1996 South Central Region Programming Contest

The Texas Tech University Computer Science students took first place among 61 teams participating on Saturday, November 2nd at Baylor University in Waco. The first place finish qualified Texas Tech for the 21st International Collegiate Programming Contest Finals, sponsored by Microsoft, in San Jose, California on March 1-2, 1997. Texas Tech will be among 46 teams from the 20 regional meets held on four continents, participating in the ICPC Finals.

The contest required a team of three students to solve problems as quickly as possible, within a five-hour period, according to Don Bagert, a professor of Computer Science and the team’s faculty advisor. He states, “Tech was the only team to solve five of the six problems and also accomplish the rare feat of solving three problems within the first hour of the contest”.

This is the third time that Texas Tech has placed first in the regional competition over other teams from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Texas Tech teams have finished among the top four teams 11 of 13 years that they have competed and qualified for the international finals seven times, finishing as high as third place internationally.

Winning Texas Tech team members were: Jason Hammonds (captain), a junior from Lubbock; Michael Hainze, a senior from Huntsville, Alabama; and graduate student Tigran Hayrapetyan of Yerevan, Armenia. Dragan Tomic, a senior from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, served as the team coach.

Our first introduction will be for Dr. Susan Mengel, Assistant Professor.

She comes to us from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Mengel receive her B.S. degree from Central Oklahoma University in 1982 and her M.S. from Oklahoma State in 1984. She received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M in 1990. Her areas of research are object-oriented metrics, multimedia software engineering methodologies, and engineering education.

Dr. Babak Hamidzadeh, Assistant Professor comes to us from the University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong. Dr. Hamidzadeh received his B.S. in

New faculty-
New opportunities

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Dr. Bharti Temkin comes to us from Colorado State University. Dr. Temkin received her B.S. in Mathematics from London University in 1968, her M.S. from Queen’s College, CUNY, 1970 and her Ph.D. from CUNY in 1983. Her research interests include theoretical foundations of computability, stimulated applications of Monte Carlo Technique to crystal growth and optimization of system integration testing and test metrics. She is also interested in large database management systems.

Some Bad News

The Department of Computer Science and it’s students had to say good-bye to Department Administrative Secretary Misty Digby, Secretaries II, Martha Hunt and Zorita Hile. Misty Digby made a promotional move to the Deans office in the College of Engineering. Martha moved to Development, and Zorita recently had a beautiful baby girl and decided to become a full time mom.

Here’s the Good News

In replacement of this great support staff, we can welcome Diane Reid, Secretary II. She comes to us from Animal Science Department here at Texas Tech University where she had worked for two years.

We can also welcome Shonda Fields. She comes to us from the Bursars office. She will be working in the office part-time. Shonda is a graduate student here at Texas Tech University.

Our new department student assistant is Chris Castleberry. Chris is a Freshman majoring in Computer Science here at Texas Tech University.

Last, but not least, I hope, is me, Jill C. Cypert, Administrative Secretary. I have replaced Misty Digby and hope I can fill her shoes half as well.

Any question regarding information in this issue of CSAN, you may contact me at 742-3527

CSAA News

Greetings fellow Alumns:

I want to start off the article this time by letting everyone know that the CS Alumni email address has changed. The new address is now jill@cs.coe.ttu.edu. Please keep updated on your activities either at that address or to Jill in the CS office.

Now that the bookkeeping is out of the way, I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the CS Homecoming Open House this year. We had between 30 and 40 people there at any given time, many of them alumni and families. We also had a large faculty participation this year than any year previous and we want to extend our thanks to them for their support. One last note of appreciation goes to Jim Ollerton who donated a ticket to the homecoming football game as a door prize. This was truly the best open house ever and we look forward to next year being even better. If you have any suggestions for other activities to be held in conjunction with the open house, please let us know.

One last piece of business before I go. It’s time once again to nominate Alumni of the Year and Friend of CS of the year. Please send your nominations to Jill in the CS office and remember they must be postmarked by February 7, 1997 so that we can begin sending out ballots by the end of February. Not much room left here for details but if you have any questions about requirements, please contact either Jill or myself. And yes, you may nominate yourself.

Well, got to go, so have a wonderful 1997!

Tom P.
tomp@ttu.edu
CS Annual Phonathon - Postponed

until Spring 1997. Due to staff turn-over, lack of time, and volunteers, it was decided not to approach this activity without full efforts.

Yes, all alumni are off the hook temporarily. You will not be interrupted in the middle of dinner, your favorite sit-com., or .. you know. Be warned,..... our goal for the 1997 phonathon will be C.S.’s best year ever and WE WILL NEED YOU!!

TI Co-Op

Michael Cevallos


The group is basically a support group for all reticle designers that have their devices built at the Lubbock site. Devices, such as digital signal processing microchips (DSP), are built on silicon wafers. A single die is the actual DSP. So one wafer will contain over 100 die of the same device. The reticle is the piece of glass that the design is placed on.

Light is then shown through the reticle onto the silicon wafer leaving the impression of the design on the wafer. My primary duty as a co-op is to take a designers device and transfer it from the computer generated graphic to the actual reticle. I put borders around the device for alignment purposes, maximize the number of die per wafer, and correct minor errors in the design for the designer. In some instances a device maybe functioning poorly and the group plays a support position to the production engineers who trouble shoot the device.

Previous Inters:

University of Missouri - Rolla
Intel - Chandler, Arizona

Faculty Bytes

Jon Burgin, Lecturer, and wife Amy received Summer ’96 Fellowships at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA. The area of research was Open Software Foundation’s Distributed Computing Environment.

Hua Li, Associate Professor, has decided on leaving Texas Tech University on sabbatical to pursue his research in the area of Video Processing, Multimedia Computing, Video Compression, and VLSI Implementation. His

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leave will be from January 1997 - 1998.

Research activities for Dr. Li:

The working analog VLSI chip for Vision Computing has been designed and tested with support from this College. The chip was taken to IEEE Neural Network Conference in Washington, D.C. for a three day exhibition. Part of the work was presented in the May ’96 IEEE CAS Conference in Atlanta and will appear in Journal of IEEE Solid State Circuits.

The work in Silicon Neuron VLSI Implementation for Vision Computing was the cover story in the May ’96 issue of IEEE Spectrum. Our work was mentioned in the reference section, pp. 68.

Summer ’96 Dr. Li did joint work with the Computer Science Department, Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

The edited book, “Video Compression for Multimedia Computing, statistically based and biologically inspired techniques”, (with Sun and Derin) by Kluwer Academic Publisher will be out in December, 1996.

Invited to give a talk on Video Compression at David Surnoff Research Center (Princeton, NJ) and National Institute of Standard and Technology (Gaithersburg, MD).