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Semester Celebration of Student and Faculty Achievements



MSIA Student Academic Achievement Honorees

The IS Department Student-Faculty-Staff (SFS) event was held on April 24th in the Voyageur room at Atwood Memorial Center. The bi-annual ceremony was led by Department Chair Dr. Susantha Herath and celebrated students' and faculty's academic and professional achievements. Outstanding achievement awards were given for academic excellence and professional contributions to the department, including research publications, conference presentations, academic awards, and Spring 2023 graduation. Students received certificates to commemorate their achievements.

AY 24 IS Scholarship Awards recipients were recognized: Ruth Meyer Scholarship Recipients: Abdifitah Isse, Jeremy Olson; Dien Phan Scholarship Recipient: Mulfaro Machakaire; and Wes Schiffler Scholarship Recipient: Kennedy Chukwudile.

Honorees for Student Conference Presentations: 12th Annual Women in Cybersecurity Conference in Denver, Colorado, Samantha Collen and Salome Pantuvo, poster presentation; 22nd International Security Conference in Las Vegas, Samantha Collen, Bert Noble, and Craig Overboe, "Risks, Privacy, and Responsibility of Social Media use in the Workplace: a review", Paper; Nidika Bandara, Larissa Marques, Mawuli Martey, Anita Adhikaria, and Rishab Sharma, "Analysis of Recent

Ransomware Attacks and Preventable Measures"; Anita Adhikaria and Rishab Sharma, "Recent Advances of Security in IoT: a survey."

Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Sohn, and Dr. Wang were honoured for their research contributions, grant acquisitions, and securing research funding.

The department recognized eight new student ambassadors for the IS ambassador program, part of a recruitment and retention initiative to encourage prospective students to join the department. The student ambassadors are Enaholo Ehimare G, Enow Nkongho Ehab, Faozia Soukeina Traore, Jhaziel Habdi Tecsihua Tamari, Mirza Sheroz, Mounish Kamma, Rojina Neupane, and Sandya Acharya. They will represent the department and support department tours, and recruitment events.

Dr. Jim Chen spoke about the 4+1 program, which allows IS students to earn a bachelor's degree in information systems and a Master of Science in Information Assurance in five years. Dr. Mark Schmidt discussed the pending Cyber Security Scholarship Program grant and the study-abroad opportunity to Australia in the summer of 2024 and Cuba in 2025.

Congratulations to all the honourees for their academic and professional achievements.

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Students Shine at WiCyS Conference with Research and Insights



Conference Attendees

MSIA students, Rojina Neupane, Apsara Thapa, Salome Pantuvo, and Samantha Collen, showcased their research at the 12th Annual Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) conference in Denver, Colorado, 2023. Salome and Samantha's research paper, "Security, Privacy, and Societal Implications of AR and VR in Education," secured them a spot in the competitive student poster presentation competition.

Attendees eagerly engaged with captivating speaker topics, including threat intelligence, the Rust programming language, and the role of risk in cybersecurity and career advancement. Presentations covered strategic, tactical, technical, and operational aspects of threat intelligence and insights into the threat intelligence lifecycle. The conference also explored Rust, a powerful low-level language that has gained popularity among major companies like Google, Amazon, Microsoft, and Firefox. Combining speed with memory safety akin to Java, GO, and Python, Rust offers exceptional capabilities for systems software development. Thought-provoking sessions emphasized the importance of networking, seizing opportunities, and leveraging strengths for success in cybersecurity. Attendees were inspired to navigate challenges, emphasizing continuous learning, and fostering supportive relationships. Quotes and takeaways from the conference resonated with participants, encouraging personal branding, creativity in improving company processes, voicing opinions, mastering the basics, and seeking mentors for guidance.

The attendees thanked Drs. Abu Hussein and Lynn Collen for their mentorship, and the WiCyS National Office, MN Affiliate, WiCyS Chapter advisors, and the SCSU Senate Finance Committee for their unwavering support.

