1967

50 Years of UPE
Past, Present, and Future – Upsilon Pi Epsilon
The nation’s first and only honor society in the information and computing sciences

2017
Foreword

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) Honor Society, representing Computing and Information disciplines throughout the world, it is a great honor to present this 50th anniversary commemorative book. The UPE Honor Society has come a long way since its first chartered six-student chapter on the campus of Texas A&M University on January 10, 1967 – the UPE has grown into a worldwide society with more than 280 chapters.

This book tells the story of the tremendous growth of our society. We remember the history of UPE, highlight the inspiring work of our chapters and members, reflect upon our UPE experiences, and present the society’s recognition of academic excellence through scholarships, awards, and ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) sponsorships. The book also holds the promise to continue to be open to new members who will embrace the truths, ideals, and aspirations of our honor society.

The development of this book was possible through the extensive efforts of the Executive Council members, contributions from 15 chapters, and the anniversary book editorial board represented by the Delta Chapter of UPE at DePaul University, Chicago, IL. We thank UPE officer Daniel Helfand and faculty co-advisor Jonathan Gemmell of the Delta Chapter for their leadership in developing this 50th anniversary book.

We hope that this book will serve as a celebration of UPE’s achievements, a resource for future generations of UPE members, and a reminder to always be receptive to new truths and greater understanding.

Daniela Raicu, PhD
UPE International President, 2012-2014
Delta Chapter UPE co-Advisor, 2003 - Present
UPE History

The Early Years

The Idea and Name

The idea for an honor society for computer science was proposed by a group of six members of the ACM chapter at Texas A&M University on December 7, 1965. This group included Dr. Barry Bateman, who served as the Executive Director of UPE from the time UPE was officially recognized as a non-profit entity in Texas in 1967 until 1983. Faculty sponsors of the first UPE chapter at Texas A&M included professors Dan Drew, James Nash, and R. L. Smith.

The name Upsilon Pi Epsilon was chosen by the founders to signify the first Greek letters for each of the Greek words for computer, information, and science. The six empty chairs that are set up in front of UPE inductees during each induction ceremony represent the six founding members of UPE.
The Early Years

The ACM Recognition

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) officially recognized UPE as the honor society for the computing sciences at the 1968 ACM National Conference in Las Vegas. The article below was published in Communications of the ACM, ACM's newsletter, announcing the UPE recognition. On the left below, the picture captures the moment when the UPE Founder Prof. Dan Drew presented former ACM Chairman Leland Williams with an honorary UPE certificate in 1968.
The Early Years

The ACM ICPC

In 1970, the Texas A&M chapter of the Upsilon Pi Epsilon Computer Science Honor Society hosted the First Annual Texas Collegiate Programming Championship at Texas A&M University. Teams with up to five members included Texas A&M, Texas Tech, University of Houston, and 5 other Texas universities and colleges. The contest evolved into its present form as a multi-tier competition in 1977, with the first finals (The Annual World Finals of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals) held in conjunction with the ACM Computer Science Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The picture on the right illustrates a UPE sponsored card stacking Competition at Texas A&M taking place in 1976, which featured UPE member David Burris.
UPE History

The 1980s

New Leadership
Dr. Orlando Madrigal, Professor of Computer Science at California State University and member of the original UPE Executive Council, took his leadership role in UPE as its second Executive Director in 1983.

UPE Scholarships
The first UPE scholarship awards were presented to outstanding members of UPE beginning in 1987.

UPE National Convention
UPE held its first National Convention in 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the ACM Computer Science Conference and the World Finals of the ICPC.

UPE Doctoral Forum
The current ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award was started by UPE in 1989. At that time, this award competition was known as the Doctoral Forum. UPE carried out this program for two years; as this program expanded, the UPE Doctoral Forum was taken over by the ACM in 1991 and was renamed the ACM Doctoral Dissertation Awards.
UPE History

The 1990s

IEEE-CS Recognition
The IEEE-CS Board of Directors officially recognized UPE as an honor society for computer science at their board meeting in Indianapolis in 1994.

The UPE Abacus Award
The Abacus award was first awarded in 1998. Although not an annual award, UPE considers the Abacus Award its most prestigious award.
The New Millennium

UPE National Convention held in Cyberspace
The Annual Convention of UPE became a nationwide convention in cyberspace courtesy of Nova Southeastern University’s Polycom system beginning in 2013.

