Fall 11-29-2016

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3M Innovation Center Tour

Twenty four students from Information Systems, Computer Science and Computer Engineering departments and six faculty members attended the 3M Career Day and Innovation Center tour, located at the company’s global headquarters in Saint Paul, Minnesota on September 19, 2016.

With the ‘World of 3M Innovation’ located at the very heart, these Global Technical Centers at 3M are designed to showcase the breadth and depth of the rich and diverse technologies, processes and products 3M has created. A team of highly trained, informative hosts from a variety of 3M technical and professional backgrounds guided the participants on their journey of discovery.

The tour included a brief presentation on 3M’s five business groups, innovations and patents, business transformation and information technology principles, and most importantly the 3M internship program based at 3M Corporate Headquarters in Maplewood. This 10-14 week full-time internship program is approximately 60% functional, 20% shared project and 20% corporate event activities with a competitive compensation package and conditional subsidized housing facility. Internships are posted on SCSU Career Services.

Learning about the SCSU Alumnus and former IT interns who dedicatedly served 3M for over 13 years was truly inspirational. Students strongly agreed that this was a valuable experience for them and expressed their amplified interest to apply for the 3M internship program after the tour.

New NSF Scholars Announced

For the 2016-2018 year, 14 outstanding scholars (see p.8 for list) received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) under the Computing and Engineering Scholarship Program (CESP). Orientation for the new scholars took place on September 2, 2016. SCSU-CESP Principal Investigator Dr. Susantha Herath addressed the cohort with a warm welcome speech followed by a brief introduction session. Two senior NSF scholars, Brikken Jensen and Bill Smith, shared their experience to motivate and guide the newcomers during their orientation.

Under CESP, 45 biennial scholarships each up to $12,000 will be awarded during the 2015-2018 years within six different disciplines to increase the capacity of high-demand computing and engineering areas via recruitment, retention and graduation of talented students including underrepresented groups. Student support structures, such as faculty and peer mentoring, advising and tutoring, have been enhanced to target 100% student success. Students are inspired to engage in research projects, professional and leadership development. Students take seminar courses and participate in conferences with up to $1,000 travel stipend. They also complete a paid summer internship in industry or at a national lab that will provide practical skills to help them succeed in the workplace.

Program success is evaluated based on the efficacy of the enhancements to the SCSU student support infrastructure and tracking student success after leaving. This project aims to increase SCSU’s contributions to the national need for STEM graduates.

@ Dr. Herath addressing the new NSF S-STEM (CESP) scholars
Tutoring Available at CH 415

The IS Department has increased the number of tutors for IS and IA students who need help with understanding study materials outside of class. Tutors are selected amongst the graduate students who demonstrate superior understanding on the subject. The tutoring lab is located at the Centennial Hall 415 and is equipped with computers and printers for the students to use. Students can also use the facility for individual or group study.

Though tutoring is available on a walk-in basis, making an appointment is encouraged to avoid time conflicts with other students or groups. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity if you are in need of help with your studies. The tutoring lab is open on weekdays from,

Monday 11:00 am - 02:00 pm
Tuesday 12:30 pm - 02:30 pm
Wednesday 11:00 am - 02:00 pm 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm
Thursday 12:30 pm - 02:30 pm 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm
Friday 11:00 am - 03:00 pm

For appointments and details, please e-mail:
Srinate Meadusani
Graduate Assistant
srmeadusani@stcloudstate.edu

Extended OPT for F-1 students

The IS department is planning to change the program CIP codes to STEM which will allow international graduates to extend their Optional Practical Training (OPT) permit for two additional years. Currently IS graduates can have only one year of OPT after graduation.

“Our plan is, if the CIP code is changed to STEM, the international students graduating from the IS program would have 3 years of OPT”, said department chair Dr. Herath. This is indeed great news for all international students under IS Department as an extension to OPT will give them more time to gain practical experience in the United States.

Business Analytics Minor

The IS Department is planning to offer Business Analytics as a minor for students starting Spring 2017. To complete the program, students will need to take a total of 21-22 credits (9-10 required credits plus 12 elective credits).

