

## **Teaching Statement**

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September, 2007

My primary focus as a teacher is in the area of applications. I like to think of the entire computer science curriculum as “problem solving with computing.” I worked for a large systems development firm, Electronic Data Systems (EDS) for over 13 years before I accepted a full time academic position. I like to apply my knowledge of the business world in the classroom, to focus the course materials on real world applications.

I have taught/am teaching a wide variety of courses, both basic and advanced. I particularly enjoy teaching the Introduction to Computer Science course at Ursinus College. I like opportunity to explore the capabilities and limitations of computational problem solving with students who are just beginning in the field, both computer science majors and non-majors. I enjoy student interaction and debate, and greatly prefer working in an environment with small class sizes, thus maximizing the personal relationship between teacher and student.

At Ursinus College I am responsible for teaching the upper level classes that are most focused on applications: Database Design, Object Oriented Analysis and Design, Parallel Algorithms and Computing, and Artificial Intelligence. In these courses, intermediate to advanced students can put their basic skills to use in the development of complex applications. Whenever practical, I encourage students to work on projects that fit their interests and which may be used outside the classroom. My CS 375 (Object Oriented Design) class in 2006 had the opportunity to develop a system for accepting and processing applications for the Ursinus Summer Fellows program. They analyzed the requirements, designed and implemented the software, and had the opportunity to see the system used by their classmates! The faculty group responsible for reviewing the Summer Fellows applications was thrilled with the application and plans to use it every year.

I also enjoy working one-on-one with students. I have been involved with faculty-student research projects since my first semester at Ursinus College and have several joint publications with students (published and in preparation). I have many additional ideas for student projects and welcome suggestions from students.

In summary, a teacher is only successful if the students are engaged in learning, and come away from the class with new knowledge, new experiences, and new approaches to solving problems. No one has ever accused me of being an easy instructor, but most students have enjoyed my courses. I feel that by challenging students to go beyond their previous limits, you earn their respect. Once you have earned their respect, you and your students can work as a team to cover the material in a fashion that is most suited to the individuals in the class.