Banks OF THE Boneyard

the journal of the association for computing machinery university of illinois student chapter.

Summer '95

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With all the junk I have from the University, why should I read this ?

by Jonathan Stark

Every year thousands of students find their way to the University of Illinois, and every year they receive what seems to be gazillions of fliers, information sheets, scheduling information, and just plain junk. So why should you hang on to this newsletter? Simple. This newsletter is your key to success in computing at the University of Illinois.

While it may not seem important to you now, sooner or later you are going to need to use the computer facilities, and ACM can help you. So, tuck this newsletter away someplace safe, take care of those "should've done this yesterday" things, get your stuff moved in, and read this when you have some time for yourself.

What Is ACM?

The Association for Computing Machinery is the largest student computer-related society on campus. ACM is comprised of 13 special interests groups which specialize in specific aspects of computing. From the World Wide Web (**important lesson #1**: Never ever call the World Wide Web the "Information Superhighway") to computer graphics, virtual reality, and applications of computers in biology, ACM is there.

What does "The Association for Computing Machinery" mean?

Nobody knows, so they've changed our name to "ACM, the First Society in Computing".

So what can ACM offer me?

ACM is a great place to learn the basics, or to improve your knowledge of computers. Whether you want to become the greatest network administrator of all times (like the infamous Charley Kline), or you just want to figure out how to read and send e-mail, ACM members can help.

ACM periodically gives workshops and seminars to help students become more involved in computing. No matter what your abilities or interests, ACM has something to offer you; from the inner workings of network protocols covered in SigNet's network programming workshop, to the hands-on experience of programming your own application-specific Field Programmable Gate Array in SigArch XILINX FPGA workshop, or a much simpler task of using a text editor in SigMicro's EMACS workshop, ACM is the way.

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SURFING SUGGESTIONS

by Dan Wellman

Now that you're a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign you've been given an account on the university's bustling computer network. You're all set to see pictures of what Jabba the Hut really looked like in those cut scenes from the Star Wars movie, keep in close contact with the President, and read all there is to know about flossing your cat - but now that you've got access to the Net, how in the world do you do all that neat stuff?

The first step is to find a computer and log on to your free student account. You can do this from one of many CCSO (Computing and Communications Services Office, provider for most public student

computer activity) computer sites in various campus buildings or from your residence hall's computer lab. To log on to your account you need to use a program called "Telnet" which communicates with the computer that holds your account. From a CCSO site Macintosh, double click the "MACS" icon to display the available programs, then double click "Network Services" to open the folder containing various network applications, including Telnet. Double click the Telnet icon to run the program, then from the "File" menu select "Open Connection..." A new window will pop up asking you to type in the "Host name", or the name of the computer where you account is located (for example "ux7.cso.uiuc.edu"). From a CCSO site PC, select "Network Connections" from the computer's main menu, then choose "Login to a machine", and finally type in the your account's host name. Once you've connected to the remote computer you'll be asked to log on. Type in

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INSIDE

Summer's New Toys

by Jay Kreibich

The first thing most returning students will notice about the ACM office is that everything has been rearranged. It was decided that by moving some of the furniture around we could provide more work space for members to utilize. More space is important in lue of the fact that ACM is now the proud new owner of 15 IBM RS/6000 workstations. Last year the Department of Computer Science decided that their Computer Graphics Lab was out of date and the machines should be replaced. ACM asked if we could take over responsibility for the outgoing IBM workstations, and the department agreed. Various members are busy helping Joe Gross ***(B.O.F.H.)*** configure the new machines in the hope of having our new ACM cluster up and running for the beginning of the new school year. With the new computers in the office, members will have more available X-Windows workstations for ACM projects and late night homework.

Also on the list of new items in the office is a brand new HP LaserJet 3M Plus. We would all like the thank Eddie Gornish for his donation through the HP Employee Gift Program, and HP for this fine printer. Now our Macs, PCs, and UNIX systems can all use the printer. The higher resolution and faster print speed will also be greatly appreciated by our newsletter team!

