

Spring 2015

The Infosys TIMES, Spring 2015

St. Cloud State University

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THE INFOSYS TIMES



St. Cloud State University

NSF-SFS Scholarships



Representatives from St. Cloud State University, Lake Superior College and Century College accept the Scholarship for Service Award from representatives from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. Submitted photo

In January, 2015 NSF awarded \$2.78 million to establish a new CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS) program at SCSU to prepare highly-qualified Cybersecurity professionals for the federal, state, local, and tribal government workforce. The five-year grant will provide two-year scholarships for six students annually. The scholarship will provide a stipend of \$20,000 per year for ITS students and \$ 32,000 per year for MSIA students, and cover tuition, books, health insurance and travel to the annual CyberCorps job fair and conferences. The Principal Investigator of this project is Dr. Tirthankar Ghosh. Other members of the team include Drs. Susantha Herath, Mark Schmidt, Valarie McLain (Lake Superior College) and Dave Keller (Century College).

NSF-STEM Scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded \$614,028 to St. Cloud State University to implement the S-STEM: Computing and Engineering Scholarship Program. This award will provide 45 biennial scholarships of \$12,000 for four years to students who are interested in 4+1 Information Assurance, Information Systems, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. The focus of the program is to attract non-STEM majors from different colleges, schools, and programs into computing and engineering. The program's second aim is to provide support and enhance the ability of underrepresented, academically talented and financially needy students to complete a high quality computing or engineering degree program. The long term benefit of the program is to strengthen the STEM workforce and its leadership. STEM areas are expected to continue to have strong job growth over the next ten years. Students awarded S-STEM grants can expect strong job demand and improved lifetime earnings. The Principal Investigator of this project is Dr. Susantha Herath. Other members of the team include Drs. Jayantha Herath, Md M Hossain, Robert C. Johnson, Dennis Guster, and Ben Baliga.

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**Congratulations to our
Graduating Class of spring 2015!**

IS Club



The club promotes interaction, involvement and opportunities for their members, SCSU, and the surrounding community.

They have been involved in enhancing professional development through resume' building, informative speakers, networking and other career opportunities. For this semester, the club has focused on getting members involved by hosting numerous events including a Spring Banquet held - April 11, Game Night - April 30, Riverside Park grill out - May 8th. The club is also giving students the chance to work on developing an application in an agile environment that will link the club's social media sites together.

Cyber-security efforts honored

SCSU has secured certification of National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense from the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) again. This certification recognizes that the courses offered by SCSU meet NSA and DHS standards. Valid through 2021, the certification gives the Center for Information Assurance Studies (CIAS) at SCSU a national recognition and eligibility to apply for the federal Information Assurance Scholarship Program. The award ceremony will be held by NSA and DHS in June in Las Vegas. Dr. Mark Schmidt directs CIAS at SCSU.



St. Cloud State University has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cybersecurity through academic year 2021.



BCRL targets new initiations

The Business Computer Research Lab (BCRL) is focusing on several initiatives this semester. The primary focus is to bring more organization and procedure to daily tasks and improve the current infrastructure. Nine projects have been identified. Each project is expected to provide the best resource utilization for both faculty and students pursuing business computing related research. The lab hopes to accomplish this by updating the website; implementing a problem-ticketing system; and creating a new reporting and intrusion detection system, and a new easy student account and password recovery system. Team members of BCRL are Barrett Holien, Bill Smith, Dan Finazzo, Hazem Farra, Kevin Gysberg, and Raj Pun lead by faculty Erich Rice and Dr. Dennis Guster.



Dr. Dennis Guster

IS Scholarship recipients 2015-2016

Federated Insurance IS Scholarship

- Brittany Paulson
- Malorie Ruff

IS Department Scholarship

- Brandon Burggraff

Wes Schiffler IS Scholarship

- Connor Flaschenriem

Information Assurance Scholarships

- Arbin Maharjan
- Raj Pun

Dr. Mark Schmidt



Dr. Mark Schmidt

Dr. Mark Schmidt has an MBA from SCSU and a Ph.D. in Business Information Systems from Mississippi State University. He is a Professor of Information Systems and the Founder and Director of the Center for Information Assurance Studies at SCSU. He has over 75 works published in several venues including, Communications of the ACM, Communications of the Association for Information Systems, Journal of Computer Information Systems, Journal of End User Computing, Journal of Global Information Management, Journal of Internet Commerce, Information Systems Management, Journal of Information Technology Management, Information Resources Management Journal,

