



**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**  
**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
253 James Jay Love Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32306  
Phone: 850.644.4029 Fax: 850.644.0058  
[www.cs.fsu.edu](http://www.cs.fsu.edu)



NEWSLETTER

...

FALL 2010

## Chair's Message



It is with pleasure that I write this letter for our fifth annual FSU CS newsletter. Our department continues to excel despite recent significant budgetary challenges. Our faculty and students continue to receive honors and awards. Our departmental faculty has recently been awarded a significant amount of research funding in the last academic year. The number of undergraduate majors in the department

continues to increase and we now have a record number of PhD students. I do regret to inform you that we lost one of our own, Emeritus Professor Ladislav Kohout. I hope you read the enclosed article to learn more about Professor Kohout's accomplishments and to find out the latest events concerning the department. I also encourage you to explore the department through our web pages and to visit us in person.

---

## Ladislav Kohout (1941 - 2009)

by **Chris Lacher, Professor Emeritus**



I am sad as I write this report to the FSU Computer Science family. We received the news of the passing of Professor Ladislav Kohout during the last days of 2009. As many of you know, Professor Kohout had been in a partial retirement for five years during which he spent only the Spring semesters in Tallahassee. Just last year he had entered full retirement from FSU. Word reached us a few weeks after his death on November 20, 2009. He was living at his home in Malta at the time.

All except the most recently graduated students and the most recently hired faculty will have vivid and warm memories of Professor Kohout. Many, including myself, will have a tug of sadness at his passing and a twinge of regret that a postponed opportunity is now lost forever - for me, the long dreamed of and often discussed intention to research topics of overlapping interest, and for many students, that special class that got postponed for the next

degree which is still in the future. Nevertheless, we can all celebrate a life that lifted each of us and our university to higher levels of appreciation and recognition.

We have never had a more passionate and relentless advocate. Ladislav was always at the front of student advocacy with our faculty, departmental advocacy with our University, and university advocacy to the world. There are many of us who benefited from his tireless work on our behalf, often in ways we may not have understood at the time. To name just one instance, our graduate students can thank Professor Kohout for the innovative and nurturing system we have for admission to candidacy, a system that was proposed by Ladislav and in the evolution of which he played a central role.

Ladislav J. Kohout was born in Prague, of the former Czechoslovakia, on January 22, 1941. He received his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Czech Technical University in 1963 and worked for several

**Continued on next page**

**Ladislav Kohout (1941-2009)**  
**(cont.)**

years thereafter at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in interdisciplinary research. In 1968, after the invasion and subsequent occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union, he found a way out of the country and was granted political asylum by the United Kingdom. For several years Ladislav worked in medical systems engineering at the University of London and in parallel studied at the University of Essex. After earning his PhD from Essex in 1978 in the area of man-machine studies, he started his distinguished academic career at Brunel University in London, where he was eventually promoted to Professor. In 1988 he immigrated to the USA, taking a position with us at FSU where he remained until his death. Joining FSU Computer Science four years after its founding, Ladislav was a driving intellectual force that helped shape our department into what it is today. We will all owe much to him for many years to come.

For more information on Dr. Ladislav J. Kohout, please see the article by his friend and colleague George Klir at [International Journal of General Systems, Vol. 39, No. 4, May 2010, 451-452].

## Faculty News

### CS Faculty and Student Honors and Awards

There have been several awards obtained by CS faculty and students during the last year.

Piyush Kumar was promoted to associate professor and tenured.

Robert van Engelen was promoted to full professor. James McClain and Roshan Newa, both Computer Science graduate students, were awarded university fellowships. Steven Bronson, a Computer Science B.S. graduate, was awarded an Arts & Sciences College Teaching Fellowship for his first year of graduate studies in CS at FSU. Simon de Gonzalo Garcia has received a Google scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. This scholarship includes a stipend and a summer internship at Google in 2011. Bo Sun (graduate student) and Zhenghao Zhang (assistant professor) won a best paper award for their paper in the IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC). Piyush Kumar received the highly competitive and prestigious 2010 Air Force Office of Research Young Investigator Program award! Only 38 junior faculty members nationwide were selected

for this highly competitive distinction (7 were from Computer Science departments nationwide). Kumar also has the distinction of winning an NSF CAREER award in 2007.

### Computer Science Faculty Obtains Research Funding

During the last academic year a number of Computer Science faculty members have obtained external research funding.

Zhenghao Zhang received a 3-year, \$150K NSF grant entitled "Ultra Low Latency Optical Packet Switched Interconnects with Novel Switching Paradigm." Gary Tyson and David Whalley were awarded a 3-year, \$500K NSF grant for "Reducing Virus Propagation in Mobile Devices." Feifei Li obtained a 3-year, \$329K NSF grant that was called "Efficient Ranking and Aggregate Query Processing for Probabilistic Data." Piyush Kumar was selected to receive a 3-year, \$360K Air Force Young Investigator award for proposed research in "Geometric Clustering and Its Applications." Sudhir Aggarwal and Zhenhai Duan received a \$150K renewal of their NIJ grant called "E-Crime Investigative Technologies."

### Computer Science Department Is Awarded SFS Scholarships

The Computer Science Department was just awarded a 4-year, \$1.85M grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide scholarships for CS M.S. students. This scholarship for service (SFS) grant provides support (stipend, tuition, fees, books, room and board) for CS M.S. students and in return the students work for the federal government for as many years as they received support. This grant provides enough funds to support 15 CS M.S. students a year for four years. The graduates of this program will help the nation protect the government's critical information infrastructure.