Another addition we hope to add to the ACM network is a new web server. ACM@UIUC's World Wide Web server (http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/) continues to generate more traffic than any other server on campus. Over the summer months www.acm averaged around 4.1 gigabytes of outgoing traffic each day. The machine that has been running www.acm is having a very hard time keeping up with the high traffic levels.

The Department of Computer Science is enjoying their own new set of toys. With the IBMs gone, the Graphics Lab has now been replaced by the new CS Multimedia Lab. This lab includes 10 new machines from Silicon Graphics, 15 new workstations from HP, and new servers from both companies. All the SGIs have advance graphics and video capture systems, and the HPs are loaded up with ultra-fast ATM network cards and video editing software. The HP server also came with over 80 gigabytes of fast-wide disk to store video clips on, while the SGI server has a new DLT tape drive that can dump almost 140 gigabytes of data to tape in a single session.

Speaking of new things this fall, ACM is pleased to welcome Professor Klara Nahrstedt to the Department of Computer Science. Prof. Nahrstedt specializes in multimedia communications, and hopefully

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The Banks of the Boneyard

The *Banks of the Boneyard* is a student publication of the Association for Computing Machinery and does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of the University of Illinois, its faculty or students, the Department of Computer Science, or the International Association for Computing Machinery.

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SIGNet

by Jeff Thompson

SigNET will be changing its focus this year. SigNET will still deal with standard computer networking issues, but the main focus will be shifting towards computer and network security. We hope to start by building a physical ethernet sniffer and designing and implementating a firewall system, as well as discussing computer intrusion and detection of intrusions. If any of these projects interest you, or you are looking for a place to learn about or discuss computer security, our group is for you! Meetings this year will occur informally, and will be announced on the ACM news group, through the SigNET mailing list, and through flyers plastered all over the university kiosks.

There will be at least one formal meeting a month to discuss issues, but all others will take place in the bowels of DCL where we can get some work done and have some fun. Also, SigNET and the Linux Users Group will be co-sponsoring a **Getting Your PC Going At The U of I** seminar on Tuesday, August 29. Feel free to come and listen in!

If you have any questions, please feel free to mail Jeff Thompson at signet@uiuc.edu. Any projects or ideas are welcome, but if you just feel like sitting down and talking about network security, please feel free to come to one of our meetings. This will be a very hands on and explorative group. Anyone who wants to learn is VERY welcome! Watch uiuc.acm.org, the kiosks, and the ACM membership mailing list for the announcement of the first meeting!

SigBio

by Joseph Lasky

Welcome to the University of Illinois! Or for some of you, welcome back to the University of Illinois! SIGBio is preparing for a very productive fall semester. SIGBio most appropriately stands for the Special Interest Group for Biocomputing. We attempt to undertake interesting, fun, and useful projects having to do with computer applications in Life Sciences. Projects may range from animal robotics to ecological systems modeling. We hope to have a good turn out this semester so that even more great ideas can be generated! The current project SIGBio is working on is the SIGBio World Wide Web Homepage. We are trying to put together an interactive "anatomy book" which will be available via the Web. If this sounds fun and interesting to you, please join us at our meetings in 1102 Digital Computer Laboratory, tentatively scheduled for Thursdays at 7:00PM. If there are any questions regarding membership, directions, times, etc. please don't hesitate to contact Arwin Levinson or Joseph Lasky at alevinso@uiuc.edu and jlasky@uiuc.edu. I can also be reached by phone at 332-4298. Hope to see you soon!

WebMonkeys

WebMonkeys is the newest ACM@UIUC special interest group, dedicated to creating cool stuff for the World Wide Web and learning a lot in the process. This fall we will be exploring:

CGI programming - the interface that allows the creation of interactive web applications.

HotJava - Java is a new language from Sun, similar to C++, that allows the creation of executable content for the web. Netscape has licensed HotJava so it will be coming to a browser near you soon. Have you ever played real-time Tetris on the web? You will...

