

Whatever Happened to Rod Oldehoeft

Long Before Then	Capsule Summary	Now
	<p>Born in: Ellsworth, KS Grew Up in: Perry, OK; St. Louis, MO; Corder, MO Undergraduate Degree: BA Math, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, August 1967 Entered Purdue: Fall 1967 Purdue Degrees: MS CS May 1969; PhD CS August 1973 Lived/Worked in: Tempe, AZ; Fort Collins, CO; Pleasanton, CA; Seattle, WA; Germantown, MD; Santa Fe, NM</p>	
Purdue Highlights	Career Highlights	
<p>Rod arrived at Purdue CS in Fall, 1967 to pursue graduate work after a BA in which he mainly learned the names of things. He was employed on the NAPSS project, an interactive problem-solving system for numerical analysis. NAPSS was a success mostly because it supported many graduate students, but it also resulted in the development of several "polyalgorithms" for the numerical solution of classical problems.</p> <p>Rod decided to stay on for a PhD, working with John Rice. He passed quals in numerical analysis and systems. His PhD research derived from experience in the design and implementation of the "system software" portion of NAPSS.</p> <p>"Ever grateful, ever true, Thus we raise our song anew Of the day we've spent with you, All hail our own Purdue."</p>	<p>After Purdue, Rod joined the Math Department at Arizona State University, where he helped build BS and MS programs in computer science, since there was no CS department at ASU at the time.</p> <p>He moved to the CS Department at Colorado State University, and began research in parallel computing. SISAL was a multi-site project and implicitly parallel language for scientific computing. It took a pragmatic approach between the "real" academic functional languages and imperative Fortran-like choices. This heavily-instrumented testbed exposed a lot about compilers and runtime software for parallel systems. During this time he spent a sabbatical leave with SISAL partners at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and a summer at Technische Hochschule Aachen, Germany. For many years he did CSAB and ABET undergraduate CS program accreditation work.</p> <p>Out of a misguided sense of duty, Rod became department chair. He was able to attract excellent junior faculty, some of whom are still at CSU in senior positions. Curricula were updated, better grad and undergrad students attracted, and research and its funding grew significantly.</p> <p>During a sabbatical from CSU at Tera Computers (now Cray, Inc.), he worked with LLNL researchers to mate SISAL with Tera's MTA multi-threaded parallel system (now Cray XMT). But Rod also discovered what little attraction returning to academic administration held, and so had a two-year rotation in the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing at the Department of Energy. As a program manager he oversaw competitively-funded CS research in universities and DOE labs.</p> <p>That re-acquainted Rod with research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and he joined the Advanced Computing Lab there as assistant director and then interim director. Finally, as head of the Los Alamos Computer Science Institute, he managed funding to university research (including CERIAS at Purdue) and to LANL CS projects, and organized annual LACSI symposia. During this time he finally, officially retired from CSU as Emeritus Chair and Professor of Computer Science.</p> <p>He retired for a second time, from LANL, in 2006. He then spent time consulting, helping groups with proposal writing, and evaluating funding proposals for federal agencies.</p> <p>Rod lives in Santa Fe, honing his culinary skills, gathering material for a possible cookbook aimed at Boomer Guys, doing (but mostly just paying for) home improvements, and enjoying Santa Fe, "The City Different," and the Southwest.</p>	

