type "member" as the signon name, then enter "acm" as the signon group.

Once logged into the system, you can edit and post messages, and read up on current activities in the ACM. The ACM PLATO notesfile system will allow ACM members to

interact more efficiently with other ACM members, and ACM executives as well. Need some help with a machine problem for one of your CS/EE classes? Have an idea about a potential ACM event? Want to leave a personal to place in the newsletter, or respond to an article you read about in past issues of *BANKS OF THE BONEYARD*? The ACM PLATO notesfile is the place to go.

Contact the ACM Office (333-5828) for more information.

--Mike Ries, Contributor

ACM Officer Confirmation

At the ACM General Meeting on October 7, there was a special election to confirm executive officer positions. The confirmed positions are as follows:

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

These changes come in direct response to vacancies made in the ACM executive roster during the summer.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

ACM Career Day Resume Book Deadline is NOW!

The ACM Career Day Resume Book is due now, October 16th! The Resume Book will be distributed to all the companies at Career Day. Send it to the ACM Office (The ACM at UIUC, 240 Digital Computer Lab, 1304 West Springfield Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801) immediately. Please use the forms available from the Engineering Placement Office. Resumes longer than two sides will not be accepted. There will be separate sections in the Resume Book for summer and permanent employment and BS and MS/PhD degrees. Hurry, so you don't miss out!

—Jeff Wilson
Resume Book Coordinator

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 1)

General Meetings

inform the ACM membership of the intentions of the executive council, and interest members in the development of those functions. Each meeting will focus on one committee or event that the ACM wishes to further develop and present to its members.

Although we will no longer present guest speakers at the meetings, we have formed a new committee called the ACM Corporate Spotlight to

encourage corporate speakers—businessmen and women and company recruiters—to attend our Corporate Spotlight presentations. Oftentimes, summer employers are more than willing to send a representative to the University of Illinois to speak to potential employees. If anyone is interested in booking speakers for the ACM Corporate Spotlight, please contact our corporate liaison John Tullis.

In addition to the ACM Corporate Spotlight, we have developed another committee that is organizing ACM National speakers to visit the

UIUC Chapter of the ACM and present us with informative discussions covering a wide variety of topics related to computer science. Called the ACM Lectureship Series, these lecturers are professional speakers and are highly regarded all over the world.

I hope this helps to clarify your understanding of some of the new committees and the new format of the ACM General Meetings.

The next **ACM General Meeting** will be on Wednesday, November 11 at 5:00 pm in Room 100 Metallurgy & Mining (MM). The topic presented at the meeting will cover discussions and preparations for the Engineering Open House in March, 1988.

—Robert Camp, Chairman

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD Newsletter Staff Meetings

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD, newsletter of the ACM at UIUC, needs your help. In order to bring the ACM membership a newsletter every other week, members need to become contributors. If you have an idea, or want to start meeting professors and staff here at the University of Illinois, working on the staff of Banks of the Boneyard is a great place to start.

There are plenty of positions available as a newsletter staff member, including layout and design of the newsletter, printing, distribution ... and that's only the half of it. Article-writers are needed to talk with University professors and professionals here in Urbana-Champaign. Learn about the Cray and Cedar supercomputer research being done here and now on campus. Find out just what it takes to start up a software company and

become one of the foremost leaders in aircraft simulation software. Interview corporate executives and maybe even land yourself a job at the same time!

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD is published every other week and distributed to nearly 1,000 readers on campus. It is fast becoming the newsletter north of Green. Become a newsletter staff member and help make it the best.

Newsletter staff meetings are held every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the ACM Lounge located on the third floor of 1204 W. Springfield Avenue (one block east of the Digital Computer Lab). For more information, call the ACM Office at 333-5828 and leave a message.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

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 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

The ACM Goes to Allerton *Watching the Sun Rise Over Illinois*

As you may already know, the U of I has a really nice conference center near Monticello called Allerton House. During a recent leadership convention for student organizations, five of our members got the opportunity to see just how nice it was. On September 25th, Bob Camp, Jeff Lewis, Anna Minkov, Steve Norris, and I met in front of Altgeld Hall along with about 30 people from other campus groups for the bus ride out to Allerton.

