A SEASON OF CHANGE
CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

The early years of the 21st Century have been a season of change for the Department. In the Fall of 2001 I stepped down from my seven year stint as Chair of CISE in order to pursue my research interests. My successor, Professor Sartaj Sahni, chaired the Department for 10 years until the end of June 2011 and I was called out of retirement to serve as Acting Chair starting July 1, 2011.

Since moving from UF’s Department of Mathematics to CISE in 1985, I have witnessed a steady increase in the number and quality of CISE faculty and staff. Associated with this increase has been an increase in external research funding and the Department’s reputation. But like the year’s seasons, things change. The turmoil and confusion that arose in connection with the recent budget cuts to the Florida University System made the 2011-2012 academic year the most tempestuous that I have experienced since joining UF’s faculty in 1971. The CISE Department became a focal point of several controversial proposals for cutting the budget within the College of Engineering. The proposals ranged from distributing most of CISE’s faculty to three different departments within the College of Engineering while reducing the remnants of the Department to a mostly undergraduate teaching department, to complete elimination of the Department by absorbing it into the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. These radical proposals became global news items and have greatly marred the national image of the Department. With a final disposition of an across-the-board budget cut for all departments in the College, the Department was also forced to absorb the additional loss of two faculty positions which will be transferred to other departments within the College. With this additional cut the Department is reducing the number of faculty for the first time in its history. Nevertheless, I am happy to say that we survived as an intact computer science and engineering department. This is in no small way due to the strong support from our alumni, industry partners, computer science professional organizations, friends, faculty, staff, and students. A big thank you to all!

This will be my only Chair’s Message as Acting Chair. I am stepping down from the Chair’s position effective June 30, 2012. Professor Paul Gader has graciously accepted the request to serve as interim chair starting July 1, 2012. Having known Dr. Gader for 30 years, I am happy to say that the leadership of the Department is in very capable hands. I believe that the strength of a department originates in its people. These include the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industrial partners. For me it was a pleasure getting reacquainted with all of these groups. The commitment and professionalism of our staff has been amazing. The quality of our student body is outstanding as can be ascertained from this newsletter, and the support from alumni and industrial partners has been instrumental in helping us to cope with the current budget cuts. In regard to budget cuts to computer science, politicians and administrators need to be informed that according to governmental labor statistics, in this year alone there will be more than 140,000 jobs in computer science and fewer than 60,000 college graduates prepared to fill them. Luckily, our student enrollments are increasing in both the graduate and undergraduate categories. This should lessen the anxiety of our industrial partners when considering the future pool of highly trained IT workers. I remain optimistic about CISE’s future and urge all to support Professor Gader in the difficult task of steering the Department towards a brighter tomorrow.

Regards,

Gerhard X. Ritter
Acting Chair

FACULTY NEWS


PRABHAT MISHRA / Associate Professor / Was named associate editor of the following three journals: the ACM Transactions of Design Automation of Electronic Systems, the IEEE Design & Test of Computers, and the Springer Journal of Electronic Testing. He served as guest editor of IEEE Transactions on Computers in 2011. He received a $35,000 grant from Intel for the project “Efficient Techniques for Post-Silicon Validation and Debug”.

BABA VEMURI / Professor / Was a charter member of the Neurotechnology (NOIT) study section, and a member of the External Advisory Board for the Neuroimaging Center for Harvard Medical School. He was also invited to speak at the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Grand Challenges in Biomedical Imaging in Bethesda, Maryland in March 2012. He also spoke as a distinguished lecturer in the Colloquium Series at the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Riverside later in March.
The CISE Department continues to be grateful to Tony Barr, the founder of Barr Systems, Inc., for his great support and for funding the distinguished lecture series for so many years. He certainly deserves the highest recognition for helping so much to create a rich and thought-stimulating culture at the CISE Department.

The 2011-2012 Barr Systems Distinguished Lecture Series brought three well-known scholars to the CISE department.

