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Chukwuemeka C. Monwuba wins Robert E. Applebaum Scholarship worth \$12,000!



Chukwuemeka C. Monwuba

Chukwuemeka C. Monwuba won the Robert E. Applebaum Scholarship worth \$12,500 which will ease his cost of tuition. He entered into the MSIA program in Fall 2018, and he is planning to do a summer internship in cybersecurity. Chukwuemeka has more time to focus on his studies now as he does not have to work extra to earn money to pay tuition.

Chukwuemeka applied for the scholarship through Husky Scholarships. He had to include his academic, financial information, along with his volunteering work on campus. His GPA was 3.6 at the time of application, and the requirement was to maintain a GPA of 3.0. Professor Abdullah Abu Hussein helped him in the process. As an international student, Chukwuemeka was only eligible for this scholarship, which he says is something unfortunate being an international student. A school that talks about diversity had only one scholarship for international students.

Chukwuemeka says, "I was very worried about paying for tuition. Now I have to only focus on studies. SCSU is a great school, and I can better myself now. Academic and Cultural Sharing Scholarship helps a lot in reducing the cost of tuition too, but a student still has to spend a lot of money. I have a single mum who has four kids and trying to put us through school to get an education. This elevated some of the financial burden off from her. "

His ambition is to get an internship in information security to use his academic knowledge in the industry.

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations established the Robert E. Applebaum Scholarship to assist undergraduate seniors and graduate school students who plan to continue their education in college. Only 5 Scholarships are offered each year for full-time study at an accredited public or private four-year college or university in Minnesota. This scholarship program is administered by Scholarship America, and awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability or national origin.



Professor Susantha Herath and Professor Lynn Collen at SFS meeting on 4/22/2019

Professor Lynn Collen accepts the position as the Chair of the IS Department

After eleven years of service as the chair of the IS department, Professor Susantha Herath will be stepping down, and Professor Lynn Collen will be starting her position as the chair from July 1st, 2019. Professor Lynn Collen had been serving the department for several years. She is planning on bringing in a wealth of knowledge and expertise to serve the department at her best.

Inside this edition

Chukwuemeka C. Monwuba wins	1	MSIA Student Orientation	4	INFOSYS Diaries	7
Lynn Collen IS Dept Chair	1	UGH Networking Event	4	Academic Success and Life at SCSU	7
Farewell to Professor Susantha Herath	2	Job Forecast	4	Academic Excellence Awardees	8
Student 360 Conference	3	Club Updates	5	Farewell Graduates	8
Kelley Hennen	2	New Faculty	6		

Farewell to Professor Susantha Herath



Dr. Susantha Herath

Dr. Susantha Herath has been a professor for the Information Systems Department from 2001 and the chair for the last 11 years. Effective July 1, 2019, he will be working as the Associate Dean, in the College of Engineering and Business, and the Director of the School of Engineering and Computing at Gannon University, PA. Dr. Herath has 29 years of college-level teaching experience with two tenure awards and over ten years of administrative-level experience in industry and government. He has also published over 90 peer-reviewed articles and has received over four million dollars (US) in federal funding as a PI and CO-PI.

InfoSys's interview with him is as follows:

Can you give a little bit of background to yourself before working as the chair of the IS department?

I earned my Ph.D. from Keio University, an accredited premier university in Japan. While residing in the Electrical Engineering department, I specialized in Computer Science. During that time, I worked for four years with the Artificial Intelligence research group at the Electro-technical Laboratory, a national laboratory in Japan. I also worked as a researcher with a Statistics and Data Analytics, and Computer Security research group at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, and as a visiting assistant professor in Computer Science Department at South West Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. At Aizu University in Japan, as an inaugural faculty member, I taught graduate and undergraduate levels and was an active participant in curriculum and program design and development for its bachelors, masters, and doctoral programs. For three years, I served as Assistant Chair of the Software Systems at Aizu U. Japan.

What brought you to SCSU?

My brother Professor Jayantha Herath is the reason why I decided to pursue a career with SCSU.

When did you take over the role as the chair of the IS department?

In Fall, 2008.

What were your biggest challenges as the chair of the IS department, and how did you overcome?

When I undertook the Chair position in the IS Department at SCSU, its enrollment, retention, and graduation were going down. My biggest challenge was to protect the department during the SCSU reorganization in 2010. During 2008-2010, many universities were eliminating IS and Computing departments. The IS was identified as a department to eliminate from SCSU during the restructuring process. The enrollment was down, the budget was cut, faculty vacancies were not filled, and the Department lost its office and the office staff. The Department went through a rigorous strategic planning process and took immediate action to implement many changes. Change is essential to continuous improvement and success.

