UPE NewsBrief – March 2012

UPE Scholarship Applications for 2012 – UPE members who expect to be registered as regular students in Fall 2012 or Spring 2013 are encouraged to submit their scholarship applications for the 2012 UPE Scholarship Awards. These cash awards range from $750 to $1,500. Each active chapter of UPE can submit one undergraduate and one graduate application. A copy of the 2012 scholarship application form is attached to this email. Scholarship applications must be received no later than June 15, 2012.

UPE also presents special scholarship awards to student members of the ACM and the IEEE-CS. Students who are active in these organizations should refer to the websites of the ACM and the IEEE-CS for more details on UPE-funded scholarships that are administered by these organizations.

2012 UPE Convention Notes – The 2012 UPE Convention was held on March 2, 2012 in Raleigh, North Carolina in conjunction with the ACM SIGCSE Symposium. There were four main items on the convention agenda, namely: presentation of UPE chapter reports by representatives from nine chapters; election of Dr. Robert Roggio to the UPE Executive Council; presentation of the UPE ABACUS Award to Dr. Alan Kay (see photo below); and the presentation of a special “Plaque of Appreciation” to Dr. Ali Orooji, UCF, who completed his term on the UPE Executive Council.

UPE was honored to present the ABACUS Award to Dr. Kay, a Silicon Valley pioneer and visionary, who is credited with the creation of the personal computer along with a wide range of related systems and applications for today’s computing environments. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Charles Draper Prize, the Kyoto Prize and the Turing Award (generally referred to as the “Nobel Prize” for the computing and information disciplines).

“Super-Settings for Computing Education,” the title of Dr. Kay’s presentation to the convention, challenged educators to reach for greatness; that it was important to determine what they have to invent rather than focus on what the next generation has to know. A more detailed summary of Dr. Kay’s speech can be found in Prof. Jeff Popyack’s convention summary and minutes (www.acm.org/upe/).

Dr. Kay received a specially engraved Abacus along with a certificate of at-large membership in UPE.

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