The first Barr speaker was Professor David Nicol, Professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering and Director of the Information Trust Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He showed a large crowd of attendees how to accelerate simulation of complex models by introspectively exploiting the uncertainties inherent in the very model being simulated.

The second speaker was Dr. Zvi Galil, the John P. Imlay Jr. Dean of the College of Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Zvi gave a talk that was both visionary and documentary suggesting radical reforms required to support and evolve Computing in the 21st Century. He documented the Georgia Tech Model and its history, broadly materialized in the creation of one of the earliest Colleges of Computing in the nation.

Finally, the third speaker was Dr. Marilyn Wolf, Professor and Rhesa “Ray” S. Farmer, Jr. Distinguished Chair in Embedded Computing Systems at Georgia Tech. Dr. Wolf presented her recent work addressing Challenges in Cyber-Physical Systems and showing the need for science syntheses, especially between computer science and control theory.

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Have you ever had a bad experience when visiting a doctor? If so, researchers in the Virtual Experiences Research Group (VERG) are working on realistic, interactive simulations with virtual humans to train health care providers. VERG researchers are developing new interfaces between humans and virtual humans to simulate and practice interpersonal skills. The group’s research focuses on three main areas that are helping health students and professionals excel in patient care: training, affect and mixed reality.

One of the main concerns in health care is that providers possess adequate interpersonal skills. This however, is a challenge for medical education, as training is many times very technical, and students don’t get the proper amount of exposure to the challenges involved in a doctor-patient interview. To address this issue, and offer students the ability to practice these interpersonal skills, VERG has been working for nine years in the development of virtual patients that can engage in meaningful and accurate simulated consultations. These virtual patients incorporate computer-generated graphics combined with language recognition and speech, and they go a long way in the training of medical hopefuls. Students can interview the virtual patients in the same way that they would in a real clinic, and are able to exercise the important skills necessary to elucidate a certain condition.

The research carried out in the group not only allows students to practice interviewing patients with different medical conditions, but it also offers experiences with virtual patients that have different personality traits. A health care provider needs to be able to deal with many types of patients. Sometimes they will be confrontational, sometimes it will be difficult to get necessary information from them; sometimes they will not even speak the same language! Recent studies carried out by VERG students are showing that these traits do not go unnoticed by medical students. In fact, students learn to adapt to the personality of the patient in order to gather the necessary information to form the diagnosis. Also, the group found that students show racial bias towards virtual patients in the same way that they show bias to real people. This is especially critical in health care, where all patients should be given consistent treatment regardless of race or gender, but many times it is not the case. Virtual patients provide a great platform for the training against such biases.

Mixed Reality is the idea of combining virtual and real environments. Virtual patients created by VERG are presented in mixed reality in a way that students not only talk to the virtual human, but can also perform examinations and have the patients follow commands such as “follow my finger.” Research in the group has found that students treat the virtual humans more realistically when they come in life-size and with human features, such as physical legs and body movements. The group has started to investigate the idea of using these mixed reality virtual humans to replace real people in team-training situations, when many times it is difficult to get all parties involved in an exercise at the same moment.

Continued on page 6
Dr. Daisy Zhe Wang joined the CISE department as an assistant professor in Fall 2011. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from the EECS Department at the University of California, Berkeley in 2011 and her Bachelor’s degree from the ECE Department at the University of Toronto in 2005. At Berkeley, she was a member of the Database Group, and a member of the AMP/RAD Lab. Her Ph.D. thesis research focused on data management systems that support scalable, declarative, online data analysis based on Probabilistic Graphical Models. She has collaborated with IBM Research at Almaden, AT&T Research, Yahoo! Research, and Intel Research on probabilistic information management. She also has industry experience at Google Inc. and IBM Toronto Lab.