VRML - That's Virtual Reality Modeling Language. Yes, the web is going 3D! The WebMonkeys will be working on their very own virtual world.

Server Push - Learn to do animations on the web!

The WebMonkeys welcome anyone with an interest in the WWW. We LOVE new ideas, so bring your ideas for projects, even if you don't know how to implement them yourself; chances are that someone will. We are especially interested in cool ideas for web games; we would like to implement a show-stopping web game by Engineering Open House. Check out our home page at **http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/webmonkeys/** . I hope you like the new logo!

Linux

by Mark Roth

Linux is a free implementation of the UNIX operating system, currently available for 386, 486, and Pentium PCs. (UNIX is the most common operating system used on workstations.) Linux is constantly under development by a loose-knit group of hackers from around the world communicating via the Internet. Linux is already a viable alternative to Windows, and is becoming more and more popular by the day. If you're getting tired of what your OS (Operating System) won't do, Linux is definitely for you!

The UIUC Linux Users' Group is a forum for Linux users at UIUC to get together, help each other, and collaborate on projects. At each meeting, we announce recent happenings in the Linux community, work on current projects, and have an open forum for people to ask each other questions and discuss other matters of interest to the Linux community here at UIUC.

Our major project right now is the UIUC Linux Distribution. This project is an excellent way for beginners to become familiar with Linux. It is also a good way for Linux users of all experience levels to get involved with the Linux Users' Group.

The LUG meets at 7PM on Tuesdays in room 1102 DCL. If you have any questions, feel free to send e-mail to "lug@uiuc.edu". Come join us soon!

SIGArt

by Mike Kreger and Michael Ringenberg

SigArt, the Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence, is beginning this year with Michael Ringenberg joining Mike Kreger as the new co-chair. At our weekly meetings, we study various aspects of AI, including, but not restricted to, machine learning, neural networks, expert systems, artificial life, genetic algorithms, the philosophy and morals behind machine intelligence, and much more. We try to devise projects that will let us experiment with different AI theories. Our current project is a text comprehension system possibly using a neural network for word recognition. We would like to make this our first step in devising a system that will beat the Turing test for machine intelligence. Technical knowledge is not a must as we all learn this difficult field together. Stay tuned for further information about meeting times and dates.

With all the junk I have from the University, why should I read this ?

(from page 1)

Social events like Movie Nights, picnics, canoe trips, paint ball excursions, midnight rollerblading, and even a proposed camping trip help to keep things relaxed and as much fun as possible.

ACM has monthly meetings (generally the first Thursday of the month) where famous people, visiting professors, local "gurus" and prominent individuals from industry speak about the cutting edge areas of research and development. Past speakers have included Stahlman of the Free Software Foundation and Eric Bina of Netscape as well as David Farley, author a popular 'net cartoon, "Dr. Fun".

But ACM also offers a much more in depth, unique opportunity to learn and grow through it's Special Interest Groups (SIGS). 13 special interest groups meet weekly to discuss current events in computing, work on projects like the ACM Pop Machine, build electronic gadgets like the ACM Scrolling Sign, and work on programming projects like the ACM Morpher, SigGraph's DataRace game, and SigSoft's Realms of Darkness game. These projects offer students a chance to really explore the potentials of computer applications and hardware development, as well as a great opportunity to work as part of a team. It also provides a great resume builder, as many companies look for employees who have good communication skills and can work well in groups (having some impressive projects under the belt helps to make that empty resume substantial, too!)

Indeed, when it comes to looking for a job, ACM can help there as well. ACM members benefit by having their resumes sent added to our biannual resume book, which is sent to several prominent companies. Our members also receive periodic listings of full-time, part-time, and intern positions offered at the University and many companies around the world.

So Come See What There is to See!

Upcoming Events

First Week Back

Wednesday, August 23
ACM Movie Night, 6:OOpm in 1320 DCL

Come on out to the first ACM Movie Night of the year, and enjoy the last night before classes watching *Blade Runner*.

