What an amazing experience. I travelled with the Texas State students to the AITP National collegiate Conference and got to see what an impact this CIS program has. While most people focus on the academic grades that a student gets in school, I have often found that grades don’t necessarily reflect what a student really knows. The students that travelled to Orlando put their knowledge and skills to the test. Not against a test but against their peers. Head-to-head competition, winner takes all, to the death. … well maybe not to the death but it was intense. Rooms full of students feverishly working: designing databases, writing code, fixing computers. When it was all said and done, on Saturday night, the winners were announced. It was an amazing feeling to see our students names called again and again to come up to the stage to be recognized for their success. You can read who won what below.

The success this group of students achieved is a positive testament to the quality of the CIS program at Texas State and to the faculty that work so hard to help prepare them for the working world. These students know that they are among the best because they have proven it by competing against the best and winning. Congratulations to all of you!

David Wierschem

Note from the Chair

What a conference! The Student Chapter of AITP at Texas State just got back from the AITP National Collegiate Conference in Orlando, FL. There were over 650 attendees at the conference.

It was fun in the sun and water at the hotel pool as they celebrated an amazing string of awards.

- **Doug Fogle** and **Kelly Forciea** got 2nd Place in Visual Studio and an Honorable Mention in COBOL.
- **Jack Chen** got 3rd Place in PC Troubleshooting.
- **Chase Borden**, **Shannon Flynn**, **Claire Taylor** and **Sarah Terrall** got Honorable Mention in Systems Analysis.
- **Tony Bardales** and **Steve Martinez** got Honorable Mention in MS Office Solutions.
- **James Thorne** and **Michael Gairo** got Honorable Mention in Networking.
- **Travis Houston** and **Tan Truong** got Honorable Mention in Database Design.

Of the 19 students that represented Texas State 13 came home with an award. If you get a chance be sure to congratulate them on their success.

Even those who didn’t win an award came away a winner. They networked with students from across the country and with prospective employers. They got to listen to some excellent speakers on issues that helped prepare them for their future. And of course they got to enjoy wonderful weather, and some even got to meet Mickey.
Memorable Quotable

“Teachers open the doors, but you must enter by yourself.”
Chinese Proverb

In the News

This March the world was one for major news. Revolutions in the Middle East, Libya, and Japan all reminded us how unpredictable this world is. If we step back a bit though, we can see that in each of these situations, the role of technology was on many people’s minds. For example:
- The Middle East revolutions were planned and coordinated through the use of social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. The leaders shut down the internet in an attempt to minimize their impact; often to little effect. However, other technologies, including the mobile wireless networks were then used to continue the communications.
- Japan is taking advantage of technology in another way. Facing the worst crisis since WWII Japan is using technology to keep the world updated on their efforts and to determine the direction of any hazardous emissions.
- Other less dramatic news also includes the partnership between Nokia and Microsoft. It is now projected that Windows Phone 7 will surge to No. 2 behind Android by 2015. Also, the Motorola XOOM tablet looks like it will give the iPad some real competition.

This is all great news, as competition means lower prices and better options.

Student Focus

When I was graduating high school, I got accepted into two schools: University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University. After touring both schools I knew Texas State was right for me because it offered a wider variety of classes and, since I was going to be paying for school, it was a little lighter on my wallet. After being a Computer Science major for my first three years, I felt that something was missing. I understood the material, but I was not getting the people interaction and business experience I felt I needed to get a job after graduation. I decided to switch to CIS and think it was the best choice I made while in college because I got my dream job at ExxonMobil following my graduation in May.

The whole reason all of us go to college is to get a better job after we graduate and I feel that the three things that helped me succeed have been a high GPA, experience and participation, and soft skills. A lot of companies require a good GPA just to get an interview and I feel that that helped me get my foot in the door at most places I interviewed with. While in school, I also looked for every opportunity to get involved and became an officer and active member of multiple organizations. I also took advantage of my summers off to find internships and build my experience. Companies always liked that I was able to juggle doing multiple things and already had some experience in the IT industry from my internships. Lastly, and what I think is the most important, is soft skills. IT majors get a bad reputation for not being able to communicate well and work in groups. I feel that my ability to communicate and my honesty spoke volumes when interviewing with companies and how I would fit into their culture. I hope my experience here at Texas State helps motivate others to take advantage of all the opportunities that are around them and get the job they want after graduation!

Sarah Terrall
Association of IT Professionals Competi- tion Team
Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society
Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society

Alumni Opportunities

Did you know that the CIS program at Texas State has over 2600 alumni since 1972. The Class of 1985 was the largest class with 140 graduates. We have graduates in 44 states and the District of Columbia. While the vast majority of our graduates live in Texas, California comes in at number 2.

We are currently building a map using business cards from our alumni. Once completed it will graphically show where our alumni are located and what kind of positions they hold. It will be displayed in the CIS Department office and brought to recruiting and other CIS events.

We are currently working to reacquaint ourselves with our alumni. The reason for this is that:
- Our alumni are some of the best resources for communicating with current and prospective students.
- Who better to talk about our program than those that have been through it.
- Who also is better to talk about what the department can do to better prepare students for the work place than those that are in it.

The benefits are tremendous. Our alumni are speakers in classes and at student organizations, they support our efforts with student participation in AITP and attending regional and national competitions, and they provide opportunities for scholarships.

We thank all of you that have reached out to help those that are following in your footsteps.