The success of SCSU students at WiCyS reflects the exceptional talent and dedication nurtured within our information assurance program.

22nd International Security Conference Showcases SCSU Talent



Conference Attendees

Dr. Akalanka Mailewa, Dr. Lynn Collen, and six MSIA students attended the 22nd Annual Security Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 9-10. Renowned for attracting law enforcement agencies and federal organizations, this conference is a crucial platform for exploring security, assurance, and privacy topics, promoting discussions on current trends, and fostering dialogues about future cybersecurity solutions.

Under the guidance of Dr. Mailewa, selected research papers from SCSU were presented and published in the post-conference proceedings and shared electronically. Samantha Collen, Bert Noble, and Craig Overboe delivered a compelling presentation titled "Risks, Privacy, and Responsibility of Social Media Use in the Workplace: A Review." Nadika Bandara presented a group paper by Nadika Bandara, Larissa Marques, and Mawuli Martey, which explored the analysis of recent ransomware attacks and preventable measures. Anita Adhikari and Rishab Sharma also showcased their work on "Recent Advances of Security in IoT: A Survey" as a full paper presentation. These presentations received positive feedback and sparked engaging discussions. Outstanding research papers may also be chosen for publication in the esteemed Journal of Information System Security.

The student participants are grateful to the Herberger Business School, College of Science and Engineering, SCSU Senate Finance Committee, and the Center for Information Assurance Studies for their invaluable support, which enabled our students to attend and excel at this conference. Their commitment to nurturing talent and fostering academic growth is commendable.

The achievements of our SCSU delegation at the 22nd International Security Conference exemplify the exceptional caliber of our cybersecurity program. We applaud their dedication and contributions to the field of information security.

Dr. Jieyu Wang's Cutting-Edge Research Enhances Education through Conversational Agents



Dr. Jieyu Wang, Assistant Professor

Dr. Jieyu Wang, renowned for her groundbreaking research in human-centered AI, continues to make significant contributions in her field. In 2022, Dr. Wang's exceptional AI project titled "Designing conversational agents for Education: tailoring university student's personalities into human-centered intelligent systems" received the Minnesota State Innovation Funding. This project focuses on developing a high-fidelity prototype of an educational conversational agent (CA) that caters to the diverse personalities of college students, ensuring equal service for all. By fundamentally redefining the design of CAs, this work will establish guidelines for future designs to communicate with a wide range of users effectively. Under the guidance of Dr. Jieyu Wang and Dr. Susantha Herath, student research groups have investigated the impact of user personality on the design of educational conversational agents. Their findings were published in the esteemed International Journal of Engineering and Science. Their extended abstract, authored by Dr. Jieyu Wang, Dr. Jim Chen, Dr. Abdullah Abu Hussein, and Dr. Lynn Collen, was accepted by the Midwest Association of Information Systems (MWAIS 2023) conference and presented in May 2023.

Furthermore, Dr. Wang secured funding through the Early Career Grant at St. Cloud State University in 2023 for her project "Designing

a Conversational Agent for Student Well-being." Collaborating with Dr. Li Zhang, Dr. Jingyu Wang, and research assistant Dingfang Kang, they aim to develop a conversational agent (CA) that alleviates student stress and provides timely information to enhance well-being and academic success.

Dr. Wang's collaborative efforts with Dr. Abdullah Abu Hussein and Dr. Amani Alqarni resulted in a project titled "Develop a Platform to Improve STEM Students' Learning Experience Using Virtual Reality." Jazan University awarded them a grant of \$9,332 to develop a user-friendly interface enabling educators to upload, edit, and publish their 360° videos. This platform will immerse STEM students in virtual reality teaching videos, enriching their learning experiences.

Dr. Wang's cutting-edge research within our department continues to inspire academic success among our students.