Dr. Wang’s current research interest lies in large-scale data management, data mining and data analysis using technologies from Database Management Systems (DBMS’s), Statistical Machine Learning (SML), and Information Visualization. Such research in a Big Data era is called Data Science, which is a profession (Data Scientists are the highest in-demand jobs in IT industry), a research agenda (BigData NSF/NIH, Darpa, DoE 2012 calls), and a sport (numerous commercial and academic competitions including Kaggle)! The goal of Data Science research is to build systems and algorithms to extract knowledge, find patterns, generate insights and predictions from diverse data for various applications and visualize the results.

The research challenges in Data Science research include:

• Terabytes, even petabytes of data are generated each day;
• Almost every discipline are facing big data analysis problems, including medical sciences, life sciences, bioinformatics, law school, civil engineering and government;
• Data comes in different forms, such as free text, structured data, audio/video, images;
• Analysis tasks performed over the data are becoming more sophisticated;
• High performance computing platforms are advancing fast (e.g., cloud computing, multi-core machines, GPU, mobile-computing);
• Communication and feedback needs to be established between machine, algorithms and people.

Currently, Dr. Wang and her students are working on a web-scale automatic knowledge base construction system that contains three interrelated components: (1) MADden is a knowledge extraction system applying statistical text analysis (e.g., information extraction) methods over DBMS and MPP frameworks, such as Greenplum; (2) ProbKB performs probabilistic reasoning over the extracted knowledge to derive facts that do not exist in the text data; and (3) CAMeL leverages human intelligence to reduce the uncertainty resulting from both information extraction and probabilistic reasoning. By harnessing the information of all the entities and rela-
Over the past nine years, VERG has established itself as a top research facility in the Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Department at the University of Florida with several dozens of articles published at international journals and conferences. The group’s accomplishments are in large part due to very successful collaborations with medical researchers and other computer science labs.

Medical collaborators include Juan Cendan from the University of Central Florida, Scott Lind from Drexel University, Sem Lampotang and Adam Wendling from the University of Florida and Casey White from the University of Virginia. Collaborators from other computer science research labs include Kyle Johnsen from the University of Georgia and John Quarles from the University of Texas San Antonio, both of whom are VERG alumni. Funding for the group comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

The group is directed by Benjamin Lok, an associate professor at CISE. Lok is a leading researcher in the areas of Human-Computer Interaction, Virtual Reality and Virtual Humans. VERG currently has 7 Ph.D. students and 3 MS students. Recently, Regis Kopper (Ph.D. Virginia Tech '11) joined the group as a post-doctoral associate, bringing in expertise in 3D user interfaces and experimental methods.

If you want to learn more about how VERG is helping to improve doctor conversations, keep up with the research at http://www.virtualpatientsgroup.com.

Dr. Wang and her students are also collaborating with IT companies and other departments on various Data Science Research projects:

- Greenplum/EMC: Query-Driven Statistical Text Analysis in an MPP framework
- Survey Monkey: A Machine-Learning Approach to Representative Survey Generation
- College of Law: E-Discovery over Legal Documents
- College of Medicine: Text Analysis over Electronic Medical Records to Predict Post-Surgery Complications
- University of Hong Kong: Scalable Visual Data Analysis

As a final note, Dr. Wang and her students invite self-motivated and hard-working undergraduate and graduate students to exercise their analytical and system building skills and join us to work on fun Data Science research problems! Data Science rocks!
STUDENT NEWS

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

AWARDED IN THE SUMMER SEMESTER 2011


AWARDED IN THE FALL SEMESTER 2011


* Denotes College of Engineering Travel Award
On October 22, the Programming Team represented UF at the Southeast USA Programming Contest (SER 2011), a regional round of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Competition (ICPC). The ACM’s ICPC describes itself as “the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contest in the world.” It has several rounds, each feeding into the next:

- **Local Contests** – “Universities choose teams or hold local contests. Selection takes place from a field of over 300,000 students in computing disciplines worldwide.”
- **Regional Contests** – last year (2010), “24,915 contestants competed on 8,305 teams from 2,070 universities from 88 countries on six continents at over 250 sites.”
- **World Finals** - this year 105 teams were invited to compete.