Friday, August 25
ACM Movie Night, 6:00pm in 1320 DCL

Celebrate the end of the first week of classes by coming to see *Buckaroo Bonzai.*

Saturday, August 26
Midnight Blading, 11:59pm, in the middle of Engineering Quad

Blow off a little steam and explore the campus on rollerblades...

Starting with the Basics

August 28 - 31
Figure out what's going on with all the new computer resources you have access to, and get a jump on things by learning the basics now.

<u>Monday, August 28:</u> WebMonkeys: What the WWW and Internet REALLY Are 6:00pm, L440 DCL
Get onto the computer side of things by finding out what the World Wide Web and the internet is all about with WebMonkeys, ACM's World Wide Web aficionado group.

<u>Tuesday, August 29:</u> SigNet/LUG: Setting Up Your Sysetm, 6:00pm in 1320 DCL
Get some pointers on how to configure your computer to dial in, use PPP, get set up using ethernet in the residence halls, and how to put LINUX on your machine from SigNet and the Linux Users Group.

<u>Wednesday, August 30</u>: SigMicro: Getting Started with your UNIX Account, 6:00pm in L440
Learn how to log into your account, how to read and send email, and news messages, how to use basic Unix tools.

<u>Thursday, August 31</u>: ACM General Meeting 5:00pm in 1320DCL
Come to the first ACM general meeting of the year.

<u>Wednesday, September 13</u>: ACM & MISA Hosted Ernst & Young Corporate Night, 7:00pm in 1320 DCL
Ernst & Young will speak about their consulting firm and offer interviewing suggestions

<u>Saturday, September 30</u>: ACM Picnic, 12:00 - 4:30pm at Illini Grove
ACM's Annual Picnic inlcudes hamburgers, hotdogs, bratworst, and a whole lotta fun.

SURFING SUGGESTIONS

(from page 1)

your login name (which is that strange name they gave you that probably has your first initial and part of your last name, with perhaps a dash or a number or two) and assigned password and you'll be presented with a command prompt which may be a >, $, or %.

Through e-mail you can send letters to people across the globe in seconds, keep up with your old pals from high school, and even write home to the folks (if they have their own e-mail address). To read and send e-mail you must log on to your university account via the Telnet program (see the above paragraph) and run a mail program. Pine is one such utility, offering an organized and easy-to-use menu-driven system. To access Pine, simply type "pine" from your account prompt. To send e-mail you'll need to know the recipient's complete e-mail address, such as sigmusic@acm.uiuc.edu. Remember that once an e-mail message has been sent its delivery cannot be stopped!

When you quit pine you'll be asked if read mail should automatically be stored, freeing up space in your incoming mailbox. It's a good idea to occasionally move or delete mail from your in-box as a filled mailbox cannot receive new mail!

Sometimes things don't go well in the land of e-mail. Occasionally a message you send will be returned with a subject entitled "Mail Delivery Error" and the body of the letter prefaced with a lengthy error message. The most common causes for this "bounced mail" are incorrectly addressed letters or the recipient's mailbox is full.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is one of the coolest Net resources, so get set to check out the latest NASA satellite photos, get a picture of every album the Beatles released, and see a study (with pictures) of how pop tarts explode in toasters and other hip stuff. To access the Web you need a "browser" program such as the Netscape Navigator or NCSA Mosaic, both of which are readily available on most campus computers. As an example let's use Netscape on a Mac computer, though the IBM Windows version works in the same fashion. From a CCSO Site Mac simply double click on the file folder called "MACS", double click on the folder called "Network Services", and double click on the Netscape icon to run the Netscape Navigator. After the program loads you will be presented with a initial or *home page* containing pictures and colored or highlighted text (called *links*). You navigate the Web by clicking on these various "links" which bring up new pages of info, pictures, etc. Each of these documents is identified by a unique location, commonly referred to as a URL or Uniform Resource Locator. You'll see many advertised URLs scattered through the Banks (here's the ACM home page URL: **http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/**). To view the ACM home page using Netscape, pull down the File menu and select "Open Location..." A small window will pop up with a blinking cursor, then type in the above URL and press Enter when done (If you get a message like "404 Not Found" try again and make sure you have entered the location exactly as it appears above, slashes and all.) A picture of the ACM logo and text should start to appear on your screen. From here you can learn more about ACM activities, Special Interest Groups, watch computer generated flybys of the Grand Canyon, see cool 3D fractals, and more! A good starting place for further Web explorations is Yahoo, a well organized index containing every topic imagineable . The URL is **http://www.yahoo.com/ .**

