CS Alumni News

Spring 1991

University of Illinois
at
Urbana-Champaign
Computer Science
Alumni Association
Constituent Group
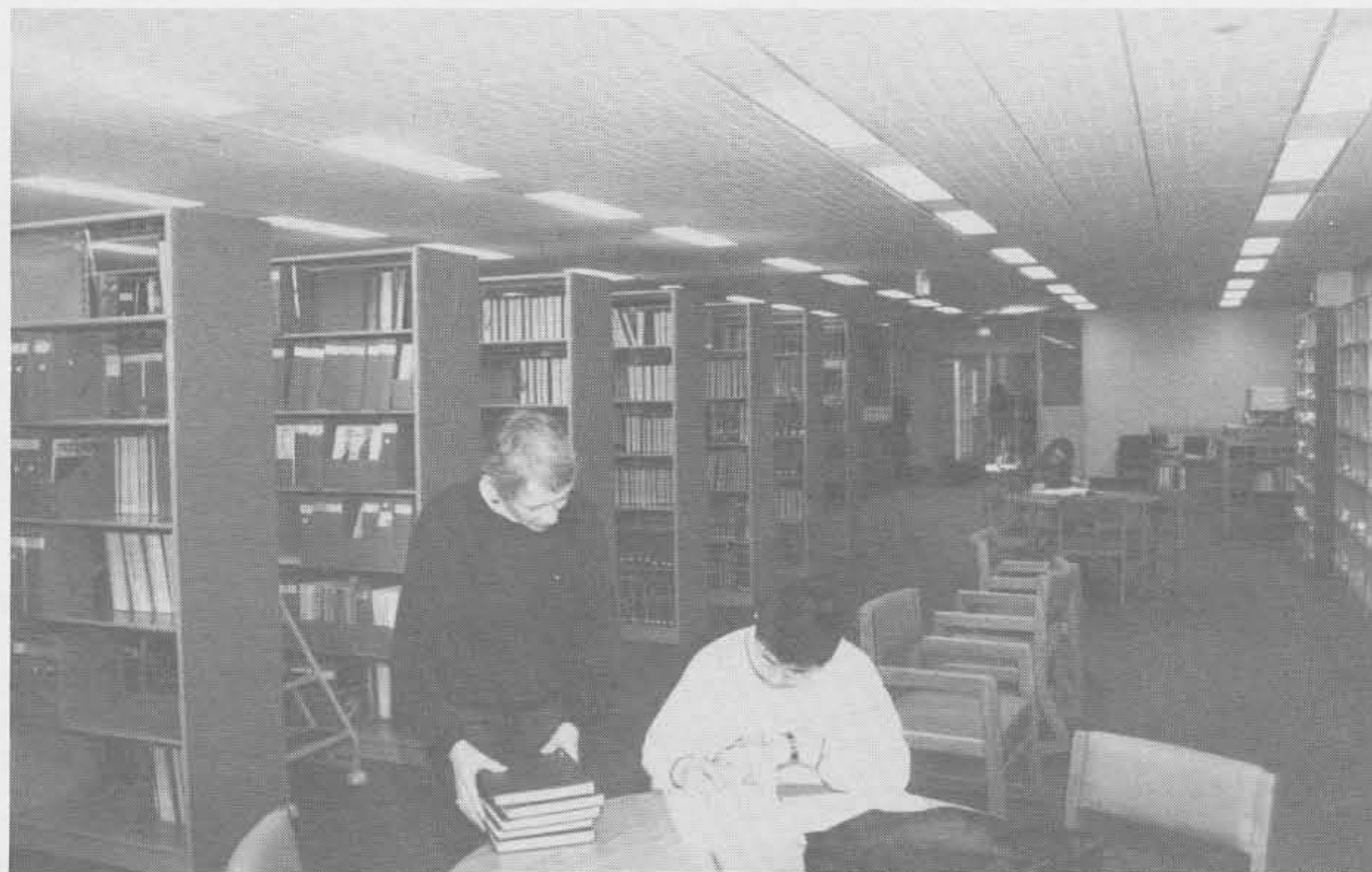
40 YEARS CELEBRATION

Duncan Lawrie, Ph.D.

*Professor Duncan Lawrie,
Our new Department Head*

This is our 40th anniversary year, and it might be appropriate to do a little reflecting on our origins. In January of 1948, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a computer from the Reeves Instrument Co. Unfortunately (or fortunately as it turned out), Reeves was unable to deliver the machine, and John von Neumann suggested we build our own. Thus started a long tradition. In January 1949, the proposal to build a copy of von Neumann's Princeton machine was approved and in February, one month later, the Digital Computer Laboratory was organized. Ralph Meager was named chief engineer. Joe Wier, Ed Hughes, Jim Robertson and others participated in the design.

About this same time I was growing up in Chicago. Our neighbor, whose windows suffered grievous damage from our baseballs and BB guns, was Phil Meager, Ralph's father. (Little did I know that my association with computing at Illinois had started.) I suppose Ralph visited his parents from time to time,

Zigrida Arbatsky helping a student in the new library

but unfortunately I can't recall ever meeting him. I'm sure he was busy, because in 1951 ORDVAC was completed and its sister the Illiac I was finished in 1952 — two computers in three years, without CAD tools or big screen workstations. Think about that.

The first Illiac served as the main campus computer for many years, until an IBM 650 was added to the campus computing resources in 1958. Ralph Meager left the Lab and was replaced by Abraham Taub in 1959, the year the core of our present building was finished, and design of Illiac II began.

