



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY.

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December 2004

A Newsletter of the Department of Computer Science

Computer Science Alumni Reunion Held at Ball State

The first Computer Science Department Alumni Reunion was held at Ball State University on April 3, 2004. There were approximately 75 alumni and family members in attendance. There was excellent interaction among alumni, faculty, and current students.

Featured guest speakers included Bob Swisshelm and Ranjani Datar (Eli Lilly and Co.), Weiping Cai (General Electric), Dave Dorenbos (Motorola), Patrick McDaniel (AT&T), Wil Davis and Adrian Heinz (Ontario Systems), Pete Harrington (Baker Hill), Apparao Kandru (IMMI), and Phillip Lu (SunGard Investment Systems). Speakers from Ball State included O'Neal Smitherman, VP of Information Technology, Cyrus Reed, Assistant Provost, International Education, Michael Maggiotto, Dean, College of Sciences and Humanities, Tom Heck (Foundation), Kelly Shrock (Development), Jay Bagga, Chair, Department of Computer Science, and Wayne Zage, Professor and Director of SERC. Speakers shared their views on modern information technology, software development, partnership of the industry and academia, research ideas and professional skills needed in the real world.

Alumni spouses and children enjoyed an outing to the Minnetrista Center and Oakhurst Gardens. A number of people worked very hard to make this event a success. We want to express our appreciation to all who presented, attended, or volunteered their time. We look forward to having more such reunions in the future. **Please turn to page 4 for some Alumni Reunion photos.**

Department News

Kathleen Keil retired. See article on page 3.

The department welcomes two new faculty. They are **Christian Lüer** and **Grant Slagle**. See article on Page 2.

Paul Buis was appointed Director of Undergraduate Programs.

Adam Gray is the Fuelling Scholarship winner. See article on this page.

SERC Showcase held at Ball State. See article on this page

MIGHTY XXXIX Conference held at Ball State. See article on this page

The department has a new **Sun parallel computer**. See article on page 3.

Faculty Accomplishments are listed on page 2.

New Exchange Program Brings Visiting Scholars

Ball State University recently signed an exchange agreement with United Nations University's International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST). Based in Macau, China, UNU-IIST is the only one among several of UN's institutions of advanced research that specializes in computer science research. Jay Bagga, Chair of the Department of Computer Science worked to get the exchange program started and he will direct the program for Ball State. As part of this program, Ball State will host two visiting scholars each year to study and conduct collaborative research in the Department of Computer Science. Dr. Bagga will also mentor the visiting scholars.

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Fuelling Scholarship Winner

Adam Gray is the 2004-05 Clinton P. Fuelling Memorial Scholarship winner. The scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student of excellence each year. Mr. Gray is currently a senior computer science major from Wolcottville, Indiana. His interests include software engineering, computer graphics and .Net programming. Adam is a key team member of Asyntaxis HIVE project that was sponsored by Virginia Ball Center and the Center for Media Design of BSU. He is a past recipient of the BSU presidential scholarship, and is planning to graduate in 2005. Our congratulations to Adam.

SERC Holds its Fall 2004 Showcase at Ball State

Wayne Zage, Kirsten Smith (CICS), and Dolores Zage co-organized the Software Engineering Research Center (SERC) Fall 2004 Showcase at Ball State on December 1-2, 2004. See more details at www.serc.net

MIGHTY XXXIX Graph Theory Conference at Ball State

Jay Bagga, John Emert (Mathematics), Mike McGrew, and Frank Owens co-organized the MIGHTY XXXIX (Midwest graph Theory) conference at Ball State on November 19-20, 2004. See more details at www.cs.bsu.edu/mighty.

