



## The Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair in Computer Science & Engineering

at the University of Washington

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
COLLEGE of ENGINEERING  
*A Community of Innovators*

# The Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair in Computer Science & Engineering

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Installation of  
Professor Henry M. Levy

November 30, 2004

University of Washington  
Computer Science & Engineering

# Computer Science & Engineering

## at the University of Washington

Advances in computer science and computer engineering are changing our lives, driving our economy, and transforming the conduct of science. Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington has been a key source of the people and ideas that are fueling this dramatic progress, since our founding more than thirty-five years ago.

Ranked among the top ten programs in the nation today, UW CSE is active in most of the principal areas of the field and is engaged in a broad range of interdisciplinary initiatives. Our activities involve some 40 faculty members, 40 staff members, 275 graduate majors (150 in the doctoral program and 125 in the Professional Masters Program), and 450 undergraduate majors. We are privileged to belong to one of the nation's leading research universities, located in a national and international technology center situated in the midst of the beauty and diversity of the Pacific Northwest.

CSE is housed in the spectacular new Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering at the center of the UW campus. The Allen Center, dedicated in October 2003, was made possible through a wonderful public-private partnership: \$10 million from the State of Washington, \$20 million from the University of Washington, and \$42 million from more than 250 friends and alumni.

Our gratitude to these supporters is enormous: they have created a state-of-the-art facility in which the people of UW CSE can achieve their full potential. In the words of Paul Allen, "I'm proud to have supported this beautiful and unique facility. But what really sets UW's computer science program apart are the people — the faculty and the students. The Allen Center is a wonderful home for the program, but at the end of the day it's the excitement, intelligence, and innovation of the men and women in this organization that make it what it is." Today, in this context, we give our thanks to Ben Slivka and Lisa Wissner-Slivka for establishing the Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair in Computer Science & Engineering.



DAVID NOTKIN  
BRADLEY PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

# Message from the Dean

## UW College of Engineering

Benjamin W. Slivka and Lisa Wissner-Slivka are supporting excellence in research and teaching by establishing the Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair in Computer Science & Engineering. Our College community deeply appreciates their generosity and commitment to CSE and to the future of this exceptional program.

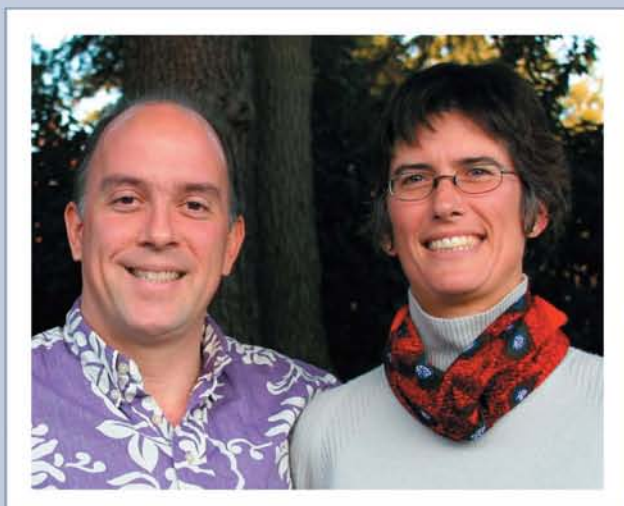
We congratulate Professor Henry M. Levy, the first holder of the Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair. This high honor recognizes Professor Levy's outstanding contributions to computer architecture and computer systems design, and his role as an educator and mentor for future leaders.

UW Computer Science & Engineering is one of the top programs in the nation and an enormous asset to the College of Engineering, the University of Washington, and the region. Faculty are the most important element in providing a first-rate learning experience for students and an environment that fosters innovation. That is why endowed chairs and endowed professorships are so critical to the College of Engineering's mission and to sustained excellence for programs such as Computer Science & Engineering. They enable us to recruit, retain, and recognize exemplary faculty such as Professor Levy. Through endowed positions we can reward our best faculty with discretionary "venture funding" that supports entrepreneurial ideas and encourages faculty to do even greater work. Students in turn benefit from even greater opportunities.