The first American orbited Earth and the Beatles started their own record company in 1962 after Decca predicted they would never make it on the charts. After a hard day's night, Illiac I was retired in 1962 and Illiac II became fully operational the following year, the same year the first addition to DCL was occupied and the IBM 650 was replaced by an IBM 7090 and 1401. Faiman, Gear, Gillies, Muller, Popplebaum, Ray, Robertson, Shively, Ken Smith and Jim Snyder were among those participating in the design and construction of the Illiac II. In 1964, John Pasta took over from Taub. Illiac II continued in

service on the campus until 1967, the year Dustin Hoffman starred in *The Graduate*. (And who can forget Jane Fonda in *Barbarella*?) By this time machine design at Illinois was moving fast and furiously. In '64, Bruce McCormick began the Illiac III and in 1965, Dan Slotnick started the Illiac IV.

In 1966 I arrived on campus, ostensibly to get an MS degree in EE, and in December of that year, Computer Science was formally approved as a degree granting curriculum. One of the first faculty members with whom I met was Jim Robertson. He was then the chair of the FAA (Fellowships, Assistantships and Admissions) committee. He was later to teach me that there's a lot more to arithmetic than meets the eye. (Jim retired in 1990, and we shall miss him.) I soon joined an incredible group of graduate students working on Illiac IV. Computer access in these days was via paper tape, punched cards, and if you were lucky, a personal teletype model 33, all an improvement over front panel switches and plugboards. The second addition to DCL was occupied in 1967, and I had an office across the hall from John Pasta's office. 1967 saw the first IBM 360 on campus, perhaps the last of the magnificent front panel

machines (the front panel is on display in DCL) and one of the first to recognize the problem of software compatibility from one generation to the next.

Time passed rapidly. Armstrong and Aldrin took a giant step to the moon in 1969, Jim Snyder became department head in 1970 when John Pasta went to NSF, and CSO took over campus computing from the department in 1971.

The fourth Illiac took a lot longer to finish than the first Illiac, but eventually we did finish it. Those were times of great student and faculty unrest with the Vietnam war and with DoD involvements on campus. Illiac IV was singled out as a target of some of this unrest, and so it was shipped from its construction site in Pennsylvania to Moffet Field, California where in the Institute for Advanced Computation it became operational in 1975 and served for over ten years.

The war was not the only cause of unrest in these times. Our exams were also a frequent topic of discussion, as were some of our courses. CS 201 (Machine Language and System Programming), CS 293 (Introduction to Computer Hardware) and CS 391 (Boolean Algebra and Switching Theory) were perennial favorites.

It should be remembered that building machines was not all there was to Computer Science at Illinois. These machines would have been useless without the software and applications research done in DCL. Pattern recognition, information retrieval, compiling, heuristic problem solving, advanced circuit research, automated circuit design, time sharing, and numerical analysis were a few of the active areas of research in the early days.

It was not until the 80's that construction of another machine was seriously discussed. In 1985, the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development was formed by David Kuck, and the construction of a machine called Cedar began. This same year Jim Snyder passed away, and Bill Gear became the department head. Not only did Bill guide the department through a period of rapid growth, but with associate head Bill Kubitz, they built the third and largest addition to DCL, a part of the exciting new north campus.

This year we moved into the new addition. Cedar is running. We have over forty faculty active in areas from artificial intelligence to theoretical computing. We have over 600 undergraduates and almost 400 graduate students. They still find our courses difficult, our research stimulating, and our exams debatable. They will join over 4000 other Illinois computing alumni when they leave.

Come join us in April and see how things have changed (and how they haven't.)

CS ALUMNI OFFICERS ELECTIONS
Roy Campbell

Fontaine Richardson, our first president, is resigning after several years of heading the Computer Science Alumni Association. His enthusiasm and efforts in starting the association are much appreciated. Fontaine's resignation makes it an important election year for the CS Alumni Association. The term of all our officers expires this year and we need votes and nominations for officers.

I am hoping that we can persuade several officers to stand again, get some new officers, and add one or two new officers to help organize Alumni events on the East and West coast. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 8:00 am during the breakfast meeting. For those who cannot attend, votes can be mailed to the department in advance of the meeting or brought to the meeting by proxies.

From Our PRESIDENT
Fontaine K. Richardson, Ph.D. '68

Dear Fellow Alumnus/a:

The year 1991 has started off with increasing world tension and economic uncertainty with challenges in front of each of us that are many and varied. In the face of all these unknowns, the Department of Computer Science continues to attract and develop faculty talent, generate world class ideas and concepts, and provide students excellent learning environments. As alumni, we can be proud of the continuing achievements and contributions made by the Department. We also can share in, benefit from, and even contribute to the many activities in the Department. Each of us can shape our own involvement and resulting benefits. I challenge each of you to find some time in 1991 to participate in the Department and its Alumni activities.

The dedication of the new addition to the Digital Computer Laboratory this spring is an opportunity for you to return to campus, renew old friendships, make new ones and learn of the new and exciting developments that are taking place in the Department and on campus. I encourage you to attend and participate in the dedication activities. Several other Alumni will be attending and we will have the opportunity to discuss how our alumni group can better benefit our members and you in particular.

Respectfully,
Fontaine K. Richardson

1990 AT DCL/DCS
Bill Kubitz, Ph.D.

Professor Kubitz,
Associate Head

Another year has passed and much has happened at DCL/DCS. State funding sagged so raises were not large this past year, but some of our disappointment in that regard was offset by us finally moving into the new building. We began the move this past May. In moving into the new addition portion of the building, we vacated the old DCL building and it has since been renovated. Although not quite finished, the renovation was sufficiently completed by December to allow us to move everything into the building from outlying buildings. As of December 13, 1990, the department is all in one place for perhaps the first time ever, although our AI faculty and graduate students are still at the Beckman Institute (by choice). After being in as many as 10-12 different buildings for the past 10 (or more) years, we finally have a home, as do our students. There are still no classrooms in DCL, but we have two large lecture

halls and space for 10 instructional labs (with 8 labs in operation or planned at this time.) So our students finally have a place to call home and it has been a great experience to watch them begin to "move in" and "take over" the building. They have certainly put the snack and lounge areas to good use. The building is quite unusual and you really must stop by and see us and take a tour whenever you have the chance.