Prerequisites courses are Econ 205, Econ 206, Math 196 or equivalent from which a maximum of 7 credits can be counted in both the major and the minor.

Three required courses for the program includes - Statistical Methods 1: One course from IS 242, STAT 219, STAT 239, STAT 242 and STAT 353; Statistical Methods 2: STAT 321; Economic and Business Forecasting: Econ 470.

In addition to the required courses, students also need to take four elective courses. Selection must include courses from at least three categories as given below.

Data Analytics (Maximum of 2 courses from below)
STAT 415 – Data Mining
STAT 421 – Applied Regression Methods
IS 434 – Intro to Data Analytics (New)
MKTG 422 – Marketing Metrics (New)
ECON 485 – Intro to Econometrics

Marketing/Consulting/Methods (Maximum of 2 courses from below)
STAT 380 – Statistical Consulting and Data Analysis I
STAT 381 – Statistical Consulting and Data Analysis II
IS 454 – Decision Support Systems
IS 455 – Business Research Methodology
MKTG 322 – Marketing Information and Research

Data Base / Programming (Maximum of 2 courses from below)
* Select 1 Programming course from:
ECE 102 – Engineering Problem Solving
CNA 267 – Beginning Programming

More Online Courses from Spring 2017

To provide more flexibility to students the IS department is planning to offer Business Statistics (IS 242) and Management Information Systems (IS 340) courses online starting Spring 2017. The department also plans to offer some 400 and 500 level courses online during Summer 2017.

Depending on the student response and number of student enrollment for the offered courses, the IS department will continue or increase online courses every semester. The department expects the students will take advantage of this opportunity. Online courses are mostly communicated through D2L with limited on-campus meetings.

Data Analytics
STAT 415 – Data Mining
STAT 421 – Applied Regression Methods
IS 434 – Intro to Data Analytics (New)

Marketing/Consulting/Methods
STAT 380 – Statistical Consulting and Data Analysis I
STAT 381 – Statistical Consulting and Data Analysis II
IS 454 – Decision Support Systems
IS 455 – Business Research Methodology
MKTG 322 – Marketing Information and Research

Data Base / Programming
* Select 1 Programming course from:
ECE 102 – Engineering Problem Solving
CNA 267 – Beginning Programming

CSCI 201 – Computer Science I
IS 250 – Application Program Dev I
IS 251 – Application Program Dev II
STAT 304 – SAS Programming
STAT 325 – Statistical Modeling with R

Spatial / Visualization
GEOG 316 – Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 416 – Techniques in GIS
STAT 360 – Intro to Data Visualization

* Select 1 Data Base course from:
CNA 303 – Database Applications and Programming
IS 443 - Database Design, Implementation and Administration

This is a great inclusion by the program as the subject has a very high demand in the job market. If you wish to take the course program next semester, add this in your graduation plan and enroll as soon as the course is made available in the system.
Abdullah Abu Hussein

*Fixed Term Instructor*

Abdullah Abu Hussein is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at The University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee. He received his Master’s degree in Information Systems Management from Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan in 2003 and a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Isra Private University, Amman, Jordan. He has been employed for several years as a lecturer at various educational institutions.

Abu Hussein’s academic experience includes teaching subjects in security, software engineering, and cloud computing. His primary research focus is on implementing security metrics for cloud services. Abu Hussein is also interested in cyber security, security metrics, cloud computing, cloud economics, cyber-physical systems, information forensics, software crowdsourcing and software engineering. He has a number of referred publications in related venues, presented papers at various conferences and served as a reviewer of IEEE Transaction on Cloud Computing. He has a number of awards from the University of Memphis.

Abu Hussein joined the Information Systems department at St. Cloud State University in Fall 2016 where he is teaching “Database Implementation, Design, and Administration,” “Client/Server Security,” and “Cloud Security”.

Prabesh Shrestha

*Adjunct Faculty*

Prabesh Shrestha, a SCSU graduate and alumnus, is teaching IS 443 this fall semester. Besides teaching, he is currently working as a database developer at a local two year Minnesota State College. He has been working for the Minnesota State system since 2007, developing database applications providing data analysis and end-user support for web-based and client server business application software that are integrated with the Integrate Statewide Record System (ISRS).