UW's College of Engineering is a community of innovators. This community extends well beyond the halls of academia to a broad circle of friends such as Ben and Lisa. The Wissner-Slivka Endowed Chair in Computer Science & Engineering exemplifies the strength of our community and the promise inherent in working together to create the future.



DENICE D. DENTON, DEAN



BENJAMIN W. SLIVKA AND LISA WISSNER-SLIVKA



# The Wissner-Slivka Foundation

The Wissner-Slivka Foundation ([www.slivka.org](http://www.slivka.org)) was established by Lisa Wissner-Slivka and Benjamin W. Slivka in 1997 as a 501(c)(3) private foundation. The bulk of its grants have supported education.

Lisa Wissner-Slivka earned a B.A. in computer studies from Northwestern University in 1985 and an M.B.A. from the University of Washington in 1988. She worked at Microsoft as a program manager and product manager on programming language tools and electronic mail applications for six years. She serves on the boards of the Seattle Children's Theater and the Bellevue Schools Foundation, and is chair of the Policy and Advocacy Committee for Social Venture Partners and the SVP Lead Partner for the Kindering Center. Her past board service includes Bush School and the Overlake Hospital Foundation, and she was co-chair of the Kindering Center capital campaign, successfully completed in 2001. She recently ran in the 2004 New York City Marathon, her fourth marathon.

Benjamin W. Slivka grew up in the Mount Baker neighborhood of Seattle and graduated from Garfield High School. He met Lisa at Northwestern University, where he earned B.S. degrees in computer science and applied mathematics in 1982 and an M.S. degree in computer science in 1985. He spent fourteen years at Microsoft working on OS/2, MS-DOS, Windows, Java, and MSN. Perhaps his most visible project at Microsoft was starting the Internet Explorer team and leading it through the release of IE 3.0. After a brief stint at Amazon.com, he retired in 2000 to focus on his family and philanthropy. He is a trustee of Northwestern University, a director of TeachFirst.com and the Garfield High School Foundation, and the SVP Lead Partner for Seattle MESA. He dabbles in digital photography and maintains a handful of web sites.



PROFESSOR HENRY M. LEVY  
WISSNER-SLIVKA CHAIR IN  
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

# Professor Henry M. Levy

Hank Levy is professor and associate chair of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington. His work has spanned the entire spectrum of computer systems design, including operating systems, distributed and parallel systems, networks, processor and I/O architecture, object-oriented languages, performance evaluation, and the World-Wide Web.

Hank began his career at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in 1974. He was a member of DEC's original design and implementation team for the VMS operating system, and served as a systems architect for early clustered computer and workstation products. He joined the University of Washington in 1983 and led several pioneering efforts that helped lay the groundwork for modern object-oriented distributed systems and languages. These include Emerald, the first system with network-mobile objects, Amber, an early prototype of modern network-based multiprocessors, and Opal, which defined a new operating system structure for 64-bit CPUs.

In the early 1990s, he and his colleagues developed novel techniques for high-performance thread support, synchronization, and communication that influenced a number of commercial operating systems. In the mid-1990s, along with Susan Eggers and their students, he invented simultaneous multithreading (SMT), which makes it possible for modern processors to execute multiple instructions from multiple programs in a single cycle. SMT is considered one of the most important innovations in computer architecture in the last ten years, and has been adopted by several CPU vendors, including Intel in its Pentium-4 processors (called "Hyper-Threading") and IBM in its Power-5 CPU.

Hank is the author of two books and numerous articles on computer system design. He has received twelve conference best-paper awards, including an unprecedented six awards from the ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, the leading conference for operating systems research. He is a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the recipient of a Fulbright Research Scholar Award. Hank was closely involved in the design and construction of the Paul G. Allen Center, and is now the curator for its UW-focused art collection.





*A Community of Innovators*



Photos by Dan Lamont



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