The moment we arrived, the conference organizers put a crowded schedule in our hands and got us moving. Excellent seminars were held covering topics like public relations, leadership styles, RSO procedures, delegation of authority, and time management, to name a few. They were intense and practical, developing concepts that we could take back to our groups and put right to work.

There were short breaks strategically placed to give us time to talk about the seminars and about common problems and challenges faced by the groups represented. There was Allerton House itself, an English manor with luxurious furnishings, high ceilings, and lots of rooms. Not least, there was the 1,500 acres of Allerton Park with well-kept lawns, sculptures, gardens, trails, an echo chamber, and other things that we didn't have time to discover.

Two U of I alumni from Proctor & Gamble were on hand to share the benefit of their experience in the real world: Mark Porst with a lively, entertaining lecture describing techniques for creative motivation; and Janet Goodwin, who stayed for the whole conference and provided an interesting wrap-up at the end with her reflections and impressions of what she observed.

All this took place between 5:30 Friday afternoon and 5:30 Saturday afternoon, including a 1.5-mile hike to the Sun Singer statue at dawn to watch the sun rise.

The whole conference was well-planned and a great success, thanks to the people who put it together. Somebody at the conference mentioned that this is one of the things that sets our student organizations apart from those of other schools—the opportunity to send members to a place where they get an applicable, useful (although concentrated) education in leadership skills. More importantly, they get to meet and exchange ideas and information with leaders of other organizations.

If you would like more information about the Allerton experience, contact the ACM Office at 333-5828.

--Chris Walquist, Contributor

SIG Update *Special Interest Groups at UIUC*

One of the most successful services that the ACM at UIUC has brought to the membership is the Special Interest Group, or SIG. Every SIG is different in terms of interest, but the same in one important respect: to bring students together with similar interests in the field of computer science and applications.

In addition to the ACM Special Interest Groups already available to ACM members, the following is a list of potential ACM SIGs here at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:

SIGADA — Ada Programming Language

SIGAPL — APL Programming Language

SIGARCH — Architecture of Computer Systems

SIGBDP — Business Data Processing and Management

SIGBIO - Biomedical Computing

SIGCAPH — Computers and the

Physically Handicapped
SIGCAS — Computers and Society

SIGCHI — Computers and Human Interaction

SIGCSE — Computer Science in Education

SIGCUE — Computer Users in Education

SIGDA — Design Automation

SIGDOC — Systems Documentation

(continued on page 8)

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

Supercomputing News *Cray and Cedar Update at UIUC*

The ACM at UIUC, in association with the CSO, the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development, and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, will be bringing the ACM membership continual updates on the Cray and Cedar projects in subsequent issue of *BANKS OF THE BONEYARD*.

To date, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) has seen increasing activity in its industrial supercomputing program. According to Larry L. Smarr, director of the NCSA, this program allows corporate scientists to work "shoulder to shoulder with the best minds from universities in the supercomputing revolution."

In early August, Amoco joined Eastman Kodak, Inc. as another industrial partner at the NCSA. The \$3 million agreement became effective on August 3, and gives Amoco access to the NCSA's Interdisciplinary Research Center, new technologies developed at the center, and 1,000 hours a year for the next three years on the CRAY X-MP/48 supercomputer.

The increasing interest in the NCSA will no doubt bring the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign into the spotlight as the main computer research and development facility in the nation. John A. Stevenson, coordinator of the industrial supercomputing program and primary university contact with corporations stated, "They [Amoco] bring one of the leading research

The Eight Commandments of Computer Operations

Thou shalt not ...

- 0 Push buttons "just to see what happens".
- 1 Worship other computer systems (unless they're newer than yours).
- 10 Impersonate Liberace while sitting at the keyboard.
- 11 Eat food, drink liquids, or act in any manner that resembles life.
- 100 Stare at blinking lights for more than one eight-hour shift.
- 101 Tell someone that you accidentally destroyed his files and his backups, just to see the look on their face.
- 110 Enjoy killing a job (lest it be a vengeful act).
- 111 Display firearms in the computer room.

programs in the country to the NCSA, as well as several of the best research minds."