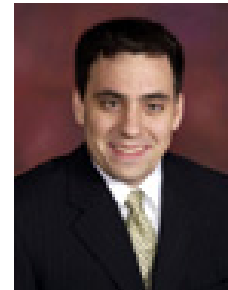
New Faculty

Christian Lüer joined the department as Assistant Professor in August 2004. Chris has a Ph. D. from University of California, Irvine. His Ph. D. research was in the area of component-based software. His dissertation research introduced a new technology called JAVAPLOY, which is used for user-assembly of applications out of existing components. His other research interests include software engineering for the Internet. In his first year here, he is teaching our software engineering sequence CS 497-498. Chris also has experience in industrial software development. We are pleased to welcome Chris and wish him a happy and productive future at Ball State.



Chris Lüer

Grant Slagle joined the department as Instructor in August 2004. Grant is one of our own. He completed a BS at Ball State in 2001 with a major in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Computer Science. He also received his MS in computer science from Ball State in 2003. Grant has extensive experience in several platforms and languages. He worked as a senior computer support technician at Ball State and as a computer service technician with a Micro Systems company in Ohio before joining our department. Grant teaches our introductory computer science and systems classes. He has also been a great help to the Ball State ACM Student Chapter as their faculty advisor. He organized a team of students to participate in the ACM programming contest. We are pleased to have Grant as a colleague.



Grant Slagle

Faculty Accomplishments

Jay Bagga served on the Fulbright Africa Research Program Committee, Washington DC.

Jay Bagga made a presentation at the MIGHTY XXXIX Conference, BSU.

Jay Bagga and Olusegun Folorunso worked on a Knowledge Management project sponsored by Ball State Center for Media Design.

Paul Buis was awarded a grant from Sun Microsystems. See story on page 3.

Paul Buis made a presentation at the SERC Showcase, BSU, December 2004.

Chris Lüer made a presentation at the SERC Showcase, BSU.

Mike McGrew was awarded a Lilly II grant.

Van Nelson presented a paper at the MWERA conference, Columbus, Ohio.

Frank Owens made a presentation at the MIGHTY XXXIX Conference, BSU.

Grant Slagle organized a team of students for the ACM programming contest, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fu-Shing Sun was awarded a NASA Indiana Space Grant Consortium grant.

Fu-Shing Sun presented papers at E-LEAN conference, Washington, DC, October 2004, and at CAINE Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Vinayak Tanksale made a presentation at the SERC Showcase, BSU.

Henry Tzeng was awarded a Ball State S.E.E.T. grant.

Sheri York trained Center for Computational Nanoscience faculty and students in the use of Beowulf cluster. See story on page 3.

Dolores Zage presented a paper at the International Conference on Software Maintenance, Chicago.

Dolores Zage made a presentation at the SERC Showcase, BSU.

Dolores Zage and Wayne Zage made presentations on SERC research at Raytheon, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Motorola, Chicago, Illinois; and US Army Tank Division in Warren, Michigan.

Jeff Zhang presented lectures at Shandong Physical Education Institute, Shanxi Normal Uni-

2004-05 Graduate Assistants

Rajesh Arumala
Swati Boddapati
Prathima Bommineni
Anthony Cox
Benjamin Dean
Adam Han
Aceon Huang
Jerry Jeffers
Luke Kanuchok
Gopinath Manchineella
Justin Qin
Milind Sakaria
Amitai Sasson
Keith Shook
Hsiao-Ying Su
Sunita Upadrasta
Natraj Vannavada
Cathyn Wilburn
Zhihui Yang

Profile: Kathleen M. Keil



Mrs. Kathleen Keil, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, has retired with Emeritus status after 34 years of service to the University. Kathleen joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 1968 as an instructor and was promoted in 1974 to the rank of assistant professor. When the Computer Science Department was formed in 1983, she chose to join the new department.

Her greatest area of interest has been undergraduate education, and over the past 8 years she has served as departmental Director of Undergraduate Programs and primary adviser to departmental majors and minors. During this time she was chosen to serve as Acting Chair of the Department of Computer Science twice: the first time during 1999-2000 and again in 2002-03. During those difficult transition periods, Kathleen held the department together and was a catalyst for a much needed sense of stability and oneness

among the faculty.

