Preparing students today to take advantage of technology and analytics tomorrow!

From The Chair

The start of a new academic year is upon us. It is a time of excitement and opportunity. I have completed my first year as Department Chair and I want to thank everyone for making it a tremendous success. Even with all the accomplishments we achieved this year we will achieve even more. One thing we have done is updated and expanded the newsletter Bits & Bytes. I hope you like its new look. This year we have added a section that highlights a specific technology related job each month. We will discuss what they do, how much they earn and the opportunities associated with it. If you have a specific job you would like to see discussed please send me an e-mail. As always I welcome your comments and feedback. If I can ever be of any assistance please let me know.

Meet the CIS Advisor: Bethany Mellum

Bethany can answer all your questions about the CIS program. From what course do I need to take first to how do I apply for graduation, Bethany has all the answers.
In the News

This was an interesting summer in the field of technology. Some of the things we learned were that Facebook can turn kids into narcissists and lead to health complications; Apple is competing with Exxon to be the most valuable publicly traded company in the world; a 10 year old girl successfully hacked a mobile video game; and according to one study, cloud computing is being employed at 1/3 of small and medium businesses. Google+ is now up and running to give Facebook some competition and Google’s Android operating system has surpassed Apple’s. These and other news worthy stories show how pervasive technology has become in our everyday lives and how much of an impact it can have. It’s impact is changing entire industries. According to CNN, the Tribune Co., one of the largest U.S. news enterprises, is working on a touchscreen tablet that it plans to offer free to newspaper subscribers. Rather than getting their newspapers delivered on the front porch, they will be delivered to the touchscreen reading device. Will textbooks be next?

As we look toward job opportunities it is interesting to note that the overall unemployment rate is over 9 percent, but in the tech industry, it’s only 3.3 percent. According to Alice Hill of Dice.com a technology recruiting firm, “the top areas for tech jobs are in mobile, .Net, JAVA, DBA’s, and virtualization.” Yet while demand for technology skills increases, the number of tech degrees being awarded is still dropping. This means there will be tremendous opportunities for those who choose to venture into the field of technology.

Finally, Facebook did a study on student’s use of social networking. They found out that in general, bad students chat, while good student RSVP. Which are you?

Memorable Quotable

“The most overlooked advantage of owning a computer is that if they foul up there’s no law against whacking them around a bit.”

Eric Porterfield

Somewhere, something went terribly wrong
Career of the Month: Computer Systems Analyst

As a computer systems analyst it's your job to create computer systems that give companies the tools to run their businesses. Your goal is to match the right technology to your users' needs, while ensuring that it's financially feasible and provides return on investment for your client. You'll determine what hardware and software is necessary and do plenty of problem solving to ensure that the system works, and that the computer programmers get the right instructions and specifications to follow. As technology evolves, it will also be your job to help the company incorporate new tools into its system. The CIS degree is specifically tailored to prepare graduates to meet the diverse skills needed to succeed. These include backgrounds in both business and technology.

Pay is good for an occupation that, by and large, requires only a bachelor's degree for entry. The low end of pay for computer systems analysts is about $47,000, and median annual earnings were about $77,000 in 2009. The highest-paid 10 percent earn upwards of $119,000.

Employment of computer systems analysts is expected to grow by 20 percent from 2008 to 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for these workers will increase as organizations continue to adopt and integrate increasingly sophisticated technologies and as the need for information security grows. Due to the high level of expertise that is required, as well as the frequent need to be near the job site, systems analysts are less likely to be off shored than other IT occupations.

This job is about more than sitting behind a desk all day, says David P. Bieg, chief operating officer for IIBA. "A good business analyst is someone who is actually out talking to stakeholders a lot," Bieg says. "One of their primary job roles is to interpret what the requirements are and then convey those requirements in terms that are meaningful to relevant IT positions like designers, developers, and architects."

We’ve come a long way!!

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Student Spotlight

Serena is a Junior in the Computer Information Systems program at Texas State University. She is a member of the student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals and is employed by the university as a technical Assistant for the Student Learning Assistance Center where she is part of the technical team responsible for updating their website and computers, testing and improving existing software applications, and providing general technical support.

Why did I choose Texas State?
I initially looked into Texas State because it was close enough to my parents (30 minutes away) that if I wanted a home cooked meal, I could go home for the evening and make it back for classes in the morning, but also just far enough that I still felt like I had my own space. I also had two cousins who were already students here and they loved it in San Marcos so I knew I had to give it a chance. I looked up the dates for Bobcat days and made plans with my parents to come up and explore the campus. I fell in love with the beautiful, hilly campus just like everyone else does. During the tour, somehow my parents and I got separated from the rest of the group, but I believe everything happens for a reason because we ended up in McCoy Hall. From there, we ended up sitting in on a presentation about the business school. That is about the time I knew for sure that I not only belonged at Texas State, but also in the McCoy College of Business Administration.

Why did I choose Computer Information Systems?
When filling out my application for Texas State, I also applied for McCoy. As I applied, I realized I had to choose a major right then and as a hopeful incoming freshman, I felt lucky to even know I wanted to do something in the business field. After talking with my dad, who is retired Air Force and worked his 22 years in the communications field, I decided to follow in his footsteps and chose the CIS route. Communication and the technology we use to communicate is everything. Without it, business processes would fall apart and eventually businesses would be dramatically downsized or possibly even become nonexistent. I want to be a crucial part of a business and not only keep it functioning properly but also improve it with the ever changing and evolving technology. I am the type of person who cannot do the same thing or same job repeatedly, and studying and eventually working in the technology field provides me with the challenge to keep up with the constant updates and changes.
Association of Information Technology Professionals

The student chapter of AITP has been around since 1978 when it was first started as the student chapter of the Data Processing Management Association. It has grown and evolved as technology has. Today’s organizations provide a variety of opportunities for students to get involved and set themselves apart in preparation for their future career.

The student chapter held its first meeting on Friday August 30th. It was attended by over 70 students. Dr. Wierschem the CIS&QMST Department Chair was the keynote speaker and he talked about the opportunities for employment in the IT field and how students can get involved in positive ways to help set themselves apart.

This year the student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) has a full calendar of events. These include:

- **October 20th – 22nd** the Region 3 Student conference at Sam Houston State University
- **November 4th the 5th** Annual High School Symposium
- **March 29th – April 1st** the National Collegiate conference in San Antonio, TX hosted by Texas State University and St. Mary’s University

If you want to be a part of, support, or get more information on any of these events please contact one of the student chapter advisors: Mr. Kevin Jetton at kj02@txstate.edu, Dr. Randy Cook at jc09@txstate.edu, or Dr. Sam Lee at sl20@txstate.edu.

*For back copies of Bits & Bytes, or for white papers on What is CIS? What are the different types of technology degrees? Why get involved with Extracurricular Activities? Visit the CID & QMST website at http://www.cis.txstate.edu/. You can find them under the Newsletters and Resources tabs.*