In connection with the north campus development, they have now landscaped the area between Kenny Gym and DCL and on north between Civil and Microelectronics toward the Beckman Institute. It won't be finished all the way to Beckman until after the construction of the new Computer and Systems Research Laboratory, which will house the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development and the Computer Systems Group from CSL. This will be a couple of years from now. In the meantime, there is the beginnings of the north campus mall, up to the point where "the great work of art" has been assembled. State building projects always produce a "work of art" for the campus. Ours is a combination fountain, clock, and telescope. Well, sort of. There are three fountains, a granite spire, and a round, brass sphere with a hole through it. We are told that the spire will cast a shadow on some of the limestone balls around the periphery at certain times of the day, and that one will see the north star if one sights through the hole in the brass sphere across the top of the granite spire. You really must try this when you come to visit us! It seems inevitable that students will put a high sudsing detergent in the fountains and that we will have orange and blue bubbles occasionally, and at St. Pat's Day and Engineering Open House time it will probably be green! Educationally, we have obtained grants from IBM, HP, and ATT to provide equipment for instructional labs in AI and SW Engineering, Databases, and Networking, respectively. In addition, Professors Jane Liu and Dave Knapp have a large NSF grant to develop a two course sequence in Embedded and Realtime Systems and HP has also granted equipment to us in this area. We have modernized our undergraduate program by strengthening and restructuring our 100-level courses. In addition, our increase in faculty size has allowed us to offer a wider variety of courses and to offer some courses more frequently. The campus as a whole is in the process of restructuring and strengthening the core general education requirements. There is a sort of "back to the basics" theme to this, with a stronger requirement fundamentals (English, math, science) and a requirement for some breadth. Our enrollments are now a more manageable 400 graduate students and 600 undergraduates. With 42 faculty now, this has greatly improved our educational program. If you were here when we had 1,300 undergraduates and only 30 faculty, I am sure you will agree that this is a vast improvement.

The university continues to tear down more of the old houses in the area. Many of those along Springfield Avenue east of DCL are gone. The College of Engineering is progressing on finding alumni funding for a new Engineering Library and classroom building opposite DCL to the south. The tentative plan is to raze the Woodshop next summer. If you are an alum, I am sure you will be hearing more about this!

The new addition and remodeled old DCL (which is all one building now) will be rededicated on April 17, 1991. Our industrial affiliates meeting is April 17 & 18. On Tuesday, April 16, we are having a celebration of 44 years of CS education and research at Illinois. We are calling it "Symposium on Computer Science: The Next 40 Years". It begins with a reception on Monday, April 15, and runs through a banquet on Tuesday evening. All alums of DCL or DCS are invited to this. Since DCS didn't exist in the early days (before we were an academic department), we want to be sure that DCL alums, those pioneers who built computers at Illinois, get invited to come. So tell everyone you can think of about this event. If you want more information, please call Mrs. Carpenter at (217) 333-3427 or send email to her at: carp@cs.uiuc.edu.

As of May, Duncan Lawrie, who succeeds Bill Gear, became our new department head. Bill went to a new NEC research lab in Princeton, New Jersey. Duncan became President of the IEEE Computer Society this Spring. That ought to keep him busy! Jim Robertson retired this past year. He has bought a home in New Mexico, but he still comes back to Illinois part of the year.

Well, that's some of the news at DCS. We hope to see you at the "party" in April.