This year the three top teams each solved seven of the ten problems: UF’s best team ranked third with GA Tech and UCF finishing first and second, respectively (as ties are broken by the total number of penalty points accumulated [= time to solve + 20 * number of incorrect solutions submitted]). Our other teams finished 10th, 13th, and 23rd.

An analysis of contest results since 2001 shows that UCF and GA Tech were clearly dominant at the beginning of that period. Since team coach Dave Small began taking our team to the SER, they have either outright won, or tied with the first place team in number of problems solved four out of the five years, and UF’s Programming Team is now regarded as one of the region’s heavy-weights.

When the co-founders of your Gainesville-based company are former UF professors, you know the ties to UF will run deep. That’s the case at Info Tech, Inc., a software development and consulting firm with a 35-year history in Hogtown.

Info Tech’s primary business is developing applications for infrastructure construction management that are designed for departments of transportation and government agencies. The company also runs successful Internet bidding services for all types of industries and provides IT services. There are more than 40,000 users of Info Tech-developed software worldwide. Of Info Tech’s 240 employees, about 50 are UF graduates and more than 20 are CISE graduates. Gators looking to stay in town after graduating find a challenging work environment in a relaxed corporate culture at Info Tech.

Beyond hiring graduates, Info Tech’s ties to UF are numerous. The company participates in the GatorNest experiential learning program run by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Warrington College of Business Administration, and the Integrated Product and Process Design program through the College of Engineering.

For many UF graduates, the best part of being in Gainesville is being close to the heart of the Gator Nation. On football season Fridays, there is an awful lot of orange and blue in the hallways, and opportunities abound to enjoy other UF sports, arts and culture. Gainesville’s abundant ecological gems are another laurel in this small city which is making headlines regularly for its rapidly expanding innovation areas.

“We are lucky to live and work in this great city during an exciting time of innovation and expansion,” said Dr. James T. McClave, President of Info Tech. “Info Tech is proud to be a part of Gainesville’s high-tech community.”

“I came to Info Tech intending to stay here for a year while my wife finished her Ph.D., after which I’d look for a permanent job,” said Charles Engelke, CISE alumnus and Info Tech’s Chief Technology Officer. “It’s nearly 25 years later, and I am so glad I found Info Tech and built my career here. It has been exciting, challenging and rewarding.”
CONGRATULATIONS
2011-2012 GRADUATES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

FERHAT AY/Dissertation Title: A Comparative Study on Biological Networks: Alignment and Structural Properties/Advisor: T. Kahveci

KARTHIK SUND. GURUMOORTHY/Dissertation Title: A Schrodinger wave mechanics formalism for the eikonal problem and its associated gradient density computation/Advisor: A. Banerjee


DANIEL A. NIETEN/Dissertation Title: An Unsupervised Learning Approach for Automatic Detection of Metaphors/Advisor: P. Fishwick

WEIXUN WANG/Dissertation Title: Energy-Aware Scheduling and Dynamic Reconfiguration in Real-Time Embedded Systems/Advisor: P. Mishra

WENJIE YUAN/Dissertation Title: iNav: A Spatial Model Supporting Route Planning in Indoor Space/Advisor: M. Schneider

SENIIA ESEN YUKSEL/Dissertation Title: Context-Based Classification via Data-Dependent Mixtures of Logistic and Hidden Markov Model Classifiers/Advisor: P. Gader

NIRMALYA BANDYOPADHYAY/Dissertation Title: Integrating pathways and gene expressions/Advisor: T. Kahveci

LIXIA CHEN/Dissertation Title: Statistical Approximations of Database Queries with Confidence Intervals/Advisor: A. Dobra

TING CHEN/Dissertation Title: Groupwise Analysis of Neuroimaging Data/Advisor: B. Vemuri

RYAN CLOSE/Dissertation Title: Endmember and Proportion Estimation Using Physics-Based Macroscopic and Microscopic Mixture Models/Advisor: P. Gader