UPE NewsBrief – February 2013

2013 UPE Annual Convention – The 2013 Annual Convention of UPE will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013. UPE will conduct this convention via the Polycom Video Conferencing System, courtesy of the Graduate School of Computer & Information Science at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Polycom system will allow members of the UPE Executive Council and chapter representatives to meet naturally over distance, share ideas, make presentations, present chapter reports, and interact across various environments. To maximize chapter participation, two identical sessions are planned as follows:

Session 1 – 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM (ET)
Session 2 – 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM (ET)

Convention agenda, registration form and instructions for those who wish to be part of this video conference can be found at www.acm.org/upe/. UPE Alumni and friends of UPE who are no longer involved in the campus activities of a UPE chapter are welcome to participate in this Convention event. You will need an iPad with the free Polycom app download. Questions related to the Polycom conferencing system can be directed to Dr. Eric Ackerman at esa@nova.edu.

UPE Outstanding Chapter Award
In 2014, UPE started the Outstanding Chapter Award, which is presented annually to both a small chapter (induct 20 or less new UPE members each year) and to a large chapter (induct more than 20 members per year). These awards recognize chapters whose programs and activities have attained a high level of achievement during the most recent academic year.
The Next 50 Years

Besides its current mission, UPE’s long-term goal is to survive the test of time as an organization whose aim is to recognize students and professionals who exhibit the highest level of academic and professional recognition in the computing and information disciplines.

In the long-term, the 280+ chapters of UPE should continue to expand and have chapters at most programs and institutions that have high recognition in North America and abroad.

As the only recognized honor society in computing, it is important for UPE to build up sufficient financial resources so it will exist as an organization with

* Sufficient resources that guarantees appropriate funds to support its various scholarship awards and financial programs.
* Sufficient resources to eventually locate its headquarters at a permanent location, including its own office that is appropriately staffed with dedicated management and staff support.
Executive Council
Dr. James Comer is an Associate Professor of Computer Science and Department Chair at Texas Christian University. Dr. Comer’s research interests include software engineering, programming languages, data structures, and computer science education. He earned his PhD from Texas A&M University in 1979. Dr. Comer currently serves on the executive council as the UPE Grants Program officer and has served on the Executive Council since 1982.

Dr. Cathrine Linnes is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Østfold University College located in Norway. Dr. Linne’s research interests include software development, network analysis, and business analytics. She received her Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University. Previously, Dr. Linnes served as the UPE faculty advisor at Hawai‘i Pacific University. She has served on the Executive Council since 2014.

Dr. Orlando Madrigal serves as the Executive Director of Upsilon Pi Epsilon. Dr. Madrigal also holds the title of Professor Emeritus at California State University, Chico, where he began his career as a computer science professor in 1970. He earned his PhD from Texas A&M university. In 1983, Dr. Madrigal began his role as Executive Director of UPE.
Dr. Jeffrey L. Popyack is a Professor of Computer Science at Drexel University, where he served ten years as the Associate Head for Undergraduate Affairs in Computer Science. He is the Director of REThink CS @ Drexel, a summer research institute in computer science for STEM high school teachers and 2-year college faculty in the Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Area. Dr. Popyack has served on the Executive Council since 1991.

Dr. Robert F. Roggio is a Professor of Computer & Information Sciences (CIS) at the University of North Florida (UNF), where he teaches a wide variety of courses in the computer science, software engineering and information systems tracks. He is a member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Dr. Roggio has served on the Executive Council since 1986.

Dr. Angela Wu is Professor Emerita of Computer Science at American University. She holds a BS in Mathematics from Villanova University, a MS in Mathematics from Cornell University, and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Maryland. Her research are in the areas of Computer Vision, Parallel Algorithms and Computational Geometry. Dr. Wu was elected to the Executive Council of Upsilon Pi Epsilon in 1998, and is now on her 3rd term (including two years as International President).
UPE Officers

**Dr. Eric Ackerman** is the Vice President of Information Technology for Magic Leap, Inc. Before that he was the Dean of Nova Southeastern University’s Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences. Dr. Ackerman’s key research areas include management of information systems, project management, computer space hardware design, and microgravity research. He serves as UPE’s Webmaster/Editor.

**Dr. Bill Poucher** is a Professor of Computer Science at Baylor University. Dr. Poucher’s interests include competitive learning and the technology that makes it globally accessible. He is the Executive Director of the Association for Computing Machinery’s (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest and serves as National UPE’s Alumni Representative. Dr. Poucher earned his PhD in the mathematics of computing (Combinatorics) from Auburn University.

