From: "spencer roan" <spencerroan@gmail.com>
Subject: **Chuck for professor!**
Date: November 16, 2010 6:04:48 PM MST
To: <chuck.allison@uvu.edu>, "Katherine Roan" <katherineroan@gmail.com>, "Paul Mitchell" <liftedlorax@gmail.com>, "joshjones" <vazor222@gmail.com>

For those of you who don't know, chuck is applying for professor and asking for endorsements. What are yours? Here is mine:

Charles Allison is the best teacher that the computer science department has. The first bit of advice I give students entering the CS program is to take as many classes from him as you can, wait to take classes, reorganize your schedule, if Chuck teaches it take it from him. You will work harder in his class than in classes taught by other professors, but you will also learn more and have more fun doing it. Chuck is detail oriented and thorough. I have learned more in his classes than in the classes of any other professor. I learned some of the most useful practices from him as well. It seemed that in his classes we either covered more material or we covered the information more deeply. He is always making existing classes better or researching new classes to teach so that students can graduate with skills relevant in a continuously changing field. He is the reason I recommend the program to potential students. He made the difference between me getting a good education and getting an excellent education. When I was a student, he was on the standards committee for C++! C++ is arguably the most important programming language. It is a language that is foundational, other languages are often written in it and he has helped to craft it. He has written at least one standard library for C++. I would argue that he had the best understanding of programming of any of the faculty I interacted with. He taught the majority of the advanced classes the program offered when I was a student. I think he has even been teacher of the year. I also hear that he made an excellent faculty senate president. I imagine he also has some of the highest student reviews in the department. This is impressive especially since he is one of the most demanding professors in the department.

Some of the things that he taught that were either impressive or that I consider to be essential to my education:
Design patterns - The lessons I learned in this class shape my daily work. I teach these patterns to my workmates. They often come to me when the have design questions and that is because I took this class. My boss has said that I have the strongest design sense on the team, I attribute it to this class.
Computational Theory - This is a foundational class. My understanding of Computer Science blossomed in this class.
Analysis of Programming Languages - This is the class where recursion sank in for me. It was also excellent to see so many paradigms of programming. This class exposed me to many new ways of looking at problems.
Numerical Analysis - The only class I know where I did Calculus in CS. We also did some pretty low-level bit twiddling.
Advanced C++ - Taking this class from the man on the standards committee is daunting. We did so many crazy things in this class I can't even remember. This was my first exposure to meta-programming.

In short, I cannot recommend him enough. He has had a bigger impact on my education than any teacher I have ever had.

Spencer Roan

PS, what did Jamie King write?