

CSAB Inc.
President's Message

As is customary, this message in the annual state of the organization message from the CSAB President. This message is perhaps a bit more difficult for me to write, as it also marks the end of my term, and direct activity on the CSAB Board.

The State of CSAB is good. The organization continues to be an effective and efficient organization addressing the needs for quality professional education in the computing disciplines.

The CSAB involvement with ABET appears to continue to be extremely strong, and mutually beneficial. According to ABET statistics in 2002-2003, seventy-four programs were reviewed by the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC). Forty-seven of these were general reviews, eighteen were interim reports, and seven interim visits. Of the general reviews, forty-nine were in computer science, and five were in information systems. In addition, CSAB has lead society responsibility for software engineering which is administered through the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC). four programs in software engineering were visited in 2002-2003.

The overall number of accredited programs has continued to grow. As of October 1, 2003, there are 191 accredited programs in computer science, 6 in information systems, and 4 in software engineering. These are the three programs for which CSAB currently has lead responsibility. In addition, CSAB serves as a cooperating society for programs in computer engineering. There are currently 157 bachelor level programs accredited in this area, and 2 masters level programs. Clearly, CSAB has major responsibility in ABET. Indeed, CSAB has responsibility for the fourth highest number of programs currently accredited by ABET.

Clearly none of this growth and development would have been possible without the efforts of the leadership of the CAC. Specifically I want to acknowledge the outstanding job of Lillian (Boots) Cassel who served as CAC Chair in 2002-2003. Pat Walsh, 2003-2004 chair has already demonstrated that he will continue this tradition of excellence. All of us in the computing professions owe you both, as well as the other CAC volunteers, a very strong vote of appreciation for all your efforts.

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 continues to do an outstanding job leading this committee and, as usual, the reward for a job well done is always more work. Over the next several months, PEPC will be looking at updating the program criteria in Computer Science and Information Systems and will be developing program criteria in the area of Information Technology. PEPC continues to look for excellent program evaluators to assist us in our efforts. We are especially anxious to identify individuals in industry for such positions. Should you be interested, or know of someone who is, please contact us.

CSAB also continues to look to the future. The CSAB planning committee chaired by Past President Ken Martin has submitted its report, and as a direct result of it, a summit meeting of the three CSAB member societies has been scheduled for early December. This meeting will bring together the highest level of leadership (both volunteer and staff) of the societies (ACM, AIS and IEEE/CS) for an open discussion of the present status of CSAB, and how CSAB can best serve its constituents in future. Be looking for more on this meeting and its results in the future.

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 of individuals with whom to interact. The Executive Committee – Past President Ken Martin, Vice President Don Bailes, Treasurer Murali Varanasi, ABET Director Bob Cannon, and PEPC Chair Neal Coulter effectively made my job simple. Thank you for your efforts, you will never know how highly I regard you both personally and professionally. 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 Pat for keep us out of trouble, and more importantly for being our friend. Finally thanks to our member societies ACM, AIS, and IEEE/CS and their leadership. Without your support, we would not exist.

I wish much success to the new officers, President Don Bailes, Vice President Keith Barker, and Treasurer Murali Varanasi. As I turn over the organizations to you, I am confident that you will only improve what has already been done.

Should anyone reading this report have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at g.engel@computer.org.

Best regards,

Jerry

Gerald L. Engel
2003 CSAB President