

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

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



Rich Bloch
Editor

Volume 5, Issue 6
December 9, 1987

An ACM Semester in Review



1987 ACM Career Day Wrap-Up

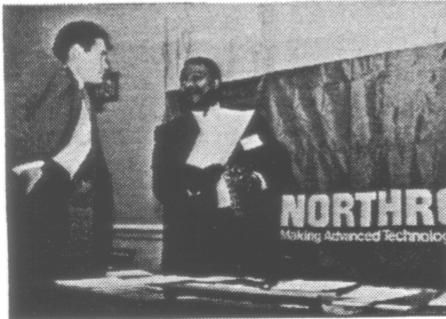
The ACM Career Day was held on Monday, November 9th this year from 9 am to 5 pm. It was only the second event of its kind that the ACM had sponsored. The first was the ACM Job Fair, held in the spring of 1987. At both events, company representatives met with students during an informal gathering in the Illini Union. This year, twenty-two companies attended, including Rockwell International, Tellabs, Harris

(continued on page 2)

IN THE BONEYARD ...

<i>From the Chair</i>	2
<i>1988 EOH Projects</i>	3
<i>Newsletter Meetings</i>	4
<i>ACM Exam File</i>	5
<i>I/O—Computer Fees</i>	5
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	6
<i>The ACM Social Scene</i>	6
<i>Vice-Chairman Graduates</i>	6
<i>ACM INFOline</i>	6
<i>ACM Departmental Committee</i>	7
<i>1988 General Meeting Agenda</i>	7
<i>Supercomputing Update</i>	8
<i>The ACM and Volleyball</i>	8
<i>SIG Update</i>	10
<i>ACM Membership</i>	11
<i>The ACM Visits Bell Labs</i>	12
<i>ACM Classified Ads</i>	13
<i>Bits and Pieces</i>	13

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD



From the Chair *A Semester in Review*

The semester is winding down, however the ACM at UIUC is still going strong. Events for next semester are lined up and taking shape now. Just to quickly recap this semesters functions let me spend a few minutes here:

The most visible changes that have come this semester in the layout of the **BANKS OF THE BONEYARD** newsletter and its distributions in the newsletter stands. From the response from readers of the newsletter, the ACM is doing a good job. We were also able to sponsor another ACM Career Day with even more companies than last year's event. And, of course, a second edition of the ACM Resume Book was distributed to major employers this semester. The reorganized ACM Corporate Spotlight Series

(continued from page 1)

Career Day

Technologies, Northrop, Control Data Corporation, NCR, McDonnell Douglas, and many other major corporations--eight more companies than the Job Fair last year had. Plus, the event ran much more smoothly than the Job Fair. More than 450 students stopped by the fair to visit with the representatives that came. Although this number is less than the number of people attending the Job Fair, it appeared that those who did attend had more questions for recruiters, and were more serious about getting jobs. Next year the ACM will consider a different time for the event in order to increase attendance.

Special thanks go to the ACM Career Day Committee who put a lot of effort into the Career Day. The committee will probably start work on the next Career Day shortly after the Spring 1988 finals, in the form of an initial mass mailing of invitations to companies, but planning for the event will probably begin even before that.

If you are interested in getting involved, please leave a message at the ACM Office, 1204 West Springfield Avenue, Room 201 (333-5828) and the Career Day Chairman will get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

—Pete Hlavach, Vice-Chairman



(continued on page 3)

1988 Engineering Open House ACM Projects Look Promising

You may have heard this said too often, but the **1988 Engineering Open House** is coming up fast. Our ACM members and SIGs have begun their annual drive to develop entries for the Department of Computer Science contributions (the Computer Science Open House). Some pretty nifty ideas have surfaced, featuring areas like robotic vision, computer-aided instruction (CAI), competition between computer-guided and human-guided robots, demonstrations of the capabilities and uses of PLATO, and the creation of graphic images using ray tracing.

The ACM CS-EOH Committee is looking for people to assist with these projects, and to head committees dealing with publicity, guided tours, art work, and central

exhibit (more on central exhibit later).