If you ever have any questions, problems with your account, or want some paper manuals about these tools, head over to the Resource Center in the Digital Coputer Laboratory (DCL). DCL is located on the northwest corner of Matthews and Springfield, across the street from the Grainger Engineering Library. The Resource Center is located on the first floor of DCL just off the main hallway, room 1420.

New Toys

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she will be teaching us all kinds of interesting things to do with the new machines. This fall she will be teaching CS497-KN, “Topics in Multimedia Communication,” with a CS397-KN undergrad class to follow in the spring.

In other new computing news, CCSO has redesigned the way general student accounts work. Previously each class was assigned to a specific machine, and were only allowed to access that one machine. Starting this fall, anyone with an account on ux4 or ux5 will be able to login to ux4 (SUN SPARCcenter 1000), ux5 (SUN SPARCcenter 2000), or ux7 (IBM PPC RS/6000). The new system will give students some choice in the computers they wish to use, and will also allow CCSO staff to take down one of the machines without disrupting service to everyone assigned to that machine.

SigMUSIC

by Dan Wellman

The Special Interest Group for Computer and Electronic Music aims to increase the discussion, production, and performance of computer music in the campus community, and is open to all students regardless of major or background. Do you like making or listening to electronic music? Interested in sound cards, synthesizers, samplers and all the latest sound generating gizmos? Ever wanted to sit in a darkened theater with psychedelic computer generated graphics dancing on the big screen while your very own song fills the room? Or perhaps you're into hitting various objects around the house just to see what kind of cool noises you can make. If so, then SigMusic is for you!

Whether you create .MOD files, compose symphonies, or dig music and computers in general, there's something for you in SigMusic. Our activities include checking out the latest in computer audio, forums to help you improve your pieces, lectures on synthesis, building cool gadgets, and more. We will hold a semesterly concert featuring YOUR music, working together with SigGraph to create the video for our show. For you net wizards out there, our goal is to broadcast the concert over the MBONE - complete with real-time audio and video.

For information and weekly meeting times send e-mail to sigmusic@uiuc.edu, and be sure to check out the SigMusic Web Pages at **http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigmusic/** for the latest scoop.

Sex, Death, and Ergonomic Keyboards

by Ben Gross

There are things you use almost every day and never give much thought to. We'll ignore the obvious and/or unprintable in order to go right to your hands and wrists. Starting a few years ago, I started noticing more and more people at computer-related conferences and such with all sorts of strange wrist splints and bandages. I had heard of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS), which I thought was a disease reserved for aging secretaries who were overworked and had bad keyboards and office furniture. However, these people were but a decade older than myself and had jobs much like my own. I read a few blurbs about Carpel Tunnel Syndrome and wrote it off as something I shouldn't worry about.

A year or so ago, I began to have some pains in my wrists and hands after working long hours. I figured that it was no big deal and that I probably was just not sleeping enough. Beginning this summer the pains began to get worse. A month ago, I started waking up with my fingers tingling. One day I gave a good hard think to what I would do with my life if I lost some major functionality in my hands. I didn't come up with much I liked, so naturally I freaked. I read more on the literature and found out quite a bit.

I found that Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is one of the most talked about, but least often suffered, forms of Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI), which are also called Cumulative Trauma Disorders. This means that while banging your finger into a key may not seem like much of an impact, doing it several thousand times a day for a period of years can cause some serious damage. This coupled with the fact that most people in our age group have bad posture, don't stretch, don't sleep much, don't exercise enough, and eat lousy makes for lots of possible problems.