Under my leadership, the enrollment increased from 48 to 484 in 2017. To satisfy national workforce needs and help recruitment, I initiated and developed the Information Assurance (IA) Masters, an innovative graduate program that attracted many students from numerous disciplines.

The courses are offered in the evenings so that working adults also can complete the program and make a career change. The five-year BS/MS program I initiated allows students to complete a graduate degree in one year. The three-year accelerated BS program I implemented dramatically increased the graduation rate. In response to industry and labor market needs, as well as to improve retention and placement, I introduced four undergraduate certificates. Numerous new courses were added to the curriculum. In 2012, the Department adopted the IS 2010 curriculum, the first program to adopt IS 2010 in the mid-west. Converting the IS program into a STEM field attracted more international students. To increase retention and graduation rates, I introduced group advising and enhanced the advising process, improved technology applications, initiated promoting undergraduate research, brought in federal grants, introduced once a semester student-faculty-staff (SFS) meetings, and developed partnerships with 2-year colleges and industry. During this time, over 100 students were able to attend professional conferences annually. After working in a national lab for years several decades ago, I implemented the same model of working in a national lab at the undergraduate level. I encouraged community connections by bringing in new partners and engaged

students and faculty as active participants in the economic development of MN State. I provided leadership and worked with the faculty to create a student-centered strategic plan built on the philosophy of providing meaningful learning opportunities for students through access to diverse environments, civic engagement, study abroad, and experimental learning. Now the IS Department is one of the most promising departments at SCSU, enjoying healthy enrollment, retention and graduation rates.

What are some of your other achievements in the department?

The IA program is the first inter-disciplinary program between the School of Business and the College of Science and Engineering at SCSU. At that time, such program design and development was new. It broke barriers and disrupted the normal boundaries of disciplines operated in isolation. The IS Department is a significant contributor to the Data Analytics graduate certificate program, with two other departments in two colleges. The Business Analytics minor under development is another interdisciplinary program with four departments in three schools/colleges. My federal grants have co-principal investigators within the Department and in several other colleges. I supported faculty in various departments across

campus, outside in career advancement, and in submitting proposals for external funding successfully. I initiated an articulation agreement with St. Cloud Technical and Community College and contributed to developing a 3+2 program with the Xian University of Technology and the Shanghai University of Engineering Science in China. During 2002 to 2013, almost every year, I organized an annual security conference series that had the participants from the five neighboring states.

What is your favorite memory from the IS department?

I had extreme fulfillment in helping students succeed, largely in their academic and personal lives. One of my favorite memories is when I met with the family of an IA student during my visit to India. I served as the academic adviser to every student in IA from 2009 to 2017. Creating and observing the growth of the largest graduate program at SCSU, the MSIA program, was both challenging and fulfilling.

It was thrilling, the day I received the offer letter from NSF to award \$600,000 scholarships for our SCSU students in 2011. Then we received another \$600,000 in 2015 to recruit, retain and graduate students in time. Life is fantastic.

What do you wish people knew about the IS department?

We aim at transforming minds and lives of undergraduate and graduate education by infusing computational thinking, security, and innovation throughout the curriculum, enhancing lifetime career prospects of our young students and providing them opportunities to engage in active interdisciplinary research experiences. I wish more people knew about the high-quality education offered by the IS department and its friendly environment that is designed for students to feel at ease while also succeeding in life.

What is your philosophy in work life?

Work is my hobby. If you are happy with what you are doing, you will never get tired, and it is the secret to success.

What are your plans for the future?

I am looking for opportunities to achieve my full potential and serve humanity.

IS and IA students attend Student 360 conference at 3M



Lee Ho, MSIA Student

On February 22, 2019, SCSU's Information System (IS) department organized a field trip down to 3M Corporate Headquarters located at Maplewood, MN. It was an early morning

bus ride at 6 am to attend the IT Security and risk management conference (Student Secure 360) organized by Upper Midwest Security Alliance (UMSA). Though it was

early, everyone had fun and shared jokes.

The conference started with a panel of Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) followed by presentations in cybersecurity to business continuity to governance, risk, and compliance, such as secure application development, advancement factors, threat hunting, cyber behavior analytics, and building a security lab. Another highlight of the day was a panel that consisted of an undergraduate, a graduate, and a doctoral degree holders, where they share their experience and knowledge in their life experience. The panel explained the benefits

of education and why everyone needs to learn and grow continuously. This discussion helps clarify the importance of education in our life. Also, students got an opportunity to participate in mock interviews with recruiters and current industry experts in cybersecurity. The mock interview provided students with the knowledge of how and what type of interview questions that can be expected in a real job interview.