Mountain Plains Journal of Business and Economics, International Journal of Information Security and Privacy and the Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law. He has served as a research mentor for over 80 students presenting their work at the Student Research Colloquium. In March 2008 and again in June 2011, he coordinated one week computer forensics training programs for law enforcement in partnership with the National Forensics Training Center at Mississippi State University. Approximately 50 law enforcement agents from 30 agencies attended. He has served as the Principal Investigator for three Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program grants administered by the National Security Agency. Recently the team of Drs. Tirthankar

Ghosh, Susantha Herath, and Mark Schmidt along with Vickie McLain (Lake Superior College), and Dave Keller (Century College) were awarded a NSF-SFS grant of \$ 2,785,558. In the last few years, he has been organizing short term study abroad trips for students including a two week trip to Australia in May 2016 with Dr. Whitney Johnson, a professor of Business Law. Dr. Schmidt enjoys fishing, boating, and playing golf. One of his most memorable trips was to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

The IS Department is planning to offer an undergraduate certificate in Project Management and Enterprise Resource Planning

Insel Guley: The final year



Insel Guley

Insel, came to SCSU from Turkey and is in the Masters of Science in Information Assurance program. She did her undergraduate degree in Statistics from Onduz Mayıs University, Turkey. She was fascinated by Mathematics from her childhood. Her strength is in analytics. Before coming to St. Cloud, she worked as

an intern Sales Manager in Chicago. Insel developed skills in TCP/IP, Linux, SQL Server and Java programming during her graduate studies at SCSU. She strengthens connections with fellow students through the IA club. Insel believes that the MSIA is a great program for students looking to specialize in Information Security. This is her last semester and she plans to pursue a career in Information Security.

Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP)

ICCP certification is one of the demanded assets for employment with prominent industries. Founded in 1973 by 8 professionals of Computer Societies to promote certification and professionalism, ICCP is a non-profit organization that develops and administers certifications for the information technology industry and is dedicated to upholding the highest standards. ICCP and CCER (Center for Computing Education Research) have developed a nationally normed testing method for direct assessment of instructional programs.

ICCP is considered to be a direct measure of the effectiveness of College Courses developed on IS2010/2012 Association for Computer Machinery curriculum models. Certification is the way to the top of the computing profession. ICCP certification shows businesses that IS students have met rigorous standards. This accreditation in the computing world will help set them apart in the job market. Upon passing the ICCP test the student is eligible to receive an Information Systems Analyst (ISA) certificate.

The ISA certificate is the base for obtaining many other ICCP certifications. ICCP credential holders can take ICCP online courses at a reduced rate which helps in providing re-

certification credits. The IS Department will conduct the ICCP exam every semester starting April 2015. Students graduating in the current semester or having completed all IS core courses, will be eligible to take the exam. The IS department will pay the exam fee. Additionally, students who take the exam will have the opportunity to receive up to 10% of the final grade of a selected course taking during the semester.

IPP

Industry Partner Program (IPP) is an initiative introduced by the IS Department with the objectives of building stronger partnerships with academia and industry, providing enhanced opportunities for students, and contributing to St. Cloud's economic development. IPP has defined three different areas consisting of inter-related projects. As part of the Enhance Student Professional Skills (ESPS) area, IPP has introduced the Professional Speaker Series, where delegates from industries are invited into the classroom to share best practices and provide real-world insights to students. On February 25, 2015, Brian Myres,

CEO and Chief Information Officer for Myres Consulting, Inc., with vast experience working within community banks and Fortune 500 financial services companies, was invited to HBS as a guest speaker. He previously worked as part of management for Reliastar, ING Direct which later became Capital One 360 in 2013. He is a member of HBS Dean's Advisory Board, executive committee member of St. Cloud Opportunities, and Chair of the City of St. Cloud's Government Reform and Efficiency task force. He is also a member of many non-profit organizations.

Mr. Myres talked to several classes. One presentation was on "IT, Creating significant business advantage by changing existing products/markets or introducing new products". He shared his experience and knowledge on handling the mortgage business. Mr. Myres described prominent ways to grow business. He presented "Pride in the Process" to highlight the need of a good process for enhancing customer experience to get better mortgage business by delivering high quality products to customers. His "high tech, high touch" principle focuses on the importance of customer journey building.

MOS Technology achievement recognized

On January 28, 2015 HBS Interim Dean, Walter Roettger presided at a formal recognition of HBS 199 Business Technology I students. Nineteen HBS Learning Community students attained the status of Microsoft Office Specialist in Word 2013 and were successful in meeting the globally recognized rigorous performance standards for MOS certification, and were awarded the certificate provided by Microsoft Inc.

