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## FBA/ABF NEWS/SWEN

BY CYNTHIA KIRK

Everyone's talking about . . . the boffo success of the annual SIGCSE conference which, this year, was held February 21-25 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Franklin, Beedle & Associates had a great time there with a Las Vegas-style booth (have I got a bridge for you!); cheerleaders running around in FBA/SIGCSE logo-wear; and special guests Bill Gates, new Board Chair at FBA (yeah, that'd make Jim Leisy real happy), and Stephen King, who's just agreed to write his word-processing and Internet-sales memoirs for FBA.

Seriously, not only did FBA authors—Jerry Mead (Bucknell University) and Anil Shende (Roanoke College), *Persuasive Programming*; Rick Mercer (University of Arizona), *Computing Fundamentals with C++*; Ed C. Epp (Intel Corporation), *Prelude to Patterns in Computer Science Using Java*; and Lewis Barnett (University of Richmond) and Joe Kent (University of Richmond), *Basic Java Programming: A Laboratory Approach*—have prominent places on the conference speaking schedule, but two major aspects of the convention seem to indicate that FBA books and authors are right on the money with the shifting computer science curriculum.

To wit, interest in Java and in Java-related books—such as those by Epp and Barnett & Kent—remains high as more and more computer science departments adopt Java as the introductory programming language. When the CS department at the University of Texas, Austin—one of the three largest universities in the country—decides Java is the coming thing, I guess you could say that's a strong trend. And when the conference's keynote speaker, Allen Tucker (Bowdoin College),

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calls for more rigorous standards in the undergraduate curriculum and you've got a hot title-by Mead and Shende-that speaks to those higher standards, you might claim a clear consensus.

On the way to the convention, Jim stopped in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he and Field Editor Steve Mossberg caroused with authors Ernie Ackermann and Karen Hartman for a couple of days. One of the highlights: visiting a warehouse in the industrial part of town where Ernie's son, Oliver, a bass player, rehearses with his hot!hot!hot! band Skywave. Hey, they've even got a CD. Check it out at [www.killerrockandroll.com](http://www.killerrockandroll.com). While there, Jim presented Ernie and Karen with handsome, leather-bound copies of *Searching and Researching on the Internet and World Wide Web* in honor of FBA's 16th anniversary. This is a treat all FBA authors can look forward to this year.

Other quick items . . . Adam Webber (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) has signed on to write a book on modern programming languages for junior/senior level courses. Since the classic texts, while revered, are woefully out of date, this is good news for anyone responsible for those courses. FBA is planning for a spring 2002 publication date. Carolyn Gillay's *Windows Millennium Edition: Concepts and Examples* is hot off the press and ready for sampling. And speaking of new additions, Brett Tjaden and his wife welcomed their first child on January 29. A big, healthy boy, Jefferson Locke Tjaden. Some authors will do anything to get a deadline extended! And if you haven't checked it out yet, we give four stars to former FBAer Bill DeRouchey's wonderfully wry, slice-of-life email essays called "fluxion," [www.fluxion.com](http://www.fluxion.com). David Sedaris, watch out!

And so it goes as FBA/ABF seeks to find readers—and writers—of its books in every appropriate market, North, East, West, South/South, West, East, North.