Originally from Nepal, Shrestha holds a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Nepal and a Master’s degree in Software Engineering and Business Administration from the US.

Shrestha has been teaching IT and IT management related courses, since 2002, in four year and two year colleges in Nepal and the US respectively. Apart from gaining experience in managing the academic side of IT department, he has also co-authored a textbook for first year students of 4 year programs in Nepal.

His interest in the area of information systems includes, computer system architecture, database design and management and data analytics, and service marketing.

Channa Jayanath Kumarage

*Instructor*

Channa Jayanath Kumarage holds a BS in Computer Science from University of Colombo School of Computing and a MS in Computer Science from Saint Cloud State University. He is also in the process of completing a Bachelor’s degree in Law. He is currently doing his second Master’s degree in Information Assurance while serving as an Instructor for the Department of Information Systems.

Kumarage’s own nonprofit education institute “Saint Vincent de Paul Educational Circle” focusses on uplifting the educational standards of underprivileged students and their families. He served thousands of students since he first started teaching as a high school student.

Kumarage has taught at the University of Colombo and University of Wales and Holy Cross College, Kalutara Sri Lanka. He has a number of scholarly works published in several conferences including IEEE Explorer indexed. He has served as a research mentor for many students who presented their work at the IEEE Student Research Symposiums at ICT er conference. He contributed as a chief organizer for e-Asia 2009 and initiated IEEE conferences series ICT er being chief organizer for 2010, 2011, 2012 conferences. He also represented program committees for several other conferences. His publication experience goes beyond conferences as he initiated ICT er Journal which he contributed as steering committee member, proof reader and the main contact.

Kumarage excelled not only as an academic, but also as a software solution developer in both industry and freelance software development. Expanding his horizons as a software solution developer, he served as consultant for national level eGovernance projects in Sri Lanka.

Passionate about playing cricket as a sport, Kumarage was a member of the champion team of the Asian Inter-University Cricket Tournament held in 2008. He also represented University of Colombo and Holy Cross College in soccer, athletics and basketball.

Amongst all these activities Kumarage still manages time to spend with his fiancée, Anjalee who studies in a time zone with an exact 12-hour difference. Kumarage is teaching IS 251 this Fall as a part of his Graduate Assistantship.
MSIA Culminating Projects

As you prepare to graduate, it is important to demonstrate your ability to synthesize the experience through a culminating project. A majority of the graduate programs require students to complete a thesis, starred paper, creative work or professional portfolio. It is expected that a student will start planning for his/her culminating project well in advance of graduation as the process may take a minimum of two semesters. A program approval process with a program adviser is to be completed by the student to select the culminating project to complete usually before the completion of 16 credits.

The rigorous process begins with selecting a 3-member committee followed by supervised preparation of a project proposal and registration for the culminating project credits. The proposal is presented at a scheduled preliminary conference with the committee members to find required revisions or changes to the proposed project if necessary. Once the proposal is accepted, students are required to complete their culminating project under the supervision and consultation of the committee members and project adviser/chair as needed. Upon completion, students must schedule a final conference/oral examination with committee members to present and defend his/her project work.

The university as well as the IS Department organizes many information sessions and workshops related to the culminating project that helps inform students about the process, format and expectations to make good preparation for the conferences. MSIA students’ starred paper/thesis proposals took place on Thursday, October 20, 2016 and Friday, October 21, 2016 in half-hour slots while the Final/Oral defense took place on Thursday, October 27, 2016 and Friday, October 28, 2016 in one-hour slots.

About 12 students presented their proposal while 8 defended during Fall 2016. The IS Department encourages all MSIA students to attend these open sessions if possible and learn interesting topics as they also plan for their own upcoming culminating projects.

