I am so excited about this semester. We have several great things planned for everyone that is affiliated with the CIS program. One of the high points for this semester is the continued development of our I-connect mentoring program. Dr. Sam Lee, who is heading up this effort, had designed and built a mentoring tool that is integrated with Facebook. In time it will be expanded to the mobile platform as well. This application is being tested this semester with the hope to roll it out next Fall.

The I-connect program teams CIS students with technology professionals as mentors. By using the application it is hoped that communication between the mentor and mentee will be easier and the ability to ask questions, get advice, and share experiences will be enhanced and lead to direct meetings and face to face interactions. In its full implementation we are hoping to expand the mentoring process not just between professionals and our CIS students but also to affiliated high schools. That way high schoolers will also have CIS student mentors to help them as they prepare for college and eventual careers in the technology field. As the program progresses I will be sure to keep you informed.

All the best and as always, if I can ever be of any assistance please ask.

David Wierschem

Orlando - get your ears on (Micky or Deadmau5?) because the TxState AITP crew of 23 is coming March 24-27, 2011 at the beautiful new Hilton Orlando hotel. 19 students and a record 4 "working" faculty members (meaning they are also helping run the conference and/or judge some contest events) are preparing and setting their sights on yet another winning national conference experience which has now become a tradition!

Teams are practicing for Office, Cobol, Database, Network Design, Systems Analysis & Design, .net, PC Troubleshooting and Java and we are hoping to do well once again against rivals such as Northwestern State University, Purdue and Brigham Young University among many others.

Additionally, our crew will be doing promotion and awareness of the 2012 AITP National Collegiate Conference which will be held in San Antonio on the Riverwalk. Staffing the Welcome to Orlando pool-side "Chill Zone" event and doing a closing awards banquet skit or stunt will be on our list of additional charges for this year’s conference.

In fact, USAA has already stepped up in preparation for the 2012 event and will be the Orlando Friday morning break sponsor to showcase USAA, San Antonio and, of course, team TxState AITP!

http://www.txstateaitp.org/
In the News

Anyone who reads the news can’t help but read about the increasing impact that technology is having on all our lives. More people file taxes on-line than through the mail, Google is hiring over 6,000 more people this year, Verizon is now selling the iPhone in addition to AT&T, and social media companies are helping to shape the world. As we look at how today’s technologies are being used it is interesting to ask how they will affect tomorrow? Already Twitter and Facebook have helped to get the word out of Iran and Tunisia. How will the iPad and tablet PCs change how we work and communicate? In the year 2000 there was no smart phone or iPad. Desktops were the norm and texting was possible. Movies came on DVD’s and TV was watched using Tivo. Today, just a short 11 years later it’s a whole new world. Netflix and Hulu let you watch movies and tv anywhere, anytime, on any device. They are looking as passing ordinances prohibiting walking or driving while texting. Desktops are a thing of the past and laptops are being replaced by tablets. Devices are smaller and do more with less as long as we are connected. Tomorrow is going to be so awesome!

Alumni Focus

David Olson has 25 years of experience in Professional Services Management Consulting in the Chemicals & Petroleum industries and currently leads IBM’s Chemicals & Petroleum Global Center of Competence, a shared pool of senior consultants for developing advanced business solutions for IBM clients. Previously David was a VP of Global Business Solutions for FuelQuest, held director positions at Deloitte & Touche and KPMG, and managed Oracle’s Global Energy Practice. David started his professional career at NASA after being hired by Computer Sciences Corporation while attending Texas State University where he was part of the Computer Information Systems & Quantitative Methods program. David is IBM’s Partner Executive to Texas State University and chairs their advisory board at the McCoy School of Business, and is an Advisory Board Member to The Wittliff Collections housed at the University.

David said, “The CIS/QM program at Texas State did an excellent job of preparing me to thrive in the ever challenging field of business technology. I was very fortunate to be a part of this award winning program back when I really had very little knowledge of what I would end up doing professionally.”

What’s Hot! - Financial Aid

A scholarship is an award of financial aid for a student to further education. There are literally billions of dollars worth of scholarships available for students to go to college. Texas State offers three categories of academic scholarships for incoming freshmen. National Scholarships and Assured Scholarships are automatically awarded to you upon admission, provided you meet certain minimum academic requirements. We also offer a number of Competitive Scholarships, which are awarded on the basis of the overall strength of your scholarship application. In addition there are a host of other scholarships available for those willing to take some time and effort. A key word search of Google using ‘technology scholarships’ returned over 19 million hits! Besides scholarships there are grants and student loans that can help a student get the education they want.

Each year, Texas State helps over 17,000 Bobcats finance their education. We offer a variety of assistance options including grants, work-study, student and parent loans, scholarships and nonresident tuition and fee waivers. Regardless of your financial resources, attending Texas State is possible. http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/