The more I asked around about this subject the more people I found who were also having pains in their hands, wrists, necks, and backs. Yet, I never heard much about it before hand. It seems to me that there is a serious problem lurking, unnoticed by the general techo population which is only going to get worse. The sad thing is that nearly all of it is preventable. So what I am saying is, "be aware." Read about the subject a little, ask around, look up some info online. Start paying attention to your posture, make sure your workstation is set up in an ergonomic manner, and just generally pay attention to how something small, like a keystroke, can have a major impact on your life.

Below are some of the better online references I have found to sites containing material about Repetitive Strain Injuries, these can also be found on the SIGCAS web page:

`http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigcas/`

Information on Computer Related Repetitive Strain Injury from Paul Marxhausen at University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

`http://www.engr.unl.edu/ee/eeshop/rsi.html`

The Typing Injury FAQ Archive has a lot of information on equipment, therapies, software, how to get on the RSINet mailing list, and general information about typing injuries.

`http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~dwallach/tifaq`

Health: Workplace: Computer Related Health Hazards from Yahoo.

`http://www.yahoo.com/Health/Workplace/Computer_Related_Health_Hazards/`

SIGGRAPH

by Max Levchin

SIGGraph at the ACM@UIUC is the Special Interest Group for Computer Graphics. Our goals include, but are not limited to, creating, designing, re-designing and (finally) making software applications having to do with computer graphics work, as well as just creating a cool hangout and an open discussion forum for all kinds of people who are interested in computers, graphics and various combinations of the above.

One of our continuing projects from last year is DataRace - a networked CyberPunk game inspired by the revered "Neuromancer" by William Gibson. Last EOH (by the way, SIGGraph's projects took second places in two different categories.) we showed a single-user Second-Level preview of the game. This year we are planning to actually present all three levels of the gameplay during EOH.

Another important project (although tangential to graphics) is going to be finished this year before EOH - Prot/TCP, a protected mode NON-Windows TCP/IP stack. This library will be used in DataRace and other of our upcoming applications.

Our **secret project GRAVEL** is the biggest project right now. Since it is a **secret** I am not going to write much about it, but you too can find out exactly what GRAVEL is all about if you come to our meetings!

The upcoming semester is going to be an eventful one for SigGraph. We are planning to have quite a few workshops, weekly meetings, might enter Assembly'96 graphics demo competition and definately do a cool video for SIGMusic's semesterly concert. If any of this sounds really lame and boring to you, chances are the other stuff we talk about will make you say, "WOW! This rocks!" So come to our first meeting - time and place to be announced on the uiuc.org.acm or visit our homepage: **http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/siggraph/** or just e-mail to siggraph@uiuc.edu. I hope to see you all soon !

SigArch

by Jonathan Stark

The Special Interest Group for Computer Architecture (SigArch) is the hardware arm of the Association for Computing Machinery. We learn by doing hands-on electronics projects. Whatever your interests are, SigArch has a project for you.

It takes only a walk past the ACM Office, or a page-flipping at your local bookstore to see some of SigArch's projects. The ACM Scrolling Sign displays messages from all over the world and is hanging outside of the ACM office. The PowerGlove Serial Interface (PGSI) is featured in many Virtual Reality books, including *Garage Virtual Reality,* which can be found in all the major bookstores.

This year's goals are no less ambitious. We hope to complete work on the ACM Pop Machine, a networked pop dispenser that will (hopefully) accept your ACM Membership Card or University of Illinois ID instead of cash. We also hope to have it set up on the net so that you can find out what is in it without ever having to leave your friendly computer lab. The Cylindrical Display uses Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGAs) to display a color image on a rotating cylinder. (FPGA's are like programmable semi-conductors. You load them with information telling them what they should do, and they act like the specific chip you told them to be.) The Cylindrical Display should be completed this year, after suffering a semi-spectacular **meltdown** at last years' Engineering Open House (EOH).

