

# CS Newsletter

## Chair's Message



It is with great pleasure that I write this letter for our seventh annual FSU CS newsletter. Our department continues to excel as our faculty and students continue to receive honors and awards. Our department continues to grow and prosper due to the hard work of our faculty and staff. The number of undergraduate enrollments has been growing by 20% to 30% each year over the past years, exceeding the national average of 10% enrollment increases. The department also continues to produce record numbers of MS and PhD students, who are well prepared to become leaders in our field. To keep up with this pace of growth and to fill vacated faculty lines, we hired two assistant professors, Dr. Zhi Wang and Dr. Peixiang Zhao. Both faculty members have a recognized research track record (see their stories in this newsletter). We wholeheartedly welcome our new professors to our department. The department is looking forward to additional hires of faculty and staff to meet the ongoing needs of our students. The department has also been awarded a significant grant funding source this academic year, more about this will follow in this newsletter. You may have noticed that we revamped the layout and structure of our newsletter. I hope you enjoy this new layout. I also encourage you to explore the department through our web pages and visit us in person if you have the opportunity to do so. Finally, I sincerely thank our department's donors and supporters, and in particular the Board of Advisors, who have been very generous to our department and for assisting our cause in difficult times of university budgeting.



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## CS Dept. Welcomes Two New Faculty

Please help us welcome two new faculty members to the Computer Science Department, Professors Zhi Wang & Peixiang Zhao.



Professor Wang comes to us with a Ph.D. in Computer Science. Awarded in August 2012 from North Carolina State University.

The title of his dissertation was titled "Securing Visualization: Techniques and Applications". Dr. Wang's current areas of research are Systems Security, Virtualization & Mobile Security.



Professor Zhao comes to us with two Ph.D.'s. The first was conferred from the Chinese University in Hong Kong from the Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Department (SEEM) and the second at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from the Computer Science Department. Dr. Zhao's research interest are the areas of Database Systems, Data Mining and knowledge discovery, Information/Social Network Analysis, and Large-scale data-intensive computation and analytics.

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Computer  
Science

## FSU Students Hack the CyberCorps® Trivia Game

On September 13, 2013 eleven FSU Computer Science students participated in the National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored Virtual Career Fair for the CyberCorps® : Scholarship for Service program in



order to secure summer internships and full time employment.

As a way to relax and entertain the students the sponsors offered an information security trivia challenge game. While the FSU students were doing quite well, consistently placing amongst the top scores, two

students, Ivan Lozano & Clark Wood, noticed a vulnerability in



the information security trivia scoring software. After receiving permission from the career fair organizer, they exploited the vulnerability to give themselves impossibly high scores. As a nod to the school they were representing, they gave themselves and the other FSU student competitors scores of 667375 (The letters "FSU" in hexadecimal).

After demonstrating their hacking savvy, the students explained to the event organizers how to fix this vulnerability and mitigate future manipulations.

YOU HAVE BEEN HACKED !

## Student Scholarships for All Degrees in the CS Department

During the past year the Computer Science Department has been awarded two education grants and has been informed that it will soon be awarded another.

In Fall 2012 the department received its second Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) grant. Fellowships for at least 5 PhD students will be supported between this \$400K grant and FSU matching funds. Michael Mascagni is the principal investigator (PI) and David Whalley is the co-principal investigator (co-PI).

In Spring 2013 the department received an National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) award. This \$603K award will provide scholarships for financially disadvantaged students seeking a BS in Computer Science (CS) or Computational Biology (CB). The award will provide an estimated four years of scholarships for 16 students starting in Fall 2013 and for 15 students starting in Fall 2014 for a total of 124 scholarship years.

Andy Wang is the PI on this grant and Gary Tyson, Robert van Engelen, David Whalley, and Zhenghao Zhang are the co-PIs. This is the first NSF S-STEM award for FSU on the main campus.

