Faculty Spotlight

["Faculty Spotlight," a regular feature of the ACM Newsletter, attempts to introduce one CS faculty member to our readers. -Ed.]

This issue's "Faculty Spotlight" is on Assistant Professor Sharon Kuck. Professor Kuck earned both her BS and MS in computer science from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.   In 1975 she held a position at Burroughs Corporation where she worked on a vectorizing FORTRAN compiler. Professor Kuck arrived at the University of Illinois in 1977 and received a PhD in computer science in August, 1982. She was post doctorate in computer science for the following academic year.   During the 1983-1984 academic year she held a visiting position in the Department of Business Administration.   In 1984 she assumed her present position here in the Department of Computer Science.

Professor Kuck received the IBM Faculty Development Award in 1985 and 1986 which funds her research on database management systems, with a focus on performance evaluation of relational and network database management systems, query optimization, and a graphical approach to database scheme design. She also has under development a relational database management system, Easybase, that runs under UNIX.   The implementation merges the relational and network models of data.

Professor Kuck says she really enjoys working in the Department because of the freedom allowed for research and also because of the vast computer support available. Professor Kuck finds the students here to be very bright

Elections at Next ACM General Meeting

Our next ACM general meeting will be Wednesday, April 1st in Room 151 Electrical Engineering Building.   It will start at 3:00 pm. Nominations will be taken for the four officer positions.   So far, the candidates are Kathy Boka for secretary, Bob Camp for vice chairman, Jim Dobyns for chairman, and Chris Gerrib for treasurer.

If you have any questions about running, call the ACM Office (333-5828).   Also, suggestions for next year's ACM calendar will be taken at the April 1st meeting.

The April 22nd general meeting will also be at 3:00 pm in 151 EEB.   Tentatively the corporate speaker will be from Hewlett-Packard.

As always, refreshments will be served.

-Pete Hlavach

In the Boneyard...

CS Undergraduate Program Eliminated

Professor Gear, head of the Department of Computer Science, announced at the last Departmental faculty meeting that the undergraduate program in the CS Department is being terminated.

"Due to financial constraints and declining enrollment in the Department, the University of Illinois will no longer award Bachelor's degrees in Computer Science." Students graduating in May 1987 and August 1987, Professor Gear continued, will receive their degrees as scheduled. All other undergraduates will have to transfer out of the Department.

"I suggest students in CS/Math switch to a pure mathematics degree," recommended Professor Friedman, head of the undergraduate program. "However," he continued, "the engineering students may have a problem in changing their majors." The Department will make every effort to find new fields of study for its students, but acknowledges that some students will have to transfer to other state schools or simply withdraw from college altogether.

ACM will begin co-sponsoring a series of workshops with the Department entitled "Finding an Alternative Major to Computer Science" in late April. For more information, call the ACM Office (333-5828).

Professor Faiman, head of graduate studies in the Department, commented, "By dropping the undergradate program, the faculty can devote more time to the growing number of graduate students." He later confided that he will miss the undergraduate students, particularly those to whom he would have taught CS 264 Digital Design Logic.

At the end of Professor Gear's announcement, he threw his notes into the trashcan and exited the room chuckling "April Fools!! April Fools!!"

-The ACM Jokester

Professor Symposium

The ACM sponsored Professor Symposium series features faculty members from the Computer Science and 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.

Mar 30th   Prof. L. V. Kale
"Parallel Architecture for Symbolic Computation"

Apr 13th   Prof. R. H. Campbell
"Future Trends in Software Engineering"

Apr 20th   Prof. R. S. Michalski
"Can Machines Learn? An Interesting Challenge in the World of Artificial Intelligence"

-Kim Griffin

Kuck

and feels that it is necessary and enjoyable for faculty members to be open and responsive to students. When problems of a student reach a professor, especially in a large class like CS 121, the problems are of a personal nature rather than academic. She feels that a friendly and accommodating response seems in order.

-Tom Begnel

Peer Counseling for Advanced Enrollment

ACM is sponsoring a course counseling workshop for students interested in seeking advice for advanced enrollment in computer science. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss course formats, teaching styles, and personal experiences in the CS curriculum.

The counseling workshop, located in Room 115 DCL, will be open from 7:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday, April 8th and 9th. Interested volunteers should stop by the ACM Office or leave a message with Kim Griffin at the ACM Office (333-5828).