This conference is a good experience for students to learn and grow. In 2020, the event is at Target with more to come. Contact the IS department for more information.

Appreciation of service and a big thank you to the office manager, Kelley Hennen for serving the IS department for five years

Kelley Hennen has been the office manager for five years in the IS department, SCSU. She has helped many students from all walks of life. She is known to be very empathetic and friendly among students.



*Kelley Hennen
IS Department Office Manager*

MSIA Student Orientation Spring 2019



Nuwanthi Gamhewage

The Master of Science Information Assurance (MSIA) student orientation was successfully held on January 23rd, 2019 in the Herberger Business School at Centennial Hall. This information session was organized

for the newly admitted graduate students for Spring 2019 who are majoring in Information Assurance.

Dr. Susantha Herath, the chair of the Department of Information Systems (IS), Dr. Jim Chen and Dr. Jie Meichsner, the co-directors of the MSIA program, and some

of the MSIA faculty participated in the information session.

Diversity could be seen among the students who participated in the session. They represented The United States, India, Sri Lanka, China, etc. Students from different education backgrounds such as Business Management, Accounting, Information Systems, etc. were among those graduated students who clearly showed that students not only from Cyber Security field but also from different educational backgrounds are welcome to the MSIA program at SCSU.

The main objective of the session was to deliver important information about culminating projects which needs to be

completed by every graduate student as a requirement of their degree program before graduation.

According to the session, MSIA students can get enrolled in plan A, plan B, or plan C which represents a thesis, a starred paper, and a project portfolio (IA 680) or a full-time internship (IA 644), respectively.

Students are encouraged to take plan C option in the last semester (IA 680) or as the last three-credits (IA 644) of their degree program. Preliminary and final oral meetings will occur in different semesters for plan C.

UnitedHealth Group (UGH) Networking Event



James Yan

The Optum networking event took place on March 29, 2019 at Dave and Buster's in Maple Grove. Optum created a platform for students from St. Cloud State to connect with alumni who currently work

at Optum. Although I already secured an internship for the summer, I attended the event as it couldn't hurt to check it out, after all, it could lead to potential career opportunities. I had the chance to learn

about Optum, gained insights about career specifications, and various employee's daily work duties. I even received relevant questions that are asked by Optum hiring managers that can leave a great first impression. The best thing about the event was the free meal provided for students, which included barbeque ribs, hamburgers, freshly baked pretzel dogs, and more delicious snacks. This event was a steal! Who doesn't want a free quality meal and network with professionals?

At the end of the event, Optum offered a mentor and mentee program where mentors can advise/answer questions their mentees

have about Optum. I like this program because it gives students knowledge of how class practices/exercises are associated with the workforce. Attending this event has prepared me to become a valuable candidate for future career opportunities at Optum and further drove me to understand where my interests and goals lie within the workforce. I encourage students to participate in future networking events as you never know what they could offer you and lastly, you'll learn more about what your career interests are.

Job Forecast 2016-2026

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018

Job Title	2016 jobs	Forecast 2026	Growth 2016-26	Median Salary 17'
Information Security Analysts	100,000	128,000	28%	\$95,510
Software Developers, Applications	1,256,200	1,558,700	24%	\$103,560
Web Developers	162,900	187,335	15%	\$67,990
Database Administrators	119,500	132,645	11%	\$87,020
Computer Support specialists	835,300	927,183	11%	\$52,810
Computer Systems Analyst	600,500	654,545	9%	\$88,270
Network & Computer System Administrators	391,300	414,778	6%	\$81,100

Club Updates



Paul M. Voeltz

CSIA Club Update

The CSIA Club took part in the spring semester's Sidestreet event in Atwood and had a booth with information about meeting times and plenty of free goodies! (who doesn't like those). We had our first meeting shortly after the event, and members received hands-on Linux command line experience with an exciting capture-the-flag game.

The CSIA Club also teamed up with the IS Club to coordinate a networking event with Optum. We met with Optum employees who were also SCSU alumni to talk about their business and opportunities for both internships and full-time employment. Attending students had the opportunity to speak with Optum employees in different fields of interest ranging from security to data analysis. The event was held at Dave & Buster's in Maple Grove, so we also got to play games!

We are looking to incorporate people from the industry in our upcoming meetings. We want CSIA members to have another of interacting with potential employers and learn more about the field they are becoming involved in. We hope these interactions lead to employment after graduation for our CSIA Club members.