In more recent supercomputing news, the experimental Cedar project here at UIUC has made significant advances in bringing the university a new generation of general-purpose, multiprocessing supercomputers.

At the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development, developers have begun testing a global interface board which acts very much like a "mother-board" on a personal computer: interacting with key processors and memory-networking components. Edward Davidson, associate director for hardware at the center stated that

"This event marks the transition from the design phase to the debugging phase for Cedar system hardware."

Cedar is a multiprocessing supercomputer, similar to the CRAY system at the NCSA. Cedar differs from the CRAY in that the CRAY is designed around a single supercomputer architecture, whereas the Cedar is actually designed around a series of inter-related minisupercomputers. These FX/8 minisupercomputers, made by Alliant Computer Systems Corp. are themselves built around eight processors. The global interface board, now being tested, coordinates these individual minisupercomputer processors.

--Rich Bloch, Editor

I/O - The Beckman Institute

[Editor's Note: I/O is an open-forum column designed to enlighten or amuse readers about some aspect of computer science, and perhaps, encourage a response. Send any opinions or ideas to the ACM Office, 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201, or leave a message at 333-5828.]

You can't possibly miss it. Whether you're hiking up to DCL in the morning, staggering out of the Woodshop after pulling an all-nighter in front of your still non-functioning MP, or just cruising down University on the way to 7-Eleven, this hulking mass of incomplete construction looms over the skyline like the true monolith it will one day become.

No, I'm not talking about Kenney Gym.

That's right, the Beckman Institute.

This, oh, I don't know, let's call it a PLETHORA of EXTRAVAGANT CREATIVE ARCHITECTURE, donated by a nice multi-billionaire alumnus (who's really a great guy, I'm sure, and would be glad to give me a job when I graduate), will serve as the CORNERSTONE of the Computer Science campus someday. Aren't we all excited about it?

Stop pouting. I know what you're thinking. How can I get all hyped up over a building that won't see occupancy until I graduate and driving around in my Saab with my important car phone?

What I'm proposing can change all that. I think we should change the name of the place.

Think about it. "The Beckman Institute." No offense to Dr. Arnold and Mrs. Mabel, but it sounds like where all the bad guy, mad scientists work in some B-grade science-fiction movie. Picture this:

Our hero, portrayed by a youthful Matthew Broderick, is sitting over a computer terminal in his U of I dorm room. His brow is furrowed with concentration; sweat pours down his face. His girlfriend, played by lovely Molly Ringwald, has been turned into a mutant hamster with no personality by some evil organization. But who did it? Matthew hacks around in frustration with no luck. He then whips out his Walkman, plugs in the IRON EAGLE soundtrack, and tries one last attempt. The screen goes blank, and with the ominous clickety-clack

that accompanies all computer readouts when they appear in movies, three words appear across the terminal to the satisfaction of our young protagonist. These three words are:

THE BECKMAN INSTITUTE

See what I mean?

So, what I want to do is this. Let's start a letter-writing campaign to Dr. Beckman. Tell him he's swell, but we really ought to consider changing that moniker ...

Next time, I'll give you my suggestion for an alternate name ...

—Bob Gerrard, Contributor

CSO Update

The "Introduction to the CSO" is an informative guide designed to familiarize students and faculty with the many services the Computing Services Office has to offer. This free booklet is available now at the CSO Office at 1208 W. Springfield, and at the new CSO Office located at 101 S. Gregory. A new, updated edition of "Introduction to the CSO" is currently in production and will be available early next semester.

For more information, contact the ACM Office (333-5828) or pick up a copy of the CSO's newsletter *Offline*, available in the front lobby of the DCL building.

--Rich Bloch, Editor

Exams on File

How to Boost those Test Scores the ACM Way

The ACM is collecting old exams from its membership to be placed in the **ACM Exam File**. We are looking for copies of exams for any courses in computer science, mathematics, as well as introductory physics and chemistry. The ACM Exam File, located in the ACM Office, is open to all ACM members as an aid in their coursework.

If you have any old exams you wish to donate, please stop by the ACM Office at 1204 W. Springfield, Room 201 or call 333-5828.