**Dr. Daniela Stan Raicu** is a Professor at the School of Computing, College of Computing and Digital Media at DePaul University, Chicago. She is the founding co-director of the Medical Informatics and the Intelligent Multimedia Processing Laboratories, and the Founding Director of the Data Mining and Predictive Analytics Center at DePaul. Dr. Raicu is the Founding Faculty Advisor of the DePaul UPE Delta Chapter and she served on the UPE Executive Council from 2008-2014, being the UPE International President and 2012-2014.
**Executive Council: Reflections**

**Dr. James Comer:**
I was inducted into the UPE Alpha Chapter at Texas A&M University on November 15, 1976. I subsequently served as President of the TAMU chapter from 1976 to 1978. Afterwards, I joined the UPE Executive Council in 1982 and have served on the Council ever since. Being a part of UPE has been one of the great pleasures of my life.

My acquaintance with UPE began in 1973 when I brought a team of Lamar University students to TAMU to participate in the South Central ACM Programming Contest – later to grow into the International Collegiate Programming Contest. UPE was the founding creator of the contest and I am honored to have been a part of both UPE and the ICPC for all these many years. Both organizations have had a tremendous impact on the lives of computer science students throughout the world.

Over the years, I’ve had the pleasure of working with other wonderful colleagues who have likewise served as Council members. Association with UPE has afforded me the opportunity to make good friends, to travel extensively to install new chapters, and to speak to schools and groups about the role of honor societies in education. I have always cherished these opportunities and will always be indebted to UPE for affording me this unique and wonderful opportunity to contribute.
Dr. Cathrine Linnes:
I was inducted into UPE as a student member in 2002 at Nova Southeastern University. After completing my Ph.D., I started to work for Hawaii Pacific University (HPU). I enjoyed becoming a member of this honor society, therefore I wanted to give the same opportunities to my students. In 2007 I started the beta chapter at HPU and have served as the advisor for the chapter until 2016. Being an advisor for this chapter has given me much joy as this organization truly helps students grow as individuals and helps form common bonds. After leaving HPU, I started to work for Østfold University College where I started their alpha chapter of UPE in Norway.

In 2014 I was elected to the UPE Executive Council where I have had the privilege to work with such a great, honorable and dedicated group of people. I can truly say these folks have become more than colleagues. I have had the privilege to work and travel with this organization at several ICPC events where thousands of students have competed to make the finals each year. UPE has given me the opportunity to meet so many bright and energetic faculty, staff and students from various universities around the globe. UPE contribution to this event over the years have been exceptional. In addition, every year UPE Executive Council awards individual student and chapters scholarships and awards. It has been inspiring reading about the student’s accomplishments and the various activities their local UPE chapters have been conducting.

I have really enjoyed working with UPE and I will always be grateful to my friends and family at the UPE Executive Council for what they have given me over the years.
Dr. Jeffrey Popyack:
I first became acquainted with Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) in 1985, as coach of Drexel University’s Programming Team, which finished Third in the 1985 ACM International Scholastic Programming Contest. One of the prizes was a $500 scholarship from UPE. After that, I started attending the UPE National Convention at ACM’s annual Computer Science Conference. In 1989, we founded a UPE chapter at Drexel, and shortly after that in 1991 I joined the UPE Executive Council. I vividly remember the year I joined, that UPE had just chartered its 100th chapter. In the ensuing years, UPE has reached more than 275 active chapters. It has been a real privilege being a part of this.

Some of the events that have stood out for me have been: chartering chapters at both the US Military Academy and US Naval Academy; re-chartering the chapter at Penn State University, which was the third chapter overall, but had been inactive for many years; and chartering two chapters in the New York City area in October, 2001, one month after the attacks on the World Trade Center. I also admit to getting fairly charged up every year when I read the annual applications for scholarship and award applications. What talented and active chapters and students we have! Along the way, I have also been fortunate to be the author of a UPE column that appears in ACM Inroads.

It seems my major life events have intertwined with UPE activities. It is indeed an honor to have served this society, and a true pleasure to have worked with the other members of UPE’s Executive Council and the many chapter advisors we have interacted with over the years. I guess I should not be surprised that people who work tirelessly for an honor society should be so, well, honorable! And yet, I still marvel at their dedication and professionalism, and am grateful for the opportunity to serve this society.
Dr. Daniela Stan Raicu:
I came to the United States from Romania 20 years ago to pursue my dreams of a better education, perhaps a better life – to live the American dream! Although my Bachelor degree was in Math, I was fascinated by the computing disciplines and the potential impact it could have on so many aspects of our lives. In 1997, I switched to computer science and never looked back. In 2002, I joined DePaul University as a tenure-track assistant professor, and found myself using mathematics, statistics, and computer science to work on one of the grand challenges of our modern era at the intersection between medicine and computer science – symbolic computations in medical informatics.