Why should you get involved? As has been said before, working with one of the faculty to put together an EOH exhibit is an excellent way to learn about his or her area of interest in more detail. And if you get along with them all right, they can be a good reference later on. There is also the opportunity to participate in the EOH competition on the individual level. A prize-winning exhibit helps the department who sponsors it, too. This is something that the CS Department hasn't had for the past few years. Last year, the Department of Computer Science received only one Honorable Mention. And in 1985, there were only four CS projects exhibited in the competition, compared to

eighteen entries each for two other engineering departments. So, helping with CS-EOH will go a long way toward making the Computer Science Department competitive in Engineering Open House.

The following are descriptions of some of the projects that need people:

Central Exhibit—This exhibit has yet to get off the ground, and it's the most important exhibit of all. Each department who competes in EOH must develop a display based on the Central Exhibit theme, "What Have You Done for us Lately?" In the words of John Cooper, Engineering Council's EOH Central Exhibit chair, "... Participants are asked to identify a particular, relatively new (last five years) advance in technology that their discipline is primarily responsible for. The technology must be currently available (not necessarily pervasive) in the marketplace and absolutely must benefit society. Participants are encouraged to illustrate examples and uses of these technologies, identify the research involved in its development, and provide tangible models if possible ..." The Central Exhibit counts for one-fourth of the total points available to each department in the competition, so a good job here is very important! Some ideas have already been submitted: 1) User interfaces and CAD systems, 2) Large-scale networking, 3) Use of computers in life-critical situations, 4) Practical object-oriented programming 5)

(continued from page 2)

From the Chair

brought several speakers to ACM to give presentations, and we continued the **ACM Professor Symposia**. The PLATO notesfile were revived and the all-new **ACM INFOline** has been installed. Also, we were one of the host sites for the **1987 ACM Regional Programming Contest**, and some of the executives were able to attend the **1987 Fall ACM/IEEE Joint Conference** held in Dallas, Texas. In addition, our six Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are doing well.

Next semester we have the **1988 Engineering Open House** which looks to be very promising. A trip to the **1988 ACM National Convention** in Atlanta is the next stop planned. More ACM National Speakers will be coming. The rescheduled **ACM Skate Date** is also in the works. And the **ACM MacLab** may be functional early next semester thanks to a Computer Fee grant. Plus, many more issues of **BANKS OF THE BONEYARD**. So stick around to see what ACM at UIUC has planned for you!

—Robert A. Camp, Chairman

(continued on page 4)

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 3)

Projects

FAST personal workstations. Call Chris Walquist at 344-1717, or leave a message at the ACM Office, 333-5828 if you're interested or have ideas.

Robotic vision—This project involves robotic vision and its applications. Different objects are coded into a computer database, making up its knowledge of the real world. By computer simulation or camera inputs, the computer "looks" at an object in any orientation and tries to identify it by comparing it with the many different perspectives of the object that are stored in its database. After identifying the object, the computer will produce a picture of what it "sees". The exhibit will concentrate on the pros, cons, and limitations of modern robotic vision.

3-Dimensional LIFE—SIGMICRO is working on this exhibit, which involves the adaptation of a 3-d LIFE algorithm to work on a four-computer system. Computer One performs base calculations on the LIFE algorithm. Computer Two transforms raw data into different graphic perspectives. Computer Three and Four display graphic images of the LIFE cube, each from a different angle. The SIGMICRO co-chairs are Don Meyer, 367-0464; and Mike Schwager, 333-6116 daytime, 328-7163 nights. Or, call the ACM Office at 333-5828.

Man vs. Machine—This one is a joint effort between CS and Electrical Engineering. Using a small, mobile robot, contestants

must pick up an object and maneuver through an obstacle course. Another robot controlled by a computer runs a similar course. The automated robot could have programs that match various skill levels. The exhibit will be designed to show automation's advantages in a controlled environment, as well as its disadvantages. For more info, talk to Jim Reed at 332-3299; or ECE-EOH head Ram Bhamidipaty (344-1717).

