

Spring 2015

The Infosys TIMES, Fall 2015

St. Cloud State University

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Meet the new NSF-CESP scholars!



2015 Computing and Engineering Scholarship Program scholars

Under the direction of the Chair of Information Systems (IS) Department, Professor Susantha Herath, Principal Investigator, 11 SCSU students were awarded STEM Scholarships through the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF awarded \$614,028 to SCSU to offer 45 scholarships of \$12,000 for two years to students majoring in 4+1 Information Assurance, Information Systems, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

These scholars will also complete internships, participate in research and senior design projects, attend workshops and conferences to achieve academic excellence.

Congratulations NSF-CESP Scholars:

Computer Engineering: *Jose Araujo Meza, Steven Henningsgard*

Computer Science: *Dustin Johnson*

Information Systems: *Syera Weah, Zachary Babcock, Anthony Kuschel, Matthew Slauson*

Information Assurance: *Olabisi Ewumi*

Mechanical Engineering: *Heather VanSlyke, Benjamin Watters, Lamya Ait Sadiq*

IS degree in 3 years

The IS Department is offering another option for students completing their IS degree. This allows students to earn their bachelor's degree in as little as three years. The plan involves taking an average of 17 to 18 credits per semester in addition to taking some summer classes. For students wanting to expand this opportunity and also earn their master's degree in Information Assurance, the IS Department is looking into offering a 3 + 1 MSIA degree. Students with interest in these options are encouraged to contact Dr. Susantha Herath for further information.

ISA Certification

The IS Department has been offering the exam for Information Systems Analyst (ISA) certification through the Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP) each semester to IS Majors who will be graduating. The initial exam fee is covered by the IS Department.

The exam is comprised of parts and takes approximately 3 1/2 hours. The exam covers: Foundations of Information Systems, Data and Information Management, Enterprise Architecture, IT Infrastructure, IS Project Management, Systems Analysis and Design and IS Strategy, Management and Acquisitions, and other topics based on selected specialty exams.

Scoring 50% or higher in addition to holding an undergraduate degree, qualifies an individual to receive the title of ISA-Practitioner. Students scoring 70% or higher are specified as ISA-Mastery level.



Meet the Faculty



Dr. Lynn Collen has taught for the Department of Information Systems since January 2000. She brings her wide range of life experiences to the classroom.

Recently, she described her experience managing the Electronic Funds Transfer department for a financial institution. Dr. Collen shared about writing and proofing technical documentation for the new system. She described that initially the computer-based system that supported the transfer of money from one bank account to another often required human attention. The greatest area of attention was needed at the remote teller sites. Most frequently, the hardware would require hands on maintenance. PIN and displays needed to be switched out, dispensers would jam, and transactions would not be recorded. Often she would find herself completing field repairs in the late evening or early morning hours. Customers expected 24 hour service and technicians were expected to identify the issue and quickly find the solution for the transaction failure.

In addition, Dr. Collen stated much of her time involved employee development and training for retailers. Training at the point-of-sale location was recognized as a major contributing variable to providing a positive customer transaction experience. On-call coverage, staff training, and supervising customer experiences at the ATMs and EFT@POS was just one area of her department.

Dr. Collen emphasized that having strong critical thinking - problem solving abilities and a willingness to learn is important for team members. Many individuals are nervous or intimidated by technology. She stated that possessing "soft" skills is invaluable for working with people when they are tired and stressed. "A take charge calm presence often helps to get the job done".



I am Chulhwan Chris Bang, teaching IS 340 and IS 363 this fall semester. I am very pleased to join the Information Systems department at SCSU. I have an MS-MIS degree from University at Buffalo SUNY. Currently, I am a Ph. D. ABD from the same department. The topic of my Ph. D. dissertation is about extreme events and social movements on social network services with massive amount of data. I have published two conference papers and one journal article.

My current research interest is Big Data Analytics using neural network, which is the central nervous system of animals. Recently, I co-founded a company to provide Big Data Analytic solution and consulting services.

I originally came from South Korea. I worked for 8 years in the IT industry as a software developer, system designer, and project manager. I like media streaming and SOAP, which is widely utilized for mobile communication. One of my best experiences is contributing to a standardize e-Book format based on XML as a member of committee when I was 26 years old. I am enjoying working with the faculty members and students, here at SCSU.

Advising Strategies

Dr. Susantha Herath led the discussion with IS faculty on September 9th about best practices for academic advising. He presented faculty with some of his strategies for advising students. He emphasized the importance of helping students to plan out their time at SCSU and lay out the classes they plan to take up to their graduation. Alexis Schewe, Academic Advisor in the Business Advising office, stopped by to share what changes there have been in advising and suggestions for a successful transition when a student enters into their major.

