

The Development of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M Under Dick Volz



Jianer Chen
Jeff Trinkle
Jennifer Welch
Lawrence Rauchwerger



The Early Years – Jianer Chen

- Dick hired me as an assistant professor in 1989 (more correctly, 1990)
- A very busy interview schedule which made me have no time to go to bathroom
- gave two talks on the same day and had to make an additional meeting with a big professor (Bruce) at 6pm before dinner

The Early Years – Jianer Chen

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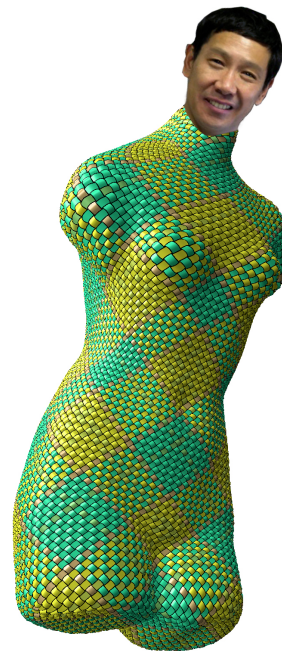
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The Early Years – Jianer Chen

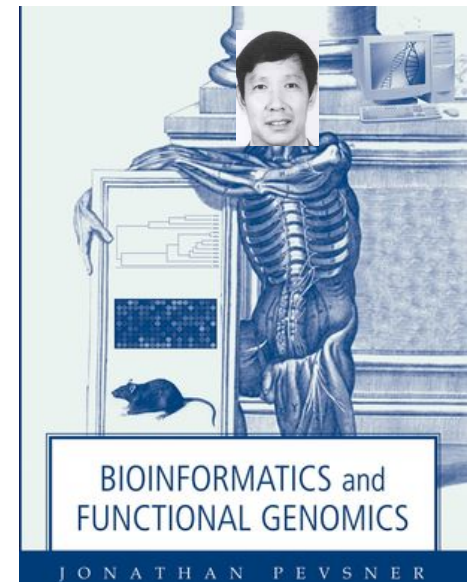
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Theory



Graphics



Bioinformatics

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 3. (Dick: Thanks!)

The Early Years – Jianer Chen

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The Early Years – Jianer Chen

- What is bad?
- I found that the following was probably bad (well, to me, but it is probably good for Dick).

The Early Years – Jianer Chen



Dick and Jianer in 1991

The Early Years – Jianer Chen



Dick in 2004 and Jianer in 1991

The Early Years – Jianer Chen



Dick in 1991 and Jianer in 2004

The Early Years – Jianer Chen



Dick and Jianer in 2004

The Early Years – Jianer Chen



Dick has not changed much but Jianer has become sooo old

Greetings from afar

- The next segment is from a former colleague of ours, Jeff Trinkle, who was not able to be here in person.



u15165104 fotosearch.com

The Amazing Volz

from
Jeff Trinkle

Dick: My Chairman

- Set the tone to build the A&M's CS Dept
 - Fair
 - Honest
 - Straight forward
 - Expected the best from everyone
 - Led by example (How could any one person do so much so well for so many people?)
- As chairman at RPI
 - My goal: Emulate Dick
 - My conclusion: Impossible!



Excited to start as
Chairman, RPI 2003

Dick: My Mentor

- Great research direction ideas
- Supportive:
 - Fabulous detailed advice on papers and proposals
 - Created opportunities for me
 - Shielded me from politics
 - Taught me how to approach funding agencies
- Shared deep insights before my decision to become chairman at RPI
- Launched my career



Happy Researcher,
Robotics Lab, Bright
Bldg 1994

Dick: My Friend and Role Model

- Thanks for doing what friends do
- Thanks for pushing me to greater heights
- THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!




After trying to maintain Dick's pace
for 6 years as Chair of CS at RPI:
No hair, Gray beard
But no TIE!!!

The Middle Years – Jennifer Welch

- Dick hired me as an assistant professor in 1992
- Note early morning meeting time!

2/11/92



**Department of Computer Science
Texas A & M University**

SCHEDULE
for Prospective Faculty Candidate
Dr. Jennifer Welch (see attached vitae)

Arrival: 5:10 pm on Thursday, 2/13
Lodging: College Station Hilton, confirmation #4756
Room and tax are direct charge to the Department
Departure: 6:00 pm on Friday, 2/14

• Wednesday, 2/13

5:10 pm Dr. Friesen will pick up from Easterwood Airport and escort to the Hilton

7:00 Dinner with Laxmi Bhuyan and Wei Zhao (will pick up from the Hilton)

• Thursday, 2/14


7:30 am Breakfast with Richard Volz

9:00 **Seminar** in room 302 HRBB, cookies & coffee served (see attached colloquium announcement)