Road to RedHat Internship

- By Parvez Kamal

Dreaming big and pursuing your desire to work with the biggest and brightest names in the field will give you the buzz to keep pushing yourself to the limit, and that is how you succeed. By end of Fall 2015, I started applying for summer internships through SCSU Career Center, LinkedIn and personalized job searches. Coming from Bangladesh, one of the developing countries in South Asia, I knew the struggles of getting an internship for an international student in the USA. I kept an open mind and did not limit my search to any specific IT job category or location. I quickly found this interesting internship opportunity at RedHat HQ, an open-source Fortune 500 company and one of my wish list organizations to work for, on their career site for North Carolina. I did not hesitate for a second and quickly applied for the internship position realizing the value it would add to my resume if I got the opportunity. I was confident that my CEH and Security+ certifications will give me an edge in the selection process. I had to go through a series of interviews with RedHat recruiters over the phone and eventually it all worked out. It was my lucky day, and I was very excited!

Two and a half months full of surprises started when I temporarily moved to North Carolina. I was overwhelmed to see two hundred interns from different states gathered in one room for the orientation. During the introduction session, I felt proud to stand in-front of the crowd and introduce myself as a student of St. Cloud State University. I knew I was surrounded by a very intelligent bunch of people and reminded myself to do well as I am not only representing SCSU but also representing my country.

After the orientation, I was assigned to work with the IT Training Platform Team with two other highly qualified interns. One is a Ph.D. student and the other is an educator with a double Master’s degree. At RedHat they maintain a rich organizational culture. We were never treated as interns, but rather as full-time working members of the team. Managers and supervisors were very open-minded and would ask and value our opinions. One day our team manager, who also served at IBM for 20 years, invited me to the open terrace next to our office and asked me about what I thought about the way he was handling the team. I was amazed by the sincerity and the leadership quality of the managers at RedHat. They instill belongingness and entrepreneurial spirit in their team members that boosts creativity and integrity. My supervisor, to whom I had to report every day over Skype, pushed my technical knowledge to the limit by engaging me with eight projects during my internship at RedHat. He was always there for me as a mentor and motivated me in pursuing the RHCSA and RHCE certifications for which RedHat provided free training.

RedHat was undoubtedly a remarkable internship experience from orientation to farewell where the main takeaway for me was the amount of organizational exposure I have received and the real-world project learnings that I was a part of. Academic learning from the Database course and Project Management course I took at SCSU IA Program helped me a lot to get through some of the tasks I was involved in. Also, presentation skills came in handy at the daily meetings during my internship.

I recommend every student look for Internship opportunities as it will boost your confidence by testing your knowledge and ability in solving real-life problems. Think of this as a job training for white collar and professional careers after graduation. Start early, do your research and good luck chasing your dreams.

© Jonathan Munsch defending his culminating project.
Career Day at Atwood

If you are planning to get an internship or full time job offer, we hope you did not miss the Career Day event on September 27, 2016 in Atwood. If you did, here is why you should attend the next one. Career Day is the largest on campus job and internship fair we have each semester. It brings a variety of employers to campus to promote their opportunities and recruit for internships and full-time positions. This free event provides students with an opportunity to hunt for their targeted jobs with different employers under one roof.

Why Leadership Positions in Student Organizations Matter?

- By Renu Lakhemaru

Student life is filled with a lot of activities. Classes, quizzes, exams, family, work, and social activities are always an essential part of being a student. Why do we want to add another thing to the list by joining a student organization and holding a leadership position? The simple answer for this would be because it plays a dynamic role in a student’s career and experience. Being a part of the university does not only mean going to classes and studying, but it is also about building friendships, living the life you desire, getting involved on campus and meeting new people.

Becoming a leader in a student organization will allow you to develop leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. It provides a great opportunity to meet new people from different backgrounds, cultures and learn something new. Now-a-days many employers look for people who were involved actively in a student organization or held a leadership position. Engaging in a student organization will show potential employers that you are active and hard working.

In addition, networking is another great benefit of joining a student organization. Many organizations focus on professional events and bring many employers from different companies. This will help to know and network with the recruiters and often lead to internships and employment opportunities in the future. Being in a leadership position, you have a higher chance of being recognized and remembered.

One of the essential skills for any career is working within a team. Participating in an organization teaches how to work as part of a team in various situations, dealing stress, finding out ways to solve problems and dealing with difficult situations. It also allows putting all of the skills we learned in class in real world situations. Think of it as a training to prepare for the battle out there.