Consistent with DePaul’s Vincentian mission, I looked into opportunities to recognize academic excellence for our DePaul students; in 2003, we initiated the Delta Chapter of UPE, and I became the Chapter faculty advisor. Although 14 years have passed, the excitement of the news announcing the original UPE Chapter at DePaul where 400 members were initiated in our first ceremony, is still a vivid and long-lasting heartening memory for me.

In 2008, I joined the Executive Council, where I learned the importance of being a leader in the computing field, to always look for opportunities to encourage students to pursue their dreams, and to be a strong believer that helping others is engrained in the very definition of a good UPE faculty advisor. I encourage you to be bold with your ideals, and to persist in making them true. Along the way, please find the time and energy to help others to join your UPE chapters!
Dr. Robert Roggio:
I was elected to the UPE Executive Council in 1986, and have been so honored to have worked with such a fine group of Executive Council members who have become family extending over many years of service. Through the years my wife and I have watched the UPE executive council members and their families grow up and have children, even grandchildren. Over this expanse of years, I have been so privileged to travel to many colleges and universities world-wide to perform the UPE Installation Ceremony through which I have been able to meet and shake hands with so very many bright, energetic, and impressive computing students of the day and computing professionals of the future. Few get this opportunity that UPE has afforded me.

As the founding society of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) in 1977, the most recent contest has seen 128 three-person teams of college and university students from institutions all over the world to meet in near week-long computing contest where these young students pit their programming skills in world-wide competition. In addition, the UPE Executive Council annually awards a number of scholarships to UPE members. As the only honor society in the computing disciplines, UPE can boast that it returns more of its income back to the students than any other honor society.

UPE has also been able to attract several computing luminaries to receive UPE’s most prestigious award, the Abacus Award. Among the more notable recipients are Dr. Donald Knuth, world renowned father of computer programming; Dr. Alan Kay, Prof. Bjarne Stroustrup, and other pioneers in the computing profession. Looking back, UPE has become an integral part of my life and I will forever be indebted to this organization and the incredible members that make up its Executive Council and its membership.
Chapter Highlights
The Czech Technical University in Prague’s UPE chapter is one of many international chapters outside the United States. The chapter was founded in 2013, and has been growing thanks to its events and recruitment efforts. The chapter has become well known around Prague for its machine learning meet ups, which have become some of largest technological gatherings in Prague. The meet ups gather people with shared interests in machine learning and affiliated computer science disciplines and continue to raise awareness about the topics in the general public.

Thanks to the support of the chapter, Filip Srajer, an open informatics student at Czech Technical University, was enabled to undertake an internship in a prestigious research laboratory known as Willow, INRIA in Paris during January and February of 2015. The focus of the internship was on 3D reconstruction of images based on convolutional neural networks, and Filip successfully continues to cooperate with the laboratory in pursuit of a joint publication. Moreover, Filip has also received the UPE Dan Drew Award while being one of the officers of the chapter.
The DePaul UPE chapter is the largest chapter in the nation with 2,098 members. In 2016, the chapter initiated 104 members into its organization. The chapter was established in 2004 and is very active, holding weekly chapter meetings, hosting events, and publishing a quarterly newsletter.

This year, the chapter hosted speakers from the Smart Chicago Collaborative, an organization that is aiming to improve the city of Chicago through data-driven methods; Abbott Laboratories on data mining in the healthcare industry; and DePaul's Career Services to help students with navigating job fairs and technical interviews. The DePaul chapter also hosts a PhD 101 event to help prepare prospective students on what pursuing a PhD entails and how to apply.

This spring, the MedIX biomedical informatics workshop will be held along with the chapter's annual initiation ceremony in May.
Chapter Highlights: Drexel University

The Drexel University chapter of UPE was chartered as the Epsilon chapter of Pennsylvania in 1989. Each year, the chapter provides its students with opportunities to network with alumni. These events allow current and past members to form long lasting connections. The chapter also promotes volunteering opportunities with other students in computer science and related disciplines. In the past, they have hosted events to help Drexel students prepare for co-op interviews by reviewing resumes and holding mock interviews. Also, the chapter often collaborates with the CS Graduate Student Council by hosting student research presentations.

