Dr. Paul Wagner will assume the role of Chair of Computer Science starting January 2nd, 2009. Paul brings a wealth of experience to the position. In his earlier life, Paul worked as an attorney specializing in family law, but his passion for computers and for teaching drew him back to a university setting. Paul joined the faculty at UW – Stout in 1990 teaching computer science while continuing his own graduate education. In 2001, Paul obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota. While at UW – Stout, Paul earned the respect of his students and colleagues alike. He was approved for the rank of Associate Professor with tenure and served as the Program Director for their applied mathematics and computer science program. In 2002, we had the good fortune of persuading Paul to leave UW – Stout and join our department. This is a decision that Paul says he has never regretted. Since joining UW – Eau Claire, Paul has continued to excel in everything he does. Paul has worked tirelessly to build our computer security and database systems programs into first class specialties within the department. With Paul at the helm, the department will strive to maintain and improve its standing as one of the Midwest’s best computer science programs. As for me, I have accepted the position of Director of the First Year Program here at UW – Eau Claire. I will continue to teach part time in the computer science department and look forward to working under Paul’s leadership and direction.
Computer Science Alumni Continue to Shine

Brien Wankel 2005
About a month after graduation, Brien was recruited by Yahoo! and moved to Mountain View, California with his wife. He spent two years at Yahoo! working with the Paranoid team (the internal hackers/crackers that make sure all Yahoo! products are as secure as they need to be) specializing in web-application security and authentication systems. Brien has always been passionate about video games, so when the opportunity to join the game industry came up, he jumped at the chance. Brien is now the Senior Platform Engineer and Security Architect at Outspark. Brien, his wife, and their son, Bowie, are now living in San Francisco, California.

Meghan Hutchins 2002
After nearly six years of working as a web-based Java developer for the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Meghan decided to attempt a slight career change into a more ecologically friendly area. She is now pursuing a Master’s degree in Environmental Informatics along with a graduate certificate in Complex Systems at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She has found that her Java skills are a “hot commodity” in this field and will allow her to do some really interesting and unique research. Meghan is contemplating a thesis that involves developing an agent-based model to study the edge-effects on land usage in exurban neighborhoods.

Steve Wall 1997
Steve is a Sr. Software Engineer at International Decision Systems in Minneapolis. He started there over 10 years ago. For the last 5 years, he has been working on a large J2EE application. As one of the lead developers on the project, Steve works closely with the Business Analysts and Architects to ensure the business and technical requirements are met. He is also responsible for writing technical designs and coordinating off-shore development in India for the projects to which he is assigned. For the time being, Steve is trying to find ways to stay out of both the management and architecture teams as he prefers to stay hands-on in the code. But this becomes more difficult every day.