MEIZHU LIU/Dissertation Title: Total Bregman Divergence, a Robust Divergence Measure, and Its Applications/Advisor: B. Vemuri

SUNGWOOK MOON/Dissertation Title: Mobile Encounters: Pattern Analysis and Profile Based Mobile Networking Test-beds/Advisor: A. Helmy

S M SHAHED NEJHUM/Dissertation Title: Online Adaptive Appearance Models for Robust Visual Tracking/Advisor: J. Ho

BRENT ROSSEN/Dissertation Title: Design and Evaluation of Human-Centered Approaches to Robust Conversational Modeling for Virtual Human Interpersonal Skills Education/Advisor: B. Lok

GANESH VISWANATHAN/Dissertation Title: Big Cube: A User-Centric Modeling Paradigm with Multidimensional Data Types and Operations for Supporting Complex Spatial Objects in Data Warehouses/Advisor: M. Schneider

YING XUAN/Dissertation Title: Discrete Optimization for Network Security and Reliability/Advisor: M. Thai

JIANMIN CHEN/Dissertation Title: Multithread Scheduling, Synchronization, and Power Analysis on General-Purpose Graphics Processing Unit/Advisor: J. Peir

GUANG CHENG/Dissertation Title: Algorithms for Tracking on the Manifold of Symmetric Positive Definite Matrices/Advisor: B. Vemuri

HUAIFENG JIN/Dissertation Title: Java Memory Model-Aware Model Checking/Advisor: B. Sanders

TAO LI/Dissertation Title: Efficient Statistical Measurement Methods in Wired and Wireless Systems/Advisor: S. Chen

TANIA MISHRA/Dissertation Title: TCAM-Based Low Power Routers and Packet Classifiers/Advisor: S. Sahni

XIAOKE QIN/Dissertation Title: System-Level Validation of Multicore Architectures/Advisor: P. Mishra

XUELIAN XIAO/Dissertation Title: Meta-Rule Enhanced Interoperation of Rules and Processes for Achieving Dynamic Inter-Organizational Collaboration/Advisor: S. Su

YOUNG YEO/Dissertation Title: Accurate Rendering of Curved Higher-Order Surfaces on the GPU/Advisor: J. Peters

MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Rex Lewis Robinson
Jared B Allen
Justin T Currey
Jeffrey T Depree
Morgan Bauer
Priyanka Patel

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Purnashree Bhattacharya
Kundan Kumar Das
Hinal Subhash Gala
Xiaooyang Gao
Gurmuk Singh Grover
Huafeng Jin
Divya Ramesh Kamath
Rahit Manokaran
Nadia Nusrat
Ankush Sharma
Karthik Mohan Subramanian
Jipeng Tan
Arun Kumar Umayi Kalyanar
Yogesh Veeraraghavan
Amit Verma
Ganesh Viswanathan
Weixun Wang
Ke Xue
Suchitra Yellapantula
Amrita Adusumilli
Akhil Agarwal
Sarthak Aggarwal
Malvika Agrawal
Nirmalya Bandyopadhyay
Sourabh Prakash Bansod
Pulskar Basappa
Nimish Batra
Pradeep Rao Boinapally
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
COMPUTER ENGINEERING
(con't)