Every year since the chapter’s 20th anniversary in 2009, they have held a dinner for UPE alumni, members and guests. It has also typically involved a student showcase, with graduate research and senior projects highlighted. The event has generally hosted around 50 attendees. Chapter members have also participated in Computer Science Education Week. Although Computer Science Education Week is the week of December 9, that is also exam week at Drexel, so the chapter usually celebrates it earlier around Thanksgiving. They have sponsored CS-themed game events at local restaurants for members and computer science students.
Chapter Highlights: Florida International University

Founded in 2004, the FIU chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon has become the largest organization for the computing and information sciences at FIU. The current executive board has worked diligently over this past year, hosting activities ranging from corporate information sessions to technical workshops. These have attracted a great number of students, many of whom have been initiated. In addition to these events, members have volunteered around the community by teaching children about computer science and related disciplines. Thanks to these activities, the chapter has been recognized on and off campus, receiving the awards for Outstanding Chapter from UPE and Outstanding Engineering Organization from FIU.

Through UPE, the current Vice President Brenda Izquierdo was able to learn new technical skills and become involved on and off campus in many activities. She attended a majority of the chapter’s workshops, volunteered at outreach programs, and helped organize many events. Thanks to these activities, she was able to network with many students and faculty members at FIU. Her hard work led to her recognition at this year's graduation ceremony, where she received the award for Outstanding Graduate.
Since its founding in 2001, the Georgia Southwestern State University chapter has been helping students prepare to take their education beyond the classroom. Each year, faculty advisor Karen Cook helps the chapter host events geared towards helping students. These events are aimed at helping upcoming graduates, or students looking for first time opportunities, find computer science related professional experiences.

In order to help chapter members achieve these goals, the chapter has hosted job showcases where area employers have a question and answer session and also explain the qualifications and requirements for computer jobs in their businesses. The chapter also hosted an event where mock interviews were conducted and students were able to have their resumes looked over and be given feedback. Beyond helping prepare students for exciting careers, the chapter hosts a job fair for companies looking for computer majors. All of these events help the students have a personal relationship with employers and introduces Georgia Southwestern State University UPE students to local employers.
Located on the island of Oahu, Hawai'i Pacific University's UPE chapter was founded in 2007. The chapter has been holding poster session events yearly, where students in the MSIS program would compete and showcase their research projects. A panel of judges would evaluate the posters and name the top three winners. Additionally, a Professional Development Event was held that attracted around 50-100 people. This event was a joint effort between the HPU Career Services Center, MSIS program and UPE Chapter. Alumni guests would speak about their journey after completing their degree and come with advice on how to get a job.

The first member accepted into the chapter was former MSIS student Anthony D. Marlin. Last year, chapter member Sandra Kirkoski received the Special Recognition Award ($1,500 Cash Award) from the UPE Executive Council based on her contribution to the HPU chapter. The chapter accepted a total of 32 new members in 2016 and has developed a network of 512 members.
Since the chartering of John Hopkins University’s UPE chapter in 2000, the chapter has worked towards building a community to reward the hard work of undergraduate and graduate students alike as they pursue opportunities in the computing and information disciplines. The chapter offers free tutoring, provides exclusive scholarship opportunities, and hosts networking events for its members. The members have also worked diligently to increase UPE’s presence on John Hopkins University’s campus by hosting pizza parties for prospective members and selling UPE t-shirts that helped raise funds for the chapter.

Two members (Alexander Schiffhauer and Carlo Olcese) received awards from UPE for their work in the community and UPE as a whole. They used part of their funds to help support the chapter through website development and grassroots initiatives. Both have now graduated with one working for Google and the other a very promising startup in New York. The chapter is very proud of their achievements and continues to follow their work.
Since 1993, the North Carolina A&T State University UPE chapter has rewarded the excellence of members of their student body and has continued to help them develop as academics and industry professionals. The chapter has awarded scholarships to members like Jasmine Bowers to help her complete her masters degree and go on to pursue a PhD in computer science.

The chapter also has a rich history of philanthropy and community involvement. Members have participated in community service with Handy Capable Network. Handy Capable Network is an outreach organization for enriching the lives of people with special needs by using technology. UPE worked with Handy Capable to help certify computers for less fortunate families to own.