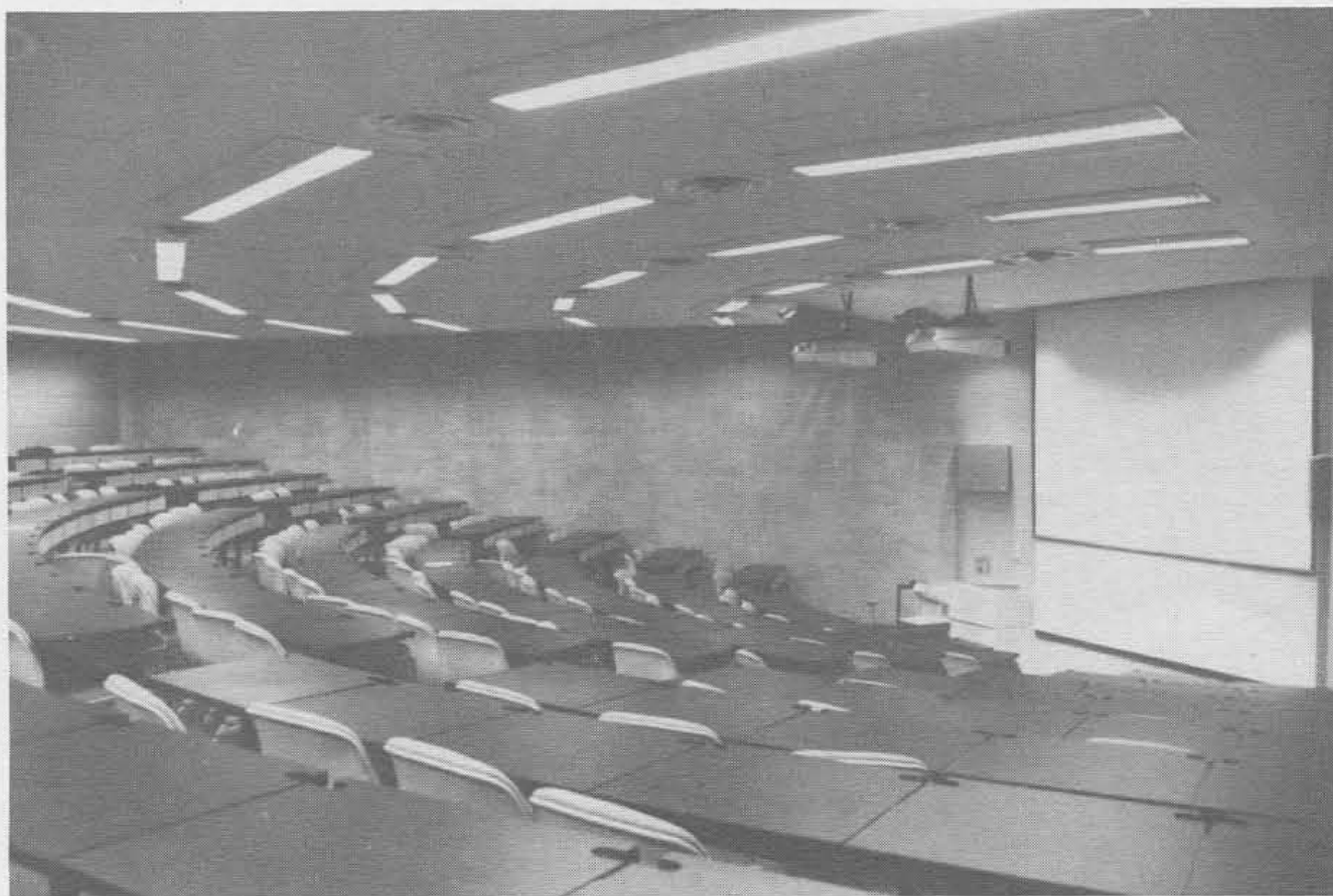# SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER SCIENCE: THE NEXT FORTY YEARS

The festivities are divided into three parts, a special symposium for our Alumni that reflects on the past forty years of achievement in Computer Science and tries to predict the events that may occur in the next ten, the official opening of the building, and a joint Alumni, Illinois Computer Affiliates Program review of current research. Tickets should be purchased for the "The Next Forty Years" event from Gayanne Carpenter as soon as possible (217) 333-3427. The cost of the event per person is $45.00 or $60.00 if a spouse is to attend the social events as well. The tickets include lunches, reception (with bar), and banquet with dancing. Send in the coupon attached to this Newsletter today to make sure you have your ticket to this unique event!

The Symposium offers Alumni a chance to catch up on the news from their fellow Alumni and listen to distinguished Alumni and guests present their thoughts on past, present, and future issues in computer science research. Bill Gear, an Illinois alumni, Duncan Lawrie's predecessor and now head of NEC's research laboratory in Princeton, will talk about his research T. Kunihiro, an Illinois alumni and now Vice President of NEC for Telecommunications Software in the United States will talk about the "Cultural Difference in Research and Development in US and Japan", Bill Wulf, an Illinois Alumni, an ex-Program Director of NSF, and now Professor at the University of Virginia will talk about Public Policy and Computer Science, and Dr Tso-Kai Liu, a director of Silicon Graphics, will talk about the "Challenges the Industry Faces in System Design".

The past glories and catastrophies of computer science research will be reflected on by a number of speakers drawn from the major computer science projects undertaken at DCL. These include Joe Wier (Illiac I), Ken Smith (Illiac II), Bruce McCormick (Illiac III), Pete Alsberg (Illiac IV), and Dave Kuck (Cedar).

Several brave Alumni and guests will peer into a crystal ball and try to predict what the next ten years of computer science may bring. These include Mr Shoji Hiroe, a manager in Toshiba Corp., who will talk on the "Future of Notebook Computers", Dave Waltz, of Thinking Machines and Brandice University, who will talk about the future of Artificial Intelligence and Fontaine Richardson, the President of Eastech Management Company.

The New DCL Auditorium equipped with video projectors and sound. The Symposium will be held here.

Timetable of Events: April 15 – 18, 1991

Symposium on Computer Science: The Next Forty Years

Mon., April 15	6:30–7:30 pm	Alumni Executive Committee Meeting	3270 DCL
	7:00–10:00pm	Reception and Tours of DCL	DCL Atrium
Tue., April 16	8:00–9:00 am	Alumni Group Meeting and Breakfast	2240 DCL
	9:00–9:15 am	Welcome – D. H. Lawrie	1320 DCL
	9:15–11:00 am	History of DCL & Nostalgia (The Past)	1320 DCL
	11:00–11:20am	Break	Preconvene Area
	11:20–11:50 Noon	Topical Talks by Alums	1320 DCL
	Noon–1:30pm	Luncheon	Preconvene Area
	1:30–2:30 pm	Topical Talks by Alums	1320 DCL
	2:30–2:50 pm	Break	Preconvene Area
	2:50–3:50 pm	Topical Talks by Alums	1320 DCL
	3:50–5:00 pm	Future of Computing (The Future)	1320 DCL
	6:30–7:00 pm	Banquet Reception	Laborers Hall
	7:00–11:00 pm	Dinner and Dance	Laborers Hall

Official Dedication

Wed., April 17	11:00–Noon	Opening of DCL	DCL

Alumni and Illinois Computer Affiliates Spring Workshop

Wed., April 17	8:00–11:00 am	ICAP: Session A	1320 DCL
	Noon–1:00pm	ICAP Lunch	
	1:00–5:00pm	ICAP Session B	1320 DCL
	7:00–11:00pm	ICAP Reception and Dinner	
Thu., April 18	8:00–Noon	ICAP Session C	1320 DCL
	Noon–1:00pm	ICAP Lunch	
	1:00–5:00pm	ICAP Session D	1320 DCL