Abhijith Chandrashekar
Jiamin Chen
Tao Chen
Zhendong Chen
Chandra Shekar Cherukuri
Dushyant S Chickabasapa
Sudip Debnath
Neelkamal Doppalapudi
Neeraj Krishnan Ganapathy
Shivankit Garg
Upalita Goswami
Nishanth Singh Gurung
Sindhu Vigasini Jambunathan
Ravindranath Jampani
Amisha Khera
Pranay Kothari
Sourabh Kulkarni
Kunal Kumar
Aswin Kuppusami
Vaiyibhav Mahani
Shaun J McDowell
Mallory A Mcmanamon
Abhijit B Mhatre
Seyyedeh Mahsa Mirzargar
Sakshi Mody
Vidyaa Muralidharan
S M Shahed Nejhum
Amirish P Paigude
Carlo Joseph Pascoe
Divya Raghaven
Sathish Ramesh Gadgil
Gopala Krishna
Dhruv Gakkhar
Rohit Rajmal Gandhi
Tianyu Gao
Anurag Aggarwal
Ashutosh Agarwal
Abhishek Agrawal
Sneha Agrawal
Sarabha Apte
James Arnold
Harpreet Kaur Arora
Subramanian Arunachalam
Snehu Mahaveer Aski
Rohit Attam
Amlanima Bandopadhyay
Kanad Basu
Harmeet S Bedi
Rahul Bellapukonda Manohar
Abhinav Bhandari
Arun Sai Bhima
Kiran Sai Bhima
Rohit S Bhoi
Sravani Boggaram
Ameya R Bondre
Sneha Borra
Nagesh Pradhan Cadabam
Joel Cardoza
Chandan Chauhan
Vasantha Kumar Chandrakumar
Harini Chandrasekharan
Nahshul Chaturvedi
Chao Cheng
Nikita Ashok Chhabria
Venu Madhav Chimatapu
Avanti S Chimote
Rajritha Chodavarapu
Sushant Choudhary
Joonhao Chuah
Hayward C Cooper
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Praveen H Dambal
Aswin Damodar
Amey V Deshpande
Rahul Dimri
Addi S Dole
Anantha S Dommeti
Ankur Dongle
Vineta Roselyn Dsouza
Siddartha Dutta
Mahsheed Z Eshraghi
Sanjeev Ramesh Gadgil
Sagar R Gaikwad
Dhiruv Gakkhar
Rohit Rajmal Gandhi
Tianyu Gao
Vineet Garg
Nishant Ramakumar Ghan
Darren Goldfarb
Drew Goldfarb
Sushma Gopalakrishnan
Sriram Govindarajan
Sajal Goyal
Nilin Gujral
Mayank Gupta
Vrishali Hajare
Yubun He
Ching-Hsiang Hsu
Nishant Jain
Avinav Jami
Arun Kumar Janjanam
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Suriuchi Ashok Kadyu
Ajit Kanchivakam Ananth
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Meher A Kasam
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Dunam Kim
Nagarjunu Koduru
Kartheek Reddy Komatireddy
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Dong Xu Lu
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Karthik Mattupalli
Mohit Gangadharmi
Marc Milks
Dwaiyan Mukhopadhyay
Suryanarayana Mulakala
Kavitha Murugavel
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Nilu Naik
Sameer Kumar Nandkeolyar
Rajarshi Nath
Veni Pandey
Goowri Panneer Selvam
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Yangbae Park
Yadunandan Parthasarathy
Mrunal Patel
Rajkumar Reddy Pellakuru
Anindita Phukan
Prashanth Prakash
Xiaoqin Qi
Hemnath Ramakumar
Anshu Ranjan
Arunava Saha
Mayank Saini
Praveen Saliitra
Shantanu Suresh Sardal
Souvik Seal
Saravanan Sivaraj
Mukul Sharma
Sonasi Sheth
Pranjal Shrivastava
Anuj Shroff
Rajeev Pratap Singh
Sushant Singh
Vivek Singh
Navya Sirigudi
Ankit Soni
Shweta Sri Vatsa
Suraj Srinivasa
Abhishek Subramanian
Manjeera Tanneeru
Rohit Temburni
Olive Teng
Kedar Thakur
Sherin Thomas
Sivanand Thummala Abbigari
Sindura Tokala
Arpit Tripathi
Karthik Venkataraman
Sabesan Venkataraman
Rohit Verma
Pei Wang
Tuo Wang
Zhe Wang
Sushant Waoon
Yuchen Xie
Jigyasu Yadav
Helia Zandi
Le Zhang
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE
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Chad D Bonivtch
Boone Calhoun
Megan M Chan
Vincent Joseph Ciaramella
Andy Cobty
Matthew R Feldman
Stephen R Grable
Travis P Green
Stuart F Hemmenway
Edward A Hennis
Steven Rolovicz Hinson
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Mark V Sullivan
Steven D Vanlandingham
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Brandon Dante Jimenez
Chris Lawrence Walker
Aric David Benkoski
Sashi Kiran Bellamkonda
Vidalan Atalay
Alexander Kushnir
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Jason M Curley
Pablo F Echeverri
Steven Edouard
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Benjamin R Karcher
Alexander J Klimas
Michael T Latta
Hoang Q Le
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Karan P Patel
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Luis Manuel
Lauren Mehl
Marcus Miguel
Jose Morales
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Justin Parker
Caitlyn Pyle
Amin Shams
Joseph Szigeti
Dario Teodori
Devlin Terwilliger
Uttam Thakore
Paul Turner
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Julian Wechsler
Kevin Woodmansee
Zachary Ziebarth