New adjuncts start fall semester



Recent MSIA graduate joins IS Department

Dr. Suvineetha Hearth joined the IS Department as an adjunct faculty this fall after completing a MS degree in Information Assurance from SCSU in summer 2015. A lawyer by profession, she is also currently mentoring PhD and MBA students at Swiss Management Center (SMC) University.

Before joining the department, she taught over 15 years at various four-year and two-year institutions in the US, Japan, and Middle East. Dr. Hearth's teaching interests are in applications and software. Her teaching style is experiential and mercurial.

Dr. Suvineetha Herath earned her PhD from the Gifu University, Japan as a Rotary Yoneyama Scholar. Thereafter, she continued her coursework required for a second PhD in International Law at Asahi University in Japan. Her research interests include security policies, protocols for security, access control, authentication, information assurance and e-learning. She has authored and co-authored several journal papers, and has reviewed numerous conference papers related to these areas.

Her involvement as a legal advisor in a computer crime case is the major point of her growing interest in Information security area. Since then, she has devoted more time and has become a lifelong learner in the field of information security. She decided to join the Master program in Information Assurance at SCSU in order to receive higher qualifications in IA. According to her, the graduate program in IA at SCSU is a promising and challenging track that has helped her enhance her knowledge and professional goals. This fall, she is teaching IS 340 and IS 481/581.



New adjunct to teach Project Management this fall

Anjan Sarma joined the IS Department this fall as an adjunct teaching IS 460/560 Project Management. When he is not teaching, he is a principal information system architect based in the Twin Cities.

His primary research interests are System architecture, Project Management and Agile Methodologies. He possesses sixteen years of project implementation experience working with many global corporations in the areas of IT System Integration, Project Management, Quality Assurance and Agile Testing. His consulting experiences with projects in diverse types of vertical sectors include Services, Manufacturing, Banking, Insurance, Communication and Utility sectors. Sarma received his M. Tech degree from the University of Delhi and Master of Engineering Management (MEM) from St. Cloud State University.

He also holds the AEM Professional Certification from American Society of Engineering Manager. Sarma is one of the contributing authors of the book "Innovations in Services Marketing and Management" published by IGI-Global, New York in 2013. He is looking forward to teaching this fall and being a part of the IS Department.

It's not too early to apply for graduation

Undergraduate Students should apply two semesters prior to the term you expect to be completed with all degree requirements. Graduate Students should apply during the first four weeks of the semester you intend to graduate.

Failure to submit the application by the deadline will result in a delay in reviewing and processing your graduation.

Club News

The **IS Club** meets regularly, hosts special events, provides lots of opportunities to network, arrange presentations from local corporations looking to hire, and socialize with other students with similar interests. This year's Board Members are Bill Smith (President), Elsa Freudenthal (Vice-President), Amanda Smith (Treasurer), Donald Akroman (Career Development Director), Matt Slauson (Event Coordinator), Rashmita Lama (Web Master), and Malorie Ruff (Secretary). The faculty advisors are Professor Lynn Collen and Professor Chris Bang. The IS Club meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 - 1 pm in CH 350. To find out how you can become a member, contact isclub@stcloudstate.edu.

The **IA Club** is a student-run organization focused on providing members with valuable learning and professional networking opportunities as they pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in IA here at SCSU. This year's Board members are Chandira Withanage (President), Ashwini Kumar (Vice-President), Aashika Khadka (Secretary), Saminda Siriwardena (Treasurer), Ang Sherpa (Web Master) and Abda Makarim and Sanjesh Kumar (Public Relations). The faculty advisor is Professor Jim Chen. To find out how to become a member, contact iaclub@stcloudstate.edu.

Glad to join Husky family!



-By Sri Ram Dasari

My experience so far on campus has been great. SCSU has such a diverse community. I have made many friends from different cultures.

I am very glad that I am pursuing my degree in IA, as its not only a field having a wide scope for research and development but it also enables one to understand the security challenges faced by business organizations in the real-time.

Apart from the sophisticated infrastructure and well planned academic curriculum, SCSU also enhances the all-round development of students. As singing is my favorite hobby, I took an opportunity to sing at one of the After Dark events. I also enjoy playing volleyball with my friends at Hallenbeck Hall.

Finally, it has been an inexplicable, marvelous experience so far and expect the same to continue in the imminent. I wish you all a great semester ahead.