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON RETIRES

Professor Robertson

Professor James E. Robertson retired January 5, 1990, after 43 years of service. Professor Robertson was honored with a dinner, at which time testimonials were given by his colleagues and former students. Robertson received his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Illinois in Electrical Engineering. His thesis topic of error-checking systems for computers was a specialty he put to use in both ILLIAC I and ILLIAC II. Professor Robertson also contributed significantly to the design of the ORDVAC. The method of multiplication invented by Jim was used in both ORDVAC and the ILLIACS and was also copied in the ORACLE (the computer built for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory). Robertson assumed the major responsibility for the design and construction of the magnetic drum circuits required to provide the ILLIAC I with additional storage facilities. His research included results in the area of error checking codes and asynchronous logic.

PROFILE OF NEW FACULTY

Andrew A. Chien
Assistant Professor, 8/21/90-Present
Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1990

Fields of Active Research: Concurrent programming languages, hardware architecture and interconnection networks.

Caroline C. Hayes
Assistant Professor, 1/6/91-Present
Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University, 1990

Fields of Active Research: Manufacturing planning and design.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Nachum Dershowitz was promoted to Professor of Computer Science effective August 21, 1990. Dershowitz joined the Department of Computer Science as an Assistant Professor in August 1979 after receiving his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Weizmann Institute of Science in 1979. Professor Dershowitz's main area of research is "rewrite systems" and applications to automated deduction and programming languages. Related areas of interest include artificial intelligence approaches to "program synthesis" and "program transformation," and the semantics of "logic-programming." The goal is to find and develop unifying ideas to diverse aspects of programming and automated reasoning.

Herbert Edelsbrunner was promoted to Professor of Computer Science effective August 21, 1990. Edelsbrunner joined the Department of Computer Science as an Assistant Professor in November 1985. Edelsbrunner received his Doctorate in Technical Mathematics from the Technical University of Graz in June 1982 and was an Assistant Professor there until his arrival at Illinois. Professor Edelsbrunner's areas of research are data structures and algorithms, computational geometry, discrete and combinatorial geometry, concrete topology, combinatorics.

David A. Padua was promoted to Associate Professor of Computer Science effective August 21, 1990. Padua joined the Department of Computer Science as an Assistant Professor in August 1985. Professor Padua is also an Associate Director of the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development. Padua received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois in 1980 and was employed as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the U of I.