--Rich Bloch, Editor

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 5)

SIG Update

SIGIR — Information Retrieval

SIGNUM — Numerical
Mathematics

SIGOA — Office Automation

SIGSAC — Security, Audit and
Control

SIGSAM — Symbolic and
Algebraic Manipulation

SIGSIM — Simulation

SIGSOFT — Software Engineering

SIGUCCS — University and
College Computing
Services

—Rich Bloch, Editor

SIGGRAPH (graphics) — The main goal of SIGGRAPH is to learn more about computer graphics here at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This year's main objectives are to design and implement a project at the Engineering Open House in March, 1988, invite guest speakers to talk at SIGGRAPH meetings, and have a lot of fun. For more information, call the ACM Office at 333-5828 between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and ask for Abbas Zein. Our next meeting will be on October 22 at 8:00 pm in the ACM Lounge located on the third floor of 1204 W. Springfield Avenue. Hope to see you there.

—Abbas Zein, SIGGRAPH
Chairman

SIGNET (networking) — Interested in learning more about data communications? Interested in learning how to connect to campus mainframes with your modems? Interested in electronic mail and how to send it anywhere in the world? Interested in knowing how to log on

ACM Calendar of Events

Thur Oct 15	SIGNET Meeting 7:00 pm ACM Lounge, 1204 West Springfield, Room 301
Fri Oct 16	Resumes due for Career Day Resume Book 5:00 pm ACM Office, 1204 West Springfield, Room 201
Weds Oct 21	NEWSLETTER STAFF Meeting 7:00 pm ACM Lounge, 1204 West Springfield, Room 301
Thurs Oct 22	ACM Corporate Spotlight Presentation: Terrence Tapley, Continental Bank Topic: MIS Now and in the Future 12:00 pm 115 Digital Computer Lab
	ACM Professor Symposium Presents: Professor Kale, Dept. of Computer Science Topic: "Parallel Execution of Symbolic Computation" 4:00 pm 115 Digital Computer Lab
	SIGGRAPH Meeting 8:00 pm ACM Lounge, 1204 West Springfield, Room 301
Weds Oct 28	ACM Lectureship Series Presents: Michael Barnett, ACM National Speaker Topic: "Computer Science and the Humanities" Time and Location TBA
	NEWSLETTER STAFF Meeting 7:00 pm ACM Lounge, 1204 West Springfield, Room 301

to your class mainframes from any remote site on campus? Interested in seminars on the future of telecommunications? If you say yes to any of these questions, come to a SIGNET meeting and check us out. The next SIGNET meeting will be

held on Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm in the ACM Lounge located on the third floor of 1204 W. Springfield Avenue.

—Steve Norris, SIGNET Chairman

(Last name)



ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY

University of Illinois at Urbana Student Chapter

APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____, 198____

Campus Address _____, Illinois ZIP: _____ Phone: (217) ____ - ____

Home Address _____, _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: () ____ - ____

Curriculum: Class:

CS/Engr Math-CS/LAS
 CompE/Engr MIS/CBA
 EE/Engr Other:
 Math/LAS

Freshman MA/MS
 Sophomore Ph.D.
 Junior Faculty
 Senior Other: _____

Suggestions and comments:

I am interested in the following Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and committees:

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGART (Artificial Intelligence)	<input type="checkbox"/> CS Open House (EOH)	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> SIGGRAPH (Graphics)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational
<input type="checkbox"/> SIGMICRO (Microcomputers)	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Council
<input type="checkbox"/> SIGMUSIC (Electronic Music)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> CS Dept Committees
<input type="checkbox"/> SIGOPS (Operating Systems)	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Relations
<input type="checkbox"/> SIGUUCP (Unix/C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Relations
<input type="checkbox"/> SIG _____ (forming another SIG)	<input type="checkbox"/> Professor Symposiums	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Please return this form with \$5.00 annual membership fee to:

ACM c/o Membership Chairman
240 Digital Computer Laboratory
1304 W. Springfield Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Cash
 Check (payable to "ACM")
 Already a paid member (updating
membership application information)

Are you a member of ACM National? Yes, National ACM # _____
 No
 Currently applying

(Membership applications for ACM National are available in the ACM Office located at:
Room 201, 1204 W. Springfield Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801 Phone (217) 333-5828)