PLATO demonstrations—Bob Scheid is heading the PLATO exhibit. Contact him at 367-5207 if interested. IBM graphics computers (RT's, AT's, or PSII 50's) will be used to access PLATO via phone lines.

Computer-Aided Instruction—Kris

Powers has contacted some of the people conducting CAI research on-campus, and they are excited about participating in EOH. There should be plenty of opportunities for presentation of current research in this area. If you think you may be interested in developing or helping out with this type of presentation, Kris can be reached at 328-7455.

All these projects need more people. The Department of Computer Science also needs a number of additional entries, especially in the category of Original Research. If you are interested in participating in any aspect of the CS-EOH, get in touch with us.

—Chris Walquist, EOH Committee 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 would like to meet professorshere 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 doneon campus. Find out just what it takes to start up a software company. Interview corporate executives and maybe even land yourself a job at the same time!

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD is now distributed to over 1,200 readers on campus, fast becoming the newsletter north of Green. Become a newsletter staff member and help make it the best.

For more information, call the ACM Office at 333-5828 and leave a message.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

The ACM Exam File Just in Time for FINALS

The ACM Exam File is still growing steadily. We currently have about 100 exams available to help you study for CS/EE and CE exams. The ACM Exam File policy is that any ACM member interested in checking out an exam must leave their membership card at the ACM Office, where the exams are kept. When you've finished with the exam, turn it back in to the ACM Office and pick up your membership card. It's that easy!

The ACM is always 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. Stop by and drop off your exam, we'll copy it and remove your name from the duplicate, and return the original the next day.

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.

—Scott Ernsteen, Social Chairman

I/O Residence Hall Computer Fees

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

As a freshman in computer engineering here at the UIUC, I came to the campus filled with hopes and dreams that this would finally be the utopian computer society; plenty of computers to go around, unbiased and liberal computer time, and most importantly, the advancement of true computer science and engineering. Well, I'm sure, as you probably suspected, that my naive, little thoughts were thoroughly dashed within a few weeks of campus life. The following is just one of the things that I encountered as I journeyed down my depressing road of reality.

The first thing that I encountered while living in a "University Residence Hall" was that I was being billed the goodly sum of \$60 per semester for what I was told was to go to the installation of student computers in the residence halls. The plan was to expand and broaden the existing computer sites and to install new sites to be accessible only to the residents. Also included in the scheme was that old and 'no longer supported machines' would be given to the resident advisors to be used on the respective floors. Though I really can't imagine a computer being no longer supported, I was still able to

accept the concept considering the older, less-used machines would probably be taking up valuable space. Well, I didn't see any new machines showing up around the six-pack, so I figured that the money was just being held up in the bureaucratic red tape found so often around this campus. The day I saw the 'benefits' of our labor was the same day that I saw them bringing several large white boxes, emblazoned with symbols of half-eaten fruit into the dorm room of my RA. The contents of these boxes would reveal themselves to be a brand-new Macintosh SE computer system to be installed atop the RA's desk. Now I'm not familiar with the going rate of a new Mac SE, but I do know that they're not cheap, and they certainly aren't old and 'no longer supported machines.' Needless to say I was a little upset at the fact that I and so many others like me were financing computers for the resident advisors. Now my RA is a great guy, and I'm sure that he wouldn't have any problems with allowing me to use the machine in his room, but the fact still remains that I can't use it when he's gone, pre-disposed, or any other reason; not to mention the fact that I'd feel uncomfortable about being in his room while he was trying to accomplish something productive as well. I feel that the computers, about 42 in the six-pack alone, could be put to better use by installing yet another common place for the residents to visit during convenient hours.

—Eric Sean Parham, Contributing Editor, SIGATAR Chairman

Publicity Committee

The AC ... who?

In addition to our newsletter, you can find the latest postings of upcoming ACM at UIUC events on the ACM bulletin boards in the Digital Computer Lab (DCL) and in the Woodshop, and throughout the engineering campus. Events are also announced in **North of Green**, on PLATO (acm, member), in the unix notes files (acm and announce), and occasionally in the **Daily Illini**.

