



acm

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 Herbert Edelsbrunner. Professor Edelsbrunner earned his Diploma (equivalent to an M.S.) in technical mathematics from the University of Graz, Austria in 1980. He then went on to gain his Ph.D. in technical mathematics, also from Graz. His thesis topic concerned computational geometry. He also worked in a position at Graz similar to being an Assistant Professor during the latter work on his Ph.D. and a few years thereafter. In Spring 1985, Professor Edelsbrunner taught at the University of Denver before arriving here at the University of Illinois later that year.

Professor Edelsbrunner's areas of interest include data structures, algorithms, combinatorics, and discrete geometry. His goal is to work on mathematical aspects of computer science and to apply mathematical results to the solution of computer science problems. His book, *Algorithms in Combinatorial Geometry*, will be published this summer. Professor Edelsbrunner has also received the Amoco Faculty Development Award which funds his research.

Professor Edelsbrunner stated that he was inspired by the seminars of a certain professor at Graz, which made him especially interested in his present areas of concentration. He recommends that students maintain a certain degree of self-motivation and responsibility in their studies so that they too can expand their own interests into fulfilling careers.

-Tom Begnel

AT&T Bell Labs

The next ACM general meeting will be on Wednesday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m. in 151 Electrical Engineering Building. The speaker will be Herman Bouma, a software developer at AT&T/Bell Laboratories. Mr. Bouma's presentation is entitled "Work Environment at Bell Labs." As always, refreshments will be served.

Nominations for next year's ACM officer positions will be taken at this meeting and at our March 11th meeting. The actual elections will be held on April 1st.

Following the meeting, we will be filming a scene from the ACM Video Feature for EOH '87. We need a lot of extras, so please stay after for a few minutes. Refer to the article "ACM Goes to Hollywood" for more information.

-Pete Hlavach

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Job Fair '87 Wrap Up

The ACM Job Fair that was held last Monday, February 16th, was quite impressive. Fifteen prominent companies came looking just for us CS majors. Representatives of the various corporations met with many promising future professionals and set up interviews for permanent as well as summer internship positions from which excellent offers should soon follow. The ACM Resume Book was distributed to every company which attended, so additional contacts may still be possible for ACM members who participated in the Fair.

We are very pleased with the result of this year's Fair and will, therefore, be sponsoring it annually from now on. If anyone has suggestions for next year's Fair please contact us at the ACM Office (333-5828). Thanks to all who came to the Fair and everyone who helped out, and I hope it was beneficial to your employment goals.

-Bob Camp

Professor Symposium

The ACM sponsored Professor Symposium series features faculty members from the Computer Science and other related departments discussing their research and other topics of interest. The Symposia will be presented at 3:00 pm in 115 DCL every Monday (except the first Monday of each month). The purpose of the Symposia is to allow students to familiarize themselves with some of our professors and gain insight into what types of research are being conducted here at the University.

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|----------|--|
| Feb 23rd | Prof. G. G. Belford
"Distributed Database Systems" |
| Mar 9th | Prof. S. N. Kamin
"Programming Languages" |
| Mar 23rd | Prof. W. J. Kubitz
"Graphics and Automated VLSI Design" |

-Kim Griffin

ACM Goes to Hollywood

Last semester opened a new era for ACM publicity. Gaining our inspiration from watching MTV, ACM put together two 30-second commercials that were run locally on Cablevision channels MTV and CNN.

Once again, ACM is gearing up for another production--the ACM Video Feature. This will be a half hour video short that introduces ACM in a soap-opera storyline. It will be shown continuously at the ACM Booth during Engineering Open House '87 on March 6th and 7th.

One scene in the video depicts an ACM general meeting, so we need extras to simulate a typically excited, enthusiastic crowd. If you are interested, please remain after the February 25th general meeting featuring AT&T Bell Labs so that we may shoot the crowd scene. Who knows, you too may be discovered.

-Tony Alonso

Engineering Open House

It must seem like you have been reading articles, seeing flyers, and hearing information about Engineering Open House '87 for quite some time. This is because it takes months of preparation and work from a lot of people to make an event like this successful. The final weeks before Engineering Open House are indeed busy.

You still have a chance to participate in this year's event. Every Wednesday from now through March 6th and 7th, there will be a meeting at 6:30 pm in the ACM Lounge. At this time, we will be finalizing months worth of work. If you would like to get involved, call me (367-2643) or the ACM Office (333-5828). I know everyone is "busy," but I hope that you will not let this opportunity slip by. Bring a friend and come join us for an hour or two on Wednesday.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their effort and time these past few months. Great job, folks!