[Dr. Jieyu Wang is an assistant professor in the IS department who joined in 2019. She holds a Ph.D. in Human-Centered Computing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her doctoral dissertation focused on investigating the factors influencing the information retrieval behaviors of multilingual web searchers through eye-tracking experiments and interviews. Her research interests encompass human-centered artificial intelligence (AI), security, and information systems and technology. Before joining the IS department, Dr. Wang was a visiting research assistant professor at the Belk College of Business, University of North Carolina, Charlotte.]

Institute for the Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP)



In April 2023, students from the Information Systems Department had the opportunity to take the prestigious ICCP exam offered by the Institute for

the Certification of Computing Professions. This certification is highly sought after by employers in the IT industry. Established in 1973 by eight professionals from Computer Societies, the ICCP is a non-profit organization committed to promoting certification and professionalism in the information technology field. Working with CCER (Center for Computing Education Research), the ICCP has developed a standardized testing method to evaluate instructional programs nationwide.

The ICCP is recognized as a direct measure of the effectiveness of college courses based on Association for Computer Machinery (ACM) curriculum models. Certifications help IT professionals gain recognition as top computing professionals. Having an ICCP certificate shows businesses

that SCSU IS students have met rigorous standards and gained the skills needed to become top IT industry professionals. The accreditation, through successfully passing the ICCP exam, helps students stand out in the job market. Upon passing the ICCP test, students can also receive an Information Systems Analyst (ISA) certificate.

The ISA is the base certificate needed to obtain many other ICCP certifications. Another perk to holding an ICCP certificate is that it qualifies you to take ICCP online courses at reduced rates. The IS Department has been conducting ICCP exams regularly since April 2015. Students are eligible to take the exam if they are graduating in the same semester as the exam or have completed all IS core courses. The department will cover the student exam fees. The test is 3 hours long and covers a range of IT-related topics. For additional information or to register to take the ICCP exam, please contact the IS Department.

Semester Faculty Retreat Fosters Collaboration and Engagement



Spring Semester Faculty Retreat was held on May 5, 2023, bringing together faculty members from our department for a day of collaboration, reflection, and rejuvenation. During the retreat, we had the opportunity to engage

in meaningful discussions about curriculum development, teaching methodologies, and research initiatives. Faculty members shared their insights, experiences, and best practices, fostering a sense of camaraderie

and intellectual exchange. Faculty emeritus Professor Jae Song also attended the event.

The retreat provided a platform for fostering a strong community among our faculty members where ideas were exchanged, best practices were shared, and new strategies were explored to enhance the learning experience for our students.

The Retreat was a resounding success, reinforcing our commitment to academic growth, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Dynamic Guest Speaker Series Elevates Department's Industry Partner Program

The IS Department recently concluded its spring semester with an engaging guest speaker series as part of its esteemed Industry Partner Program (IPP). The program, designed to enrich students' academic journeys, successfully hosted eight prominent speakers who delivered captivating talks on various industry-related topics.

IPP, a cornerstone of the department's educational approach, strives to invite at least one guest speaker for each class. The program fosters a dynamic learning environment that bridges the gap between academia and industry by connecting students with professionals actively engaged in their fields.

The eight speakers who enthusiastically participated in the program this spring included:

1. Vadim Bashurov - UI Developer at Comtrade Engineering Solution, Belgrade, Serbia. Topic: UI Development using Swift language.
2. Weiming Hou - Ux Researcher and Business Analyst at Applied information sciences. Topic: System Analysis and Design Methodologies, Agile.
3. Nick Vanvleet - Data Analytics Manager at Blattner Energy. Topic: Using Power BI for BI/BA/
4. Kyle Rozendaal - Security Consultant at Netspi. Topic: Risk Assessments and IT Security Careers.
5. Chris Sears - Sales Engineer at Checkpoint. Topic: Email Forensics.
6. Daryl Scholz - Senior Agile Project Manager at SCSU. Topic: Cloud services, computer networks, telecommunication, security, administration.
7. Yuanyuan Feng - Health informatics Scientist. Topic: Health Informatics/HCI
8. Luke Reinsma & Matt Bakken - Sr. Cyber security Analysts at Optum. Topic: Breach and Attack Simulation.

