

# CIS program celebrates 30-year anniversary

■ The department, popular among students, will host a gathering and dinner Saturday in Deschutes Hall

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite being one of the more prominent computer science programs in the country and the most popular major among next year's incoming freshmen, computer and information science is still maturing in the mind of its department head.

"We're still a developing department," said Sarah Douglas, CIS department head. "We're not established like biology or mathematics." Since it was established more than 30 years ago, CIS has grown tremendously. The program, which moved from the first floor of the Computing Center in 1969 to the basement of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall and then to its current home in the 30,000-square-foot Deschutes Hall, has awarded more than 1,800 degrees.

"Students apply from all over the world to come here to study," Douglas said. "We get a lot of students coming here to just do computer science."

To celebrate its 30-year anniversary, the department — composed of 18 faculty members — is holding an open house and dinner on Saturday that will feature a keynote speech by Pulitzer Prize winning author Doug Hofstadter. The festivities begin at 1:30 p.m. in Deschutes Hall.

Hofstadter, a professor at Indiana University who wrote "Goedel, Escher, Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid," will give a public lecture titled "Will Spiritual Robots Replace Humanity by 2100?" in Willamette Hall at 7:30 p.m.

CIS was created in the fall of 1969 by three math professors who understood the demand and

significance of computer technology. David Moursund, one of the founders, said the University granted the program \$1 million to purchase the 1966 IBM 360, a computer running on 256 kilobytes of memory — 250 times less memory than a modern 64 megabyte machine.

During its first years, Moursund said he wanted CIS to be a department that offered traditional degrees. The program was strongly oriented toward majors who wanted to pursue computer science as a career, he said.

"Oodles of students wanted to take our course," said Moursund, now an education professor. "It's a ticket to a well paying job."

One of the goals of the CIS founders was to establish a connection with the education program. Today, the relationship between CIS and the University's College of Education is strong as they jointly offer a masters degree for computers in education,

Moursund said.

"That has had a major impact on the whole country," Moursund said of the number of graduates who go on to teach about computer education at other schools.

The focus of the department has shifted from math to an experimental science.

"We're very research oriented," Douglas said.

Because of its expansion in 1982 that made doctorate degrees available, Douglas projected that the CIS program is one of the nation's top 50. According to the Office of the Registrar, three of the 506 CIS students are working for a doctorate.

"A lot of computer science departments have become more engineering oriented, and of course we're not an engineering school," Douglas said. "We very much think of ourselves as one of the sciences."

Both Moursund and Douglas said they are looking forward to Saturday's anniversary party.

"It's going to be fun to see some

## CIS Timeline

**1937:** English mathematician Alan Turing proposes the idea of creating a machine that could replicate logical human thought.

**1966:** IBM's 360 computer is released.

**1973:** The Palo Alto Research Center, a product of Xerox, completes the first personal computer, a \$40,000 product called "Alto."

**1977:** Apple Computer, Inc. is officially created.

**1982:** The CIS department adds a Ph.D. program to its offerings.

**1999:** CIS creates a new minor program, called Computer Information Technology.

SOURCE: CIS and various Web sites

of the old guys," Moursund said. "It's nice to know that somebody recognizes us for the stuff we did a long time ago."

# Candidates meet informally to discuss their platforms

■ Bobby Green and Charlie Strange talk over ice cream as part of a forum hosted by the Rubicon Society

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

At an occasion unusually cordial for an election season, two of the three candidates running for the Lane County Board of Commissioners seat representing the North Eugene area met Thursday at the Pearl Street Ice Cream Parlour and Restaurant to discuss the future of Lane County.

Eleven other people gathered at the noon meeting to hear Bobby Green, D-Eugene, and Charlie Strange, R-Eugene, speak at the meeting organized by the Rubicon Society, which regularly holds public forums featuring state and local politicians.

Rep. Kitty Piercy, D-Eugene, is the third candidate for the seat and was not present at the meeting. All three candidates will be on the May 16 primary election ballot.

"This election is important because Lane County hinges on good leadership at the local level," Green, who currently holds the District 4 seat, said. "Local

government, county government, is the closest government to the people."

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is made up of a board chair and four commissioners who represent five county districts. The board makes policy decisions affecting Lane County infrastructure, roads, public safety, land use and social services.