Special thanks to the members of the ACM Publicity Committee: Andy Weber, Bob Herding, and Thad Miller for their help with the postings. Joining this committee is a good way to become involved with ACM and find out what's going on, especially if you are interested in running for publicity chair, or any other ACM position in the future. As a member of the committee, you can help out with anything from tacking up flyers to designing ads on Macintosh PC's to posting notes on PLATO; the choice is up to you.

Anyone who would like to help out with ACM publicity should contact me at the ACM Office, 1204 West Springfield Avenue (333-5828), or leave a message for me.

—Lisa Marchese, Publicity

The ACM Social Scene *A Season of ACM Events*

The bad news is that as this semester comes to a close, the much awaited **ACM Skate Date** has all but dried up (this semester anyway). The good news is that next semester, not only will there be a rescheduled ACM Skate Date, but a whole lot more to do on the ACM social scene. But, while I'm still talking about the Skate Date and ice, be prepared: the ACM Broomball team (tentatively dubbed the ACM Boneyard Barbarians) is getting ready to sweep the ice. Anyone who wants to play in the league should be sure to contact the ACM Office and leave me a message.

Get ready for some pizza parties next semester because there'll be plenty of them to keep ACM members warm during the cold months ahead. These ACM Pizza Parties will be an excellent opportunity for you to get to know ACM committee heads and get involved in the ACM.

And as the weather warms up, so will ACM social events. Get ready for a spring picnic at Allerton, an ACM dinner/dance, ice cream parties, and the warm weather

companion to our winter Skate Date, the ACM Roller Skate Date!

Next semester, I'll be needing a lot of help to plan all these events. If you have any interest in helping out, get in touch with me at the ACM Office (333-5828). This could easily lead to an executive position as the ACM Social Chairman next year.

—Scott Ernsteen, Social Chairman

ACM Vice-Chairman Graduates!

Pete Hlavach will be stepping down as Vice-Chairman of the ACM at UIUC at the end of the semester. Pete has been with the ACM for the past three years, and has helped to make the ACM what it is today. Congratulations Pete!

An acting Vice-Chairman will be appointed December 11th at the ACM Executive Meeting.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

ACM INFOline *Back Online*

After a brief technical difficulty, the **ACM INFOline** is back. By calling 333-5821--the ACM INFOline--ACM members and nonmembers can listen to a recording of up-to-the-minute information about current and future ACM projects, lectures and meetings.

—Steve Glenner, Technical Advisor

The ACM Departmental Committee What's New in Computer Science?

There are four committees in the **Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois** which involve undergraduate student input. They are as follows: **Courses and Curricula, Teacher Evaluation and Improvement, Undergraduate Study, and the Grievance Committee.** All of the undergraduate representatives are nominated by the ACM. This is a good opportunity to get into contact with some professors, as well as have your say in the Department.

The Courses and Curricula Committee, headed by Professor Jane Liu, exists to periodically—about every 4-5 years—overhaul the computer science curriculum and tailor it to changes in the field and job market. This semester, the committee had two major topics on its agenda. First, the committee concentrated on changing the curriculum to better prepare entering CS students for their 200 and 300-level CS classes. The idea is to give incoming freshmen greater exposure to computer science their first year in the program. This would include two or three 100-level required classes, as opposed to the one current (CS 121) requirement. Among those would also be an introductory class more basic than CS 121. Those who feel they do not need it will be able to take a proficiency exam. Finally, the second point of business was to create a curriculum for a possible computer science minor. If the university chooses to give students the

option to get a minor, this curriculum will go into effect.

The Teaching Evaluation and Improvement Committee, headed by Professor Kamin, has also been busy. Its task each fall semester is to nominate a member of the CS faculty to the College of Engineering, which follows to make its nominations for the UIUC Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. TEIC relies heavily on student input. I hope you have seen the nomination forms distributed in the last issue of the newsletter.

The Undergraduate Study Committee, headed by Dr. Friedman, exists for the benefit of those interested in putting together their own computer science curricula, or making alterations to suite their individual needs and interests. In such an instance, the student makes his case in writing to this committee, and the committee rules on the request.