From 1981-85 he was a member of the faculty at the Universidad Simon Bolivar in Venezuela. Professor Padua's main areas of research are debugging for parallel computers, language design, and program restructuring.
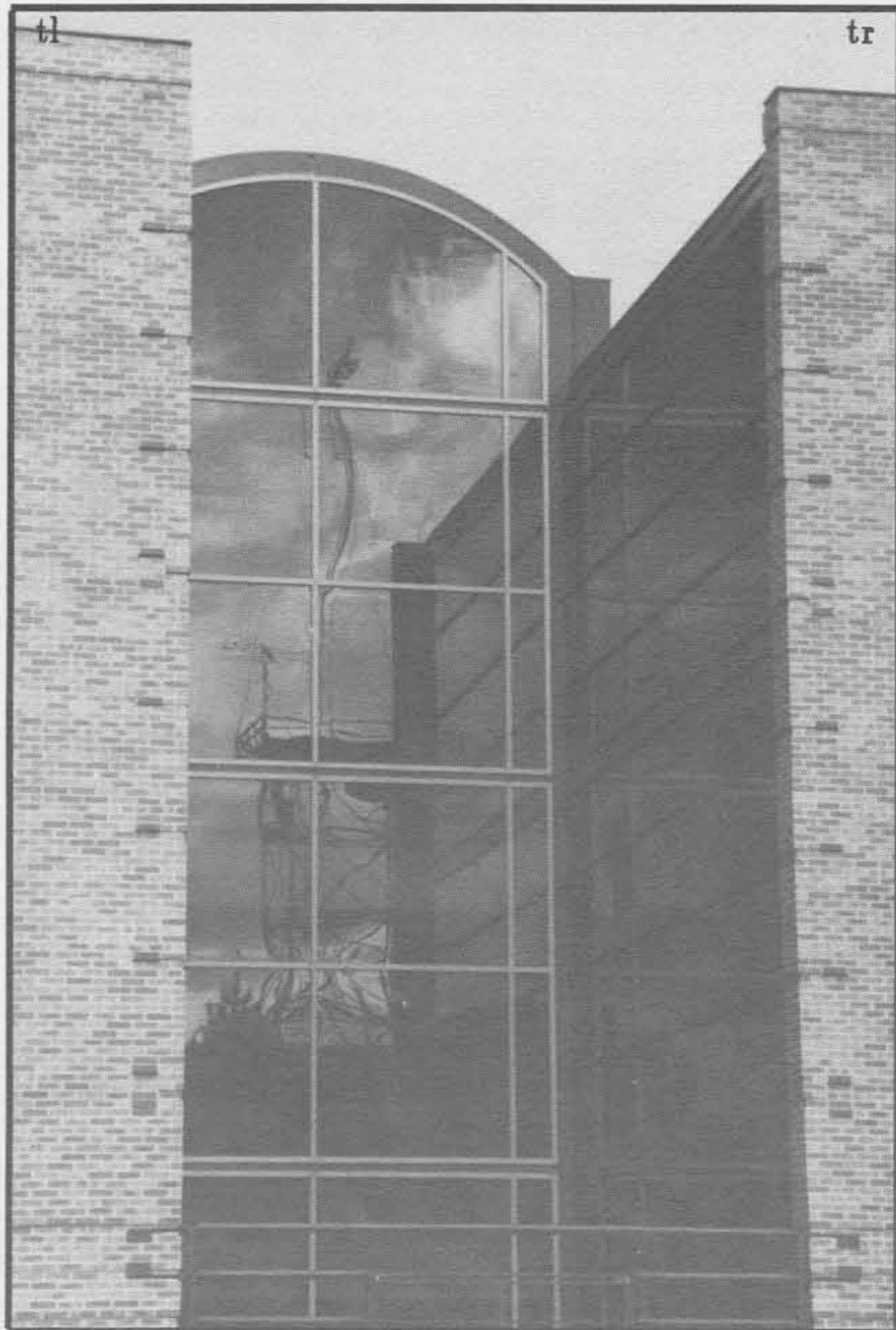
Larry A. Rendell was promoted to Associate Professor of Computer Science effective August 21, 1990. Rendell joined the Department of Computer Science as an Assistant Professor in August 1984. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Waterloo in 1981 and was an Assistant Professor at the University of Guelph from 1981-84. Professor Rendell's areas of research are artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cognition.
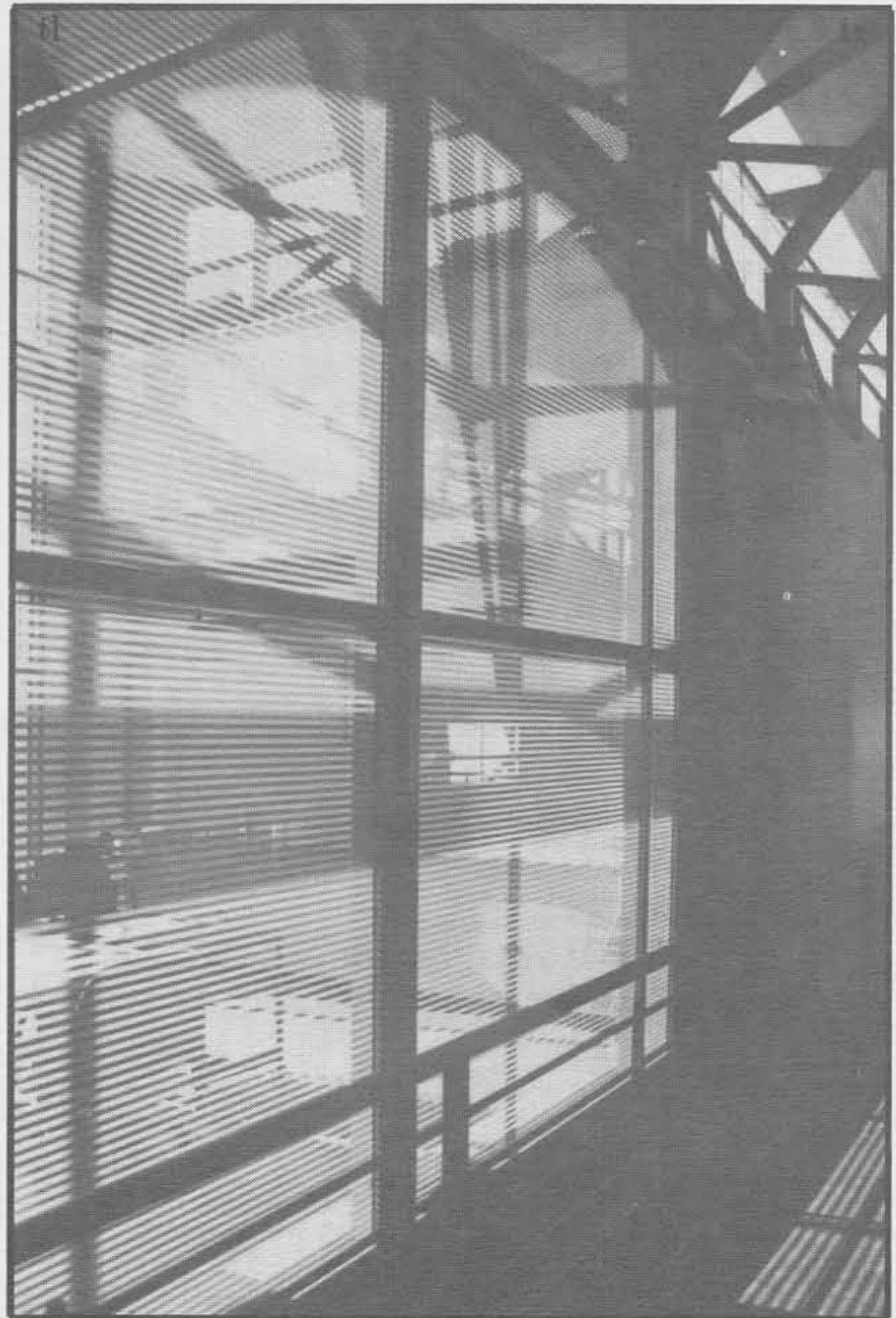
USEFUL CS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Head	Duncan Lawrie	217 333 3373	lawrie.cs.uiuc.edu
Assoc. Head	Bill Kubitz	217 333 6249	kubitz.cs.uiuc.edu
Academic	Kay Tomlin	217 333 4427	tomlin.cs.uiuc.edu
Admin	Janet Shonkwiler	217 333 7949	shonk.cs.uiuc.edu
Tech Reports	Erna Amerman	217 333 6464	erna.cs.uiuc.edu
FAX		217 333 3501	
Alumni Liason	Roy Campbell	217 333 0215	alumni.cs.uiuc.edu
ACM	Student Chapter	217 333 5828	quinn.cs.uiuc.edu
CSGCO		217 244 7232	gillies.cs.uiuc.edu

VIEWS OF THE NEW BUILDING
Photos by Rick Henderson and Roy Campbell

The glass arches and curtain walls reflect the fire tower. A view looking north at the south side of the building.

