BOSTON UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences
Computer Science Department
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AZER BESTAVROS

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October 9, 2001

Dear Alumni:

As Computer Science at Boston University starts its third decade of excellence, I am writing to share with you some of our recent successes, to give you a preview of exciting initiatives that we hope to launch soon, and more importantly to strengthen our ties with one of our most precious assets as we charge forward—our alumni body.

Over the last three years, the size of our faculty and student body has doubled, our curriculum has been revamped, new state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories have been acquired, our students are courted for employment by leading institutions and companies, the level of sponsored research has tripled, an ambitious Industrial Affiliate Program is in place, and ideas and software developed by our students and faculty formed the basis for many successful startups. These are but few examples of the many unprecedented successes that our 20-year-old department is enjoying.

I am also pleased to let you know of some forthcoming initiatives and milestones. One of these regards our plans to establish a new Internet Systems and Technologies Center, which will be dedicated to advancing an agenda of research and education in areas of networking, Web and e-commerce systems, security and applied cryptography, Internet software systems, and pervasive data management (each of which is already of a significant strength within the department). The IST center will enable collaboration on a national scale with like-centers and organizations, and will allow us to compete for major funding opportunities and for the pursuit of industrial collaborations. Another important initiative is the development of a new CO-OP program, allowing students to pursue a Masters degree in CS while working for an Industrial partner, and the LEAP program, allowing students with a non-CS undergraduate degree the opportunity to make-up missing prerequisites before embarking on our Masters curriculum.

Another planned initiative that I would like to bring to your attention is BU*CAN*—the Boston University Computing Alumni Network. Whether a recent graduate starting a career or a mid-career professional looking for change, professional connections among alumni can help. To that end, BU*CAN* will offer a variety of services to promote the professional development of our alumni through referrals, networking assistance, and an on-line resume posting service.
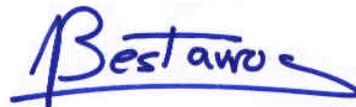
Last but not least, I am pleased to let you know that plans are well underway to relocate our department to a brand new building at the heart of the Charles River Campus, which will give us even more room to grow. Groundbreaking is scheduled for early Spring 2002, with occupancy expected by the middle of 2003.

Few years from now, with the enthusiasm and embrace of our alumni body, the continued support of the University and its commitment to our growth plans, we look forward (and are indeed positioned) to achieving our ambitious goal of placing our department among the top CS programs in the nation—just in time to celebrate twenty-five years of excellence in Computer Science at Boston University.

We are certain that alumni of our program will share our aspirations and will help us reach our goals. To that end, I invite you to fill out the enclosed card, letting us know the best way to stay in touch with you. Also, please let us know if you are interested in serving as a representative of your graduating class to help us organize and carry-on future outreach activities, especially as it relates to the BU*CAN* initiative. We would be delighted to hear from you as to specific ideas or activities that you believe could benefit our department and its student and alumni bodies.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Azer Bestavros
Associate Professor and Chair
Computer Science Department

The Boston University Department of Computer Science would like to know more about its alumni. Please help us update our records by providing the following contact information. *Thank you!*

Name: _____ Year: _____

Title: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip, Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Permanent E-Mail: _____

I am interested in assisting the Department of Computer Science in the following:

❑   I would like to become a representative of my graduating class to help organize future outreach events.

❑   I am interested in hearing from the Department and would like to be kept updated on all events and information.

Please complete and return the above to

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                        Rose Felix
   CAS/GRS Office of Development and Alumni Relations
                599 Commonwealth Avenue
                   Boston, MA 02215
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Also you may provide the above information on-line through the BUCAN Web site at

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              http://www.cs.bu.edu/CAN
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