Tuesday, February 7, 2006
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

“SAIT Laboratory: Synthesizing Research, Outreach and Education”
(Student Audience - Reception to follow)

Basic research is primarily conducted in three venues: Government, industry and academia; each with its distinct strengths and weaknesses. Carnegie I universities, such as FSU, demand top quality research, validated through peer reviewed publication and federal funding. At SAIT Laboratory, our charter is to integrate our research and teaching to improve the quality and impact of each. Faculty-student partnerships facilitate mentor relationships that continue the researcher pipeline and ensure topical and approach freshness in the research process. In this talk, we present the SAIT Laboratory academic research approach, including detailing past successes and highlighting existing and upcoming opportunities.

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

“Security Aware Software”
(Local IT Industry, Community Audience and Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce)

Most instances of software exploitation are really software failure. Even though we cannot eliminate vulnerability from modern information systems, we can reduce exploitable code long term with sound robust development practices. We argue that the current hot topic of so-called “secure coding” represents commonly taught coding techniques that ensure robustness, rather than ensuring any commonly understood concept of security. Weaving the practice of rigorous coding techniques into curriculum is essential-coding for security is useless apart from fault-tolerant foundations. However, security-specific coding techniques should be integrated pedagogically alongside robustness so that students can distinguish the two. We propose a shift in instructional methods based on this distinction to help future programmers, developers and software engineers produce “security-aware” software.

Dr. Alec Yasinsac is an associate professor at Florida State University. He joined the FSU Computer Science Department in August 1999 after a twenty-year career in the United States Marines as a Data Systems and Communications Officer. He has operational experience in software development, information systems management, network engineering and information security, having spent active duty tours in Japan, Korea, North Carolina, California and Virginia.

Dr. Yasinsac received his doctoral degree in computer science from the University of Virginia, where his thesis advisor and mentor was Bill Wulf. His major research interests are network and wireless security, cryptography, intrusion detection and security protocols. He has published over forty refereed conference, symposium and journal papers in the past five years on formal methods, cryptographic authentication, group encryption, secure routing protocols, wireless security, intrusion detection, digital forensics and on a variety of computing education topics.

He is presently funded by the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, the Army Research Office and several industrial partners. His professional activities include membership in several program committees including the European Symposium on Research in Computer Security, International Symposium on Recent Advances in Intrusion Detection, IEEE Information Assurance Workshop, the IRMA International Conferences, the International Conference on Information Systems Security and the International Performance Computing and Communications Conference.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu, Eminent Scholar, Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science, Troy University at (334) 832-7289 or E-mail (mesa@troy.edu) or Angela Crooks, department secretary at (334) 832-7282 or E-mail (acrooks@troy.edu).

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