No such requests came to Undergraduate Study this semester, however. Be aware that the option exists.

Finally, the Grievance Committee, also headed by George Friedman, is a committee designed to formally and fairly handle student complaints, against the department and its staff, which the parties involved have not been able to resolve independently. No cases were brought before this committee during the past semester.

At least one of the six undergraduate student positions will be open for spring semester. If you are interested or have questions, leave a message for me at the ACM Office at 333-5828, or see us at the next ACM General Meeting at the beginning of next semester.

—Anna Minkov, *Departmental Committees*

1988 ACM General Meeting Agenda

The following is a tentative schedule for the ACM at UIUC General Meetings for the 1988 Spring Semester to be held in 314 Altgeld:

- Feb 3 Organizational and 1988 Engineering Open House
- Mar 2 Executive Committee Elections and EOH Preview
- Apr 6 ACM at UIUC Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- May 4 1988 Career Day Organization

—Rich Bloch, *Editor*

Supercomputing Update *The Cedar Project & Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals*

In January, 1985 the Center for Supercomputer Research and Development opened and the work began on **Project Cedar**. Recently, the design phase of

Project Cedar ended and soon, with the hardware debugging completed, the Cedar supercomputer will be up and running. But what exactly is

Project Cedar and what is the Cedar supercomputer?

The Cedar supercomputer is a hierarchical, shared memory, multiprocessor supercomputer first proposed by its principle investigator Dr. David Kuck and his associates. Cedar has thirty-two processors arranged in arrays of four clusters of eight processors each. The four main clusters are comprised of Aliant FX/8 multiprocessors. In addition, Cedar contains two memories, a shared global memory that all thirty-two processors can access and four distinct cluster memories that only processors in a distinct cluster can access.

In order to design and build the Cedar supercomputer, the project was split into a hardware group, a software group and an applications group.

The purpose of the hardware group, headed by Dr. Edward Davidson, is to design and build the global memory interconnection network and the interface processors to the global memory through this network. This has not been an easy task since the individual computer boards are quite expansive and contain a large amount of computer chips. In fact, Project Cedar is slightly behind schedule because of the difficulty with designing such large boards, but considering that very few boards of this size and density have been built, the delay is more than understandable and has been

On Saturday, November 21, at IMPE, the Engineering Council sponsored a society volleyball tournament. The ACM submitted a team of incredible talent, which played under the name "The Boneyard Barbarians". The mere mentioning of the name struck fear into the hearts of all the engineering societies involved. Unfortunately for the Barbarians, their first match was against the Society for Automotive Engineers, a society which is notorious for illegal recruiting and training procedures. The first game was well fought by the Barbarians, however superior numbers and several controversial rulings in favor of the SAE left the Barbarians defeated. The score was close however (14 to 15, 13 to 15, or 6 to 15, something like that!)

The second game of the match began strongly for the Barbarians. "Let's get serious about this," team member, Chris Walquist said, while untying his hand from behind his back. But when the dust settled, not even a series of awesome spikes could save the ACM Barbarians from the SAE tactics of proper serves and getting the ball over the net. The final score of the second game was also close (either 19 to 20 in triple over-time or else 8 to 15, or something like that.)

After the match, Illini Football coach Mike White was asked about the Barbarian's performance. He said, "I'm tired of making excuses, they just plain lost. They let me down, they let their families down, they let the CS Department down, and the rest of the ACM too."

When John Tullis, former ACM Chairman and noted good-sport, was asked for a comment about the game, he said, "Who cares if the SAE won? I heard that Chrystler and Ford were both laying people off. None of those gear-headed geeks are gonna get jobs, so who cares if they can cheat at volleyball better than we can!"

—Pete Hlavach, Vice-Chairman

(continued on page 9)

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 8)

Supercomputer

considered by the group as acceptable. Hopefully, by the end of March, 1988 the hardware debugging will be completed and the main job of the hardware group of Project Cedar will be done.

