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Computer Information Systems & Quantitative Methods

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

From the Chair

It seems like yesterday that we were starting the semester. Now we have just finished Spring Break and the semester is more than half over. This year has been tremendous for the CIS Department. This includes for its faculty as well. Of special note is the promotion of Dr. Mayur Mehta to the position of Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs. This is a tremendous opportunity for him and a great addition to the McCoy College administration. He will start the transition to his new job this summer and I know that he will do a great job.

Also stretching his wings is Mr. Jim Keefe. Starting this summer he will be taking on the responsibilities of the new position of PACE Faculty Liaison for the McCoy college of Business Administration half time. Jim will do a great job with this position.

I ask each of you to take a moment to congratulate each of these men on these accomplishments and wish them all the best in their endeavors. The success of these gentlemen is another example of the efforts that we promote for each faculty, staff, and student to excel and reach their potential.

Thanks for all you do,

[Signature]

Contact us: Department Chair Dr. David Wierschem
dw50@txstate.edu

News Letter Questions: Marjann Warren
mw08@txstate.edu
In the News

It’s been a relatively slow month news wise for the technology industry. However, a few items of unique interest and controversy were published:

Word on the street is that both IBM and Apple announced they were opening new data centers in Austin, Texas. This is great news for job hunters, including our students, in this area and it points out the strength of technology as a job growth area.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) called for designers of Internet browsers to stop allowing websites to collect sensitive data about users. Some people argue that tracking creates a better Internet experience, but others say it’s an invasive practice that should be curtailed.

In Vitoria da Conquista, Brazil, 20,000 grade school students have recently started wearing uniforms embedded with GPS chips similar to those used in pet trackers. The chips automatically send parents a text message as soon as their children enter the school grounds, or if their children are more than 20 minutes late.

Reacting to recent reports that some organizations are demanding that job seekers turn over their Facebook passwords, the social network on Friday criticized the practice for undermining members' privacy expectations and security. It also pointed out that such a move could expose employers who ask for passwords to dangerous liabilities and vowed to take action to protect the privacy and security of its users.

The average cell phone customer now switches carriers as soon as his or her second two-year contract is up. That startling decline in loyalty is causing wireless companies to rethink the way they do business. The average length of relationships between carriers and their under-contract customers fell to an all-time low of 48 months last year.

U.S. movie buffs will pay to watch more movies online in 2012 than they will on physical video formats like DVD. That historic first marks a tipping point for Hollywood -- and its business model. The stat comes from a report that research firm IHS iSuppli released. Online views, or paid "transactions," will hit 3.4 billion this year, compared with 2.4 billion for physical copies, according to IHS's forecast.
Career of the Month: Web Developer

A web developer is a professional who is experienced in software development and is mostly a software engineer. Web developers work for network application on HTTP and develops World Wide Web. A web developer works for web development companies, government, as a freelancer or an independent consultant. He develops web applications, facilitates manipulating data within a company, helps enhancement of new web applications, designs and hence implements database & interface and develops portals for users of the web. Web developer has the basic understanding for technical and functional design; he can assist the database design. He creates the sample designs for the customers. He has the ability to deal with the web-based problems and hence finding the solution to any deficiency.

- Web development is the act of constructing and maintaining a website and requires a web developer with either online accredited degrees or an online education that suffices for immaculate web development.
- This is often mixed with the utility of a webmaster who simply uses ready made scripts and patches a personal website. But these scripts are made by a web developer who has the right skills for web development.
- From the building of a site layout to the creation of home page programming, a web developer creates the right script as per the client’s requirements and needs. But there is more to a good website than just a client’s needs.
- Sometimes it is even more daunting to create a website layout which caters to the right kind of viewers because they are the target market who will eventually be responsible for the success of any web site.
- It is also a web developer’s job to make sure the website promotes the product or services well, and create a dynamic allure for the company.
- Interoperability of websites is very important because that ensures that every kind of end user, with any type of browser will be able to use the website for their purpose. A good web developer should check for the website script’s compatibility and functionality with all major browsers.
- It is imperative that a web developer make sure the websites navigation is easy, and it is in no way frustrating for the viewer to find specific items or information. The information should be logically placed which easy access and a visually appealing layout which retains the customers.
- Using forms and scripting languages is a must in effective web development so as to be able to complete questionnaires, surveys, contest and freebie offers for the clients. Any user will want their information to be secure as they send it to your website and any discrepancies in this criterion will eventually bring about a loss of customers.
- This will also make sure that the loading of the form or survey will not make their computers go slow and will not affect their ease of use.
- This is why it is important that if someone wants to become a web developer they should have proper online accredited degrees. For career options you can checkout web development directories like web development WV websites available online.
- The experience, education, qualification and location are the basic factors that count to the web developer salary package. In an entry level a web developer can expect to earn $35,000 - $40,000 yearly. A Junior Web Developer with 2-5 years of experience can earn $50,000 to $60,000 yearly.
Association of Information Technology Professionals