In the months of October 2015 - December 2015, the chapter partnered with Empowered Sparkz to coach a First Lego League robotics team. The Empowered Sparkz organization is a group of middle school and high school girls that were eager to learn about robotics. Members mentored and coached a team to learn how to build and code an EV3 Lego robot.
Østfold University College (HIOF) is a state college located in the south-eastern part of Norway with approximately 7,000 students located on two campuses. The HIOF UPE Alpha chapter was accepted as a new chapter in November 2016. During the chapters first few months, it has held a pre-meeting discussing events the chapter wants to take part in. It was a great social event where everyone got to know each other. Even non-members interested in learning more about the society attended the meeting. The second event the chapter held was a white board training session on how to prepare for hands on interviews with global IT companies, such as Microsoft and Google. Students shared their own experience and participated in the mock interview. The chapter will further take part in the UPE annual convention held in cyberspace.

Chapter president An Thran has taken clear leadership and is very involved in the chapter's development. Together with the new members, many great ideas for events have been developed.
Chapter Highlights: St. Joseph’s College

Through their various activities and events, the St. Joseph’s chapter has invited many new students to consider careers in one of the computing fields and to become active members of UPE. Each year, several UPE members are chosen to participate in the Summer Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI) program at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), where they are given the opportunity to participate in research projects that often extend beyond the summer. Returning students share their experiences in research with the mathematics/computer science department and they encourage and prepare other students for internships at NSA, NASA, BNL, and other organizations the following summer.

Each year at St. Joseph's, members assist with hosting the greater NY Regional High School Programming Competition. These volunteers are wonderful role models because they are so enthusiastic about both programming and their future career plans in computing. Their efforts have helped to inspire future generations of computer scientists.
Chapter Highlights: Texas Christian University

The UPE chapter at Texas Christian University was first established in 1984, and its members have been very active in carrying out UPE's mission. Chapter members have worked with ACM and IEEE/CS to promote speakers to the university's computer science department. The speakers have been from Microsoft, virtual reality company Oculus, and have also included entrepreneurs discussing tech startups.

UPE has also aided members at Texas Christian University with preparing for graduate school opportunities in the computing and information disciplines. This year, chapter member Harrison Engel received the Dan Drew Award scholarship from UPE. Chapter members have gone on to graduate school opportunities at George Washington University, Harvard University, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Chicago. With 262 chapter members, including alumni, UPE has formed a strong community at Texas Christian University that continues to find opportunities for members to explore their interests and make the connections.
The Zeta chapter at Tulane University is one of the newest chapters to join UPE. The chapter had originally been established in 1991 but was closed and then revived in 2015 by its current members. Through its new leadership, the chapter is quickly rebuilding, initiating 11 new members in 2016. Members have already started to plan events such as youth STEM education programs, professional workshops, and networking opportunities.

For 2017, the chapter is planning to host opportunities to teach coding to more than 250 5-7 grade students from local schools, arranging trips to local hackathons for members in conjunction with Tulane's computer science club, and hosting a workshop on the Raspberry Pi. UPE's presence on Tulane's campus has already helped to further members' computer science educations, including former chapter president Alyssa Nicole Burns who received the 2015 Jim Nolen Award scholarship and will be pursuing a PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
The University of Bridgeport's UPE chapter was founded in 1990, and, in the last seven years, 12 members have been the recipients of UPE scholarships. These 12 members include current chapter president Wafa Elmannai, a PhD candidate at the University of Bridgeport.

Elmannai has an impressive list of publications and awards, including a $20,000 fellowship by the American Association of University Women and has been selected by the Connecticut Technology Council (CTC) as a Woman of Innovation twice. Lili Qiu, a former chapter president, was the inaugural recipient of the Dan Drew scholarship award in 1995. Qiu is currently a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. She recently returned to the University of Bridgeport as a speaker of the Engineering Colloquium Series in Fall 2016.
Chapter Highlights: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

In accordance with UPE’s mission to connect students with industry professionals, the chapter has cooperated with the computer science department at UCLA to put together an exclusive networking event for UPE. The Honors Mixer has been a tradition since 2007 and very popular among students. This year, the chapter had roughly 80-90 UPE members and inductees come out to chat with recruiters from Google, Facebook, Northrop Grumman, and eight other companies.

To help the UCLA computer science community, the chapter hosted a series of tutoring events, such as Homework Hack, Coding Challenge, and midterm review sessions. These events encourage academic excellence and provide underclassmen with advice from high achieving students. They contributed to the mission of UPE because the tutoring chairs are giving back to the computer science community at UCLA. UCLA UPE also hosts an annual Switch into CS workshop that introduces the field of computer science and technology to non-CS students.
On November 13, 2014, the University of Central Missouri established its UPE chapter. The charter ceremony was followed by a formal banquet in honor of the new initiates. As a large computer science program, establishing a chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon enabled the university to further recognize and honor exceptional students in its program.

