Dan Cooke
Appointed CS Chair

Dr. Daniel Cooke joins the Computer Science Department as our new chairman beginning in January of 1999. Dr. Cooke comes to us from the University of Texas at El Paso. Here are a few of his thoughts about Computer Science at Texas Tech:

“I consider it an honor to be joining the Texas Tech Computer Science Department faculty. I view the chair’s job as one requiring the trust and confidence of the faculty, staff, and students. The chair represents the department's interests to the administration and sets a direction that makes sense for the department. Most importantly, the chair leads by example.

“One feature that distinguishes a university from other institutions of learning, is that faculty are expected to acquire, disseminate, and expand the knowledge in their respective disciplines. Acquiring knowledge means that a faculty member must be a life-long student. The major difference between a faculty member and his/her students is that the faculty member should be further down the road in the quest for knowledge. The successful faculty member will advance the knowledge base of the discipline and will produce some students who will take up where the faculty member left off, in terms of the pursuit of knowledge.

“Science and engineering education sometimes fails to convey to the student the excitement one finds in the creative activities that tend to dominate the process of science and research. Too often scientists and engineers are taught only the results of the process and not the process itself. If painting were taught in a similar way, art students would be shown every famous painting and then told to paint. This, of course, is not the case because art students are taught painting techniques, and ultimately find their way to a point where they know the techniques well enough to become creative in their use. The tools of the computer scientist include mathematics, computer languages, computer architecture, data structures, and algorithms. Once the tools are understood, the student should learn how to employ them in creative ways to solve problems. The teaching of this process requires faculty members to be engaged in the process. It also requires the existence of opportunities outside the classroom where students at the undergraduate and graduate levels can work as apprentices to other students and professors in order to learn the process.

(continued on page 2)

Bagert 1st Ever Licensed Software Engineer!

Our very own Dr. Donald J. Bagert, Jr. became the first ever professional engineer licensed for software engineering. The state of Texas is the first in the nation to license software engineers, and Dr. Bagert became the first in not only the state of Texas, but also in the United States. Dave Dorchester, vice chairman of the Texas State Board of Engineers stated that, “The board felt that the state had to regulate this practice (software engineering), so they can be held accountable. We consider it a historical event because it’s a big step and it’s a controversial step.” Congratulations Dr. B!

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"The Texas Tech Computer Science Department has been successful in all areas of academic activities. The department is well known for its excellence in education and in certain key areas of research. I believe that research, educational, and professional activities can all be expanded, if the department receives additional resources and reconsiders the allocation of existing resources. "Obtaining accreditation from the Computer Science Accreditation Board is important. Accreditation is important to graduates of the department and places the department on a more or less even playing field with other engineering departments at Texas Tech.

"Expanding the Ph.D. program is also important. Ph.D. students help faculty members in their research efforts, become a major source of the academic reputation of the department, and provide a resource for instructing undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to providing classroom instruction to undergraduates, Ph.D. students can themselves guide undergraduate and Masters level students in the processes of computer science research and software engineering. This apprenticeship activity is meant to be in addition to, not in place of, classroom instruction. In terms of the apprenticeship activities, professors would spend the greatest amount (but not all) of their time working with Ph.D. students, who in turn would spend their time guiding Masters level and undergraduate students.

"Faculty members need more time to engage in their research and professional activities. They need time to develop funding opportunities and publish the results of their research efforts. The current student-faculty ratio is of concern to me in this regard, and will be of concern to the CSAB review team. Ph.D. students can help reduce this ratio, but only within CSAB limits. Other mechanisms to improve upon the ratio are needed. One of my focuses will be to obtain resources to hire new faculty members. In order to attract and retain computer science faculty members, the working conditions need some improving. Working conditions include the concern over the student-faculty ratio, salaries, and physical facilities. As chair, I will work on all of these concerns.

"I believe that the Texas Tech Computer Science Department is positioned to become a major force in the computer science field. Those who are already at Tech have provided an excellent foundation for (and are on the ground floor of) what I sincerely believe will be a first-rank computer science department. Given the appropriate resources, the department is in a position to hire recent Ph.D. graduates as new assistant professors. There are also opportunities to hire some established professors, well known in their areas of expertise.

"I look forward to fruitful discussions with faculty, students, staff, and alumni so that we can work together to mold and form a computer science department that expands upon the excellent job it is already doing."

CSAA News

Greetings and salutations!

I want to begin with a hearty thank you to all those who attended the CS Open House. It was nice to get to visit with those whom I hadn't seen in a while and to meet some Alumni whom I didn't know. Thanks also to Mysti and the rest of the CS office and to ACM for setting up, helping with the department tours, and all that fun stuff. As soon as the date becomes "official" for next year's homecoming, we'll post it on the website so you can start planning early to attend. If we had enough notice and enough alumni, we would look at getting block seating for the game. So, let us know if you would be interested.

On other notes, it's time to start making nominations for Alumni of the Year and Friend of CS of the Year. You may make those nominations via snail mail or via email to Mysti or myself but they must be received by January 15, 1999 so we can send out ballots by February 1, 1999. We hope to have a form set up on the web site in time to allow for voting either by mail or by web. Please take the time to consider nominating a colleague or yourself if you feel deserving of this honor. These awards are given by your fellow Alumni and as such, to me at least, carry a lot of weight. By the same token, when it comes time to vote, please take the time to do so.