The carefully selected speakers represented diverse industries such as technology, finance, healthcare, and entrepreneurship, providing students with invaluable perspectives and up-to-date industry insights.

Professor Herath, the coordinator of IPP, expressed his satisfaction with this semester's speaker series. He emphasized the importance of such interactions in preparing students for the challenges and opportunities they may encounter in their future careers. "We are immensely grateful to our esteemed guest speakers for sharing their expertise with our students. Their talks have sparked inspiration and encouraged critical thinking, complementing our rigorous academic curriculum," he stated.

The program's success is a testament to the collaborative efforts between the department and its industry partners. The IPP is vital in shaping well-rounded graduates with industry-relevant knowledge and skills by facilitating meaningful connections between students and professionals.

The department eagerly looks forward to continuing its pursuit of excellence by expanding the IPP in the upcoming academic year. The invaluable contributions of guest speakers have firmly established this series as a highlight of the department's educational calendar, instilling a sense of excitement and curiosity among students.

Students Gain Valuable Insights at Federated Insurance IS College Fair



SCSU attendees at the College Fair

Erich Rice, Instructor in the Department of Information Systems, led a group of SCSU students to the 2023 Federated Insurance IS College Fair in Owatonna, MN, held on April 20-21. It included many activities to give the students a sense of how the Information Systems group at Federated works to improve the organization's business functions. On the first day evening, there was an IS Carnival, with different booths to showcase the different parts within the IS group, such as data analytics, insurance policy generation and tracking, and IT infrastructure. The carnival included booths with different activities and games that, if the students did well, would collect raffle tickets for a drawing at the night's end for various prizes.

The following day, there was a tour of the downtown corporate headquarters, with a keynote address by Ryker Richardson, the company's Chief Information Officer. He discussed the continued need for growth in the IS group at Federated to meet the ever-evolving business needs in the insurance industry. Then there was a panel discussion with a few newly hired IS employees, and how their transition from college to a career has gone, including helpful tips for the students still in school. Afterward, the students were broken up into three groups, and they rotated through a tour of the facilities at the headquarters building, one-on-one with a Federated employee in IS, and finally, an escape room. The students on the trip said that the one-on-one discussion with an employee was the most valuable experience as it gave them some real insights into the company and what a day at Federated might look like. Finally, the group was brought to the Owatonna Country Club for lunch and a final send-off by the event coordinators and Federated IS leadership. SCSU students thoroughly enjoyed the event, learning more about Federated Insurance and the operation of a corporate IS department. Federated is actively looking for summer interns; usually, these are interviewed at the Fall job fairs. Full-time positions are hired at all times of the year.

Graduate Updates



Melanie Gross

Hi. I am Melanie Gross, and I graduated from St. Cloud State in 1997 with a Business Computer Information Systems (BCIS) degree. I am a Systems Developer at Federated Insurance in Owatonna, MN. I was hired by Federated Insurance a few months before graduating from SCSU. I started

a couple of weeks after graduation and have been working here ever since. My time at SCSU along with the BCIS major curriculum, prepared me well for my career. The technical classes gave me the exposure and knowledge to understand coding concepts and prove I could be a developer. The business classes gave me the background knowledge to understand the business side of an organization and how systems can help streamline business processes and improve business work experiences. Both gave me the skills necessary for solving everyday business challenges with systems. The networking opportunities provided through SCSU were also very beneficial. I met and heard from various companies and got a feel for what positions they were hiring for, along with a general feel for the company cultures through presentations by these companies at classes and clubs. I first learned of Federated Insurance at a BCIS club meeting and was able to meet and talk with them at a Career Day event at SCSU. This was essential in my getting to know more about Federated Insurance and ultimately applying for a job and getting hired. SCSU helped shape my technical and business skills while allowing me to network with companies. All of which are key components to finding a rewarding and successful career. My advice is to take advantage of these opportunities as they will pay off down the road!



