This is a busy month for the CIS Department at Texas State. The student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals will be traveling to Houston to participate in the Region 3 Student conference. (By the way, did you know that they were voted the best chapter in the Nation?) They will be competing in database, programming, MS Office, systems analysis, and other contests against their collegiate peers. We also are deep in the process of preparing for the annual High School Symposium that is scheduled for November 5th. Last year there were over 160 people from 12 different high schools participating. In addition, the faculty are teaching classes, assisting students, and working on cutting edge research. All of this comes together to keep the CIS Department at Texas State one of the leading edge programs in the state and nation. I hope you enjoy this issue and find it helpful and informative.

David

Current News

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AITP

The student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) will be traveling to Houston to participate in the Region 3 Student conference. This is an annual conference sponsored by the Region 3 professional chapter of AITP. This year we will be taking over 20 students to Houston to compete in a variety of contests. Last year, out of 198 students, Texas State CIS students won 1st and 2nd in Application Development, 1st, 3rd, and Honorable Mention in Database Design, and were a finalist in PC Troubleshooting.

In support of these competitions the CIS department offers a special, by invitation only, topics class. This class is specifically designed to help prepare students to compete at both the regional and national competitions. Students invited to participate in this class have shown exemplary academic skills and have participated in associated activities. Students are selected by the CIS faculty who evaluate them on personal integrity, dedication, and commitment.

Are you a member of AITP? Why not? Come be a part of the best thing you can do for your future! Go to: http://www.txstateaitp.org/
Memorable Quotable
“The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It lets people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn’t think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential.”

Steve Ballmer

In the News

It's not hard to see that the role of computing technology has grown to encompass almost every part of our lives. However, we only seem to appreciate the importance it has when something goes wrong.

The headlines have been full of these reminders recently. There is the Stuxnet virus that targeted Iran and its nuclear power plant. Is this the future of war? Who will be its soldiers? What about the IT failure that disrupted flights for 50,000 Virgin Blue airline travelers in Australia? Will offering in-air wireless services create more potential problems?

What does this all mean for the IT workplace? Well for one thing it means there are growing job prospects. With each new threat or development there is a new need for people who understand technology and how to use it. Whether it's in a manufacturing plant similar to Iran's Bushehr plant, an airline, a retail store, or a communications company, the need to employ people who understand both business and technology is growing. The opportunities for CIS graduates is limited only by one's desire to be prepared to take advantage of it.

One more thing—did you know that the richest American is an IT geek? (Bill Gates) And according to Fortune magazine, 8 of the top 20 richest Americans all made their fortunes from IT?

Student Focus

Erin Armstrong is a senior at Texas State University, majoring in Computer Information Systems. Erin is actively involved in the Association of Information Technology Professionals. She is currently the chapter's Executive Vice President.

As a member of the 2010 AITP National Collegiate Conference Team, Erin traveled to St. Louis, MO. She, along with her team, received an Honorable Mention in both Application Development and Systems Analysis and Design.

Erin secured an internship with the #1 company on the Top 100 Best Places to Work in IT list -- USAA. While interning at USAA, her key roles included test planning, test case development, test execution, defect tracking and status reporting. Her internship eventually led to a job offer with USAA, where she will begin her career as a Software Developer and Integrator. When asked what she liked best about Texas State and the CIS program, Erin said, “What I like most about Texas State and the CIS program is the fact that it is a large campus, with a small campus feel. The CIS program is like a small community within Texas State and it really makes it easy to form connections with your professors and other students. Also, the classes are interesting and taught by great faculty who will go out of their way to help you succeed.”

What’s Hot! - CIS Courses

Did you know that with a CIS degree you can take courses that prepare you to be a systems developer? A database administrator? Or even network administrator?

The CIS program provides students with a high degree of flexibility to target their course of study to help them achieve their career choice. For example, elective courses include: Business Application Development, Advanced Database Management Systems, Information Systems Security, Enterprise Resource Planning Systems, Network Administration and Project Management.

These courses coupled with the core courses in Computer Database Systems, Visual Programming, and Systems Analysis and Design provide a technical foundation that prepares students for the increasingly technical demands of the business world.

Additionally, the business courses required, when combined with the technical foundation, create the perfect match to meet the high-tech, high-skill, high-demand jobs of the future. All you have to do is look around and it's easy to see the impact that technology has had on business and will continue to have. The CIS degree is perfect for those students interested in being a part of shaping the future, not being shaped by it.

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