Thanks for your time and have a wonderful holiday season.

TomP. tomp@ttu.edu

Faculty Bytes

Congratulations to John Antonio, who was selected for Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers for 1998. And to both Dr. Donald Bagert and Dr. Antonio, who were both elevated to Senior Member status in IEEE this year.

Computer Science welcomed several new staff members this year, including Geanna Benson, who joined Computer Science in September as our new Secretary III. Also joining us this fall was Keri Gleason, who replaced Shonda Fields. (Shonda graduated in August and moved to Midland, TX). We also have three new Lecturers, Robin Countryman, Elizabeth Morris and Rickey...
During the past year, **Dr. Antonio** and his research assistants have been working on a research project sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). This summer, Dr. Antonio traveled to DARPA (in D.C.) to present his group's annual review for this effort. While on the east coast he also made presentations and toured the facilities at Mercury Computer Systems, Inc. and Annapolis Microsystems, Inc. In July, a reporter from the Avalanche-Journal interviewed Dr. Antonio regarding this project.

Dr. Antonio is also busy with professional service activities. He is the General Chair of the 1999 Heterogeneous Computing Workshop and General Vice-Chair for the 1999 International Parallel Processing Symposium. Both of these events will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in April of 1999.

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**Thank you!**

To all the generous alumni, friends and companies that have donated to the Computer Science Department in the last year, we’d like to extend our gratitude for your support! Your support really makes a difference!

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**Missing Persons**

Here is a listing of alumni that we’ve lost track of. If you know how to locate one of the listed alumni, please let us know!

- Mikeyeong Ahn
- Rajan Alex
- Balagopalan Ambady
- Candy Anthony
- Michael Bullington
- Ravi Chakravarthi
- Ken Cooper
- Ben Curlman
- Elyse Schorzman Dellinger
- Rodney Dellinger
- Brian Drozd
- Lauren Dygowski
- Rodrigo Gonzalez
- Zakir Hossain
- Brett Kugler
- James Ledbetter
- Shaju Mathew
- Devander Muniswamy
- Xiao-Hui Meng
- Satish Narayanamurthy
- Monica Nunez
- Rob Palacios
- Kalar Rajendiran
- Larry Reich
- Jagat Shah
- Shan-Wen Sheu
- Sudhee Subrahmany
- Don Symes
- Danny Travis
- Chih-Wei Tseng
- Bill Watts
- Joel Wilson
- Rama Yanegalla

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**CSAN**

Is the biannual Alumni Newsletter of the Computer Science Department, Texas Tech University. Please direct comments about this issue to:

**Mysti Digby**

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CS WWW site:
http://www.cs.ttu.edu
http://www.cs.ttu.edu/alumni
Alumni Updates

Brian Ashcraft (BSCS’96) is working for Union Carbide as a process engineer. He married Patricia not long after graduation, and she graduated in August from the University of Houston – Clear Lake.

Peter (BSCS’96) & Shelley (BSCS’96) Barnes are still in the Austin area. Pete is working for Metrowerks and Shelley is with Motorola. They spent their free time this summer on the lake with their jetski, and recently moved into their newly built house. To see what Shelly & Pete have been up to lately, check out their website at http://www.flash.net/~psbarnes/.

Martin Carpenter (BSCS’96) took a contract programming position in FL last April and loves it. Being in FL gives him more opportunities to scuba dive. Martin went to London in October for the first time, and we are patiently waiting for a report on his trip!

Bobby Cude (BSCS’95) and his wife Gwyn are expecting their 2nd child in April. They have a 21-month-old son named Tanner. Bobby is a software engineer for Southwest Airlines, developing the system that allows you to purchase those cheap tickets on the web.

Stanford Hudson (BSCS’91MS’95) is working as an Embedded Software Design Engineer for Alcatel in Dallas, TX.

Ken Killebrew (BSCS’89) moved on after 8 years with Amdahl Corp. Last June, he was appointed Vice President of Technology at QlikTech, Inc. (http://www.qliktech.com), a relatively new software company headquartered in Lund, Sweden. QlikTech produces information access tools for the 32-bit Windows market place.

Robert Lopez (BSCS’88) is currently Lead Program Manager & Director of Operations for Microsoft Investor (http://investor.msn.com). He tells us “Prior to this gig, I helped with the server architecture & initial deployment of Microsoft Expedia and MSNBC, as well as the design of MSN’s various data centers. However, my favorite project was the implementation of our Australian data center & portal. I passed on eating the kangaroo & camel, but did enjoy the Morten Bay bugs.”

Hank Pace (BSCS’93) has been working for Education Technologies in Wichita Falls for the last 4 years. They sell turn-key Novell networks mainly to school districts, as well as supporting the networks after the sell. Hank also received his CNE certification 2 years ago.

Mizanur Rahman (MSCS’97) is working as a software engineer for Sprint in Irving, TX.

James Veasaw (BSCS’90) reports that he is up to no good in Humble, TX.

Ron Young (BSCS’90) tells us that he is running the test lab for IP Mobility for Nortel. He and his wife Chandra live in Coppell, TX (and he had a comment about Tom Payton, but I’m not printing it!)