Talha Mirza

My name is Talha Mirza, and I am a proud graduate of SCSU. I completed my bachelor's degree in information systems in 2017 and pursued a master's degree in information assurance, which I obtained in 2019. During my final semester of the master's program, I received an exciting job offer from

NetSPI, LLC, a prominent cybersecurity firm in Minneapolis. I have been with the company for four years and am currently a Senior Security Consultant.

My passion for web application security ignited during my undergraduate studies, prompting me to enroll in the graduate program. The master's program in Information Assurance provided me with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field, preparing me for my professional career. As a Security Consultant, I apply and refine these skills daily. My primary responsibilities include identifying security issues and vulnerabilities in networks, web applications, and mobile applications, and implementing effective strategies to address and mitigate those vulnerabilities. I ensure our clients' expectations are met, and their systems remain secure. Additionally, I actively contribute to the recruitment process by assisting the HR team in interviewing, training, and mentoring new hires.

My time at SCSU was transformative, and I had the opportunity to work in various departments, including Residential Life, HuskyTech, and the Center for International Studies. These experiences provided invaluable practical knowledge and helped me shape my interests. The resources available to me as an SCSU student played a crucial role in identifying my career path and building professional connections. Along the way, I formed lifelong friendships, met my wife, and received guidance and mentorship from the knowledgeable faculty and staff at SCSU. I am profoundly grateful to SCSU and the individuals who have been instrumental in my academic and professional journey.



Nalindrani Malimage

I am immensely grateful to SCSU for shaping my journey and contributing to my success. The Information Systems department, particularly professors Susantha Herath, Jayantha Herath, Dennis Guster, Abdullah Abu Hussein, and Lynn Collen, played a pivotal role in my career. The student-centric learning

system at SCSU prepared me with the knowledge necessary to thrive in the corporate world. I discovered my passion for network security and attack path analysis in Dr. Guster's Client Server Security class. I am a Cybersecurity Consultant leading the Operational Technology segment at Burns and McDonnell in Manhattan, New York.

SCSU significantly enhanced my communication and interpersonal skills by providing opportunities to collaborate with students from diverse backgrounds. The student body at SCSU mirrored the modern corporate environment, comprising mature students, transfer students, individuals from different ethnic backgrounds, and those with varying belief systems. SCSU embraces diversity and fosters a culture of respect for all.

My fondest memories at SCSU include attending Atwood After Dark, engaging in exciting games, and meeting new people. Cultural nights provided an incredible opportunity to experience and appreciate diverse cultures without requiring extravagant vacations. I remember attending Japan Night to savor sushi and cherishing those experiences. As the President of the Theravada Buddhist Association, organizing a meditation series remains a memorable milestone. Seeing people from various backgrounds express interest in meditation sessions, and transcending religious boundaries was heartening. I distinctly recall a busy single mother exclaiming, "Meditation is EXACTLY WHAT I NEED to relax, and I am DEFINITELY coming." Her exhaustion was evident, and the availability of free meditation sessions on campus brought her immense relief.

My journey at SCSU has been unforgettable, and my decision to pursue information assurance has undoubtedly paid off.

Student Diaries



Apsara Thapa

I, Apsara Thapa, am thrilled to share my journey as an MSIA student at SCSU. After major changes, I discovered my passion for technology, especially security. This led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in information systems and find my calling in Information Assurance.

As I enter my final semester, I want to thank everyone who supported me. I've learned much from professors, classmates, and colleagues and made valuable connections. Special thanks to Dr. Lynn Collen and Dr. Jim Chen, our incredible advisors, for their unconditional support and guidance. Through coursework, projects, and research, I've gained invaluable knowledge and experience. I'm excited to apply these skills as I embark on my career in Information Assurance, and I am confident in making a positive impact.