Joining student organization and holding any leadership position provides incredible learning opportunities as well as builds marketable skills which are very advantageous to building a better career and a successful life. I encourage everyone to join a student organization on campus and explore the possibilities that comes with it.

Many students from the IS Department along with opportunity seekers from different departments of SCSU actively participates in career day to take advantage of this event and frequently gets job offers like summer internships or full time employment. They also take part in supplemental special events such as Employer Drop-In, Career/Job Fair Prep Party, LinkedIn Thursdays, Feedback Fridays, Mock Interview Days, etc. organized by the SCSU Career Center.

Learn what you need to know to impress employers and stand out from thousands of other college graduates.

* Certification is a gray area. Some position will require you to have specific certification although the majority does not. Research the company and position you wish to apply, build skills to fit the spot, apply, followup and attend interviews with full confidence.

* Know your advisors and professors well, because they are the ones who will help you with references, letters of recommendation, career decisions, and academic support.

* Get good grades. The majority of the internships require a 3.00 GPA to apply. In the employer’s perspective, your GPA reflects your quality of work and ethics.

* Develop leadership skills from the start. One way employers differentiate candidates is to seek out students willing to take initiative. Amongst many ways to improve your leadership skills are to join a student organization, run for board positions, volunteer, or participate in research projects.

Wish you the best of Luck!

Alumnus Insight

- By Houa Xiong

Graduating from SCSU with an IS Major and MGMT Minor, I have seen and experienced the harsh reality of job hunting firsthand. All that preparation and expectation only matters if you had good guidance beforehand. I hope my suggestions will help current students to bust some myths and speculations. Wish you the best of Luck!

* Surround yourself with those who want to succeed. These are individuals who will challenge and help you when you are lost. The best ones are the ones in your specific major because only they know the struggle you are going through academically and professionally.

Houa Xiong, an alumnus of SCSU, is presently working at MN Mental Health Clinic as an IT Support Analyst.
GenCyber at SCSU

This summer at St. Cloud State University, computer systems and digital attacks were the subjects of study at two GenCyber camps. The National Security Agency and National Science Foundation sponsored $100,000 for the GenCyber events providing interactive learning activities to educate K-12 teachers and high school students on June 20-24 and July 17-22, as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and career pathway.

Fifteen teachers and thirty student engaged in hands-on cybersecurity focused sessions with SCSU professors, alumni, current students and industry experts in these one-week camps. Participants acquired knowledge of network fundamentals, cryptography and cybersecurity. They also studied forensics, ethics and privacy. The program believes that this learning will help teachers develop better curriculum. Visiting students stayed in residential halls and were provided free meals.

On September 27, 2016, the GenCyber program directors Dr. Mark B. Schmidt and Professor Tirthankar Ghosh traveled to Boston to attend GenCyber meetings and present on the successful camps held at SCSU during Summer 2016. The event coordinator for the program was Ashwini Jha, an MSIA student. MSIA students, Shivam Soni, Mustafa Khambatta, Sudip Kandle also worked with the team at both camps.

Depending on funding, SCSU plans to offer the camps again in Summer 2018.

Wolters Kluwer Partners with SCSU in Class

Wolters Kluwer Financial Services (WKFS) - formerly Bankers Systems, a local company in Waite Park, MN, has been hiring SCSU students for many years. In 2015, WKFS has offered an internship and later a job to Kevin Gysberg, one of our recent IS graduates. Kevin and IT manager Jim Morris have brought an idea to Dr. Paul Safonov to develop an advanced programming class, which would help Wolters Kluwer train students in modern web applications development, and prepare them to potentially work as interns at WKFS. This idea resulted in ten WKFS employees having helped teach IS 445/545 Application Program Development III class, an elective course that was taken by 8 undergraduate (IS) and 8 graduate (MSIA) students during Summer 2016. The class took place partly at SCSU and partly at Wolters Kluwer premises, so students had a chance to visit and actually work in the corporate environment. They mastered their C#, CSS, HTML skills and learned how to perform unit testing and use Microsoft Team Foundation Server while working on group projects. MVC (Model-View-Controller), which is a software design pattern for implementing user interfaces, and Agile methodology were central topics that students learned and practiced for developing dynamic web applications. This first experimental class was a success, and our IS student Cassandra Spruit was offered an internship during Summer and Fall 2016.