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COMPUTER ENGINEERING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
DIGITAL ARTS & SCIENCES
Zachary James Heylmun
Lloyd R Wilkerson
Corey D Wilmot
Federico Com isso
Rebecca Deyerle
Byong-Jo Kang
Christopher Mabrey
Collins Obinwa
Tara Parkins
Joshua Ritchey
Jennifer Soltz
Justin Sturm
The 10th Biannual Career Development Workshop hosted many changes this spring. On January 23rd, the CISE staff and student volunteers from ASCIE and ACM welcomed more companies than ever before to a new venue: the Grand Ballroom in the J. Wayne Reitz Union.

There were more than 60 representatives from 15 different organizations: Harris Corporation, Bloomberg, McKesson, MicroStrategy, Microsoft, The Home Depot, Raymond James, Interactive Intelligence, Innovative Scheduling, Infinite Energy, Inc, Disney, Amazon, the University of Central Florida, Ultimate Software and Totuit. The change in venue had a positive impact on both students and company representatives, enabling more companies and students to flex their networking muscles. There was a record-breaking number of more than 530 students that came to the CDW, excited and well-prepared with resumes in hand for recruiters. Several of the companies remarked not only on the quality of the students they interacted with, but of the support from the CISE student volunteers in setting up and tearing down the company’s booths.

We sat down with CISE Student, Sarvenaz Laussermair, to ask her about her experiences as the president of the student organization, the Society of Women Engineers. Check them out @ swe.eng.ufl.edu

**CISE: Describe your role in SWE.**

Sarvenaz: As President of SWE, I work with and through about 20 committee chairs and the other members of the SWE executive board in bi-weekly meetings to further the goals of SWE.

**CISE: What are some of the goals of SWE?**

Sarvenaz: The primary goal is to help women in engineering achieve and aspire. We aim to attract women to the field of engineering early in college and focus on retention through having weekly events, socials, and industry networking opportunities. We are also working on increasing the membership, and have doubled it to about 120 since I became president.

**CISE: What do you see for the future for SWE?**

Sarvenaz: I’d like to work on increasing our visibility on campus through events like ‘Mr. Engineer Pageant,’ a male pageant and networking with other student groups. I’d also like to focus more on member leadership development, and give our members more exposure to industry, as well as higher participation in national conferences.

**CISE: Do you feel supported by the CISE Department?**

Sarvenaz: YES! Very much so.

**CISE: What made you choose CISE?**

Sarvenaz: Both my parents are computer scientists. Also, I had a lot of support in my early classes through the tutoring center here in the Department.

**CISE: Tell us more about your experiences with CISE.**

Sarvenaz: They’ve definitely been positive: I’ve really bonded with the undergrad advisors, Todd and Paul. They really made me feel welcome with their Freshmen Orientation Events. I also love the CDW: that’s where I got my internship with American Express.

