



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

253 James Jay Love Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Phone: 850.644.4055 Fax: 850.644.0058
www.cs.fsu.edu



NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2007

Chair's Message

It is with pleasure that I write this letter for our second annual FSU CS newsletter. Much has happened over the last year. We developed and initiated a new undergraduate degree program in Computational Biology in Fall 2006, and a new undergraduate degree program in Computer Criminology will be starting in Fall 2007. Some of our faculty have received promotions and are serving in various positions of distinction within the university. We have hired two new faculty that will start in the Fall 2007 semester. Our faculty continue to excel in research, which is evident in the papers they have published and the research grants they have obtained. We have obtained a grant from the Department of Education to provide a number of fellowships for PhD students in the department. All of our full-time graduate students now receive financial support (teaching assistantships, research assistantships, fellowships), and some of our undergraduate students do as well. I encourage you to explore the department through our web pages or to visit us in person.

Broadening Participation in Computing

Lois Hawkes in the CS Department and collaborators in the College of Information are part of an alliance of 10 institutions, funded by a \$2 million grant from NSF, to Broaden Participation in Computing. The alliance is implementing, disseminating, and institutionalizing effective practices for recruiting, bridging, and graduating women, under-represented minorities and persons with disabilities in computing disciplines. Both undergraduate and graduate students from CS are participating in the Student Leadership Corps outreach and mentoring activities.

Gulf Coast Employment

A new website has been launched for people seeking technology and life sciences jobs on the gulf coast. For more information or to upload your resume, go to www.itenwired.com/talent.asp.

New Undergraduate Degree Program in Computational Biology

The FSU Biology and Computer Science Departments have developed a new undergraduate degree program in Computational Biology that officially started in the Fall 2006 semester. The core of the program consists of a number of required courses in both Biology and Computer Science, along with capstone courses having both Biology and Computer Science prerequisites. This program seeks to achieve two goals: 1) to develop an understanding of the issues associated with developing biologically meaningful computational models, and 2) to give students the broad-based education that is needed to create a set of models directed towards solving a practical biomedical problem. In the process, it is hoped that the student will learn how to meld biological and quantitative skills. Students participating in this degree program will be better positioned to develop productive careers in the burgeoning fields of computational biology and bioinformatics. Employment opportunities for students with these skills can be found throughout industry, including the areas of healthcare, forensics and pharmaceutical companies. You can find more information about this new degree program at <http://www.cs.fsu.edu/current/compbio>.

New Online Program for Graduate Students

The Department of Computer Science is planning to offer a distance learning graduate program in Software Engineering, which is scheduled to start in the Spring 2008 semester. Since most professionals do not have time or resources to leave from work to complete a masters degree program and commercial software training is frequently expensive, the department is offering this new program through distance learning. In this program the student will receive some practical, state of the art software engineering and management education at your their home or business. For more information please peruse www.cs.fsu.edu or contact: Dr. Sara Stoecklin, Director of Software Engineering, Florida State University-Panama City Campus at softwareengineering@cs.fsu.edu.

Faculty News

We have had a significant turnover of faculty in the Computer Science Department in the last year. Several valuable members of our faculty are now serving in various other positions within Florida State University. **Steve Leach** is now the Assistant Dean at the FSU Panama City campus. Steve served for over 30 years in the positions of CS Department Associate Chair and Director for Undergraduate Studies. He also developed some of the first distance learning courses at FSU. Finally, he was a driving force during his last year in the CS department for the development of the new Computational Biology undergraduate degree program. **Lois Hawkes** is an Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences. She served for many years as the Director of Graduate Studies in the CS department. **David Gaitros** is now the Director of User Services in the FSU Office of Technology Integration. He served for seven years as the Associate Chair of the Computer Science Department. Leach, Hawkes, and Gaitros served valuable roles in the administration of the CS department and their departmental service will be missed. Two other faculty left the department. **Robert van Engelen** joined the School of Computational Science. **Kartik Gopalan** and his wife became new faculty members in the Computer Science Department at SUNY Binghamton.

We have also hired two new assistant professors that will start in the Fall 2007 semester. **Feifei Li** will receive his PhD in Computer Science from Boston University in the Summer of 2007. His research interests include security and privacy in both streaming and relational database systems, management and indexing of large databases, spatio-temporal database applications, and stream and sensor databases. **Zhenghao Zhang** received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His research interests include network security systems, scheduling algorithm design,

performance analysis, wireless access networks, cross-layer design, optical networks, and wireless sensor networks.

Other faculty in the department have received various honors. **Ashok Srinivasan** was promoted to associate professor and tenured. He also received the best paper award for the 2006 International Conference on Parallel Processing. **Mike Burmester** was awarded the Harris Professorship, which is an endowed professorship sponsored by Harris Corporation. Faculty receiving this professorship are expected to exemplify excellence in the performance of teaching, research, and service in Computer Science. His three year term as the Harris Professor will be from 2006 to 2009. **Gary Tyson** was awarded the FSU Developing Scholar award. This award is given to promising associate professors who have established a record of superior teaching and research that has already attracted external recognition.

