SPECIAL MESSAGE

From the president

This issue contains articles relating to our Education Committee activities, in addition to our regular technical articles. It gives me a special opportunity to pay tribute to an extraordinary Education Committee effort, "A Curriculum in Computer Science and Engineering."

Our Education Committee, under the leadership of Professor C. V. Ramamoorthy, has become one of our most accomplished committees. Professor Ramamoorthy has multiplied the committee activities through the efforts of eight subcommittees, most of whose work is represented herein.

Several subcommittees participated in the development, evaluation, explanation, and promotion of the curriculum. The curriculum development was headed by Dr. Michael Mulder. The curriculum is a four-year degree program in computer science and engineering. We believe this program contributes to several important needs.

It is a big step toward keeping pace with rapidly advancing computer technology. It helps resolve gaps in computer science and engineering education by providing the basis for dialogue between practitioners and theorists, and between hardware and software disciplines. It can be an important aid to those who are developing schools of computer sciences and engineering, as well as those who want to initiate such schools. To this latter end, it features a "core" program for beginning or learner program objectives.

The curriculum is a product of 2-1/2 years of effort, over 20,000 hours of work, and 15 subcommittee meetings, encompassing the efforts of over 50 people. It has profited by close interaction with ACM volunteers, and a much appreciated spirit of collaboration with the ACM organization. In addition to Dr. Mulder's development work, Dr. Martha Sloan's Survey Subcommittees solicited independent reviews from some 20 individuals, which have been factored into the results. Professor David Rine's subcommittee staged workshops and visits to institutions to present the curriculum and its use, and to bring feedback to curriculum development and modification. If you're interested in more information, we'd like to tell you about it. (See the CSE education supplement, appears on p. 71.

This work is testimony to the society's commitment to serve the educational needs of its members in the curriculum area, and to invest in our future professional community. We are dedicated also to building a strong continuing education effort, and are interested in ideas in this and other education-related areas. We welcome your participation in these activities.

In recognition of major effort and accomplishment, our Awards Committee has created a unique Group Special Award with the citation, "To the Model Curricula Subcommitte for Development of Model Curricula in Computer Science and Engineering."

We are pleased to present this award to:

Professor C. V. Ramamoorthy
Dr. Michael Mulder
Professor J. T. Cain
Professor George Davida
Professor Gerald Engel
Professor William Fletcher
Professor Oscar Garcia
Dr. Sakti Ghosh
Professor Ronald Hoelzeman
Professor David Pessel
Professor David Rine
Professor Martha Sloan

We congratulate them on a splendid volunteer effort, and express our appreciation to the many others for their counsel and review.

Merlin G. Smith
President