-Rich Bloch

Artificial Intelligence SIG

The following meetings and speakers are currently scheduled for SIGART (the ACM Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence) during this semester:

Apr 1st   Narendra Ahuja:
           "Computer Vision."
           4:00 pm 151 EEB.

Apr 15th   Larry Rendell:
           "Inductive Learning."
           4:00 pm 165 EEB.

Apr 29th   John Chandler:
           "Expert Systems in Business."
           4:00 pm 165 EEB.

May 6th   Gerald DeJong:
           "Explanation-Based Learning."
           151 EEB.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, SIGART is currently accepting candidates for the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. We are also interested in getting people involved in Publicity, Newsletter, and the Lecture series for next semester.

If you are involved with AI in any way on campus or if you are just interested in the field, getting involved with SIGART is an excellent way of learning more about AI. For example, in recent years, there has been a large increase in the number of *departments* on campus which are becoming involved in AI research. However the importance of communication between these departments is just beginning to be realized. For both graduate and undergraduate students, working with our lecture series is one of the best ways of finding out more about the research that these departments are doing. There are other projects that I have in mind that I would like to see SIGART get involved with. However, we do need people to initiate them.

If there are any questions concerning any of the positions or about SIGART in general, please contact me (398-4940), John Jenner (344-6883), or leave a message for me at the ACM Office (333-5828).

-Subutai Ahmad

Microcomputer SIG

SIGMICRO, the ACM Special Interest Group in Microcomputers had a busy couple of days during EOH. We gave away a lot of free diskettes and free advice. Thanks to all those who came by to lend a hand.

SIGMICRO has established the second Monday of each month to be the date of our general meetings. The next general meeting will be held on Monday April 13th at 7:00 pm in 115 DCL.

We will also be electing officers that night, so we are accepting nominations until then. SIGMICRO could give you the chance that you have been looking for to become actively involved in a student organizaton. If there is any position that you might be interested in, feel free to call me (352-1081). Positions open for nomination are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity. There are other important positions available including Workshop Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Faculty Relations. If you have a special interest that you might like to pursue, we can definitely use your services.

-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:

Apr 1st   BellMAC Assembler

Apr 8th   General Meeting

Apr 15th   Advanced UNIX--Shells

Apr 22nd The C Environment

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).

-Dan Weber

ACM Elections Procedures

The ACM elections will be held at the time of the next general meeting which will be Wednesday, April 1st (really). The location will be, as usual, room 151 Electrical Engineering Building. The positions which are to be available are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. These are the officer positions in this chapter of the ACM.

There are several rules and regulations which exist in our chapter By-Laws that regulate who is eligible to become an officer of this chapter, and who is eligible to vote for officers of this chapter. Membership in this chapter shall be open to all students, faculty, and staff members of UIUC. Members of the chapter who are also members of ACM National may have one vote on all matters brought before the membership. Choice of officers shall be limited to *voting members*. The officers shall be elected every Spring semester. They shall remain in office until the installation the

following Spring. Any one member may not serve in any one office for more than two years.

Final nominations will be accepted for any position at the April 1st meeting. The election for Chairman shall then take place. The candidates shall step out of the room, and a show of hands will be taken for each candidate. No member may vote more than once for any position (you cannot vote for two candidates at once). If there are more than two candidates for a position, the top two contenders shall again go out in the hall and another, final vote will be taken.

Then, the election for Vice Chairman shall take place. Anyone who ran for Chairman unsuccessfully may now run for Vice Chairman. This is the "trickle-down effect." The election of Secretary and Treasurer shall take place in the same way.

-John Tullis

Candidates' Positions

The following candidates' positions are presented to allow members to review the qualifications of the ACM officer candidates.

KATHY BOKA FOR SECRETARY

My name is Kathy Boka and I am running for the office of secretary. I would like to tell you a little about myself and encourage you to vote for me in the April 1st elections. Just as many of you, I am a computer science major in the College of Engineering, and my goal directed sequence is Business Administration. I am a first semester Senior right now, but I do not plan on graduating until next May. Besides ACM, I am also a member of Tau Beta Pi, The Golden Key Club, and Alpha Lambda Delta, but I am more involved with ACM. Also, I am a member of St. John's 4:30 Choir and often act as section leader for the alto section.

