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The Path to Artificial Life

Presented by: **Larry Yaeger,**
Professor in the School of Informatics at Indiana University Bloomington

FRIDAY, April 17, 2009

Hosted by: Roosevelt University
430 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605
Room 320, 3rd Floor

5:30 p.m. Social Hour, Dinner & Refreshments
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Cost (includes Dinner) Chapter members: $10
Non-members: $12 - Students: $5
Checks or cash received at the door

How to make RESERVATIONS:
Preferred method: Online form at chicagoacm.org
or e-mail: greg@neumarke.net or call 773-907-3308

Artificial Life (ALife) is a system of low-level interactions producing large-scale phenomena in feedback loops. ALife systems can be used to model the emergence of natural intelligence through the evolution of neural systems in a complex ecology.

Our speaker, Larry Yaeger, has made leading technical contributions to the space shuttle program, computer generated imagery in motion pictures, artificial life, and handwriting recognition.

He first worked on ALife as part of the Vivarium project led by Alan Kay at Apple Computer. The goal was to develop an "ecology in the computer" with an interface children could use but powerful enough to simulate a real environment. Polyworld, Yaeger's version of the project, was recently featured on the Discovery Channel's NextWorld.

Make sure to attend this special ACM event where Larry Yaeger will be our guide through his eclectic path in science: aeronautics, computer graphics, and neural nets that culminate in Artificial Life.

A self-identified space nut, science fiction fan, saxophone player, and aspiring astronaut with poor eyesight, **Larry Yaeger** pursued the next best thing to flying aircraft: designing them. Developing his own music improvisation and composition program, while at Purdue, began his lifelong love of programming.

He worked on fluid dynamic simulations of the space shuttle at Grumman Aerospace, and hydrodynamic simulations of submarines. He led software development at Digital Productions, creating the first photo-realistic computer generated imagery for the motion pictures The Last Starfighter and 2010. As Distinguished Scientist at Apple Computer, from 1987–2007, his work included handwriting recognition and the Mac UI. And Hollywood again beckoned in 1990 for his work as technical consultant and cameo actor for Terminator 2.

Larry is now Full Professor in the School of Informatics at Indiana University Bloomington. He still devours science fiction and plays saxophone in local clubs.

Here are some links to get to know Larry:
http://arstechnica.com/apple/news/2005/06/504.ars
http://vw.indiana.edu/talks-fall07/Yeager.pdf
Larrys' personal website:
http://beanblossom.in.us/larryy/

May 13, 2009 Speaker: Cary Gray
June 10, 2009 Speaker: Stephan V Bechtolsheim