The 2012 AITP National Collegiate Conference was a tremendous success. This year it was hosted by our own Student Chapter of AITP AT Texas State University! Over 70 Colleges and Universities came to San Antonio to listen to speakers, compete against their peers, and have a good time. Both faculty and students from the CIS Department at Texas State University were busy proctoring and judging contests, introducing speakers, and making sure that things went smoothly.

The Student Chapter members hosted a welcoming event with games and prizes. They worked hard helping to set up, and tear down various events throughout the conference. Many thanks to:

Daniel Barta (Sr.)          Megan Hinojosa (Sr.)          William Prevost (Sr.)
Antonio Duran (Sr.)        Brittany Keith (Jr.)           Michael Roberts (Sr.)
Mike Estrada (Sr.)          Jared Martinez (Sr.)            Jonathan Sallier (Sr.)
Stephanie Feliciano (Sr.)   Benjamin McClelland (Sr.)       Justin Scott (Jr.)
Nathan Ferguson (So.)       William Miller (Sr.)            Michael Sprague (Jr.)
Edgar Garcia (Sr.)          Serena Moreno (Jr.)            Andrew Taylor (Sr.)
Jonathan Garcia (Sr.)       Lauren Ogle (So.)

The title sponsors, Robert Half Technology and USAA gave tremendous presentations and all the exhibitors were actively meeting with students and interviewing them for internships and full time positions.

Not only did our students work hard they were successful competitors. The list of their achievements includes:

**Mobile Application Development** –
1st Place – Edgar García, William Prevost
2nd Place – Stephanie Feliciano, Jonathan Garcia

**ICCP Certification Exam**
2nd Place - William Prevost

**Systems Analysis and Design**
Honorable Mention – Jonathan Garcia, Stephanie Feliciano

**Business Analytics** –
Honorable Mention – Jonathan Garcia, Stephanie Feliciano

**COBOL** –
Honorable Mention – Daniel Barta, Jonathan Sallier

**Graphics Communications** –
Honorable Mention – Lauren Ogle, Nathan Ferguson

**PC Trouble Shooting** –
Honorable Mention – Ben McClelland
Honorable Mention – Andrew Taylor

Of special note is Lauren Ogle and Nathan Ferguson who are both sophomores! This goes to show that you don’t have to be a Senior to be a winner!!

Congratulations to everyone! Next year we travel to St. Louis.
Awards

Beta Gamma Sigma

Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) is the preeminent honor society for business programs accredited by AACSB International. The Texas State BGS chapter was established in November 1997. Only those students who meet rigorous standards of academic achievement are inducted into the organization. To be eligible for membership, a student must rank in the upper 10 percent of his or her junior or senior class, or upper 20 percent of master’s students. Class standing is based on Texas State GPA. Additionally, prospective undergraduates must have completed at least 30 hours at Texas State, 15 hours of which must be upper-level classes in the McCoy College of Business Administration. Graduate students must have completed at least 24 hours of graduate coursework required for a business degree.

Congratulations go out to this year’s CIS students who have achieved this high honor!