In maintaining UPE's mission of recognizing exceptional student achievement and furthering professional growth, the chapter regularly holds joint events with the local chapter of ACM. In one event, chapter president Amos Bailey presented his work on a molecular chemistry software project. In other events, faculty members have presented on their areas of research, affording members opportunities for professional growth.
Outstanding Chapter Award
Since 2014, UPE is proud to present annually the Outstanding Chapter Award to a small chapter (induct 20 or less new UPE members each year) and to a large chapter (induct more than 20 members per year). These awards recognize chapters whose programs and activities have attained a high level of achievement during the most recent academic year.

- 2014: St. Joseph's College, NY & Drexel University
- 2015: St. Joseph's College, NY & University of Missouri - Columbia
- 2016: Florida International University & DePaul University

"We are honored to have received the Outstanding Chapter Award, as it helped us establish our current programs. This includes our Software & Hardware Development, Professional Development, and igniteCS Programs. It includes workshops on topics such as web and mobile app development, information sessions from top companies, and outreach activities in the community. Altogether, these help us meet our mission of promoting the computing and information disciplines."

Andres Ochoa, Upsilon Pi Epsilon President, Florida International University
ACM-ICPC
Upsilon Pi Epsilon has been a proud co-sponsor of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). ICPC is a multitier, team-based, programming competition operating under the auspices of ACM and headquartered at Baylor University. The contest involves a global network of universities hosting regional competitions that advance teams to the ACM-ICPC World Finals.

Participation has grown to several tens of thousands of the finest students and faculty in computing disciplines at almost 2,534 universities from more than 101 countries on six continents. The contest fosters creativity, teamwork, and innovation in building new software programs, and enables students to test their ability to perform under pressure. Quite simply, it is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contest in the world.
UPE Scholarships and Abacus Award


**Abacus Award**

The Abacus Award is presented to an individual who has gained professional renown and whose accomplishments in the profession have greatly benefited students in the computing and information disciplines.

2003 Abacus Award Winner Marsha Poucher with previous Abacus Award recipients: BJ Chow, Fran Sinhart, and Bill Poucher

**UPE Scholarship**

Each summer, the Executive Council of UPE evaluates a number of outstanding scholarship applicants at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**UPE/ACM Scholarship**

UPE and the ACM wish to encourage academic excellence for students in the computing and information disciplines. UPE initiated this award with ACM in order to raise the importance of academic achievement and professional commitment to ACM student members who are about to enter the computing profession.
Abacus Award Recipients

2014 – James Comer
2013 – Bjarne Stroustrup
2012 – Alan Kay
2011 – Donald Knuth
2010 – Nell B. Dale
2009 – Eugene Spafford
2006 – David Patterson
2005 – Gabby Silberman
2004 – John Clevenger
2003 – Marsha Poucher
2002 – Brenda Chow
2001 – Fran Sinhart
1998 – Bill Poucher

2006 Abacus Award recipient Dave Patterson, center

2009 Abacus Award recipient Eugene Spafford with the Executive Council

2012 Abacus Award recipient Alan Kay is presented his award

2013 Abacus Award recipient Bjarne Stroustrup, center

2011 Abacus Award recipient Donald Knuth accepts his award
Interview with Dr. Madrigal
Dr. Orlando Madrigal serves as the Executive Director of Upsilon Pi Epsilon. He has served in this position since 1983 following the retirement of Dr. Barry Bateman. He has been on the UPE Executive Council since 1975 and has been part of the original group of UPE Executive Council members who founded the ACM Doctoral Forum (now known as the ACM Doctoral Dissertation Awards) and the ICPC. Dr. Madrigal also holds the title of Professor Emeritus (Computer Science) at California State University, Chico, where he began his career as a computer science professor in 1970. He earned his PhD from Texas A&M University.

Can you describe the founding of UPE?

UPE was founded in 1967 by Dr. Dan Drew who, at that time, was Professor of Computing Science at Texas A&M University. Dr. Drew was assisted by Barry Bateman and five other graduate students who were instrumental in insuring the success and national recognition (including a formal letter of recognition from the ACM) of UPE as the honor society of the computing and information disciplines. Dr. Bateman served as the founding Executive Director of UPE and served in this position from 1967 to 1983.
From your perspective, how has UPE influenced the computer and information science community over the years?