Looking in at a conference room from the corridor.

Tables on a roof through a glass arch. The building has many areas set aside for informal interaction.

The top floor. The building has three levels connected by stairs and lift. Conference rooms can be seen on the south side of the hallway.

FACULTY AWARDS

Herbert Edelsbrunner, Professor of Computer Science, was named as a University Scholar.

Established in 1985, the University Scholars program is designed to encourage top-rank faculty members to continue and expand their careers at the U of I. University Scholars are nominated by their departments, and final selection is made by a committee of senior faculty members.

Professor Edelsbrunner is a pioneer in the relatively new field of computational geometry, a discipline that helps scientists and mathematicians manipulate objects of two, three, or more dimensions by computer. His research has shed light on problems encountered in computer graphics, machine vision and robotics.

Gul Agha, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, has been awarded, for the second year, a Digital Faculty Program grant from the Digital Equipment Corporation. This is an incentive for excellence award given to thirteen outstanding young faculty members in the United States to expand their funding and computing resources while recognizing their individual contributions to teaching and to their institutions. The grant includes $25,000 in unrestricted cash and $35,000 equipment grant that Professor Agha can use toward the purchase of any Digital products.

Gul Agha, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, has been selected to participate in the Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program. This program is designed to attract your scientists and engineers who show exceptional promise for doing creative research and teaching.

Pravin M. Vaidya, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, has been awarded a Presidential Young Investigators Award by the National Science Foundation. The award which funds research by faculty members near the the beginning of their academic careers, is intended to help universities attract and retain outstanding young scientists who might otherwise pursue non-teaching careers.

Professor Vaidya is among the foremost theoretical computer scientists who graduated in the past five years.

Laxmikant V. Kale, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, was awarded the C. W. Gear Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. The award recognizes overall achievement in research and teaching. Contributions from alumni, friends, and former students were used to create an endowed fund to recognize C. W. Gear for his long time contributions and service to the University of Illinois and to the Department of Computer Science.

ILLINOIS SOFTWARE SUMMER SCHOOL (JULY 8-27, 1991)
Mehdi Harandi and Roy Campbell

Last year, we offered our first Illinois Software Summer School and it was a great success. The three day courses in testing, design, requirements and specifications, and management were met with enthusiasm by the attendees, who mostly came from industry and included many alumni.

This year, we are offering a slightly larger selection of topics including real-time systems, networks, C, C++, object-oriented programming, Mathematica, Unix, software design and testing. This year, the summer school will be held July 8th to 27th. Anyone interested in the summer school should contact: Lynnea Johnson, (217) 333-6634.

1990 HONORS DAY STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

A number of awards are presented each year to outstanding students in the Computer Science Department. The following are the award winners for the year 1990.

The James N. Snyder Award for Academic Acheivement

Professor James N. Snyder was the Head of the Department of Computer Science from 1970 to 1985, during which time he oversaw the growth of this department to one of the largest in the country. Upon his death in 1985, friends and colleagues established an endowment fund in order to support a continuing memorial in his name. This award is given to the outstanding sophomore in the CS Engineering curriculum and to the outstanding sophomore in the LAS Math/CS curriculum.

Arnold M. Bilstad
(Sophomore in CS/Engineering)

Karen M. Beavin
(Sophomore in CS/LAS)

The Institute for the Certificate of Computer Professionals— James N. Snyder Award

During Professor James N. Snyder's tenure as Department Head, he was active in founding the Institute for the Certification of Computer Professionals (ICCP) and served on its Board of Directors. This award, endowed by ICCP in memory of his contribution, is presented to the outstanding junior level computer science major with interest in software development.

Steven G. Smith
(Senior in CS/Engineering)

The John R. Pasta Award for Academic Acheivement

Professor John R. Pasta was the Head of the Department of Computer Science from 1964-70. He then joined the National Science Foundation and eventually became the Director of the Mathematical and Computer Sciences Division. Upon his death in 1981, friends and colleagues established an endowment fund in order to support a continuing memorial in his name. This award is given to a student with junior standing during the preceding fall semester and who has the highest cumulative grade point average.

Dennis Kah-Yuk Lee
(Junior in CS/Engineering)

The Daniel L. Slotnick Award

Professor Daniel L. Slotnick was a member of this department from 1965 until his unexpected death in 1985. Professor Slotnick was dedicated to the encouragement of high scholarship in students. His friends and colleagues donated funds to underwrite the Slotnick Scholarship. This award is given to the outstanding undergraduate in computer science who has demonstrated academic merit, exceptional qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

Donald Roberts
(Sophomore in CS/Engineering)

The Department of Computer Science Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Awarded to the outstanding teaching assistant in undergraduate computer science courses.

Daniel Hils
(Graduate Student in CS)

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI BY ELECTRONIC MAIL
Roy Campbell

This November we started distributing an electronic Alumni Association email newsletter. The newsletter will allow exchange of news and prompt updates of Alumni events. So far 166 alumni receive the email newsletter.

At regular intervals, any alumni email sent to the department will be redistributed in the body of the email newsletter. Mark anything you would like me to send out "for distribution"! Almost any news is appropriate: new job, location, marriage, news of other alumni. Anything you think will be of interest to other alumni – but no advertisements please.

If you want to contact an alumni through email and don't know his/her address I will try to help. I will let the person to be contacted know your address. By default, I am not handing out email addresses directly. I have also started keeping a list of email addresses of alumni who don't mind their email addresses being sent to other alumni. If you would like your email address to be added to the list, send mail marked "please distribute my email address".

