Whatever Happened to Frank Friedman

Then (with my Dad)

Capsule Summary

Born in: Baltimore, MD

Never Grew Up in: Arbutus and Glen Burnie

MD

High School: Glen Burnie Senior High '60 Undergraduate Degree: BA Math, Antioch '65 Entered Purdue: Fall, 1970

Purdue Degrees:

- MS CS May 1972;

- PhD CS August 1974

Lived/Worked in: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, NJ Live in New Jersey (in the Rancocas mud) at the moment



Purdue Highlights

I had read Saul Rosen's book and reviewed the curriculum and hoops required for the PhD at Purdue and liked what I saw. I visited in Spring 74 and Saul Rosen and Rita Luptowski (where is SHE now) treated me as though I mattered. Saul suggested a GAship working in the computer center with Rich Kovarik (where is he now) and friends. So ... I came, I saw, I studied (Halstead, Schneider, Denning, Shen, Young (my advisor for the first two years), Buchi et al.), took the quals in '72 with 10 others (7 of us passed and had a memorable QOFAT), and graduated in '74 with Stu Zweben and others. Went to Temple University in Philly to teach.

While working for the Computer Center I changed the Minnesota FORTRAN Compiler (MNF) assembly code for the CDC 6400 so that it compiled and generated a stream of ready to link and load files for up to 25 FORTRAN programs at a time. The program failed one night at 3am -- it went into a loop when someone submitted two conseutiove programs with the same ID.

I put my entire thesis on punch cards with the help of one of the CS Department staff whose name I cannot recall. Paul Young (where is HE now) was a wonderful mentor for me, and he and Peter Denning (I KNOW where he is) are two of the main reasons I survived my early years at Purdue. I owe them both a huge debt of gratitude.

Career Highlights

My first job after Purdue was as an Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Sciences at Temple Uiversity. I went there primarily to teach and had the good fortune to meet a great colleague, Elliot Koffman, as well as Jim Leisy and William Greuner, then both with Addison-Wesley.

At Jim's urging, Elliot and I took some of the ideas used in teaching structured FORTRAN at Purdue and wrote a book which ultimately sold over one million copies and was published in Spanish, Russian, and Chinese (at least). These books changed my life, for sure -- I met dozens of new colleagues and friends as the books made their way into numerous colleges and universities in the US and abroad. Without Purdue, and without encouragement from the Temple chairman who hired me (Len Garrett), I doubt that there would have been a book.

I substituted for Myrna Josephs (nee Littman) at an ACM Council meeting around 1979 and got elected to Council around 1981 as the Allegheny Regional Rep. Eventually I became Chairman of the ACM Conference Board. I have very fond memories of Adele Goldberg, Dave Brandin, Jim Adams, Pegotty Cooper, Joe Deblasi, Lillian Israel, Pat Ryan, Paul Abrahams, Peter Denning, Seymour Wolfson, and many others. Many of us banded together to run CSC 84, CSC 96 (where Kasparov played Deep Blue), The History of Scientific and Numeric Computation (87). and NECC 87.

I spent a wonderful year at SEI (89-90) working with Norm Gibbs (Purdue PhD 69?) and Mary Shaw and another year (83-84) working with Paul Wolfgang at CSC in Moorestown, NJ. From 86-89 and 92-02, I chaired the CIS Department at Temple.

I am now retired (December 2012), teaching a course, and

I was very well cared for during my four years at Purdue, and I have many fond memories of the department, the university, and West Lafayette. Three of my best friends were Dennises -- Frailey, Conti (where is HE), and Kafura (I stay in touch with him). G Scott Graham (aka Grandpa Graham -- to my daughter Shelley -- a Hoosier) was a super office mate, but I lost track of him in recent years).

working part-time at a WRTI (NPR radio in Philly) and the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. I am busy, and often in trouble.

I have been truly blessed throughout my career with good friends and colleagues and advisors, Whatever success I have had is truly due to the faculty and students I met at Antioch and Purdue. I am grateful (and not yet Further dead) and I look forward to seeing old friends.