I joined ACM last fall, and got involved with the Job Fair Committee a few months later. I really enjoyed working with the people on the committee, so I began going to the executive meetings that are held on Friday afternoons. Not only did I find that ACM is a much larger

organization than I thought, but I found that I had a lot in common with the people in it. I would like to be secretary because I would like to get more involved with this dymanic group of people. Since ACM is quickly expanding, it will need increasingly more organization to keep it running smoothly. I would like to help in this process because I would like to see ACM continue to provide students with the opportunity to get involved with computers, computer related projects, and to meet and have fun with other people with similar interests.

ROBERT CAMP FOR VICE CHAIRMAN

As a junior in Computer Science/Engineering, I became an active member of our student chapter of ACM here at Illinois last summer. My first involvement was with the membership committee, working on the membership database and assisting the committee head with membership cards and forms. From there, I began to work on the organization of the first annual ACM Job Fair. As a result of my participation with the activities of ACM, I have been exposed to the executive process of this organization and have been able to initiate several objectives that I would like the ACM to accomplish. These proposals include the instillation of several new committees and the implementaion of new procedures for many ACM functions.

I encourage all members to attend the general meeting April 1st and vote for the offices of the ACM and to elect me to the office of Vice Chairman. In additon, I would like to see all interested members become active in the various committees. Because the ACM is growing so fast, there are dozens of functions that this organization can offer to its members, and there is just the need for some motivated people to see that these functions are carried through.

Again I hope everyone will come to the general meeting and get involved with the happenings of the largest student chapter of ACM.

JIM DOBYNS FOR CHAIRMAN

Last year, I became actively involved with the student chapter of ACM. At the time, ACM was having some problems. Almost no one was attending general meetings. Only about half a dozen students were running the organization, and even that interest was fading. There was talk of disbanding the society altogether.

During the next several months, the handful of us who were down here combating summer school blues and Champaign's humidity decided to change all of that. We put in 30 to 40 hours a week (frequently more) in informal meetings and brainstorming sessions, trying to get ACM back on its feet. We knew that a school with a top-notch Computer Science Department such as the University of Illinois could, and should, have a thriving professional society. And that's what we were working for.

The UIUC ACM is now one of the largest and most active students chapters in the country. And it got that way because of the involvement of you, the membership. The 1986-87 ACM executive committee has been an outstanding team of individuals. As Newsletter Editor-in-Chief this year, I have had the pleasure to work with just about every active ACM member in one way or another. As a candidate for Chairman, I hope to work with next year's ACM executive committee to continue many projects we have started this year, and to move into completely new areas.

CHRIS GERRIB FOR TREASURER

I am Chris Gerrib, a sophomore in Math/CS/LAS. I am running for the job of treasurer of ACM. As this year's secretary, I wanted to move to a different job, yet stay on the Executive Council.

I am probably the most experienced executive in ACM. For the last two years, I was on the Executive Council. I was head of this year's ACM High School Programming Contest (funded by the Department of Computer Science), which has a budget of several thousand dollars. I managed the contest without a hitch. Last year, I was Vice Chairman of this committee.

As my fellow ACM execs can testify, I am willing to work, and (of course) totally honest. To conclude, I will make the same promise I made (and fufilled) last year: I will do my best.

Calendar of Events

Wed Apr 1st   ACM General Meeting:
Officer Elections.
3:00 pm   151 EEB.

Wed Apr 1st   SIGART Lecture:
Narendra Ahuja:
"Computer Vision."
4:00 pm   151 EEB.

Wed Apr 1st   SIGUUCP Workshop:
BellMAC Assembler.
7:00 pm   115 DCL.

Wed Apr 8th   SIGUUCP General Meeting:
Officer Elections.
7:00 pm   115 DCL.

Wed Apr 8th   Peer Counseling Workshop
Thu Apr 9th   for Advanced Enrollment.
7:00 pm   115 DCL.

Mon Apr 13th   Professor Symposium:
Prof. R. H. Campbell:
"Future Trends in Software
Engineering."
3:00 pm 115 DCL.

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"Can Machines Learn? An
Interesting Challenge in the World
of Artificial Intelligence."
3:00 pm 115 DCL.

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