The great news is that IT Manager Jerry Medin with his WKFS team and Dr. Paul Safonov will offer this course again in Spring 2017. It is open to IS and MSIA students with advanced programming skills. Class will take place on Monday nights at both SCSU and Wolters Kluwer. To learn more visit http://IS445.com and http://www.wolterskluwerfs.com

Education Abroad - AUS

St. Cloud State University offers study abroad opportunities across the globe that can complement your major, enable you to gain skills, and knowledge and make you more marketable. The program offers students an unforgettable cultural and academic experience. During May 9, 2016 - May 23, 2016, five MSIA students under the supervision of Professor Mark B. Schmidt and Kelley Hennen took part in the Australia Education Abroad Intersession 2016 and visited Sydney, Brisbane, and Cairns (the Great Barrier Reef). Among other activities, the team attended a computer security presentation by Dr. Ernest Foo at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane. Now a joint paper between Dr. Foo, Dr. Schmidt and an MSIA student is in progress that will research some password issues.
As computer applications continue to expand, occupations in computer science and engineering are projected to be among the fastest growing in the United States through 2025. Below is an overview available from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

On average, STEM jobs pay a large premium over non-STEM jobs. STEM employees with a Bachelor’s degree or higher command higher average annual wages than non-STEM employees with at least a Bachelor’s degree. A recent survey from NACE below provides actual starting salaries for the college Class of 2016.

There is a shortage of workers with advanced computing skills, but there is an oversupply of workers with science, engineering, or mathematics skills.

IS Club Election 2016

Information Systems (IS) Club is a motivated group of individuals dedicated to IT-related education, events, and networking. The club promotes interaction, involvement and opportunities for its members, the university and its surrounding community. The club also focuses on enhancing professional development through resume building, informative speakers, networking and other career opportunities. They strive to gather information about the IS/IT field through club events, guest speakers, interacting and making connections with alumni, as well as learning about what areas of business are available to IS students. Opportunities to meet new people and learn about cultures through social events come as an inclusive advantage.

The IS Club recently had their Fall 2016 election and the newly elected board members are, Cassandra Spruit (President), Renu Lakhemaru (Vice-President), Kehinde Sodunke (Secretary), Derek Grimm (Treasurer), Irina N. Nishat (Events Coordinator), Dayitwa Shrestha (Webmaster), Christopher Hertling (Career Development Director), and Elsa Freudenthal (BSEC Representative).

In Fall 2016, the IS Club already invited guest speakers from Optum, a leading health services and innovative company, to build connections, find opportunity and learn from the industry experts. One of the priorities for IS Club this year is to have more social and volunteering events such as Adopt-A-Highway, Feed My Starving Children, and Hackathons to name a few.

STEM vs non-STEM

As computer applications continue to expand, occupations in computer science and engineering are projected to be among the fastest growing in the United States through 2025. Below is an overview available from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Merger of IA and ITS Club

In Fall 2016, two student organizations, the Information Assurance (IA) Club, comprised of students mostly from the Information Systems (IS) Department, and the Information Technology and Security (ITS) Club, consisting of students mostly from the Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) Department, have decided to merge together and create a single platform for likeminded graduate and undergraduate students. The main strategy behind the merger was to unite their knowledge, skills and resources to create awareness and attract more students in the cybersecurity field.

Due to the merger, a change in name was proposed and accepted as ‘Cybersecurity and Information Assurance (CSIA) Club’. The formation will be operating under the current IA Club executive board until the new board members for the CSIA club is officially elected on November 15, 2016. ‘We are currently working together to create an inclusive constitution that will incorporate objectives from both clubs.’ said Ashwini K. Jha, president IA Club.

Ashwini also said, “The core purpose of the CSIA Club will be to support and advocate Cyber Security education at undergraduate and graduate levels in St. Cloud State University and its surrounding community. The club will also serve as a platform for information exchange among the students and faculty.” This would be a great starting place for all newcomers who are interested in Cybersecurity.

