

Upsilon Pi Epsilon

International Honor Society for the Computing and Information Disciplines

UPE NewsBrief - 2012 UPE Convention

Prepared by **Jeffrey L. Popyack, Ph.D.**

The UPE National Convention was held on March 2, during the SIGCSE Technical Symposium in Raleigh, NC. UPE again sponsored SIGCSE's Student Volunteer Pizza Party.

Highlights of the business meeting were:

- Chapter activity reports (presentations from Baldwin-Wallace College, College of Charleston, DePaul University, Florida International University, Kettering University, University of New Haven, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Southwestern University, and St. Joseph's College, NY).
- New chapters chartered in the last year (Rhode Island College, University of New Haven, Georgia Gwinnett College, South Carolina State University, Wayne State College, University of Washington-Bothell, South Dakota State University), bringing us to 258 chapters. With the addition of Rhode Island College, UPE inched ever closer to its goal of having at least one chapter in every US state, leaving only Alaska, Idaho and Montana with no chapters;
- Election of a new Executive Council member (Robert Roggio, University of North Florida);
- Presentation of the Abacus Award to Alan Kay, President and CEO of Viewpoints Research Institute, followed by an address.

The Abacus Award is UPE's most prestigious award, given to "an individual who has gained international renown in the profession, and over a period of several years has provided extensive support and leadership for student-related activities in the computing and information disciplines." The award is named in recognition of the abacus as a personal computing device. The awardee receives a specially-engraved abacus, along with a cash award.

In his address, "Super-Settings for Computing Education", Dr. Kay challenged educators to look beyond their usual learning objectives and reach for greatness, proposing that rather than focus on what the next generation has to know, we should ask what they have to invent. When looking at topics covered in today's curricula and presentations, he suggested we consider the supersets of these areas, asking "Instead of goals, why not visions? Instead of tactics, why not strategies?" His message was largely summarized by his statement, "Life is a grand endeavor. To help the children stay grand, we need to act grand."

In summary, Kay's overall themes were to inspire our youth to recognize the complexities of the universe, find the greatness within themselves and empower them to achieve it – which recalls his famous statement: "The best way to predict the future is to invent it."

UPE Executive Council Members

Orlando S. Madrigal, PhD
California State University, Chico
Executive Director of UPE

Jeffrey L. Popyack PhD
Drexel University

Angela Wu, PhD
American University

James Comer, PhD
Texas Christian University
ex-officio Council Member

Robert Roggio, PhD
University of North Florida

Daniela Raicu, PhD
DePaul University
International President of UPE

Alumni Representative:

Bill Poucher, PhD
Baylor University

Editor/Webmaster:

Eric Ackerman, PhD
Nova Southeastern University

SIGCSE Liaison

Elizabeth Adams, DSc
James Madison University

Postal Address of UPE: 158 Wetlands Edge Road, American Canyon, CA 94503 **Email:** upe@acm.org **Phone:** (530) 518-8488