CSIA booth at the SCSU Sidestreet event



Networking event with Optum at Dave & Buster's



Erich Rice, IS Instructor

IS Club Update

The IS Club continues to help information systems students grow in their academic and professional development through visits from alumni and industry professionals. IS Club along with the CSIA Club sponsored an event with Optum, a division of United HealthGroup, so that alumni and current students from information systems and the information assurance program could meet and discuss current technologies and employment opportunities. There will also be opportunities coming for information systems students to take part in an E-Mentor program where current students will have the ability to be a mentee who is matched with an SCSU alum who currently works at Optum as a mentor through email to answer questions related to technology and professional issues. There will be more information on when to sign up and what requirements there will be in the late summer before the fall semester.

The IS Club welcomed Briken Jensen an information systems alumna to speak about her current position at Open Systems International, Inc. as a project management professional in their Project Management Office (PMO). She spoke about the company and its software products which run various SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems for industrial uses such as in the energy and production sectors. She discussed the role of project management in developing software applications and how complex systems such as SCADA systems need both technical and non-technical people who can aid in their development and maintenance in the field.



IS Club meetings- Spring 2019



IS Club meetings- Spring 2019

New Faculty



Hazem Farra

Adjunct Faculty

Hazem Farra

Hazem Farra, an alumnus of St Cloud State University, graduated from Herberger Business School with an MS degree in Information Assurance in 2018. He received a BS degree in Business Computer Information Systems from SCSU, as well, in 2003. Hazem is ready to start his Ph.D. in Information Systems at Nova Southwestern University, Florida, in Fall 2019.

Besides teaching IT Infrastructure (IS-451) at SCSU during Spring 2019, Hazem is employed as a Software Engineer at a local St. Cloud company and works with various technologies such as C#, VB.NET, MVC, jQuery, Javascript, and SQL.

As a student, Hazem had the opportunity to work in different SCSU IT department since the year 2000. He worked with the infrastructure team, wiring Miller Center and other departments network cabling systems. Additionally, Hazem worked at the SCSU HelpDesk and developed the HelpDesk's Software Checkout. He later worked with Computing & Technology User Services (CTUS) and completed his practical training as an SCSU Open Computer Labs Assistant Manager. His persistence and self-taught web development skills helped him land a position as a Web Master, Applications, and Database developer in Dubai, UAE.

While pursuing his graduate degree, Hazem had the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant for various IS courses such as IS 340, IS 250, IS 356, IS 445, and MBA 616. Additionally, he worked for Minnstate IMS - D2L Brightspace Instructional Technology local office, as a Program Assistant.

In 2017, Hazem participated in various events related to technology and security such as Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS), the Cybersecurity Annual Summit, several symposiums, and cybersecurity awareness events. He

collaborated with professors on topics related to Information Security and published a research paper on "Security Concerns of Registers in Linux Hosts: Using Debug to Find Memory Addresses of Sensitive Data."

Hazem considers awareness to be the first and most important step in the process of securing the global Information System. His cybersecurity focus area is related to social engineering, web applications vulnerability assessment, and various system logs analysis.



Darunee Haley

Darunee Haley

Darunee Haley received a Bachelor Degree in Economics (with Honors) in 1984 from Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok, Thailand. She completed an M.A. in Economics with a minor in Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln in 1987 and continued to do most of the coursework for a Ph.D. She did not complete her Ph.D. She decided to move with her husband to Houston, TX, to start a family instead. During her Ph.D. study, she worked as a research assistant at the UNL Bureau of Business Research.

Since September 2005 she has been teaching part-time at SCSU. Her courses taught are STAT 193 (Statistical Thinking), STAT 219 (Statistics for the Social Sciences), STAT229 (Statistics for Physical Sciences), STAT242 (Statistical Methods I for Business), and IS242 (Business Statistics). She was a STAT193 Coordinator for spring 2011 and a STAT193 content Coordinator for Fall 2012.



Redwan A Alward

Redwan A Alward

Redwan Alward joined the IS department as an Adjunct Professor this semester teaching one section of IS345 (Java). Redwan is an SCSU alumnus who received a Minor in Computer Science, BS in Information Systems, and MS in Information Assurance 2011, 2013, and

2016 respectively; all from SCSU (Go Huskies). Redwan brings with him 5+ years of experience in the IT industry working at a local company as a programmer analyst. As a programmer analyst, he worked on developing back-end and front-end applications and solutions using several programming languages, database engines, and IT skills. His main focus is conveying his industry experience while teaching class materials to better equip our next IT generation/professionals and, for sure, he enjoys every minute of it. When he is not at work, he enjoys the outdoors with friends and family, including BBQ's and picnic's.