Faculty Research Grants

The FSU CS faculty continue to obtain grants and contracts for external research funding. This funding is important since it is used to support graduate students and provides the means that faculty and students can accomplish their research. **Sudhir Aggarwal** continues to receive funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to develop tools to enhance cybersecurity. **Piyush Kumar** received the prestigious NSF CAREER award to study core sets for geometric optimization. The National Science Foundation offers these awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. He is the first faculty member to receive an NSF CAREER award while in the FSU CS Department. **Michael Mascagni** received a contract from the Army Research Office

(ARO) to study scrambled quasirandom numbers and how they can be applied. **Ashok Srinivasan** received an NSF grant for a new approach for parallelization of molecular dynamics simulations across the time domain. **Robert van Engelen** and **Kyle Gallivan** received an NSF grant for flow-sensitive program analysis for speculative parallelization on chip multiprocessors. **David Whalley** and **Gary Tyson** received an NSF grant to enhance the effectiveness of using registers to hold commonly occurring instructions within an application. **Alec Yasinsac** has received contracts from the state of Florida to determine if electronic voting software is secure. Finally, **Xin Yuan** has received NSF funding to empirically determine the best method for MPI collective communication on a network. The current set of Computer Science grants can be found at <http://www.cs.fsu.edu/research>.

GAANN PhD Fellowships

The CS Department received a Graduate Assistance for Areas of National Need (GAANN) award from the Department of Education. This \$633,360 award provides PhD fellowships for five or more students for three years starting in the Fall 2006 semester. It is anticipated that these fellowships will help increase the number of PhD students in the department. Lois Hawkes and David Whalley were the principal investigator and co-principal investigator, respectively, for this grant.

FSU CS Board of Advisors Established

The FSU CS department has established a board of advisors. The purpose of the board is to provide general advice to the department and to provide feedback about the performance of our graduates if they are employed in their company. Some of the board members are FSU CS alumni and/or hold senior positions

Association for Computing Machinery

Board of Advisors (cont.)

in companies that develop and sell software. The members of the FSU CS Board of Advisors are Jim Clamons (VP Engineering, Harris Government Communications Systems Division), Rick Kearney (CEO, Mainline Information Systems), Thomas Leonard (CEO, Red Rocket Solutions), Carl Owenby (Maclay School), Kay Stephenson (CEO, Datamaxx), and Jonathan Taylor (CEO, Infinity Software). We appreciate the time and support these board members have given to the department.

Recent FSU CS PhD Graduates

There have been several FSU CS PhD students who graduated recently. William Krehling graduated in 2005, was advised by David Whalley, and is an assistant professor at Western Carolina University. Jean Muhammad graduated in 2005, was advised by Ladislav Kohout, and is an assistant professor at Hampton University. Wankang Zhao graduated in 2005, was advised by David Whalley, and is an engineer at Datamaxx. Keith Haynes graduated in 2006 and is now an instructor at the US Military Academy at West Point. Jeffrey McDonald graduated in 2006, was advised by Alec Yasinsac, and is now an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Ahmad Faraj graduated in 2006, was advised by Xin Yuan, and is an engineer for IBM. David Gaitros graduated in 2006, was advised by Greg Riccardi, and is the Director for User Services in the Office of Technology Integration at FSU. Jidong Long graduated in 2006, was advised by Daniel Schwartz, and is an engineer at Ask.com. Prasad Kulkarni graduated in 2007, was advised by David Whalley, and will be an assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at the University of Kansas.

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) has been an integral force in bringing many of the members of the FSU Computer Science community together. The past years have given opportunity for many events for both students and faculty to come together outside of the classroom into a more comfortable and less stressful atmosphere than the classroom or computer lab. Every Fall and Spring semester, the ACM and FSU host picnics where students, faculty, friends and family are invited to meet other members of the CS community, as well as the occasional corporate sponsor. These events are always enjoyable and well received by all.



ACM also hosts Fall and Spring semester programming contests. This past Spring, we were actually involved in two contests; TopCoder and the ACM sponsored event. In ACM Regionals FSU placed 29th and 30th. Putting them in the top half. Our events have often involved corporate sponsors. Google, Microsoft, Harris Corporation, Infinity Software Development, Inc., AllState, and Citizen's Property Insurance have been active sponsors of our events, and all have

been active in employing our graduates. While the ACM can't take credit for the high quality of graduates from the FSU Computer Science Department, we do feel that the ACM's involvement with these companies has assisted in creating initial student-to-company relationships. The role of the ACM at FSU is to ensure that students are able to make important social connections, in both the personal and professional realms. The computer science track is a difficult one, and it can be easy to forget to balance work time with social time. We try to make sure that everyone gets an opportunity to even out their time.



Alumni Events

Each Friday before Homecoming in the Fall semester, the CS Department sponsors two events. The first event is a "Grad Made Good" presentation by a former FSU CS student during the afternoon. The first three speakers have been (1) 2004 - Krishna Nayak, BS in CS (and EE and Math) from FSU in 1995, Assistant Professor in EE department at University of Southern California; (2) 2005 - Frank Mueller, PhD in CS from FSU in 1994, Associate Processor in CS department at North Carolina State University; and (3) 2006 - Thomas Leonard, MS in CS from FSU in 1983, CEO of Red Rocket

Solutions. During the evening we have an FSU CS alumni gathering, which has been held at Beef O'Bradys for the last few years. You should be receiving an invitation for these Homecoming events during the Fall semester. The CS Honors Ceremony is held each Spring semester, about a week before final exams. We honor the achievements of CS students and faculty, and we also induct the latest set of students who have qualified for Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the CS honor society. Please check the calendar on the department main web page for notification of all of these events.



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Florida State University
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HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

If you would like the opportunity to reconnect with Florida State and the Department of Computer Science you can make contributions by check, credit card, or bank draft through the FSU Foundation. One time gifts or donations are extremely beneficial and make a tremendous difference in our efforts.

For online gifts of \$25 - \$250, go to:

<http://www.fsufoundation.org/Main/Default.asp?CategoryID=24#>

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FSU Foundation
2010 Levy Ave., Bldg. B
Suite 300
Tallahassee, FL 32306

For more information, contact Nancy Smilowitz at (850) 644-9234 or
e-mail: nsmilowi@mail.fsu.edu.