If you know of email addresses of Alumni that I can contact and ask if they would like to participate, please send them to me.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE BULLETIN ON A REGULAR BASIS OR TO DISTRIBUTE A NEWS ITEM SEND EMAIL TO:

alumni@cs.uiuc.edu.

CS ALUMNI NEWS

Judy Grass, (A.M. Slavic linguistics, 1977, M.S. Computer Science, 1982, Ph. D. Computer Science, 1986). Judy has just returned from Russia and the first Unix user's group meeting in Moscow. Judy writes:

"The UNIX operating system appears to have first reached the Soviet Union about a decade ago. Its popularity there has grown over time. There are now enough active UNIX users and developers that a Soviet UNIX User's Group (the SUUG) has been formed. It held its first conference in Moscow from Oct. 29- Nov. 2, 1990. Life in the Soviet Union has changed dramatically from when I was a student there in the summer of 1974."

Anyone interested in the details will soon be able to read her technical report of the workshop. Judy works for Bell Labs at Murray Hill.

Mitch Lubars (Ph.D. 1986) Mitch is working at MCC Software in the Technology Program on Software Design Reuse. This summer he celebrated the birth of Brian Theodore Lubars.

Russ Jones Russ was married to Marlo Oechsel on August 18th of this year. She is a graduate of U of I ('89) with a BS in Journalism from the College of Communications.

I'm working on OSI products here at Novell, and I couldn't be happier with the job and the California environment.

Ray Essick (Ph.D. 1987) is at Motorola in Chicago working on Gnu compilers for the 88000 and 680X0s. He dropped in to the department while visiting Motorola's office in Urbana.

Dan Pitt (Ph.D. 1979) works for IBM and is on assignment to the Zurich lab were he is working as a manager on gigabit LANs and ATMs.

Pankaj Jalote (1985 Ph.D.) worked as a Professor at the University of Maryland and then took a job as a Professor in India. He has just completed a book entitled "An integrated approach to software engineering" to be published by Springer Verlag. The book is likely to appear by mid 1991.

Lieutenant Charles E. Tracey, USAF (BS 1988) welcomes correspondence from any alumni regarding get-togethers in the Washington, DC, area, or technical exchanges on computer and communications security, systems engineering, space systems, and military/government computing. Tracey's email address is Tracey@dockmaster.ncsc.mil.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
Don Gillies Ph.D. '99

This year the CSGSO bureaucracy continued to expand linearly. After the 1989-90 reign of David Bradley (president) and Don Gillies (treasurer), a coup ensued putting Don Gillies (president), Bill Walker (vice president), and John Zweig (treasurer) in power.

CSGSO was given a spacious 3-man office in the DCL new addition. This lush office has a glass wall and a private door onto DCL suntanning deck #5. It became a staging area for many new CSGSO activities, including photo taking, and Friday donut hours outdoors on the tanning deck.

In recent years, CSGSO has sold Computer Science tshirts and also helped to organize Friday "SIG-BEER" colloquia at the local campus bars. These new traditions complement the longstanding traditions of Spring and Fall picnics, Friday donut hours, and a holiday party. This year's holiday party, held in the DCL atrium, featured extensive decorations (including a fully decorated fresh-smelling pine tree). Santa arrived at the party riding down the elevator rather than the chimny. CSGSO is grateful to the more than one dozen C.S. students who spent many hours working on food, decorations, music and being Santa. In addition, we had a substantial student and faculty turnout (over 100 students) which made the party a great success.

This year CSGSO is taking on new responsibilities. We are taking pictures of everyone in computer science in order to develop and maintain a photo board near a new entrance of DCL. We hope also to digitize the photos and provide online information about the students, faculty, and staff in computer science.

CSGSO was put in charge of the new graduate student lounge. This new lounge has about 500 mailboxes, and some tables and chairs and a whiteboard. CSGSO has arranged to have a "free box" for students to exchange unwanted but useful magazines, catalogues and conference proceedings. Erna Amerman has generously agreed to pick up campus mail from this lounge, for when you absolutely positively have to have it mailed at night.

CSGSO is also hoping to try some new social activities such as canoeing or ice skating this spring. There is also talk of bringing in speakers on the ethical and legal aspects of computing, such as software patents or the recent lotus v.s. paperback software legal case.

ACM – STUDENT CHAPTER

John Quinn B.S. '92

This fall has been both productive and exciting for the UIUC Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery. We completed our move into the new DCL addition. This move allowed us greater access to the faculty and students. Our peer counseling program during advanced enrollment was very successful. Upperclassmen in computer science volunteered to assist other students in selecting their classes for the upcoming semester. A team from UIUC represented our chapter in the ACM National Programming Contest. This team traveled to the regional at Southern Illinois University and finished in the top quarter of all colleges participating. This year we have greatly increased the size of our public domain software library, our collection now exceeds 130 disks. With the donation of a Gator Box from the Computer Science department we now have our own FTP site.

In the future we hope to make our software library available over the university's computer network. The ACM Special Interest Groups have been very active this semester. This fall SigUnix, the special interest group for the Unix operation system was reactivated and was very successful. In addition to their regular meetings SigMicro sponsored several seminars covering how to purchase a home computer, and workshops on C programming and the UNIX operating system. All the SIGS have been working hard preparing for Engineering Open House. SigGraph has combined efforts with the student chapter of IEEE to develop a parallel-processing ray tracer. Other projects being developed include a 3-dimensional networked multi-player game and pattern recognition using artificial intelligence. The past semester has been a very successful one for the ACM student chapter, a pattern we hope to continue in the future.

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