I'm deeply thankful to the WiCyS student chapter at SCSU for broadening my cybersecurity knowledge. Attending the WiCyS conference in Denver, I learned from industry experts and connected with like-minded individuals. The speakers shared their expertise on cybersecurity trends, threats, and technologies. Their technical expertise left me in awe, providing insights into the evolving landscape. The conference offered networking and mentorship opportunities, empowering women to support each other. My major takeaway: "It's All About Risk, Both in Cybersecurity and Your Career." Seek mentors and join events to make connections and gain experience.



Manoj Varma Gottumukkala

I am Manoj Varma Gottumukkala, an international student from India pursuing my MSIA degree at SCSU. The curriculum, combining unique and engaging lessons with hands-on activities, has deepened my understanding of the subjects and taught me how to apply theory in practical situations.

While not every class has been equally enjoyable, I can confidently say that none of the classes in my major have left me unimpressed. Learning to code in Oracle SQL, Unix Operating systems, and IT risk management has been incredibly fulfilling. These courses have equipped me with technical skills and provided insights into organizational functioning and the impact of data on policies.

Engaging in extracurricular activities and sports groups helped combat loneliness. I'm grateful to Professor Dr. Jim Chen, whose exceptional teaching abilities and passion for the subject made the learning experience enjoyable and enriching. I want to thank St. Cloud State University and the IS Department for this incredible opportunity that shaped my academic journey.

As I approach completing my master's degree, I'm optimistic about my professional career. The knowledge and experiences gained will benefit me. I look forward to applying my skills and knowledge and firmly believing in the formula P3 (Planning, Preparation, and Presentation) to achieve my goals.

Inaugural Lunch and Learn Event with MN WiCyS Affiliate and Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.



Inaugural Lunch and Learn Event Participants

Students and faculty were provided a unique opportunity to collaborate with the MN Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) Affiliate and Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. at the inaugural Lunch and Learn event hosted at SCSU. The event focused on providing valuable insights and tips for resume building and networking.

The event was sponsored by Pat Smith, Christofer Sears, and Joe Gorman of Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. Christofer being an SCSU IS alumni, his connection to the program and the SCSU community further enhances the event's significance. The event was organized and hosted by the MN WiCyS Affiliate --Judy Hatchett from Surescripts, serving as the MN WiCyS Affiliate President, alongside Tina Meeker from Sleep Number, the Vice President, and Events Committee Members Christine Conlin from Blackberry and Lindsey Konerza from the University of Minnesota.

The SCSU WiCyS Student Chapter welcomed attendees, presenting its achievements and growth since its re-establishment in 2019 under Chapter Advisor Dr. Lynn Collen. They outlined the goals of expanding research opportunities, facilitating conference presentations, and increasing collaboration with Industry Professionals.

Judy Hatchett discussed the MN WiCyS Affiliate's mission and upcoming events, including golf networking and community involvement activities, and their booth at the Cybersecurity360 conference in Minneapolis, MN. She shared her career journey, emphasizing the importance of learning from various job opportunities, networking, and pursuing professional and life goals. Christofer Sears from Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. highlighted the company's global presence and extensive range of software and hardware devices for data and network security. He shared his experience as an IS student at SCSU, discussed the diverse career opportunities, and provided cybersecurity awareness training modules to the attendees.

Keynote speaker Tim Herman, President of Infragard MN, shared the employer's perspective on networking and resume tips. He highlighted using keywords, having an Instagram presence, and networking with admired individuals. Tim also discussed engaging with potential employers/mentors and gracefully disengaging from conversations with incompatible salespeople/recruiters.

The event began an ongoing collaboration between the MN WiCyS Affiliate, Check Point Software Technologies Ltd, and SCSU. We thank Check Point, Christofer Sears, MN WiCyS Affiliate Judy Hatchett, and Christine Conlin.