**CISE: What are your plans for the future?**

Sarvenaz: I am considering the 4-in-1 track, to pursue my Master’s degree at UF. I see myself going out west after graduation, maybe in the California region.
STAFF NEWS

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Dawn V. Smith, Office Manager
Joined CISE as the new Office Manager in November of last year. She processes payroll, completes visa applications and leads the office Administrative staff. Dawn comes to us from UF’s Central HR Office with over six years of human resource related experience. She enjoys spending time with her family, walking nature trails and reading.

Dawn V. Smith, Office Manager

Jennifer Jackson, Chair’s Secretary
Jennifer was promoted to be the Chair’s Secretary in November. Before being promoted, she served in CISE Student Services for almost a year. She received her BSBA in Business Management from UF in 2008, and enjoys entertaining friends, being active, cooking and reading.

Jennifer Jackson, Chair’s Secretary

Addison Laurent, UNIX Systems Administrator
Addison was awarded his Bachelor’s in Textile Chemistry/Polymer Engineering from Clemson University. After leaving Clemson behind, he attempted to start his own ISP, and accidentally fell into IT, where he remains today, wrangling UNIX daemons, grep-ping wayward files, and searching for defunct processes.

Addison Laurent, UNIX Systems Administrator

Zac Bielling, Fiscal Officer
Zac has been the Department’s Fiscal Officer since December 2011. He oversees fiscal processes and works with other CISE staff members in handling a wide variety of the Department’s day-to-day financial matters. Zac is active in his community, and enjoys Gator football and NASCAR racing.

Zac Bielling, Fiscal Officer

Kristina Sapp, Senior Secretary
Kristina joined CISE in December as a Senior Secretary. She works with Graduate Admissions, processing applications for prospective Masters and PhD students. She worked for the Office of Admissions for a year processing Freshman & Transfer applications. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends & going to the beach.

Kristina Sapp, Senior Secretary
John Bowers has been with CISE in his current position since 1992. As one of CISE’s academic advisors, John is involved in everything from recruiting graduate students for admission to degree certification. For 20 years, no CISE employee has been more in tune with our graduate students. Over 1,500 graduate students have graduated in the years that John has been guiding students through the CISE graduate program.

John has worked for the University of Florida since 1978. In all, 24 of his 29 years of service have involved working directly with students. He lives in Gainesville and is a proud UF alumnus, having received a BA in Political Science in 1990. His hobbies include gardening, cooking and reading. He enjoys good movies and good times with friends. John will retire from UF in 2013, after 30 years of service, and we appreciate his dedicated service in CISE.

Introducing: CISE Postdoctoral Researchers

Regis Kopper

Dr. Kopper is working with Dr. Benjamin Lok on an NIH-funded project to create virtual reality experiences using virtual humans to train allied health care students on how to diagnose a variety of critical, yet difficult to simulate, neurological conditions.

Jose Nieves Vazquez

Dr. Nieves Vazquez’ goal is to work with Dr. Ritter in the project “New Paradigms for Dynamic Learning in Lattice Neural Networks (LNNs)” . The idea is to establish methods and techniques for dynamic learning algorithms in LLNs. The objective is not only to establish novel learning rules, but also to prove that these methods are as good or better than the current neural network methodologies in a variety of applications. Currently, he is working with Dr. Ritter to develop an algorithm for clustering applications.

Yun Sick Sung

Dr. Yun Sick Sung is a postdoctoral fellow at the Mobile and Pervasive Computing Library at CISE. His research interests include human-robot interactions, programming by demonstration, pervasive computing and machine learning. He is currently working alongside Dr. Sumi Helal on smart house simulations in virtual spaces. He is specialized in analyzing collected data using programming by demonstration.
ALMUNI NEWS

Are you a CISE alumnus? Have you made the news lately? Awards, start-ups, significant appointments? If you would like your news to be considered for publication in the future CISE newsletters, please email it to us at newsletter@cise.ufl.edu. Be sure to provide us with your name, your most recent degree from CISE and the year in which you received it. We would like to hear from you!

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