Kathleen is the embodiment of integrity. She displays the same dedication, selflessness, sense of fairness, and generosity of spirit in both her private and her professional lives. These qualities, combined with an unflinching positive attitude and constant cheerfulness, have made her a joy to work with. Colleagues and students alike will miss her daily presence greatly.

2004 Graduates (Spring and Summer) Bachelor of Science

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| John Aldrich | John Neireiter |
| James Alexander | Andrew Neville |
| Elizabeth Brown | William Parrett |
| Erick Crump | Chris Reck |
| Richard Haynes | Amitai Sasson |
| Brad Hochstedler | Phillip Seaton |
| Shaun Lieberman | Sheldon Smith |
| Ryan Lowe | Alex Swinney |
| Joshua McGuire | Budi Wibowo |
| Eric Mitchell | |

Master of Science

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Waleed Aljandal | Stephan Kelley |
| Rex Allen | Praveen Kolluri |
| Bimal Bhattarai | Sanpet Laopaiboon |
| Prathiba Bommineni | Jason Leach |
| Chakrabarthi Chalamala | Zachery Pagac |
| Brent Daugherty | Anand Raj |
| Mark Gray | Padmaja Tadikonda |
| Dustin Houck | Ji-Ho Yang |
| Neil Johnson | |

Parallel Computation Research

*The department acquired a new Sun Fire server with 16 GB of RAM and 4 parallel 64-bit processors. **Paul Buis** was awarded a grant from Sun Microsystems, which funded this system. It will be used for instruction as well as for research projects. **Paul Buis** and **Sheri York** helped the **Center for Computational Nanoscience (CCN)** manage a Beowulf cluster computer consisting of 32 dual-CPU nodes each running the Linux operating system. **Sheri York** conducted training sessions for CCN faculty and graduate students in the use of Linux and the MPI parallel computing software used on Beowulf clusters. During Spring 2005, **Paul Buis** will teach a course on parallel computation for computer science and physics students. Student will use both the computer science department's shared memory Sun computer and the CCN Beowulf cluster.*

Ed. D. in Computer Science

Did you know that we now offer an Ed. D. in Computer Science? We have 11 students enrolled in this program now. Interested in finding out more? Contact Professor Samuel Hsieh at shsieh@bsu.edu.



Olusegun Folorunso



Nephas Mufutumari

Exchange Program ...

“This exchange program will provide ongoing interaction between Ball State University computer science students and faculty and world class scholars from many countries,” Bagga said. The agreement will also make it possible for Ball State faculty and students to visit UNU-IIST for research and study.

The first two scholars during Autumn 2004 were **Dr. Olusegun Folorunso**, lecturer at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria, and **Mr. Nephas Mufutumari**, lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe. Both are university teachers with exceptional backgrounds in computer science.

Folorunso’s research includes information systems development, statistical computing, software engineering and programming languages. He maintains membership in the Nigeria Computer Society, Computer Professionals of Nigeria, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

Mufutumari is a founding member of the GiNeRo Group, which is currently involved in projects such as data encryption standards, computer systems security, and E-commerce standards. He is also involved with the SADC eReadiness Task Force, and the University of Zimbabwe Campus Wide Network Technical committee.

Both visiting scholars immersed themselves in collaborative research, computer science classes, and meetings with departmental committees. “We also want to make their visit a culturally rewarding experience,” Bagga said. Both met many students and faculty and made several new friends. “I enjoyed the Ball State football game under lights,” Mufutumari said. He also gave a guest lecture in a Journalism 102 class where he talked about courtship and marriage from an African cultural perspective.

“It is an absolutely fascinating experience to be in the heartland of the USA.” Folorunso said. “When I return home to my wife and three children in Nigeria, I’ll have many stories to tell about Muncie and Ball State University.”

“The two visiting scholars truly exemplified an educational exchange,” Bagga said. “They were fully engaged in the giving and receiving of enriching professional and cultural experiences.”

Alumni Reunion Photos