The second group of Project Cedar is the software group. The software group, headed by Dr. Duncan Lawrie is divided into four parts. One part is in charge of designing a compiler to restructure programs to make use of the parallel hardware (This is quite different from the Cray X-MP since the Cray forces the programmer to write programs in such a way as to take advantage of its four high-speed processors). The second part of the software group is in charge of designing the operating system which will manage the shared virtual memory and the tasks that are created to execute on each of the clusters. The third part is in charge of designing software tools to evaluate the performance of applications in the areas of parallelism and speed up. The final part of the software group is the Faust group which is in charge of designing a programming environment for parallel programming, including the design of debugging tools to do interactive advising on restructuring of parallel programs. Versions of the compiler and the operating system are ready and waiting for the hardware to be debugged, after which the software will be entered and debugged. Hopefully, this will be completed by the end of April, 1988.

The final group of Project Cedar is the applications group, headed by Ahmed Sameh. Many of the people in this department are numerical analysts working on computer solutions of differential equations, linear systems and large matrices. In addition, others are working on the graphic representation of things such as fluid flow mechanics, and on generating some kind of visual output from the numbers generated by an application.

Lilly's research will focus on molecular modeling of new pharmaceuticals and agricultural compounds that can be of assistance in various areas of disease ...

Originally, Cedar was designed for numeric processes and numerical applications but now others are looking into its use in symbolic computations and object oriented programming.

As of now, the applications group has many applications running on a single cluster and is working on extending them to use the whole Cedar. Hopefully, by May, 1988 applications will be running on the Cedar supercomputer and it will probably be six to eight months later before any outside group is

allowed to use the new Cedar supercomputer.

—Gus Alagna, Newsletter Staff

In related supercomputing news, **Eli Lilly & Company** has become the third corporation to join the industrial supercomputing program at the **National Center for Supercomputing Applications** here at UIUC. The partnership calls for Eli Lilly to contribute \$3.5 million to the center over four years beginning January 1, 1988. Lilly joins Eastman Kodak, the first industrial partner to join the center, and Amoco Corporation. The eventual goal of the center is to have 10 industrial partners, whose activities span the diversity of the economy.

Eli Lilly develops, manufactures, and markets pharmaceuticals, medical instruments, diagnostic products, and agricultural products. Lilly's research will focus on molecular modeling of new pharmaceuticals and agricultural compounds that can be of assistance in various areas of disease, especially those affecting the cardiovascular system and the central nervous system.

Joining the research center allows company researchers to receive training in advanced computing technologies and to work closely with scientists and computer professionals at the center. Companies hope this new technology will allow them to rise above their competitors.

—Scott Mahlke, Newsletter Staff

SIG Update

Special Interest Groups at UIUC

SIGATARI (Atari microcomputers) - Looking for members!

SIGATARI is a newly formed division of SIGMICRO. As such, we are now looking for persons interested in furthering the cause of Atari computing via membership with SIGATARI. If you have an Atari computer, or are just interested in Atari computing, then please feel free to contact me personally for more information at 332-1019.

In the Works

SIGATARI is working with subLOGIC, a software corporation based here in Champaign, in order to arrange activities with ACM members. SIGATARI plans include: a possible tour of subLOGIC's facilities and a corporate spotlight article in **BANKS OF THE BONEYARD**. Stay tuned for more information!

To Wrap Things Up

The following is a continuation of the computer bulletin board system list that was printed in the last issue. If you know of any changes or additions that need to be made to this list, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

Local Bulletin Board System Numbers for the Champaign-Urbana/Rantoul Area (217)

Baud=max baud rate. 7 or 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit.

NAME:	PHONE:	BAUD	HOST	COMMENTS:
Monty Python's	328-7601	1200	Atari	Offbeat Info and Fun
Outer Limits	356-6602	1200		
PAC BBS	892-8739	2400	Atari	Atari Info and Downloads
Spaceboard	384-0408	2400	PC	Space and Tech., Fido

Champaign-Urbana Local Commercial Services (217)

CompuServe	352-0041	1200	Info, General, SIGS
GEnie	384-1938	1200	Info, General, SIGS
Telenet	384-6428	1200	Network-CIS, Source
Tymnet	359-1163	1200	Network-BIX, CIS, Etc.
Tymnet	328-0317	2400	Network-BIX, CIS, Etc.

