Note from the Chair

The end of the year is fast approaching. Turkey has been eaten and the Christmas trees are all lit up. This has been a year of change and success for the department. A new chair has taken leadership and a new faculty member has been added, Dr. Larry Fulton. The AITP student chapter was recognized as the national outstanding chapter for the second year in a row. Our students displayed their knowledge and skills successfully at both the regional and national competitions winning many first place awards. A monthly newsletter has been developed and well received. And our High School symposium continues to grow and expand.

Even with the success that was achieved this year I look forward to doing even more next year. New promotional initiatives are underway. A formal mentoring program is in the works as well as a more formal internship process. We are working hard to improve the quality of the educational experience offered and the opportunities for students to succeed.

Next year will be one full of excitement and opportunity for all those who want to be a part of it! I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you next year!!!

David

AITP

On November 5th the student chapter of AITP hosted its 4th annual High School Symposium at the McCoy College of Business Administration on the Texas State University campus. It was a tremendous success with over 100 students from 8 different high schools represented. Exhibitors included Volt Technical Resources, Bob Moore Consulting, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, IBM, USAA, Apple, and FIRST. The symposium sponsors included IBM, Samsung, and the Conference Sponsor was Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union.

The winners of the competitions were:

**PC Troubleshooting**
1st Place Dylan Samano (Holmes High School)
2nd Place Jacob Molina (Holmes High School)
3rd Place Ton Thong (Connally High School)

**Honorable Mention**
Victor Vasquez (Connally High School)
Jesus Aparicio (Holmes High School)

**Java**
1st Place Farah Patel (The John Cooper School)
2nd Place Xavier Thierry (The John Cooper School)
3rd Place Aamer Rakla (The John Cooper School)

**Honorable Mention**
Ron Kinard (Hutto High School)

Honorable Mention Lance Colton (Hutto High School)

Office 2007
1st Place Audrey Underwood (Needville High School)

In addition to the competitions, students listened to presentations on Internet security, artificial intelligence, robotics, I-Phone apps, and other topics from Texas State faculty and industry professionals. Students also got an opportunity to tour the Texas State data center.

Next year’s symposium should be even bigger and better! If you are interested in being a part of next year’s symposium please contact Kevin Jetton at kj02@txstate.edu.
In the News

I recently went to a meeting of IT professionals. In part of the meeting, the attendees were asked if they had any open positions. Over 120 open positions were identified! It is clear to see that there are tremendous job opportunities for those students willing to take the initiative and obtain the skills to fill those jobs.

A quick review of the IT news topics provides a glimpse into what the future job market has for prospective graduates.

Cloud computing, mobile application development, database and networking opportunities, security, social networking applications, and business analytics. There is even growing demand for legacy systems such as COBOL and the mainframe platform.

Today’s businesses are primed to take advantage of enabling and strategic strength of technology. This is resulting in new directions and opportunities for IT workers. Look at Facebook’s new messaging system or the growth of Zynga. The movement to mobile payments will have a tremendous impact on IT opportunities.

The question is not if a person can find a job in IT, it’s where? It’s all up to the individual to find what they enjoy, locate companies doing that work and obtain the tools that allow them to get that job. It’s all up to you!

 McMaster Focus

Mr. Kevin Jetton has been with the Texas State University CIS/QMST department for almost 25 years. He started out teaching the old CIS3370 MIS course then moved to handling the CIS3380 (Enterprise IT), CIS1323 (Microsoft Office) and CIS3317 (e-commerce) to hundreds of Texas State students each academic year. Kevin is professionally qualified with over 30 years of IT industry experience - 20 of which has been as an IT consultant. Most of his professional experience has been in IBM mainframe technology organizations using Cobol, JCL, Easytrieve and others which are “still alive and well” for organizations such as SSFCU, USAA, CitiCorp and others. Kevin has served AITP at the chapter, region and national association levels and even served as the 2002 National AITP Association President. Moreover, he mentors and advises the “award winning” Texas State AITP student chapter with co-faculty advisor Dr. Randy “Cobol” Cook. As a meeting & event planner, Kevin travels extensively while managing and producing the annual AITP National Collegiate Conference, the ISECON/CONISAR educator conference and other events plus still volunteers for the Boy Scouts of America as a proud Eagle Scout.

What’s Hot! – Texas State’s IT Success Course

The CIS department at Texas State offers a unique course for its CIS students. CIS 4395 Independent Study in CIS is limited to 10 students and by invitation only. The course is restricted to junior and senior CIS majors. This course is designed to provide the best and brightest CIS students with the opportunities to set themselves apart and to expand their opportunities for success. Requirements of the course include attendance at both regional and national AITP competitions and participation in at least 3 competitions at each venue. The course brings in faculty from each of the competition areas to work closely with students to assist them in their preparations for the competitions. Review of material concepts, competition strategies, and participation in professional activities are all part of the course curriculum. Students interested in being selected to be a part of this exclusive course must distinguish themselves in the areas of grades, student involvement in AITP and other student activities, work and study ethic, and personal presence. Department faculty meet once a year to present prospective students to the committee for consideration.

Memorable Quotable

“For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.”

~Alice Kahn~