Mark J Kroska

Mark J Kroska

Mark Kroska has worked professionally in Information Systems for more than 20 years in various capacities from Systems Administrator, Security Analyst, System Architect, Senior Consultant, and Senior Project Manager. He earned his MBA from St. Cloud State University in 2013 and his undergraduate in May 2011 with minors in IS and Women's Studies. Outside of the classroom, Mark serves as Senior Project Manager for Enterprise IT projects for Verizon. His vast background in IS and Security make him a sought after presenter, and he continues to educate himself with industry-related certifications and coursework.

Before St. Cloud State, Mark worked for two other for-profit colleges for more than fifteen years. During that time he led classes in many IS and Security topics and did online course development. He enjoys the challenges and questions that students and technology bring forward in education.

In his free time, Mark enjoys both writing and performing music (both on keyboard and vocal) with his band. He is married to his wife Jennifer, and they have five children that live in St. Cloud. Also Mark has served on the Board of Directors for UCP of Central MN for more than eight years and works on the technology committee.

Inspirational advice from students who achieved a GPA of 4.0 in Fall, 2018



Renu Lakhemaru

Renu Lakhemaru

It was a great honor on achieving a 4.0 GPA this fall 2018. It requires a lot of hard work and dedication. However, at the same time, one should enjoy themselves while in school. Keeping up with this grade point average is sometimes more work than I think it to be worth, at the end of one's schooling. Some of

the things that helped me to achieve the GPA are as follows:

- Write down your goals.
- Create (and follow) a study schedule
- GO TO CLASS
- Go to office hours
- Do the reading before class test
- Find a consistent study place and time.
- Combine your class notes, your work on the study guide, and your notes on the reading to make the ultimate study buddy.



Logan R Salner

Logan R Salner

I remember at my high school graduation; our faculty speaker said: "Good things come to those who show up." That is what I did to earn a 4.0 GPA for the last two semesters: show up. But of course, there is more to it than that. I won't lie: college is tough and can wear you down, but I continued to show up nonetheless.

Even when I only got three hours of sleep, I showed up. Even when my car got totaled, and I had to catch a ride to school, I showed up. In my experience, the key to success in school is just putting in the effort. Put in the effort to go to class. Put in the effort to listen to your professors actively. Put honest effort into your homework and studying, and don't be afraid to ask questions if you are lost. If you make the time and put forth the effort your professor expects, I guarantee you will get a positive result.

Madina Kartkozhakova

Getting a 4.0 GPA is not easy, but it is simple. So, here are some tips on how to succeed and get A's for all your classes:

1. Read the textbook. Some people would disagree, but 99.9% of the time, questions on the tests and exams come from the textbook.
2. Go to class. As many successful people say, "Sometimes it's just about showing up." Even if your professor won't take attendance, you will always learn something in class, and won't regret when a question or two pop up on the exam from the lecture.
3. Do your assignments on time. Procrastination is your biggest enemy.
4. Enjoy the process. Do not go to the class with a mindset that you have to survive another bad day. Instead, see it as the opportunity to grow and learn something that will help you succeed in the future.
5. Use the school's resources. We have a great library, why not use it? If you are stuck, you can always use the professor's office hours and/or tutors.
6. Ask questions. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Professors usually encourage students to do so. And if you ask a question in class, others might have the same question as you.

Kamana, K.C.

Sharing my little story in this platform today, I feel honored and also feel a little more responsibility as well, to maintain my academic performance. Generally, I have met two groups of people around me. The first one is the one asking why I have a perfect GPA all the time, and the second one is the one questioning why I study all the time. My answers to both questions are always pretty similar. For the first question, I always reply saying, "I don't study for a grade but to learn, to understand and to make myself a better person than I was yesterday." This eventually ends up helping with my GPA as well. And for the second question, I reply, "Everyone has something that they do to enjoy, and I enjoy studying." Studying for me is more like following my passion. Rather than seeing studying as a burden, I see this as an opportunity to evolve.

Academic Success and Life at SCSU



Sohaib Ali Khan

Living away from home and being completely on your own is a difficult feat in itself. The challenges become even more difficult when you're having to keep up with the deadlines of

assignments and exams, and trying to maintain good grades throughout the semester.

I started the semester studying the syllabus and understanding the grade distribution for each course, which helped me a great deal to plan for the workload. In addition to that, I was determined to finish all the assignments by their deadlines, because they are very crucial to achieving a good grade, and if you don't turn them in on time, you do fall behind the curve. Another important thing to remember is paying attention in class. If you have your dedicated attention to your

professors, you do learn on the spot, and that makes it way easier to prepare for any quizzes or exams because you should already have a decent understanding of the material by that time. Naturally, it is a great feeling for me to have achieved a perfect 4.0 all thanks to having a defined goal and determinism.