Our newest project is NetCam, our Networked Camera project. We hope to provide live MPEG compressed images to the net (and learn a whole lot about network protocol and image compression techniques) during this project..

Some of our new members started working on the Medusa project last year. Medusa is a string of lights that one day, we still hope, will carry readable text messages through a pipe, similar to the scrolling sign. Medusa was a great way for new members to learn how to solder, and it'll need some more work this year before it's fully functional.

SigArch also has workshops from time to time. Our XILINX Field Programmable Gate Array Workshop was a great success last semester and we hope to offer other similar workshops this year.

Getting involved with SigArch is easy. Just come to one of our weekly meetings, on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the ACM office and introduce yourself! Our first meeting will be right after the ACM General Meeting, on Thursday, August 31st. Hope to see you there!

SIGCAS

by Ben Gross

SIGCAS is a “forum for computer specialists, those in related fields and public at large to gather and report information, exchange ideas, and arouse concern about impact of computers and society. The main concern is ethical and philosophical implications.” Topics include “societal issues raised by computing technology including quality of life, ethics and information infrastructure impacts." SIGCAS is a small band of avid intellectual hedonists dedicated to at least on hour of good discussion and arguments every week. SIGCAS home page **`http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigcas/`**. Send email to sigcas@uiuc.edu

SIGSoft

by Alan Braverman

The Special Interest Group for Software Development is a team of students who enjoy programming computers into the wee hours of the night. We primarily program using the C language on a number of computing platforms. Some of our most recent attempts have been networked games and utilities, but we are always open to new project ideas.

Some possible areas of concentration for this semester include: cross-platform programming, languages beyond C and C++, and continued efforts to promote discussion.

Our first meeting of the semester will be Wednesday, September 9, at 6pm (and most likely every Wednesday after that) in the ACM office, 1225 DCL. Contact us via e-mail at sigsoft@uiuc.edu or check out our Web site at **`http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigsoft/`**. New members are always welcome, regardless of programming experience.

Web Factoid

Carnegie Mellon’s popular “Lycos” World Wide Web search form returns 63 matches on the search term “Libor.” Most, however, are not referring to the Libor of UIUC Usenet fame. An interest rate benchmark, the London Interbank Offered Rate, is commonly known by stuffy English business types as “Libor.”

For comparison, Lycos also found the following:

65 matches to “Spicoli”
265 matches to “Pez”
567 matches to “Andreessen”
603 matches to “squid”
2071 matches to “Homer”
21726 matches to “UIUC”
29447 matches to “TEST”
62172 matches to “NCSA”

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acm

student chapter
university of
illinois urbana-
champaign

membership form

Return or mail this form to:
1225 Digital Computer Lab, MC-258
1304 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

name:

campus address:

campus phone:

home address:

home phone:

electronic mail:

curriculum:

UNIVERSITY STATUS

- ☐ freshman
- ☐ sophomore
- ☐ junior
- ☐ senior
- ☐ m.a. / m.s.
- ☐ ph.D.
- ☐ faculty / staff
- ☐ postdoc
- ☐ alumni
- ☐ other

special interest groups

acm's special interest groups (SIGs) focus on particular aspects of using computers and the computing community.

(circle some that you're interested in!)

sigarch	architecture
sigart	artificial intelligence
sigbio	biocomputing
sigbiz	business
sigcas	computers and society
siggraph	graphics
sigmicro	microcomputers
sigmusic	music
signet	networking
sigsoft	software development
sigunix	unix programming

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

return form with check or money order payable to the ACM at UIUC

- ☐ $40 for eight semesters
  membership begins and ends sept 1
- ☐ $22 for four semesters
  membership begins and ends sept 1
- ☐ $12 for two semesters
  membership begins and ends sept 1 or jan 1
- ☐ $14 for two semesters
  off campus newsletter subscription mailing begins and ends sept 1

ACM NATIONAL MEMBER

- ☐ yes — #
- ☐ no
- ☐ currently applying