

CSAB, Inc.

President's Message

As is customary, this message is the annual state of the organization message from the CSAB President. For the first time, this message and our annual report are available exclusively on the Web.

The state of CSAB is good. We continue to be an effective and efficient organization addressing the needs for quality education in computing.

We have successfully concluded the integration of CSAB and its accreditation activities within ABET. The Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) is now well established and is effectively operating in the tradition of the Computer Science Accreditation Commission (CSAC). Additionally individuals coming from CSAB and CSAC are assuming increasingly active roles within ABET.

The CAC is doing an outstanding job of program accreditation in our areas of interest. CSAB is also now represented on the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET, based, at least in part, on our assigned role as lead society for programs in software engineering. Currently there are 179 computing programs accredited by ABET through the CAC, at 171 institutions. In this year, the first visit was carried out for a program in information systems, coincident with the now active involvement of the Association for Information Systems (AIS) as a member society of CSAB.

Our responsibilities for program criteria, evaluator training, and evaluator assessment are being well served by the CSAB Program Evaluator and Program Criteria (PEPC) Committee. Neal Coulter has continued the tradition of excellence established by Della Bonnette in chairing this critical committee.

We continue to interact with a number of related organizations. We are sharing ideas with the accreditation activities of the IEEE, we are exploring ways in which we may effectively cooperate with the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) and the British Computer Society (BCS), and with ABET and IEEE we are carefully considering what role we need to play in the developing area of information technology.

Now that the integration with ABET complete, it is time to assess exactly what the future role of CSAB should be. To this end I have appointed a blue ribbon committee, chaired by Past-President Ken Martin and composed of past and present CSAB leaders, as well as individuals with more limited CSAB experience from our member societies. I have asked the group to report in Fall 2003 with a blue print for exactly what CSAB should look like over the next five to ten years. Should you have any ideas as to what CSAB can and should do, please forward your ideas to me, and I will see that they get to the right people.

There are many folks I want to thank for making CSAB a success. While it is impossible to list them all, I must single out a few. The Board of Directors continues to be an

outstanding group with whom to interact. The Executive Committee – Past-President Ken Martin, Vice President Della Bonnette, and Treasurer Murali Varanasi – effectively made job simple. I must specifically note the critical role this group played last spring, during my absence following my accident. And, of course, none of us would be able to be nearly as effective as we are without the untiring efforts of our Executive Director Patrick LaMalva. Thanks to all of you, as well as all the other volunteers who serve us in so many ways. Finally, thanks to our member societies, ACM, AIS, and IEEE/CS without whose support we would not exist.

The state of CSAB is good. If there is any way in which you believe it could be better, do not hesitate to contact me at g.engel@computer.org and we will see what we can do.

Gerald L. Engel
CSAB President