HBS 199 instructor Lynn Collen noted that to pass the Microsoft Office exam the students needed to complete each MOS task quickly as there were tight time constraints, with approximately 60 questions within the 50 minutes allowed, allotted for the test. The certification exam is performance based. Students were required to know and to demonstrate their ability to use the Microsoft application well. Dr. Collen stated that attaining status as Microsoft Office Specialist in Word 2013 sets our SCSU students apart. It distinguishes them as having demonstrated their knowledge and technical expertise in using MOS Word 2013.



HBS 199 MOS Certification Recognition. Photo by Susan Jordahl

It's not the end, just a new beginning

By Sujata Bajracharya



Sujata Bairacharva

Graduating from SCSU was not just an end of the wonderful school life, but it was actually a beginning of something bigger, better and greater. I graduated from SCSU in fall 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Information Systems. With the assistance of all the dedicated IS professors and my advisor Dr. Jim Chen, I was able to acquire valuable knowledge and enhance my skills in Information Technology.

Currently, I am working as an EDI Administrator at Phillips and Temro Industries in Eden Prairie, MN. I started working with them as an Information Technology Intern from summer of 2014. The company offered me the position after my graduation. I am very thankful to all my professors for all the skills and knowledge they have provided to me, which has helped me to drive for better performance at my workplace. Being an international student, I found less internship opportunities and even less job opportunities. However, the IS department and the faculty always helped me keep my focus and determination to achieve higher and find success. This experience has helped me overcome many hurdles and problems in my work and in my life as a whole. I always believed "nothing is impossible" and this experience with the IS department and its faculty have helped me prove myself, for which I will always be humble and thankful.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the affected by the recent earthquake in Nepal.

Erich Rice receives Graduate Student Achievement award!

Master of Science in Information Assurance (MSIA) student Erich Rice recently received the Graduate Student Achievement Award from St. Cloud State University. The award was presented to Erich and other deserving graduate students at a ceremony held on March 27th.

Erich is finishing work on his thesis this semester and has also worked as an adjunct professor in the Information Systems department, teaching the Security Policy and Enterprise Architecture courses. He had been a Graduate Assistant for two years for the Center for Information Assurance



Erich Rice

Studies under Dr. Schmidt's supervision. Erich helped with the recertification process for SCSU's continued recognition as a National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Academic Excellence. NSA and DHS have redesignated SCSU as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cybersecurity through academic year 2021.

Erich earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree from St. John's University. He also earned a Juris Doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law. After law school, he worked in various capacities in the real estate

and construction industries. Trying a different career path, he decided to enroll in the MSIA program, after discussing the program with Dr. Guster, who thought the degree would work well with the law degree he already held. His primary areas of academic interest lie in information technology compliance, governance, and project management, which is the type of work that he currently performs in the BCRL at SCSU. Erich helps manage multiple projects within the BCRL that aid both the HBS and the College of Science and Engineering. In the future he hopes to continue teaching at SCSU or find a job in IT security or governance. (Interviewed by Ananta Vaidya)

Dishonesty, Plagiarism and Personal Integrity

By Dr. Olivia Olivares



Dr. Olivia Olivares

By the end of the first year of study, most SCSU students are familiar with the customary warnings against plagiarism and academic dishonesty, prominently featured as they are in course syllabi and the SCSU Student Handbook and Student Code

of Conduct. Certainly HBS students, who are continuously exhorted to be honest and ethical in their conduct as students in preparation for careers as honest and ethical professionals, are familiar with these warnings. At multiple times in your academic

career at SCSU, you will hear or read of the importance of honesty and fair competition as SCSU students. Why are academic dishonesty and plagiarism such insidious behaviors for HBS IA students in particular? (Continue in next page)

Because IA professionals are charged with securing and protecting the accuracy, authority and reliability of information within organizations, and the exercise of this responsibility requires that the IA professional possess personal integrity. Personal integrity is generally defined as wholeness of character: of always acting in a way that is consistent with moral and ethical principles. The ethical person – one who possesses personal integrity – is honest and ethical in all aspects of his or her life, both personal and professional. As Albert Einstein stated, “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” Simply put, you can’t be a liar in one

part of your life and honest in another and still have any claim to personal integrity. Personal integrity is the very bedrock of professional ethics. Student conduct may be predictive of future professional conduct. A tendency to engage in cheating behaviors as a student is an early sign of potential unethical behaviors as a professional. It may be beneficial for you to look at good ethical student conduct as an opportunity for you to develop good behaviors that will follow you into your professional life. If you have a question about academic dishonesty or plagiarism, or citation formatting please contact me at ooliva-res@stcloudstate.edu or the Writing Center (Write Place).