CSAW 2023: Empowering Cybersecurity Awareness at St. Cloud State University



HBS Dean Katherina Pattit

through various activities and insightful presentations.

SCSU's Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) chapter, in collaboration with the Information Systems Club, Cyber Security Information Association chapter, the National Society of Leadership and Success chapter, and the Center for Information Assurance Studies, hosted the bi-annual Cybersecurity Awareness Week (CSAW) event. The event aimed to educate and engage students and faculty in cybersecurity



Keynote speaker Sujatha Sadasivuni

the Center for Information Assurance Studies, led by Dr. Mark Schmidt. The WiCyS chapter also showcased the practical use of forensic tools during an SCSU Digital Forensics Lab tour.

The week began with a cybersecurity gaming event led by MSIA students Manoj Gottumukkala and Vamsi Appari, introducing internet security fundamentals through interactive gamification. On Tuesday, MSIA student Ramya Dasari discussed forensics and the DoD-CySP scholarship application. SCSU, recognized as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defines, is supported by

Wednesday featured sharing experiences and research. MSIA student Samjana Awal hosted the WiCyS conference report and student research presentations. Samantha Collen, Salome Pantuvo, Rojina Neupane, Apsara Thapa, and others, shared their insights from the WiCyS. Other research presentations included: Samantha Collen Topic: Internet

Safety Tips; Manikanta Sai Krishna Chillimunta Topic: Cyber Warfare; Ehimare Enaholo Topic: Cybersecurity Tools; Adama Sana Topic: ChatGPT; Merina Gautam and Bikal Nepal Topic: Cloud Computing. These Student Research presentations were facilitated by IS faculty Hazem Farra and Md Fahmy Jalani, and WiCyS student member hosts Samjhana Awal, Iqra Hussein, and Samantha Collen. The online question and discussions were well received.

Thursday's Women Leaders' presentations highlighted experts in the field. Dr. Katherina Pattit, HBS Dean at SCSU, stressed the importance of cybersecurity awareness based on her interaction with ChatGPT. Keynote speaker Sujatha Sadasivuni from WIPRO delivered a thought-provoking talk titled "Ambitions Realized," exploring relevant technologies, work-related advice, and addressing security and career topics. Tina Meeker, Vice President of Information Security and Enterprise Architecture at Sleep Number, discussed the significance of understanding organizational security policies. Sai Suchir Tyada, a Software Engineering Intern at Best Buy, emphasized the value of internships and networking. Marsha Kimes, Affinity Plus Information Security Analyst, shed light on achieving work-life balance through her presentation, "Security Awareness Training – Our Role in Sharing Awareness in all Environments and Seeking Greater Opportunities within all Relations." Tameka Cannon, a product/data analyst at Johnson & Johnson and an SCSU alumna, shared valuable tips and tricks for resume building and networking. The presentations sparked meaningful discussions and provided attendees with valuable insights.

CSAW 2023 was a knowledge-filled event that enhanced cybersecurity awareness and empowered participants with career advice and networking opportunities. With enthusiasm, the organizers and attendees eagerly anticipate the next CSAW event in the fall of 2024.

Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) SCSU Alumni Speaker



Tameka Cannon

On March 21, 2023, Tameka Cannon, an IS graduate from St. Cloud State University and a Data Analyst at Johnson and Johnson, joined the WiCyS members for a lunch meeting. She holds a master's in data science from St. Thomas and has worked at Optrum for 6 years.

During the session, Tameka shared her graduation and career experiences, offering valuable insights and answering our questions. She mentioned that the SCSU career center helped her learn resume writing and interview skills, emphasizing tailoring the cover letter and resume to specific job positions. Tameka advised us to give equal attention to behavioral and technical questions when preparing for interviews. She discussed various aspects of her career journey, including consulting firms, contract work, team dynamics, and personal growth. The interaction with Tameka left us inspired and enlightened as we embarked on our cybersecurity career paths.