Current advisors for the CSIA Club are Dr. Jim Q. Chen (IS Dept.) and Dr. Tirthankar Ghosh (CSIT Dept.). The club meets every Tuesday at 2:00 PM in Headly Hall 225. To join visit https://stcloudstate.collegiatelink.net/organization/ISClub

Source: NACE 2016 Fall Salary Survey

Student Ambassador Program

Starting this year, the IS Department plans to introduce the Student Ambassador Program that will give leadership opportunities to international students while representing their country at SCSU.

Student Ambassadors will promote IS Department programs in their countries and act as liaisons between the department and prospective students from their country.

STEM vs non-STEM

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On average, STEM jobs pay a large premium over non-STEM jobs. STEM employees with a Bachelor’s degree or higher command higher average annual wages than non-STEM employees with at least a Bachelor’s degree. A recent survey from NACE below provides actual starting salaries for the college Class of 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of reports</th>
<th>2016 Average</th>
<th>% up 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>$64,891</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>1,933</td>
<td>$61,322</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>$55,087</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NACE 2016 Fall Salary Survey

There is a shortage of workers with advanced computing skills, but there is an oversupply of workers with science, engineering, or mathematics skills.
Congratulations! Academic Excellence Awardees for Spring and Summer 2016

**Information Systems** *(Spring 2016)*
- Aashka Khadka
- Afreen Sultana
- Andrew Botchway
- Anusha Thottempu
d- Arbin Maharjan
- Ashwini Jha
- Dimuthu C. Arachchige
- Elda Khadka
- Haresh Reddy Eemani
- Hazem Farra
- Jonathan Munsch
- Miness Malla
- Mohammad A. H. Shahi
- Mohammad Islam
- Niranjan Rajal
- Orlando Paramo
- Parves Kamal
- Rajender Gandhi
- Raqeeb Abdul
- Ritu Tamang
- Shiek Alam
- Shivam Soni
- Srinath Meadusani
- Srinath Reddy Pasanuru
- Vinay Kumar Ananthu
- William Smith

**Information Assurance** *(Spring 2016)*
- Abdullah Aldaaj
- Ali Alshaikh Ahmed
- Austin Hanson
- Mahmoud Aboaljadail
- Mohammed Aloatabi

**Information Assurance** *(Summer 2016)*
- Hung Nguyen
- Kristina Sai Ayyagari
- Meera Nikhil Guntaka
- Phaniith Komineeretty
- Prabesh Shrestha
- Priyadarshini Mocherla
- Unmesha Punyanagarthula
- Yashwanth Kambalapali

**Information Systems** *(Fall 2016)*
- Aamina Joshu
- Fabrice Savadogo
- Jonathan Munsch
- Mhd Redwan Alboughe
- Orlando Paramo
- Redwan Alward
- Swarna Manchakata
- Usha Rani Singh

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**Upcoming Special Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/09/2016</td>
<td>02:00 pm</td>
<td>Maple Room, Atwood</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/09/2016</td>
<td>03:00 pm</td>
<td>Maple Room, Atwood</td>
<td>CSIA Club Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/2016</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Glacier Room, Atwood</td>
<td>Student-Faculty-Staff (SFS) Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19/2016</td>
<td>01:00 pm</td>
<td>CH 494</td>
<td>ICCP Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19/2016</td>
<td>05:00 pm</td>
<td>Atwood Ballroom</td>
<td>South Asia Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/01/2016</td>
<td>10:30 pm</td>
<td>Atwood Memorial Center</td>
<td>Grad Expo Fall’16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/02/2016</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>IA Club Potluck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/18/2017</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Atwood Ballroom</td>
<td>Career/Job Fair Prep Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/27/2017</td>
<td>01:00 pm</td>
<td>2nd Floor, Atwood</td>
<td>Diversity Job &amp; Internship Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Have an interesting update/article/experience/news/idea/event to share?**
We are always seeking content and suggestions for our newsletters. If you are interested in submitting a writeup of 250 words or less with relevant high resolution image, please feel free to contact the IS Department office or send an e-mail to is_Editor@stcloudstate.edu

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