-Lisa Hartweck

ACM Executive List

The following is a list of ACM and Special Interest Group executives and the positions that they hold:

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Position</u>
Subutai Ahmad	SIGART
Tony Alonso	Treasurer
Tom Begnel	Newsletter
Kathy Boka	Job Fair
Mike Bruno	SIGMICRO
Bob Camp	Job Fair
Dan Comenduley	Job Fair
Jim Dobyns	Newsletter
Doug Drew	SIGUUCP
Chris Gerrib	Secretary
Steve Glenner	SIGMUSIC
Geoff Gnau	SIGGRAPH
Kim Griffin	Engr Council/Job Fair
Lisa Hartweck	Engineering Open House
Pete Hlavach	Vice Chairman
Leah Kleidon	SIG Coord./SIGUUCP
Sun Kwok	SIGUUCP/Publicity
Lisa Marchese	Publicity
Laura Meravi	SITE-JETS/Resume Book
Amy Moore	Engineering Open House
Mary Peterson	Engineering Council
Mary Podborny	Membership
Russ Price	SIGNET
Prof. Sylvian Ray	Faculty Advisor
Jonathan Sauer	SIGGRAPH
Diane Siebert	Engineering Open House
David Trant	SIGGRAPH
John Tullis	Chairman
Chris Walquist	SIGMUSIC/Job Fair
Dan Weber	SIGUUCP

You can contact ACM and SIG executives either personally, or by leaving them a message at the ACM Office (333-5828).

-Lisa Hartweck

Artificial Intelligence SIG

This semester's SIGART activities started off with the first talk of our lecture series, given by Prof. Harandi of the Department of Computer Science. He discussed his research which is on developing an intelligent programming

environment, i.e., one which can develop the program for a problem, given its specification. His illuminating talk highlighted many of the issues in this area and the problems which still need to be solved. Fortunately for those of you who want to be programmers, the research is still a long way from being completed, although he has developed a prototype.

We are also starting up a LISP workshop for those who want to learn LISP but are not currently taking a course involving the language. The workshop will start with the basics and hopefully work up to a substantial group project. Details of the workshop will be discussed at our next meeting (see below). If you cannot make the meeting or would like more information, please contact John Jenner (344-6883).

The next SIGART meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th, at 4:00 pm. At time of publication, the topic and location were unknown. Look out for our posters the week of February 16th for the specifics. Also listen for an announcement at the ACM general meeting at 3:00 pm that day. The next edition of our newsletter, *Artificially Speaking*, will also go out that weekend. Contact Subutai Ahmad (398-4940) or leave a message at the ACM Office (333-5828) if you would like to get on our mailing list.

-Subutai Ahmad

Microcomputer SIG

SIGMICRO is a relatively new special interest group for anyone interested in any aspect of microcomputers. We are currently trying to obtain a microcomputer and publishing software for the use of SIGMICRO and ACM; we are also making plans for a series of workshops on topics ranging from MS-DOS to word processing to databases and anything else which is of interest to our membership.

Since SIGMICRO just started up, we are still looking for interested people that might like to conduct workshops or get involved in committees. We have a lot of ideas for activities that we could sponsor, workshops being just one of them. For Engineering Open House, we will be handing out *free software!* Anyone willing to come to our

booth at EOH '87 will receive a free diskette with a useful public domain/shareware utility. We will be definitely be distributing MS-DOS software and we *might* be distributing Macintosh software also. Just to make sure, you should bring your own 3 1/2" Macintosh disk if you have one.

SIGMICRO is looking forward to an active and productive semester and we hope you'll be a part of it. If you have any questions about SIGMICRO, feel free to call me (352-1081) or the ACM Office (333-5828).

-Mike Bruno

UNIX/C SIG

The goal of SIGUUCP is to provide new and experienced users of the Unix operating system and the C programming language with a source of information and help. We provide workshops to train new users, and to give tips to experienced users. Our general meetings will include guest speakers who will discuss new developments in the Unix system and the C language.

The upcoming meetings and workshops are:

Feb 25th Debugging C Programs

Mar 4th Advanced Unix

Mar 11th General Meeting

Mar 16th Spring Break...

Mar 25th Advanced VI Editor

All meetings and workshops will be at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL unless otherwise announced. For more information about SIGUUCP, come to a meeting or workshop, or call the ACM Office (333-5828).

We are organizing a tutoring service to help out those who need a hand. If you are interested in being a tutor, please contact either Metaxia Lianos (367-5934) or Dan Weber (359-7926).

-Dan Weber

Computer Graphics SIG

At the last SIGGRAPH meeting, Dan Defend gave an excellent talk on the parallelization techniques he has used on a ray-tracing algorithm. He then took most of the 30 attendees to Talbot Laboratory for a demonstration on the Pixar. We saw a tremendous animation sequence in addition to the ray-tracing applications discussed in the talk.