Matthew D. Niemeyer
Jonathan J. Garcia
Bryan P. Tucker

Scholarships

Every year the McCoy College of Business Administration awards a variety of scholarships ranging from $250 to $2,500. This year we had a number of CIS students win.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardees</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jude Hoffpauir</td>
<td>Gary V. Woods Undergraduate Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mary Elizabeth Ulam</td>
<td>James H &amp; Helen S. Dotson Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Justin McMurray</td>
<td>Mark A. Middleton Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Chase M. Coney</td>
<td>H. C. Vivian Memorial Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Megan E. van der Walt</td>
<td>Stan and Judy Stephenson Scholarship</td>
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<td>Rachel Humphreys</td>
<td>H. C. Vivian Memorial Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>Joshua Lance Snider</td>
<td>HEB Endowed Scholarship</td>
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<td>William Spencer Miller</td>
<td>Thelma O and Chester J. Byram Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noe Magana</td>
<td>Guillermo Antonio Wolff Endowed Scholarship</td>
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Each year the College also awards an Outstanding Student for each Department. This year’s recipient for the CIS - Doug Fogle
Marvin A. Johnston Award - Ben McClelland
Alumni

There are several activities this semester that should be of interest to our alumni. First, every Spring the Student Chapter holds an end of the year banquet. The purpose of this banquet is to bring together the Austin and San Antonio professional chapters with the Texas State student chapter members and alumni and celebrate the accomplishments of the year.

This year the event is scheduled for Thursday, April 19th. It will be held at the Saltgrass Steakhouse starting at 5:30 pm. If you are interested in attending this end of the year event or just want more information, please visit the registration page at: http://www.txstateaitp.org/alumnidinner.php.

Additionally we will be holding our semester Advisory board meeting on April 27th. At the meeting we will be discussing the accomplishments of the semester, the strategic plan for the department, and discussing some opportunities for department development.

SWAT Team

Every year the CIS & QMST Department offers a special class to recognize those students that show the drive and aptitude for being the best of the best. Select students are identified and invited by the faculty to be a part of this class. The team of students is known as the Software and Technology Team, or the SWAT Team for short. The purpose of this class is to help provide targeted support for students competing at the Regional and National AITP student conferences. This year they also participated in either the Microsoft Image Cup or IBM Master the Mainframe International competitions. At the end of the semester, each of the teams from this class will present the culmination of their efforts in these competitions to advisory board members, interested alumni, and faculty.

On May 4th from 9:00 – 11:00 the teams will have their formal presentations. This will be followed by a buffet lunch allowing the advisory board members, alumni, and other invited guests to network with the students and learn more about them and their projects.

If you are interested in attending this function please contact Ms. Marjann Warren to make a reservation. She can be reached at 512-245-2291.
Dr. John Plummer

Finally, it is with sincere sadness that I inform you that Dr. John Plummer passed away on Sunday morning April 1. Dr. Plummer was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Methods beginning in 2004. Previously he had been a visiting professor from 1990-1998. Dr. Plummer received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas in Austin in Operations Research, Statistics and Information Systems. He was a process engineer for E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc., and a programmer/analyst for Agency Records Control, Inc. and the Public Utility Commission of Texas. His industry and academic backgrounds allowed him to bring a wealth of knowledge to his students.

He published in some of the top journals in his field with some of the top experts. These included Zsolt Ugray, Leon Lasdon, John Plummer, Fred Glover, James Kelly, Rafael Marti, Lynne Stokes Jonathan F. Bard, and Jean Claud Sourie.

Journal and book chapters included:
Computational Statistics and Data Analysis
INFORMS Journal on Computing
Chapter 2 of Metaheuristic Optimization Via Memory and Evolution
Chapter 2 of Multilevel Optimization: Algorithms and Applications

As a faculty member, peer, and instructor, John will be missed.
Important People

CIS Advisor: Bethany Mellum to make an appointment call 512-245-1993 or visit http://advising.mccoy.txstate.edu

CIS & QMST Administrative Assistant: Marjann Warren

Important Dates

Registration for Summer I and II
Last day to withdraw
Fall 2012 Registration

March 26—April 5
April 19
April 9—25

Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Methods
Texas State Student Chapter of AITP
AITP

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http://www.aitp.org

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.