



Banks of the Boneyard

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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.)

Our "Faculty Spotlight" this issue is on Assistant Professor Simon Kaplan. Professor Kaplan earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, with a thesis concerning the semantics of programming languages. In 1982, he received the Southern Life Award, a prestigious honor naming him as best graduate student of the year at the University. Professor Kaplan joined the Department of Computer Science here in 1985.

Professor Kaplan's current research lies within the field of software engineering and program development, with particular reference to support for cooperative effort of many programmers. Professor Kaplan is also supported by an AT&T ISEP (Illinois Software Engineering Program) grant under which he researches programming environments and the analysis of the efficiency of program modification versus new program creation.

When asked why he entered education, Professor Kaplan replied that he was attracted by the freedom that academic research allows. He feels that industry would place too much of a constraint on eccentricity in research, thus limiting creativity in problem-solving. Academia, on the other hand, provides a more pleasant and free approach to coming up with ideas.

Professor Kaplan advises students to plan ahead and structure their degrees by taking solid theory courses. He feels that too many students try to take the easy way out and avoid the more difficult courses and thus end up being ill-prepared for future graduate study. A point he makes is that even if graduate study does not appear to be important now, it may very well be later on down the road.

— Tom Reguel

NSA and KAI Speakers

Lynn Weistock-Wechselberger of the National Security Agency (NSA) will speak at the next ACM general meeting on Wednesday October 15th at 3:00 pm in 151 Electrical Engineering Building. She will discuss computer applications with the NSA and what it is like to work for an intelligence agency.

A representative from Kuck & Associates, Inc. will talk at the November 5th meeting. The topic will be the growth of supercomputers in the next five years and how KAI wants and plans to be a part of that growth.

As always, refreshments will be served.

— Peter H. Lavach

Electronic Music SIG

Electronic music buffs can now join a newly-formed ACM special interest group. SIGEMUS is for everyone, regardless of experience or background, who is interested in electronic music. Tours of various laboratories around campus are currently being planned, as well as general meetings and seminars. Professor Scott Wyatt of the Department of Music will give a lecture at one of the first meetings. In addition, PLATO accounts may be made available to SIGEMUS members for music composition and experimentation.

The exact time and place of the general meetings will be announced at the next ACM general meeting on October 15th. For more information on SIGEMUS, contact Ms. Metaxia Lianos or Steve Glenner at the ACM office (333-5828).

— Metaxia Lianos

Graphics SIG

Those of you who were at the ACM meeting on September 24th may have been impressed by the fantastic graphic images created on the Cray supercomputer. With the increased processing speeds of modern day supercomputers, graphic representation of some complex calculations and equations is often the only way to comprehend the results. Computer graphics are also playing a major role in other industries, from computer artwork, to animated sequences in motion pictures, to real-time combat simulations in the military.

The new computer graphics special interest group (SIGGRAPH) has been formed for those members of ACM who have a keen interest in this area. Professor Dwight Hearn, who teaches CS 318 Computer Graphics this semester, has agreed to sponsor our group. Professor Hearn is looking into the possibility of our involvement with Cray graphics and related projects. It does not matter how much experience you have, or which area of computer graphics you have an interest in. To join this SIG, please contact Geoffrey Gnau (359-3650), Jonathan Sauer (328-6505), or the ACM office (333-5828).

— *Geoffrey Gnau*

Unix/C SIG Meetings

The Unix Users and C Programmers (SIG-UUCP) will hold its first several workshops during the next few weeks concerning Unix and C. On October 16th, "Debugging code in C" is the topic. On October 23rd, everyone's favorite topic, "Pointers in C" is scheduled. The last workshop of the month is "Bellmac Architecture" on October 30th. The next general meeting is Thursday November 6th. All meetings and workshops are at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL. For more information, contact Mike Stegeman (359-0477) or Leah Kleidon (328-4994) or call the ACM office (333-5828).

— *Mike Stegeman*

Some Upcoming Projects

We are planning a couple of projects that I hope you will find interesting. One will serve to improve communications between the ACM executive committee and the general membership, and the other is a programming contest we will be sponsoring for all you hot programmer types.

The communications project is designed to get feedback from you as members of ACM. The first stage of this project is a questionnaire going out with this newsletter. We would like your input on several topics. In addition, if you have any comments or suggestion for improving our organization in any way, please write them down on the questionnaire. You may mail the questionnaire back to us, or bring it by when you attend the next general meeting. The information that is most critical is a the name of a machine that you sign into frequently, and your signon name on that machine.

The reason we wish to know a signon name and a machine name that you use is so that we may communicate directly to you via electronic mail. This allows us to directly notify you of upcoming events and activities. It also allows you to communicate back with us. If you wish to send mail to contact the ACM leadership, send it to paladin@uiucdcs. If you are using any of the DCS or CSO UNIX machines, you can get your email to us even faster by sending it to uiucdcs\!uiucdcs\paladin. Future issues of the newsletter this semester will discuss in depth the electronic mail and notesfile capabilities of the university computer systems. We do want you to feel comfortable using the computers, and to enhance your computer literacy.

Our other project is a programming contest. We will distribute about \$350 in prizes. The language will be C, the machines will be the woodshop 3b2s. Teams may have up to 3 members, and there will be separate graduate and undergraduate divisions. The date will be sometime in November, perhaps during the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. We will give out more information as planning progresses. Sign up to compete at the ACM office.

— *John Tullis, Chairman*

Membership Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey of interests and return it to the ACM office (either through free campus mail or drop it off in person). We will compile the data and announce the results at the next ACM general meeting and in the next newsletter. Thanks.

SPEAKERS

I am interested in speakers discussing:

- ☐ technical topics
- ☐ nontechnical topics
- ☐ recruiting
- ☐ general interest
- ☐ other (please write comments below).

I would like the following companies to speak in 1986 - 1987.

- ☐ IBM ☐ DEC
- ☐ Intel ☐ NASA
- ☐ Microsoft ☐ CERL
- ☐ others (please add below).

GENERAL MEETINGS

- ☐ They should stay in 151 EEB
 - ☐ They should be moved to:
-
- ☐ Wednesday at 3PM is fine
 - ☐ other (please add comments below)

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*** CAMPUS MAIL ***

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TOURS

I am interested in ACM sponsored tours
of:

- ☐ NCSA/Cray facility at UIUC
- ☐ Gould, Inc. in Urbana
- ☐ McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis
- ☐ Bell Labs in Naperville
- ☐ others (your suggestions below)

COMPUTER ACCOUNTS

Please put my electronic mailing addresses
listed below in the ACM electronic mail contact
system.

USER SIGNON

MACHINE

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

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