February 15, 2001

Dear Alumnus or Alumna:

It's the time of year to share news with family and friends and I am pleased to be writing to you now. When I became Dean of the Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science in July 1999, I made one of my top priorities to dramatically increase the interaction between the School and its alumni. My objective is simple: I want to make SCS the top ranked institution of its kind in order that it continue its mission of graduating the best students and doing the best research of any institution, anywhere in the world.

Here are some of the exciting things that have been happening at our School of Computer Science:

- Our research and education programs are consistently ranked among the top computer science programs in the world.
- Our undergraduate class has never been better. We accepted about 350 out of 3000 applicants. We have the highest percentage of women undergraduates (42%) among the best-ranked computer science programs.
- In addition, we had over 900 applications submitted to our doctoral programs.
- The mean starting salary for students graduating with a B.S. in May 2000 was over $62,000, and 43% of the class graduated with University honors.
- We expanded into Newell-Simon Hall, a new building for our burgeoning program. It connects to Wean Hall and is filled with labs, lecture rooms and beautiful social spaces for our student.
- We are taking the lead at Carnegie Mellon in establishing a west coast campus. We have established a major research initiative with NASA and a dozen high tech companies. It is called the High Dependability Computing Consortium.

Here are six ways in which you can help our School, and help build our community of alumni:

1. **Attracting and retaining students and faculty**. The quality of the School is a direct function of the quality of people who are in it. We have always benefited from having great talent, but the competition for students and faculty is stronger than ever.

➢ We need your help as eyes and ears in your community to continue referring talent to campus. You can help us by holding admission events in your town, working directly with a guidance counselor at good schools in your area to keep Carnegie Mellon on their minds and by talking to colleagues about why their sons and daughters might benefit

from attending the University. Similarly, we are constantly looking for faculty members who are considered "rising stars," to keep the quality of education and research at a very high level.

2. **Placement of graduates**. Our School has two major objectives: Producing great graduates and producing great research. Our computer science graduates are greatly sought after. Over 450 companies will be on campus this year to recruit our SCS graduating class.

➢ We hope our alumni will make us aware of interesting employment opportunities on the horizon – and hire fellow SCS graduates.

3. **Alumni and Faculty Networking**. Many of our Alumni stay in touch with each other and with SCS faculty creating relationships that provide strong personal and business benefits to all of us. Nevertheless, I want to expand this networking so that Alumni become an even greater resource for each other and for the School.

➢ Make sure your alumni contact information is up-to-date so we can invite you to our events. This includes your email address. Please fill out the enclosed form or go to the following website http://www.cmu.edu/alumni/online/index.html to update your alumni information.

➢ We regret that we lose contact with graduates, which occurs sometimes by accident and sometimes on purpose. Help us to find your classmates and friends by using the Carnegie Mellon website to check your address information and locate other fellow alumni. Your password for this website is listed on the mailing label of the package this letter and brochure were enclosed. The website address is http://www.cmu.edu/alumni/online/index.html.

➢ Please attend Carnegie Mellon and SCS functions and get-togethers when possible. Over the past few years I have hosted receptions and dinners in Boston, Austin, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Silicon Valley. I plan to host more of them, and would love for you to attend. You can visit the CMU alumni events website at http://www.cmu.edu/alumni/calendar.html to see where and when the next event is in your area.

➢ Let us know about important events in your professional life! Send email to james.morris@cmu.edu

4. **Promoting SCS and Carnegie Mellon.** Though over the past several decades Carnegie Mellon has become a nationally known university, the reality is that we are not nearly as well known as some of our peers. To achieve our full potential as a School, we must improve our visibility within the business and outside world.

➢ Please include your affiliation as a graduate on your resume and in biographies that are published about you in professional publications.

Check out our website and quarterly newsletter.

➢ The primary source for information exchange is our website (www.cs.cmu.edu). I believe our site can be the ultimate destination for information on all areas of computer science.

➢ I plan on restarting a regular newsletter that will include short stories on the education and research activities taking place at SCS, as well as features on alumni. Please send us information about you and your friends.

6. **Philanthropy**. Great academic institutions require significant endowments to cover the gap between income, and the cost of operations. When compared with other schools of our caliber we are very under-endowed, by a factor to 2 to 10!

➢ Please consider making a gift to the School, even if it's small. Over the past year, thanks to some of your fellow alumni, we have raised a record $2M in student scholarships and fellowships. To achieve our ambitious plans over the next decade we need to raise more, and alumni play a very needed part of this. Giving information is available on our development web site (http://www.cs.cmu.edu/aboutscs/development/index.html).

I am proud to be the Dean of Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science and especially to be an alumnus of this great institution. I hope you share this pride, and this vision to build a greater community for our school. Please let me hear from you with comments and suggestions.

Best regards,

James H. Morris

P.S. To get email forwarding with a CMU address, update your information on-line or to find a lost friend you will need a password to access the Carnegie Mellon on-line community. We have included your password on the mailing label of this package. Visit the CMU alumni page at http://www.cmu.edu/alumni/online/index.html to use the password and sign up for your account.