David Whalley and Gary Tyson were awarded a 4-year, \$1.187M NSF grant to investigate "Static Pipelining, an Approach for Ultra-Low Power Embedded Processors." Ashok Srinivasan obtained a 3-year, \$75K ORNL grant for "Accelerating Quantum Monte Carlo on Emerging Computing Platforms at ORNL." The total research funding obtained during the last academic year was about \$2.75 million. This funding will not only support the research proposed by these faculty members, but will be used to support numerous students in the department.

## **FSU PhD Graduates Earn the Highly Competitive NSF CAREER Award**

The NSF CAREER award is one of the most prestigious awards in support of early career-development activities of junior faculty members. There have been three former PhD graduates of the FSU Computer Science Department who have received this honor. Frank Mueller graduated from FSU with his PhD in 1994, was advised by Dr. David Whalley, received this award in 2003, and currently is an associate professor at North Carolina State University. Dr. Mueller's research interests include compilers and code optimization, concurrent and distributed systems, real-time and embedded systems, architecture, and programming languages. Yaohang Li graduated from FSU with his PhD in 2003, was advised by Dr. Michael Mascagni, won the NSF CAREER award in 2009, and

is currently an associate professor at North Carolina A&T University. Dr. Li's research interests are in Computational Biology, Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods and Parallel/Distributed/ Grid Computing. Prasad Kulkarni graduated from FSU with his PhD in 2007, was advised by Dr. David Whalley, won the NSF CAREER award in 2010, and is currently an assistant professor at the University of Kansas. His research interests include static and dynamic/adaptive compilers, virtual machines, and computer architecture. These achievements of our former graduates are an indication of the quality of the graduate program in the FSU Computer Science Department.

## **Betty Stanton Retiring**

I am sure most of our recent alumni remember Betty Stanton. Betty is retiring and her last day in the department was June 30, 2010. Betty has served as the undergraduate advisor for the Computer Science Department for the last 8 years and has worked at FSU for 30 years. Most of you who knew Betty are aware that she helped each undergraduate student pursuing a major in the Computer Science Department to organize a complete course schedule and attempted to meet regularly with all these students to ensure they signed up for courses and addressed other issues to keep them on track for graduation. You also may be aware that she encouraged students to apply for various scholarship and internship opportunities as they became available. She met potential students at Tallahassee Community College and during FSU Preview

and had a continuous flow of visiting students and parents in her office with inquiries about our department. Betty served our department very well in this area and was an effective ambassador for Computer Science and the university as a whole. Betty performed many other duties that were not directly related to advising. She helped to organize the annual CS honors day award ceremony and created certificates for various internal CS awards. She provided vital data for various accountability reports, which was instrumental in helping our B.S. in Computer Science degree pass ABET accreditation. There were dozens of other such activities for which Betty provided assistance. She will be missed and the department wishes her well in her retirement.

## **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. This year this presentation will be at 2pm on November 5 in RBA 101. RBA is the Rovetta Business Building-A, which is just east of the student union. The speaker this year will be Taliver Heath who graduated from FSU with a B.S. in Computer Science and Physics in 2005. Dr. Heath later received a PhD in Computer Science from Rutgers and has been working for several years at Google. He currently is the head of Google's Data Center Power Team, which attempts to minimize the power used at Google data centers throughout the country. The second event during that same day will be **(continued)**



**Department of Computer Science**  
**Florida State University**  
253 James Jay Love Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Tallahassee, FL  
Permit No. 55

our annual FSU CS alumni gathering from 4pm to 6pm at Beef O'Brady's on Thomasville Rd. You should receive an invitation for these Homecoming events during the Fall semester. Each Spring semester, about a week before final exams, we hold our annual CS Honors Ceremony. We honor the achievements of CS students and faculty and we also induct the latest set of students who have qualified for Epsilon Pi Epsilon, the CS honor society. Please check the department calendar on the main web page for notification of the CS Honors Ceremony.



**FSU FOUNDATION**  
**[www.foundation.fsu.edu](http://www.foundation.fsu.edu)**  
**Computer Science Fund**

**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:

<https://foundation.fsu.edu/community/sslpage.aspx?pid=665>. Under "**Gift Designation**" select "**Other.**" Please specify "**COMPUTER SCIENCE FUND.**"

To mail a contribution and pay by check, money order, or credit card, go to:

<https://foundation.fsu.edu/Community/Document.Doc?id=35> and print the form.

All checks are payable to **FSU FOUNDATION**. Be sure to designate "**COMPUTER SCIENCE FUND**" on the form and on your check or money order in order for our department to receive your gift.

For more information on how you can contribute to the Department of Computer Science please contact Nancy Smilowitz, Jeff Ereckson or Leslie Deslis in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Mail your gift along with the form to:  
**The Florida State University**  
**Foundation, Inc.**  
**2010 Levy Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 3062739**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32306-2739**

Nancy Smilowitz  
Office: 850-644-9324  
E-mail: [nsmilowi@fsu.edu](mailto:nsmilowi@fsu.edu)

Jeffrey K. Ereckson  
Office: 850-644-3370  
E-mail: [jereckson@foundation.fsu.edu](mailto:jereckson@foundation.fsu.edu)

Leslie Deslis  
Office: 850-645-9544  
E-mail: [ldeslis@fsu.edu](mailto:ldeslis@fsu.edu)