Green, 45, is a New Orleans native and University graduate. At Thursday's meeting, he stressed what he called his "leadership based on achievement," mentioning his efforts to encourage long-term goals for the board, his role in creating the Boys and Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley, and his work in funding construction to make the Beltline Highway safer.

"I'm standing for re-election because I have a record I'm proud of," Green said.

Green has served on the board since 1995, and prior to that he served on the Eugene City Council from 1989 to 1995. He is also a

current board member of the University Alumni Association.

Green said if re-elected, he would address traffic problems proactively, work to encourage economic growth without sacrificing Eugene's green lands, and create social service programs for troubled youths to help prevent crime.

Strange, a newcomer to politics, said he decided to run for public office after the city's Christmas tree was removed from the Hult Center in December. The tree

was removed after a Eugene resident complained that the city shouldn't give preference to any religious celebration.

"I grew up with Christmas trees, and they always represented peace on Earth and good will to men," he said. Strange said the

tree shouldn't have become an item of political debate but should have been left in place as a symbol of holiday cheer. The tree's removal was a symptom of the community's diminishing cohesion, he said.

"People always tell me: 'Charlie, that's just the way it is,'" Strange said. "But why does it have to be that way?"

Strange said he wants to revive the patriotism and optimism that he said has waned during the past three decades. He said he would work to promote political participation and reduce public cynicism of government. He said he would also address traffic problems and ease tensions between businesses and Eugene residents concerned about the environment.

Strange recently retired from the Eugene Water and Electric Board where he worked for 28 years. A New York native, Strange, 65, played eight years in baseball's minor leagues before moving to Eugene. He started at EWEB reading meters and moved his way up the public utility's ranks to the position of community affairs coordinator.

During a telephone interview, Piercy said she too was concerned about low public opinion of local government.

"One of the reasons I chose to run was because many people have come up to me and said there's no communication between the commission and the community," she said.

Piercy, 57, said she would consider founding a commission newsletter and create programs to receive suggestions from county employees.

"We have to really think about how our decisions affect people's lives," Piercy said. "They're not just grids on a map, but people."

Piercy said she hopes to boost efficiency in Lane County's social programs to better service senior citizens and troubled youths, promote dense urban growth to protect the outlying farms and forests and better include all of Lane County in decision making.

Piercy is currently a state representative and has worked as an educator and a Peace Corps volunteer.



**Got Money?**

**Plasma donations**

**Earn around \$165 every month.**

\$15 on 1st donation — \$35 on 2nd donation!  
\$50 for the first week  
\$5 extra for first-time donors if you bring in this ad!

*We need your help!*

**Seramed Biocenter—Eugene**

1 Block east of 8th and Garfield  
1901 West 8th Ave., Eugene  
683-9430  
also at 225 B Main St. in Springfield

**CASH!**

**Virtual Office Systems Inc.**

*In Partnership with*

**The University of Oregon Bookstore**

3131 West 11th Ph. 343-8633 Open Mon-Sat 10-6

**AMD K6-2®**

**"Power Player"**

**\$869.99**

- AMD K6-2 3D 400 CPU
- 8 MB Diamond AGP
- 6.4 GB Western Digital
- 64 MB 100 MHz SDRAM
- 15" .28 SVGA Monitor

AMD K6-2 450 add \$10  
AMD K6-2 500 add \$20  
Upgrade to 8.4 Gig Drive, \$10

**Built the Way You Want It.**

**The "Ultimate" Pentium III® 550**

**\$1199.99**

- Soyo BX Motherboard
- 8 MB Diamond AGP
- 8.4 GB Western Digital
- 64 MB 100 MHz SDRAM
- 17" .27 SVGA Monitor

Upgrade to .25 monitor, \$25  
Upgrade to 10 GB Drive, \$10  
Many other options available

All systems include ATX case, Windows 98, 52X CD, 56K v.90 modem, mouse, keyboard, floppy, sound, speakers, 1 Year parts/ 2 Years labor warranty.

VOS Inc. Systems are also available at the UO Bookstore. Parts available only at VOS Inc.  
Prices good through 04/22/00. AMD, K6, K7, AMD logo and 3DNow! are trademarks of AMD, Inc. Prices subject to change.