IS & IA STUDENT ENROLLMENTS 2014-15



Dr. Jim Chen Co-Chair's ICIME 2015



Dr. Jim Q. Chen with his team at 5th ICIME 2015

Dr. Jim Chen, Professor for the IS Department at SCSU was the Conference Co-Chair and the Chief Editor of 5th International Conference on IS Management and Evaluation (ICIME) 2015. The conference focused primarily on IS Management and IS Engineering in the Era of Big Data and was held in Xi'an University of Technology, Shaanxi, China May 28-29, 2015.

PACIS calling for papers

The 20th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS 2016) will be held in Chiayi, Taiwan from June 27 - July 1, 2016. The theme of the conference is "IT Governance for Future Society." Professor Jim Q. Chen will be the Track Co-Chair for the On-demand and Sharing Economy Track. The deadline for submitting a research paper is March 4, 2016. More information at www.pacis2016.org.

Are you throwing away money???

In addition to academic merit-based scholarships awarded through the admission process, the SCSU Foundation offers scholarships gifted by friends and alumni of the University to incoming, current, and graduate students. **Check out Huskies Scholarships:** stcloudstate.edu/huskiescholarships

IS students take home 3rd Place!



3rd place winners, IS Team #FF0000: Kevin Gysberg, Brandon Burggraff, Joshan Nakarmi, William Smith (not shown), and faculty advisor Professor Safonov

This year's Digi-Key Collegiate Computing Competition (DKC3) took place in Bloomington on October 23, 2015. The competition consisted of three main events—two programming sessions and one word problem session. Teams of students from 15 area universities are invited to compete. Two teams from the IS Department participated this year and Professor Paul Safonov advised the teams. The IS Department has been participating since 2004. In the past years, IS took 4th and 5th place.



IS Team #000000: Derek Grimm, Rowan Kill, Cassandra Spruit, and Mathew Bakken

Computer Security Day November 30

Computer Security Day held annually on November 30th, came to be after the world experienced a terrible computer virus back in 1988. That year the promotion of computer security was started to remind computer users to be aware of computer security issues. Companies, organizations and governments all over the world sponsor activities on this day to promote information security.

Here are some ways to keep your information secure:

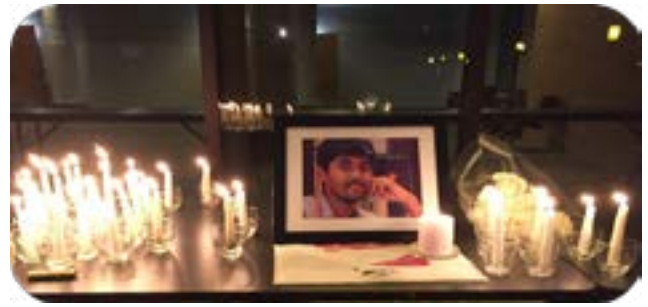
- Know workplace's computer security policy.
- Change passwords frequently.
- Don't open email from unknown senders.
- Use antivirus software.
- Don't leave your laptops or electronic gadgets unattended.
- When using social media keep privacy and security settings updated.

MSIA students engaged in various activities during the week of the 30th promoting Computer Security Day on campus.



Aashika Khadka, MSIA student presenting at Cyber Security Awareness Event held on campus.

Koushik Chilukuri's candlelight vigil



Mourning Candles for Koushik Chilukuri on September 18th, 2015

A candlelight vigil was held for former MSIA student, Koushik Chilukuri after his accidental drowning in the Chattanooga River in Atlanta, GA this summer. Chilukuri was participating in an internship in Georgia. Susantha Herath, Chair of the IS Department and Director of the MSIA program, along with students from the MSIA program, planned the vigil in memory of their fellow student and friend.

One of his best friends, Naga Sandeep Bondili, said, "Koushik is close to my heart and family. I almost lost my senses for a few seconds when I heard about the tragedy. He was an admirable person and kind at heart. He spread smiles all across where ever he was.

His tragic death was a blow to all of us. We miss him really bad!"

A collection was taken up at the vigil and funds raised

will be given to a charity in his honor. Born and raised in India, he had come to the USA with hopes and dreams of furthering his education. Chilukuri would have graduated this fall with his MSIA degree. A memorial plaque in honor of Koushik was sent to his family from the IS Department.