Since its founding, UPE has always been at the forefront of academic pursuits that are important to students in the computing discipline by insuring that there is an effective, collaborative relationship between UPE and both the ACM and the IEEE-CS. Today, UPE sponsors scholarship awards for student members of the ACM and the IEEE. In addition, as the founding group for the ACM Programming Contest (known today as the ICPC), UPE continues to be actively involved as co-sponsor of the ICPC World Finals. It is also important to note that the annual ACM PhD Doctoral Dissertation Awards was started by UPE in the 1980s and was eventually taken over by the ACM in order to enhance the value of these awards. Finally, it should be noted that, besides the various scholarship awards presented to UPE members, UPE also provides financial support to student activities of the CCSC (Consortium for Computing in Small Colleges).

You have had an immense impact on UPE. How has UPE influenced your career?

I took over responsibilities as the Executive Director of UPE in 1983, while at the same time serving as Chairman of a large CS department at California State University, Chico. I have since retired as a college professor, but continue to manage UPE activities as my primary activity in the profession. My involvement with UPE has allowed me to meet and collaborate with colleagues from various institutions in activities related to CS education which, in several instances, have led to projects that are important to my professional career. Overall, my work with UPE allows me to meet the best and brightest students in the computing and information disciplines.
What is one of your fondest memories of your involvement in UPE throughout the years?

There is insufficient space for me to summarize my various memories of UPE throughout the years. Besides the luxury of being able to visit new and existing chapters, I have been actively involved in all of the annual activities of the ACM programming contest (the ICPC was started by those of us who were members of the Executive Council in 1977); close collaboration with UPE colleagues in the Executive Council of UPE; and meet very interesting experts in the various disciplines of the computing sciences.

What advice do you have for current and future UPE chapters?

I believe UPE’s long-term success in its mission can be enhanced if a greater number of members and chapters are able to get involved in the national activities of UPE, especially those that relate to the UPE Annual Convention, as well as the award programs of UPE. It will be quite satisfying to those of us on Council if a larger percentage of UPE chapters are present during the Annual Convention so that a greater number of members are able to provide feedback to the UPE Council on activities and projects that are important and may be unique to the needs of specific chapters.
Given the changes in the computing disciplines, how do you envision UPE changing in the future?

UPE’s mission has to be always open to new and emerging fields that encompass the computing and information disciplines. UPE started out as the honor society for those in Computer Science. Today, our field has expanded to various theoretical and application areas as we become more reliant on the newest technology (such as, but not limited to, deep learning in AI and the intricacies and use of big data) that can assist in simplifying and also improve the way we handle our everyday activities. In several instances, students who are involved in these “newer” fields of study may be majoring in non-traditional computer science, but should also gain recognition as prospective members of UPE.

Dr. Madrigal with the Executive Council in 2014
Closing Remarks
“In my experience, students in UPE define success in college by more than their GPA and the starting salary of their first job. They are interested in service: service to the university, the community, and their peers.”

-- Jonathan Gemmell ’14

“There have been many things I learned from my time with UPE, but one key lesson learned as a member of the executive board was how to work well in groups, even if you have opposing views of how something should be accomplished. This has been more valuable than I imagined it would be in professional life.”

-- Daniel Lauritzen ’12

“Taking on more responsibilities meant developing leadership skills, which are always useful, and working positively with my peers helped me learn how to collaborate on team projects at the office.

-- Jayne Spottswood ’13”

“It taught me many things that were applicable outside of being a board member and allowed me to meet and work with people from various backgrounds. I am somewhat introverted, but UPE has really helped me be more gregarious and the experience at UPE also led to a leadership position in another organization.”

-- Wei Chen Lin ‘11
Thank You

UPE would like to thank all of the chapters who submitted materials for this commemorative eBook and the countless chapter advisors and members who helped make this all possible. To all our chapters and members across the globe, we thank you for helping make the past 50 years so special and look forward to the next 50.

- Østfold University College
- St. Joseph's College
- Texas Christian University
- Tulane University
- University of Bridgeport
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of Central Missouri
- Czech Technical University in Prague
- DePaul University
- Drexel University
- Florida International University
- Georgia Southwestern State University
- Hawai'i Pacific University
- John Hopkins University
- North Carolina A&T State University

Daniel Helfand served as the editor for this commemorative eBook. He is an MS in computer science student at DePaul University and is an officer in DePaul’s UPE chapter.