In May of 2008, Ron Robison, Larry Morell, and myself, Sarah Robison, attended an IBM Summer School. This was made possible by a Professional Development Grant which I requested and was granted.

As a member of the IBM Academic Initiative Program, faculty in the Department of Computer and Information Science at Arkansas Tech University are afforded, each year, the opportunity to attend a “Summer School” developed and administered by IBM personnel at the IBM iSeries Headquarters in Rochester, Minnesota. The school is a combination of information and training which changes from year to year to meet the needs of educators. The sessions were presented by top IBM personnel and educators in the field. The school was held May 19th through May 23rd.

The Department of Computer and Information Science has recently acquired an updated IBM iSeries system. Our curriculum currently requires all Information System majors to have training in this area and recommends that all other majors take a course using this system as an elective. This integration requires training and knowledge on the part of the faculty. This school afforded faculty members relevant expert information and training by providing access to a variety of IBM professional courses taught by IBM professionals.

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