Response for the trip to St. Louis for the "graphics day" at the ACM Computer Science Conference '87 was small, but a group went to the convention compliments of SIGGRAPH on Wednesday, February 18th for the National SIGGRAPH exhibit.

Although the time and date for the next meeting has not yet been established, it will most likely be on a Monday at 4:00 pm, probably near the end of February. This time seems to be acceptable to most members, so most meetings will probably be Mondays at 4:00 pm for the remainder of the semester.

I am still looking for people to help out with Engineering Open House '87 and scheduling speakers. If you are interested in either of these areas, please contact me at one of the numbers given below. Speaking of EOH '87, there will be several graphics projects, as well as many other general computer science projects, on display for EOH '87. If you have a project you would like to show, please call me *immediately*, if not sooner. We will have one room in DCL assigned to SIGGRAPH during the Open House. Signs will be posted closer to the time of EOH '87, so be sure to find out where the projects are and drop by to see what other people are doing in graphics at the University.

To find out more about anything mentioned in this article, or to join SIGGRAPH, contact David Trant (359-0742 or 244-5969) or the ACM Office (333-5828).

-David Trant

Leadership Positions

The ACM is holding elections during the general meeting on Wednesday, April 1st. We will be accepting nominations for positions at each of the general meetings preceding the election meeting.

The positions available that will be decided by general membership vote are: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. The responsibilities of these positions will be accepted by those persons who are elected to those positions immediately following the results of the elections.

The Chairman is responsible for the overall administration of the chapter, for performing public speaking to represent the chapter, and various and sundry other duties. If you are not prepared to work fifteen to twenty hours a week on this, do not even bother running for the job.

The Vice Chairman is required to obtain speakers for general meetings, to fulfill various duties as specified by the Chairman, and to fill in for the Chairman when necessary.

The Treasurer is responsible for handling all funds. This is a very important position, and requires a person of great honesty, one whom the executive officers can trust. Specifically, this job requires frequent trips to the bank with membership funds, fundraising activities, and bookkeeping of the organizational finances.

For Secretary, the position entails being responsible for all official correspondence, taking minutes at all executive and general meetings, and generally handling all chapter communications with outside agencies.

There are many positions that will be available by appointment. Appointments will be made on the basis of past performance (for currently active members), a willingness to work, and whether they are personable and competent. Some of the appointed posts are: Special Interest Group Coordinator, Social Chair, Publicity Chair, Newsletter Editor, Programming Contest Chair, SITE/JETS Coordinator, Engineering Open House Chair, Job Fair Chair, and Office Manager. Other posts are created and dissolved as needed.

Bits and Pieces



-Tom Dugan

The officership positions of the Special Interest Groups will come up for election during the two weeks following the ACM general election on April 1st. These elections are held by the individual SIGs, and membership in the SIG is a prerequisite for voting. This affects the following SIGs: SIGART, SIGGRAPH, SIGMICRO, SIGMUSIC, SIGNET, SIGPLAN, and SIGUUCP.

One final note point: you must be a member of the National ACM to run for an officership position in the local chapter. All candidates will be required to produce proof of National affiliation at the April 1st meeting. If you apply now, you should have your National membership card by then. If for some reason it is slow, your cancelled check made out to National will be accepted as National affiliation.

-John Tullis

Calendar of Events

Mon Feb 23rd	Professor Symposium: Prof. G. G. Belford: "Distributed Databases." 3:00 pm 115 DCL.	Wed Mar 4th	Engr Open House '87 Meeting: Project Demo's. 6:30 pm ACM Lounge.
Wed Feb 25th	ACM General Meeting: AT&T Bell Laboratories. 3:00 pm 151 EEB.	Fri Mar 6th	Engineering Open House '87: Exhibits and Demo's. All Day--Engineering Campus.
Wed Feb 25th	ACM Video Feature: Filming of Crowd Scene. 4:00 pm 151 EEB.	Sat Mar 7th	Engineering Open House '87: Exhibits and Demo's. All Day--Engineering Campus.
Wed Feb 25th	SIGART Meeting: Location and Topic TBA. 4:00 pm.	Mon Mar 9th	Professor Symposium: Prof. S. N. Kamin: "Programming Languages". 3:00 pm 115 DCL.
Wed Feb 25th	Engr Open House '87 Meeting: Poster Party. 6:30 pm ACM Lounge.	Wed Mar 11th	ACM General Meeting: Advanced Micro Systems. 3:00 pm 151 EEB.
Wed Feb 25th	SIGUUCP Workshop: Debugging C Programs. 7:00 pm 115 DCL.	Wed Mar 11th	SIGUUCP Meeting. 7:00 pm 115 DCL.

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