The Middle Years – Jennifer Welch

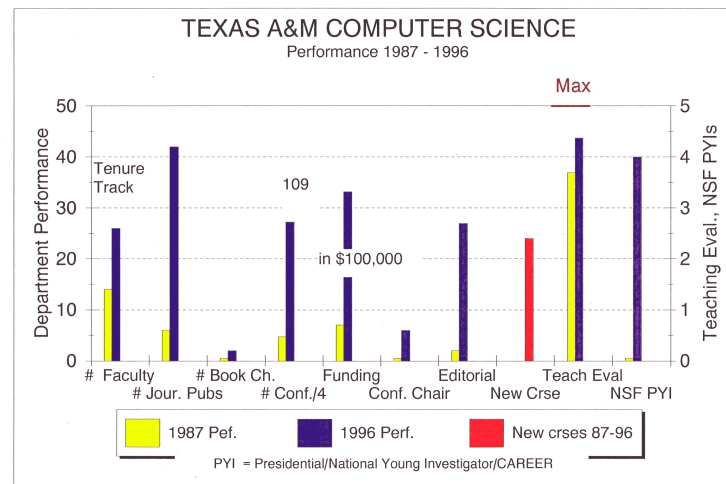
- Although there was some ugly politics going on at that time, he shielded the assistant professors from it
- He made the department a great place to grow and develop a career
- He provided me with invaluable help in obtaining funding
 - Especially industrial matching money for my PYI

The Middle Years – Jennifer Welch

- Dick was very supportive of women faculty and students
 - Presided over the birth of AWICS (Aggie Women in Computer Science) 
 - At the first AWICS meeting held at Nancy's house, he was the only male, other than Nancy's dog
- Was very flexible in altering my work schedule when both my sons were born

The Middle Years – Jennifer Welch

- Dick's hallmark was quality
- Emphasis on metrics to prove increase in research quality



The Good: The Later Years to the Present

Lawrence Rauchwerger

- 1996: Lawrence joins the CS department
- Why ?
- Because Dick is supportive of women in CS
- He likes Nancy
- He is worried Nancy will follow husband (as it should be...)
- He invites Lawrence for an interview....

The Good: The Later Years to the Present

- Good Friday 1995
- Meeting for breakfast at 7:30am at the Hilton
- However dept saves money and puts up Lawrence in Nancy's apartment
- Lawrence gets Dick's good (better) ear and talks about artillery shells and their soothing effect on hearing

The Good: The Later Years to the Present –

- Almost nobody is in the department to talk to him (Good Friday – Univ. closes at noon)
- Interview finishes after talking to Mac and Hank (who hopes Lawrence will get back into semiconductors)
- August 1995 Lawrence gets an offer – come over now! -- Answer – Yes, but 1 year later.
- Salary negotiated – needs to be higher than Nancy's – Dick understands and agrees +2k

The Good: The Later Years to the Present –

- 1996 – Lawrence shows up
- Lawrence is introduced and known as Nancy's husband –
- Lawrence pounds on Dick's table: Needs a bigger workstation - \$20k worth UltraSparc 1.... And gets it
- 1998 – gets NSF CAREER award. Dick agrees that Lawrence has a different last name than Nancy

The Good: The Later Years to the Present –

- 1998 – 2003 – the early post Dick era – CS dept is soul searching ... Jennifer makes the best of it as interim head
- 2003 – Valerie starts running the show
- 2004 – Stroustrup gets on board – Dick is worried we will become a C++ Mecca
- 2008 – We get a King Abdulah University (KAUST) award – Dick was partially right

The Good: The Later Years to the Present –

- Dick set us on the right path: ~40 tenure/track faculty
- NAE, IEEE/ACM Fellows, over 25% faculty with NSF CAREER

The Good: The Later Years to the Present –

- **Dick's real legacy:**

 - 7 female faculty**

 - Found solution to 2 Body problem**

21st Century Photos

- Thanks to Kathy Flores for culling through tons of photos to find these and provide them.

Staff Lunch, Apr 2001



Farewell to Raymond, 2001



Farewell to Raymond, 2001



Infotech, Dec 2001



April 2002



Staff Lunch, May 2002



Orientation, Sep 2002



Spring Banquet, 2003



Spring Banquet, 2003



Spring Banquet, 2003



Spring Banquet, 2003



Staff Lunch, May 2003



Staff Lunch, May 2003



Faculty Retreat, May 2003



Faculty Retreat, May 2003



Faculty Retreat, May 2003



Former Student Picnic, Oct 2003



Graduation Reception, Aug 2004



Graduation Reception, Aug 2004



Office, Aug 2004



Staff Lunch, May 2005



Staff Lunch, May 2005