—Eric Sean Parham, Contributing Editor
SIGATARI Chairman

SIG Coordinator - This has been a good semester for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the ACM here at the University of Illinois. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of many people, the SIG network grew in size and strength. At the same time, however, some SIGs experienced a loss in involvement. Let me repeat my "SIG sales pitch" at this time: The only way to see SIGs that you are interested in prosper and grow is to get involved! If not for the involvement of the SIG chairpersons and other members, the SIGs you see today and take for granted would not exist! Your involvement early next semester, by attending events of the ACM and its associated SIGs, is vital to the continued strength - and even existence - of some of these organizations. So when you see a SIG meeting coming up that interests you, get involved and show up at the meeting! Getting involved, whether by attending a meeting, a social, or helping out on our many EOH projects, is the only true way to experience the benefits of ACM membership. The beginning of the semester is always the easiest time to join and be active in an organization; I urge you to consider making ACM one of the organizations that you are active in!

What have we done this semester? Every other week, the SIG chairpersons meet in the ACM lounge. The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 9, at 8:00

(continued on page 11)

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 10)

SIG Update

pm in room 301, 1204 W. Springfield. We will be discussing plans for next semester and EOH projects at this meeting, and all are invited. As I have said, the SIG network has grown stronger this semester, due to the hard work of this semester's SIG chairpersons. Thanks to these chairpersons: Subutai Ahmad (SIGART), Abbas Zein (SIGGRAPH), Mike Schwager and Don Meyer (SIGMICRO), Jamie Ching and Andy Breyer (SIGMUSIC), Steve Norris (SIGNET), and Doug Drew (SIGUUCP). They have put in long hours insuring that their SIGs will grow and prosper, and want your support in the upcoming semester.

Next semester has many things in store: more SIG events, hopefully some social ones, a SIG leadership conference in the works, and more! But, as I have said, the only way to take advantage of all that SIGs have to offer, and turn these mere words into action, is to get involved! I hope you will accept my invitation to become an active SIG member next semester. Until then, good luck on your finals, have a great winter break, and I will see you in the spring, with more news from the world of SIGs.

—Greg Freeman, SIG Coordinator

SIGBIO (biology/bioengineering/medical applications) — The ACM at UIUC is proud to announce the formation of a new Special Interest Group, SIGBIO. Recently formed, the aim of SIGBIO is to bring students in the medical world

together with a shared interest in computer science and computer applications. If you'd like to help out, or would like more information about SIGBIO, contact Mike Doyle at 333-9627, or stop by his office at 190 Medical Sciences.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

SIGNET (networking) - SIGNET is a registered student organization affiliated with ACM at UIUC, that brings information about telecommunication to the students of the University.

Because SIGNET was just organized this fall, we have not had sufficient time to hold many organizational functions. However, in order to hold seminars that will inform the students about the world of telecommunications, SIGNET has been liaisoning with corporation and campus establishments. Some of the seminars will be held by the following corporation:

Arthur Anderson - the role of computers in the stock market
GTE - Futuristic telecommunication and the job market
CMS - Business and Futuristic office Automation Concepts
PLATO - What's new with the PLATO system and the newly developed software package "NOVA NET"
CSO - explaining the complex computer network at U of I
Illini Video - a representative from a local computer store will discuss topics such as: the best low cost computer modem for your money , how to access public bulletin boards , in order to get FREE SOFTWARE

Due to the end of the semester rush SIGNET will not be holding any more general meeting. However, SIGNET will be interested in allowing new people to join SIGNET this Spring.

—Steven J. Norris,
SIGNET Chairman

(continued on page 12)

ACM Membership

Become Active in the ACM at UIUC

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.

Fill out the form at the back of this newsletter, or pick up a membership application at the ACM Office (333-5828) in Room 201, 1204 W. Springfield and join. Membership fees are \$5.00 a year and benefit you as well as helps the ACM at UIUC bring its members more services and benefits in the field of computer science, and beyond.