The department has also been informed that it will soon be awarded an NSF CyberCorps Scholarship for Service (SFS) grant. The department has a current SFS grant to support MS CS students. This new \$2,224K SFS grant will provide scholarships for MS Computer & Network System Administration (CNSA) students, MS Computer Criminology (CC) students, and seniors who commit to entering these degree programs for a total of 30 scholarship years. In addition, this grant will include a supplement for our current SFS grant so that stipends for the current SFS scholars can be raised.

Mike Burmester is the PI on this grant and Xiuwen Liu and David Whalley are the co-PIs. These three grants will provide over \$3.2 million in scholarships for students within the department.

## CS Grad Elevated to IEEE Fellow



Congratulations to CS alumnus Alan George (Ph.D., 1991) on being elevated to Fellow by IEEE. Dr. George is Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Florida.

He is Founder and Director of the NSF Center of High-Performance Reconfigurable Computing (CHREC), which is headquartered at Florida, comprised of more than 30 academic, industry, and government partners, and recognized by the National Science Foundation as one of its top centers.

## Professor Receives NSF Career Award



Zhenghao Zhang was conferred this National Science Foundation award in support of his early career development activities as related to teachers/scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

The title of his grant is "Addressing Fundamental Challenges for Wireless Coverage Service in the TV White Space." The award is for \$450,883 over a five year period. Congratulations Dr. Zhang on this outstanding accomplishment!

## News & Updates

### Prof. David Whalley receives FSU Distinguished Research Professor award.

This award is given to acknowledge outstanding research and/or creative activity at the professor level with a one-time award of \$10,000 and the distinction of using the title, Distinguished Research Professor, while at Florida State University or until that honor is surpassed by a higher university award.



### Dr. Piyush Kumar and Samidh Chatterjee receive I-Corps grant

Samidh Chatterjee has received a \$50,000 NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) grant, which it will use to build a mobile app that minimizes the time and costs involved in meeting face-to-face. Dr. Piyush Kumar and Samidh Chatterjee are building a Web/mobile app called Meeting Point that uses road graphs and complex geometric algorithms to help businesses and other groups of people find the closest, cheapest place to meet. This unique approach and desire to bring their research to the marketplace made them one of only two I-Corps grant winners in the state of Florida.



### CSAW 2012 Results (#23 in North America)

In our first CTF game ever, The FSU CS Department's N0L3ptr team came in #23 / 174 in North America in this year's CSAW capture the flag competition! That puts the CS department's hackers in the top 15% of the country. Overall, we ranked #78 / 639 internationally, which puts us in the top 13% of the world! To see the scoreboard go to <https://csawctf.poly.edu/scoreboard/?l=q> and look for the team "n0l3ptr".

## 2013 CS Expo

Thank you to all faculty, staff and students that contributed to this year's Computer Science Exposition. We were very excited to have some exceptional speakers this year.

Joe Healy, a Microsoft Principal



Developer Evangelist, was our keynote speaker with his talk, "Student App Madness". Mr. Healy was joined by two plenary speakers

who also happen to be FSU CS Alumni, Rajat Raychaudhuri with his talk,

"Introducing Blib: A privacy aware social library platform" and



Stephen Hines with his talk, "Android Render-script: A Performance-portable parallel Compute Acceleration Framework."

All three of these speeches were attended in such number that it was standing room only. After our guest

speakers concluded their presentations, current students in the CS department competed in three competitions; Presentations, Demos and Posters.

The presentations were judged by two faculty members, Dr. Sudhir Aggarwal & Dr. Andy Wang and was joined by a distinguished student judge, ACM President Clark Wood. By unanimous decision, Guanyu Tian was awarded first prize in the presentation competition with his talk, "A Traceback Attack on Freenet".

The demo and poster categories were selected by the students in attendance and by popular decision, Justin Marshall won with his poster titled "Mobile Usage Patterns" and Michael Mitchell won the demo contest with a variety of demos entitled; "Pester My Pet", "My Smile Can Light Up The Room", "OpenCV Anonymizer" and "OpenCV Face/Object/Color Tracking". Congratulations to all!

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