## From the Chair

October was one busy month and this newsletter is full of activities that you will want to read about. We had the First Annual Alumni Celebration and it was a wonderful success. It’s hard to believe we have had over 2600 graduates since the program’s start in 1974. We also had a record number of students participate in the AITP Region 3 Student Conference at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. 33 students and 3 faculty attended and helped set the standard for success. Next up is the 5th Annual High School IT Symposium. We are working hard to grow this event into one of the premier high school technology events in Texas. And this is just the beginning. We are working hard to continue the success of the CIS program at Texas State University and create even more opportunities for our students and graduates to set themselves apart.

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In the News

October brought with it the unfortunate and untimely death of Steve Jobs. Mr. Jobs was a visionary and master marketer. He brought the world point and click, the iPod, iTunes, the iPhone, and the iPad. We will miss him. Meanwhile Google is looking at helping someone buy Yahoo. Or AOL and Yahoo may join forces. Or perhaps Microsoft will buy it. In today’s world anything is possible. The latest smartphones now support real time video and the next version may support interactive gaming. For students, that means non-stop entertainment; for teachers, that means non-stop distractions. ☺ Already people are worried about the future of Apple’s iPad with the introduction of the Kindle Fire. The cloud is trying to cover everyone and everyone is trying to move under the cloud. According to Iceland’s president, “Facebook updates and YouTube videos are becoming more important to global affairs than governments.” Carnegie Mellon computer scientists put video gamers to work solving epic scientific puzzles. The results have been staggering, there are about 430,000 players and they are making discoveries that have eluded scientists and their supercomputers for years. And finally, analysts are projecting a launch of an Apple iTV in the second half of 2012 based on Steve Jobs’ comments in his biography. This means that his vision and success will live on for quite some time.

Memorable Quotable

"Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. “
Steve Jobs

1st Annual Alumni Celebration

Wow what a time we had. The First Annual alumni celebration was a tremendous success. We had almost 30 alumni attend. They ranged from the class of 1977 to 2010. For most of the attendees, their memories were back in Derrick Hall and so a tour of the McCoy College of Business Administration building and the dedicated CIS labs was a pleasant surprise. There was plenty of food and drinks and the maps displaying the business cards of alumni identified where our graduates were scattered across Texas and the US.

Dr. Wierschem, the Department Chair, discussed where the department came from, what it had achieved, and where it was going. Everyone laughed when he discussed some of the classes the class of 1977 took: intermediate typing, Fortran, and Introduction to Mini Computers to name but a few.

The main event was the recognition of Dr James (Randy) Cook who is retiring after 38 years. Most of the alumni had fond memories of Dr. Cook and spent time remembering back to the days in class. One alum even brought the envelope Dr. Cook returned with his course grade. “It was the hardest A I ever worked for.” He told me he has it displayed proudly under his diploma.

Next year’s celebration will be even bigger and better.
Career of the Month: Security-savvy Software Developer

Kool, because this is VERY rare.

Job Description
The security-savvy software developer leads all developers in the creation of secure software, implementing secure programming techniques that are free from logical design and technical implementation flaws. This expert is ultimately responsible for ensuring customer software is free from vulnerabilities that can be exploited by an attacker.

Why It's Cool
- "You get to make something that actually runs and does something (and won't break under pressure)."
- "These guys are the senior developers by virtue of their programming prowess."

How It Makes a Difference
- "No security architecture or policy can compensate for poorly written, buggy, insecure software. If one pays the necessary attention to security when a product is initially developed, one doesn't need to go back and add security later on."
- "This is where the rubber meets the road. These are the people making a difference where it really matters...in the software that runs the world."

How to Be Successful
The role of security-savvy software developer is challenging and rewarding from multiple perspectives. To be successful, you must understand a multitude of attack vectors used to exploit software to avoid the introduction of flaws. This experience is also needed to leverage the same attack tools and techniques an adversary might use to exploit your software, identifying flaws to be addressed before product shipment.