Academic Excellence Awards-2015

IA major

D. Pahadi	Karthik Paidi
Sandeep Bondili	Punith Etikala
Krishna Annangi	A. Maharjan
Ananta Vaidya	Minesh Malla
Hazem Farra	Sanjesh Kumar
V. Ponakala	Raj Pun
C. Withanage	B. Maddipati

IS Major

Mariah Ahlert	A. Nabours
Fayez Alanazi	J. Niehaus
Nicholas Braun	S. Pandey
Shiru Ding	Kyung Park
Brian Feia	B. Paulson
K. Ganskop	N. Shofner
M. Hashmi	Bill Smith
D. Hendrickson	Liza Strate
T. Hjalmsquist	Scott Sura
Brikken Jensen	Jared Voss
Reuben Kaburu	M. Walter
Clayton Kahl	B. Warzecha
Shawn Kidder	Alex Winter
Cody Mathisen	Steve Yang

Social entrepreneur, academic pioneer, and the chair: Dr. Susantha Herath

We interviewed the chair of our department, Dr. Susantha Herath. In addition to being a successful academic, he is also a dedicated social entrepreneur. Dr. Herath was born and raised in Sri Lanka. He received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Sri Jayawardhanapura University in 1978. He then worked for the Sri Lankan government as a

shipping executive. He later moved to Japan with a Japanese government scholarship, to complete his Masters in Industrial and Computer Engineering from Electro-Communications University in 1987, followed by his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Keio University in 1991. He conducted his Ph.D. research at a national lab in Japan, and served as a visit-

ing scientist at George Mason University in Virginia in 1987. He was a faculty member at the



Dr. Susantha Herath

South West Texas State University, TX and The University of Aizu, Japan prior to coming to SCSU in 2001. He has been the Chair of the IS (Cont. next page)

department since 2008.

Dr. Herath was the first to bring a security program to the Information Systems department. He was one of the pioneers to introduce cybersecurity in the Midwest states. Since 2002, he has been organizing the annual security conference at SCSU. When it started, there were no universities that offered cybersecurity programs in the neighboring five states. Dr. Herath developed the Masters of Science in Information Assurance program, which is currently in its seventh year. His efforts helped SCSU to receive the designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cybersecurity by both the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security. His first grant proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) came in 1991. He kept applying for grants every year since 2002 and finally was successful in 2011. Recently he received two more NSF grants. He expresses that, *"It was difficult, but I never gave up."*

With his continued success in his professional life, he still takes the time to help society. Strongly believing in the importance of em-

powering people, Dr. Herath actively involves himself in various activities targeted to alleviate poverty. He remembers happily that during his school days, he used to give half his travel allowance to the less fortunate on the street and walked the several miles to school. On every first Monday of the month he gave his lunch to the poor on the streets. In 1985, he founded the Herath Foundation, a non-profit organization to empower people, during his graduate studies in Japan. Along with his brothers, they donated 10% of their scholarship money to the foundation. He remembers the hardship of losing his own scholarship.

When he lost his scholarship, he met with an international student counselor, who provided him with words of wisdom, *"Do not be disappointed. Work hard and you will succeed."* He expressed the experience as a life changing moment which he learned to have hope. To his surprise, he received a donation of one month scholarship money from the counselor. Dr. Herath donated that money to the Herath foundation in the counselor's honor. So far, he has helped provide over 8000 scholarships around the world

through the Foundation. He rebuilt a school in Sri Lanka completely destroyed by the 2004 Tsunami. He also built and has been running two kindergartens in Sri Lanka. In Uganda, he started a program to grow sweet potatoes for widows. He said it is, *"one of the best gifts we can give to an African country."* He also has been helping to build a vocational training institute in Uganda. He gives small business loans without collateral to help mothers in 25 countries in Asia, Africa and South America. About ten years ago he established the first and only Sri Lankan Buddhist Temple in Minnesota and neighboring five state areas. Currently he is also involved in a project to aim at controlling widespread water and soil pollution associated with chronic kidney disease in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Herath, a father of two, is a Buddhist. His dream is to assist 1,000,000 families to move out of poverty by 2025. On his final note, he shares his wisdom, *"Don't lie to yourself or others. Do your best on whatever you do and enjoy doing it. Work for your dreams, never give up, move forward."*

(Interviewed by **Ananta Vaidya**)

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