Internship at Argonne National Laboratory

- By Bill Smith

During my internship this summer I was involved in several research projects. My role for all of these projects was to be a research aide for a given mentor (varied by project), to explore feasibility, and to develop prototypes to fulfill the project's deliverables. While at Argonne I also had the pleasure to give a presentation to the Risk and Infrastructure Science Center (RISC) department in Global Security Services (GSS) division. My presentation consisted of a live demonstrated

WiFi Hack with a Pi and a Nexus 7, a PowerPoint explaining my research in this area, and a 15 minute Q&A section. The experience helped me practice and hone my public speaking skills and gain valuable feedback about my presentation



Bill Smith in front of Cloud Gate sculpture in Chicago, IL

and my research.

Outside of these research projects there was an overlying assignment to help the interns develop a stronger cybersecurity skill-set, Capture The Flag. CTF is a competition in which one must exploit vulnerabilities or traverse a file system in order to capture 'flags' which are arbitrary passphrases or words with an assigned point value. We were tasked to create our own version of CTF. We split into two groups and built intentionally vulnerable systems that would test an agreed upon skill-set to find all the flags. We exercised teamwork and communication to build a testing environment for the other team and to solve their

The biggest knowledge takeaways from this internship were learning a new programming language— Python, gaining a real familiarity with the Linux Operating system, realizing that “nothing is magic” (everything technology oriented can be explained), and learning that security holes are found via understanding the way systems work and how they were designed.

Overall this internship has served as a great exposure to working in a cybersecurity research role. It has also given me a taste of a 9-5 Monday to Friday workweek. I will be able to bring the insight and knowledge gained into the classroom to gain a deeper understanding of the curriculum.

MSIA offers “Plan C”

Students in the MSIA program will now be able to choose to prepare a Professional Project Portfolio for their culminating project. Previously students only had the option of writing a Thesis or Starred Paper. Plan C requires that a significant professional project or a portfolio of projects be prepared in conjunction with approved graduate courses or internship(s) in the student's major area of concentration.

Pragmatic and agile?

As part of the Project Management Institute-MN, Allen Kroska, Director of Software Engineering and Agile Practices Leader at Wolters Kluwer Financial Services came to SCSU on October 13th to present on Pragmatic Marketing and Agile approaches. He shared how the Pragmatic Marketing Framework can provide a standard language when working as a team, and can provide a blueprint of the key activities needed to bring profitable, problem-oriented products to market. The IS Department hosted the event.



Fall 2015 SFS meeting



Congratulations!

Academic Excellence Awards

IS

Ananta Bhandari
 Brandon Burggraaf
 Brian Feia
 Michael Gonzalez
 Daniel Hendrickson
 Tyler Hjalmsquist
 Brikken Jensen
 Reuben Kaburu
 Anthony Kuschel
 Moua Lee
 Cody Mathisen
 Shrawin Pandey
 Malorie Ruff
 Natalie Shofner
 Tazin Siddiquee
 William Smith
 Marissa Walter

IA

Hari Krishna Annangi
 Savanth Chintoju
 Punith Reddy Etikala
 Umesh Gogula
 Ashish Kastury
 Veenadhari Kotha
 Sanjesh Kumar
 Babu Rajeev Maddipati
 Arbin Maharjan
 Swarna Manchikatla
 Karthik Paidi
 Venkata Ponakala
 Raj Pun
 Sinduja Thinamany
 Ananta Vaidya

Each semester the IS Department holds a meeting for students, faculty and staff in the IS and IA programs. The meeting for fall semester was held on Wednesday, November 18th in the Atwood Theatre. This meeting provided a chance for students to learn more about the programs and new opportunities available for students. Students also had a chance to ask questions of faculty and staff.

The meeting concluded with students in both programs being recognized for academic excellence for spring 2015. Undergraduate students with a GPA of 3.5+ and graduate students with a GPA of 3.75+ received a certificate.



Congratulations fall 2015 graduates!

Information Systems

Amit Agrawal	DengKe Jiang
Shirley Aurand Weisman	Nathan Kelly
Nahom Bekure	Samuel Kraushar
Ananta Bhandari	Aaron Nabours
Osei Bonsu	Shrawin Pandey
Sarah Derrick	Brittany Paulson
Andrea Hathaway	Malorie Ruff
Daniel Hendrickson	

Information Assurance

Jonathan Saravia	Jeffrey Bemboom
Dustan Spanier	Michael Engels
Liza Strate	Samjan KC
Samson Stubbs	Sai Mohit Muddu
Steven Vue	Eric Owusu
Marissa Walter	
Houa Xiong	

Have an Idea for a story?

We are always looking for updates and contributions for our newsletters. Contact the IS Department, is@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-2174 if you are interested in submitting an idea for a story or update or if you would like to receive future newsletters.

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