In a development role, your position will be vital to the company's success, including your ability to communicate the techniques used for secure software development to your peers. This can be challenging, since few enjoy having their work criticized and flaws identified, but is a necessary component of an overall secure software strategy. This role is critical to not only the success of the company, but also to all the customers who implement your software. Secure software development has a direct and undeniable impact on the ability of an organization to protect their systems and information assets, and you play a key role in that success.

-Joshua Wright, Senior Security Analyst, InGuardians, Inc.

Salaries for this area start at $60,000.
Alumni Spotlight

Greg Schwartz earned a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems (prior to its becoming computer information systems) from Texas State University in 1982. He earned a master's degree in Finance from St. Mary's University, where he graduated with honors in 1989.

Greg is Chief Information Officer for USAA and Senior Vice President of IT. He is responsible for ensuring that information technology solutions are economically viable, efficient and meet USAA's business requirements. As CIO, he oversees the IT systems behind the multiple channels used to serve USAA's more than 7.4 million members.

Greg was named to his current position in 2004, and has been with USAA since 1983. During his more than 25 years at USAA, Greg has held many diverse leadership positions where he gained experience in all aspects of information technology support.

As an application systems executive, he led the Information Technology organization that supported some of the company's most strategic enterprise programs, including USAA’s e-commerce program and the customer relationship management program. These systems now provide product-line integration and the application infrastructure that integrate the company's diversified businesses.

Under Greg’s IT leadership, USAA has introduced technology that is changing the way consumers conduct business with financial institutions across the globe. USAA’s invention of the Deposit@Mobile Application is viewed by the industry as one of the biggest technology innovations in online banking.
November 2011

Association of Information Technology Professionals

The Texas State Student Chapter of the Association of Information Technology (AITP) just got back from competing at the AITP Region 3 Student Conference. This year it was hosted by Sam Houston State University and was attended by 24 universities. This year we had one of the largest teams in our history. Also, of special note was the fact that of the 33 students that competed, 5 were freshmen and one was a sophomore.

We were very successful winning 5 first place awards, 1 second place, and 2 third place. We had two out of six finalists in the Microsoft Office competition and 4 out 10 finalists in the PC Trouble shooting contest. Even more noteworthy was the fact that of the four people on the two Microsoft Office finalists teams, three were freshmen, and the team of two freshmen came in First Place! We were also awarded the top school for the second year in a row.

In addition to the Microsoft Office competition other highlights include:
9 contest events: 50 contest teams with 84 student contests team members.

The 5th Annual High School IT Symposium — November 4th.

With sponsors such as USAA, Whole Foods, IBM, McCoys Building Supply, and others, this will be one of the best yet. We have invited over 70 schools from the I-35 corridor to attend this year’s event. The event offers high school students the opportunity to interact with IT professionals in informal meeting space, as well as to hear them talk about some of the latest things happening in technology. For example, IBM will be talking about the top 10 Technologies, Accenture will talk about Game Development, and Exxon/Mobil will talk about Career Skills for Success. In addition to exhibitors, sponsors, professional presentations, there will competitions for students to test themselves against their peers and to help prepare for UIL competitions.

This year we were especially lucky to have some special door prizes including a Verizon Apple iPhone4 16GB Smartphone, a Verizon Motorola Droid 3 Smartphone, a $100 Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant Gift Certificate and others. In recognition of their time and efforts we will be having two drawings just for teachers.
AITP Regional Conference Winners

Our success at the Regional conference is a testament to quality of our program, the faculty that prepare the students, and the students who participate. Please take a moment to congratulate all those students who participated and represented Texas State so well.

TxState CONTEST WINNERS

Systems Analysis & Design:
1st place
Michael Roberts and Jonathan Sallier
3rd place
Ben McClelleand and Andrew Taylor

Microsoft Office:
1st place
Michael Sprague and Nathan Ferguson
Finalist
Mark Nanez and Jarred Martinez

Application Development:
1st place
Dan Barta and Spencer Miller
2nd place
Sean Hargrove and Mike Estrada

Database:
1st place
Daniel McNiel
3rd place
Spencer Miller and David Roberts

PC Troubleshooting:
1st place
Andrew Taylor and Ben McClelleand

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