The time with Tameka was insightful and inspiring as we began our cybersecurity career journey.



Congratulations! Academic Excellence Awardees for Fall 2022

Information Systems Majors 3.5+ GPA (12 or more credits)

Anfa Abdi
Abdullah Abo Juher
Sandhya Acharya
Mohamed Ali
Kyle Amundson
Muhammad Azam
Enzo Bellettini Vera
Huzaifa Bilal
Saksham Bista
Junu Dhakal
Weston Evans
Fardowsa Gedi

Subash Ghimire
Basmh Hani
Abubakar Hassan
Dylan Hubbs
Abdulahi Jama
Aarchi Joshi
Kale Kamara
Shlok Karki
Prakriti Karki
Ryan Kasel
Dante Laporta
Mitch Larson
Mufaro Machakaire
Arslan Malik
Abdiaziz Muhumed
Akshyata Pal

Milan Paswan
Kai-Mica Peterson
Kenneth Quinn
Sandeep Rai
Karna Rai
Hannah Reemts
Joseph Rickard
PaZong Thor

Master of Information Assurance Majors 3.75+ GPA (8 or more credits)

Suvekshya Adikari
Oluwaseye Alabi
Kiran Kumar Bodempudi
Sai Chilakalapally
Samantha Collen
Sai Krishna Dhulipalla
Sabin Gaire
Mohan Gajula
Pruthvy Gonuguntla
Nishika Gopathi
Anushka Hewarathna

Alvin Samuel Jeyachander
Vasavya Kandal
Shruti Kharel
Kalyani Korlagunta
Larissa Marques
Anna Ndri
Vidya Nagasree Nerusu
Tran Nguyen
Bert Noble
Salome Pantuvo
Riya Patel
Pratik Poudel
Balavikas Sabbineni
Ritesh Thapa
Salar Yousafzai



Farewell! Graduates for Spring 2023

Information System

Suhayb Omar Ahmed
Mohamed Mussa Ali
Muhammad Arbaz Azam
Anish Bade
Enzo Paolo Bellettini Vera
Abubakar Mohamed Hassan
Muhammad Hassan Jahangir
Dego Mohamed
Kai-Mica R Peterson

Danish Raza
Muhammad Farhan Shahid
Mohammad Talha Bin Tahir
Shradha Taujale
Riwaz Thulung
Ben Mason Weidner
Eng Yang

Information Assurance

Isse Hassan Abdi
Sreeja Aleti
Abdulrahman Saleh H Alnajrani
Divya Bellamkonda
Selma Lucky Biddle
Manikanta Sai KRISHNA Chillimunta
Sai Krishna Dhulipalla
Mohan Kumar Gajula
Nazish Kanwal

Muhammad Maaz Ali Khan
Chukwuemeka Daniel Okonkwo
Ayodeji Olaosebikan
Lakshmi Sai Ravi Chandra Oruganti
Grishav Pokharel
Siva Naga Lakshmi Keerthi Swamy
Sri Lakshmi Prasanna Tatikonda
Jensi Thao
Ritesh Raj Thapa
Sai Siri Sahithi Valmiki

AS AN INFORMATION SYSTEMS STUDENT, you'll learn how to apply information technology to solve problems and support business decision-making. Hone your critical analysis skills and train in computer programming, systems design, computer networking and security. Our graduates enter the job market with a solid understanding of the crucial link between business operations and computer information systems, well-prepared to work with the technologies of today while envisioning the systems of tomorrow.

TOP CAREERS

Programmer	IT/Systems analyst	Network administrator
Systems architect	Web administrator	Data analyst



Have an interesting update/article/experience/news/idea/event to share?

We are always seeking contents and suggestions for our newsletters. If you are interested to submit a writeup not exceeding 250 words with relevant high resolution image, please feel free to contact the IS Department office or send an e-mail at is@stcloudstate.edu



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