—Rich Bloch, Editor

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD

(continued from page 11)

SIG Update

SIGMUSIC (electronic music)- SIGMUSIC seeks to promote electronic music within the university community as well as provide an environment where both artistic and technical ideas can be exchanged. Activities planned for this year include various lectures by faculty members, new technology seminars, and an EOH project. The EOH project will utilize the Amiga personal computer in coordination with various Yamaha synthesizer products. People interested in joining SIGMUSIC should contact Jamie Ching (332-3408).

—*Jamie Ching,
SIGMUSIC Co-Chairman*

SIGGRAPH (computer graphics) - SIGGRAPH is the special interest group of the Association for Computing Machinery. Our purpose is to explore and understand the ideas behind computer graphics in a relaxed atmosphere. I know you can sign for a graphics class and get similar results but then there is no fun in these classes. During the fall semester we had Professor Donald Hearn at one of our meetings. He talked about the new innovations of computer graphics. At another meeting, two of our members, Mike Schwager and Lionel Hummel, demonstrated some wonders of graphics on an AMIGA. These two activities demonstrates our eagerness to learn about computer graphics.

The Spring semester is two months away. Our activities for

The ACM Visits Bell Labs

Recently I went on a plant visit to Bell Laboratories in Naperville, Illinois. The primary concern at the Naperville site is the research and development of advanced digital switching systems, in particular the 5ESS switch. A switch is a special purpose computer that manages all the phone lines for people in a particular area. Local calls are usually handled by one or two switches, while long distance calls may involve many switches.

My visit consisted of two major parts. In the morning I visited the software division, which develops software for new voice and data features based on the ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) standard for the 5ESS. One current project involves incoming line identification, in which the person being called will be told the callers name and phone number before he or she answers. Currently only for single switch calls is this information available, but it is soon hoped this will be available for all calls. In the afternoon, I then visited the Systems Engineering Group. This division develops design specifications for new switches based on technological advances and added customer requirements. The group is currently working on designs for the future 6ESS and 7ESS switches. On the whole, I really enjoyed this visit and would highly recommend to anyone given the opportunity, to go and talk with these people.

—*Scott Mahlke, Newsletter Staff*

that semester will be the EOH project, a potential trip to the museum of Science and Industry in Chicago where they displays of computer Graphics and many more. So join SIGGRAPH for more computer graphics fun.

The first meeting for next semester will be held a week after classes starts. Watch for the flyers over the campus or call the ACM INFOline at 333-5821.

—*Abbas Zein, SIGGRAPH
Chairman*

BANKS OF THE BONEYARD Newsletter Staff

Editor:
Rich Bloch

Contributing Editor:
Eric Sean Parham

Columnists:
Gus Alagna
Scott Mahlke

ACM Classifieds

**For the holidays, make the
ONE STOP
for all your computer needs!**

One Stop has everything you need to make your computer complete. We specialize in mail order prices with dealer support.

Call 337-STOP for all the info. Mention you saw this ad and receive an additional discount!

ELEK TREK Computer Supplies

If you need computer software and supplies, give ELEK TREK a call at 344-0264. Our prices are discounted, but our customer service isn't.

We specialize in friendly and reliable service for the following personal computers: Apple II and Macintosh, Atari 800 and ST, Commodore 64/128 and Amiga, IBM PC and compatibles.

We also stock 5-1/4 " and 3-1/2" blank disks, printer supplies and other accessories at everyday low prices.

And, if you live on or near campus, delivery is free!

Thank you, and enjoy the coming holidays.

Contact: Glenn Doren, President
Elek Trek Supplies
POB 2881, Station A
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 344-0264

Seeking Dumb Terminal

Attractive male, 5' 10" seeking long-term relationship with used dumb terminal. Should have "display capabilities" or be willing to emulate when asked. Will pay good money. Call Sube or Milt at (217) 367-1970 if interested.

TRS-80 For Sale

For Sale: Radio Shack TRS-80 Model III. Cheap. Call Chris at (217) 367-5545.



SNUGGLES MEETS GODZILLA.

**Bits and Pieces
A Holiday Wish**