Welcome to all new and returning CSRC members for the academic year 2014/2015! The increase in student numbers and in the number of CSRC companies has kept our office very busy. This latest version of the CSRC newsletter has been much delayed, but I wanted to share news about our students and department, as well as give you some updates on changes in the CSRC:

My assistant, Amanda Michaels, left us in early May to pursue graduate studies at Virginia Tech. The department has plans to hire a full-time person to handle some of Amanda's duties in early 2015.

Our receptionist, Jessie Eaves, is retiring at the end of this calendar year. Many of you have met Jessie or at least spoken with her on the phone. She has loved working with you and our students, saying that her time on campus was one of the best things that could ever have happened to me." She really had a chance to use those customer service skills and brought a smile to many faces. Our office will miss her tremendously.

After working more than one full-time job for close to eight years, the department has decided to split my job into two halves, essentially splitting it down the middle of my title. I have been assigned the Director of Undergraduate Studies role, while the department is hiring a Director of External Relations. The new Director of External Relations will assume the title of Director of the CSRC. The department hopes to have this new position filled by late November or early December.

I think we've done some amazing things with the CSRC. Our students are recruited by a large variety of companies, representing many areas of technology. Since taking over the CSRC in 2006, we have grown from 13 companies to 90.

The Sophomore Seminar is helping to prepare our students for their future careers, as I had hoped it would. They are pursuing internships earlier and earlier, partly because they are required to attend the job fair as part of the Sophomore Seminar.

We were able to endow our department's first general scholarship fund, the Investment in Excellence Scholarship. Through donations made each fall, through Fall 2013, we have been able to grow the principal to $325,000. We've also been able to make direct scholarship awards to our students. For your reference, I'm including the scholarship chart that was in your packet at the September CSRC events.

I've really enjoyed my work with the CSRC. I do hope to work with you all again in the future!

Libby
Saturday, May 17, the Virginia Tech College of Engineering conferred degrees on the class of 2014, including approximately 115 Computer Science undergraduate students. Graduate degrees were conferred at the Graduate Commencement on Friday, May 16. On Saturday morning, Computer Science graduates, their guests and families, enjoyed a reception in Owens Banquet Hall.

Several students were recognized for outstanding achievements and contributions, including Brandon Amos, Adam Binford, and Tianyu Geng for undergraduate academic achievement, Antuan Byalik and Ariel Cohen for service to the department, and Ethan Gabel and Edward Mitchell as Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistants. Brandon Amos as awarded the David Heilman Memorial Award for Undergraduate Research, and Anthony Ardura was awarded the Outstanding CS Senior.

Three graduate students were also recognized: Lokendra Panwar as the outstanding master’s student, Andrey Esakia for outstanding teaching, and Christopher Poirel as the outstanding doctoral student. David Butenhoff was awarded the George Gorsline Memorial Scholarship Award, given each year to a rising senior who has made the most significant rebound from his freshman year.

More photos from the event
VTHacks event attracts students from far and wide

Over 400 participants brought their energy and enthusiasm to Cassell Coliseum for the first large hackathon held at Virginia Tech. The April 18-20 VTHacks event brought students from as far away as Texas, Florida, and Connecticut to work on innovative projects. Approximately 240 Virginia Tech students participated. Significant financial support from TechPad, SalesForce, and numerous other companies made this exciting event possible, according to VTHacks leaders Ben Johnston and Joella Fabe. The group is looking forward to planning another hackathon next year, as well as encouraging VT students to participate in hackathons held at other universities.

Spring 2014 Cool Topics

On April 24, 2014, students in the sophomore seminar class presented "cool topics" to CS student ambassadors, advisors, faculty, and each other. As part of the sophomore seminar, students are assigned to a group which will decide on a "cool topic" to present towards the later part of the semester. Many interesting topics were presented during the evening event. According to the instructor of the class, Dr. Cal Ribbens, "The goal of the Cool Topics Fair is to give students in the Sophomore Seminar an opportunity to explore an emerging topic in computer science, and to present that topic to their peers. Students also get experience working together on a group project, something that will be common as they proceed through their undergraduate curriculum."

During the events, students had a chance to present their topics to representatives from Capital One, Eastman Chemical, Fidelity, IBM, NetApp, Qualcomm, and Vanguard, as well as their fellow classmates and CS student ambassadors. The CS Department thanks Google for sponsoring the event.

Pictures from the Cool Topics Fair
VTURCS Undergraduate Research and Capstone Symposium

On Thursday, April 24, the Computer Science Department held its 12th VTURCS Spring Symposium. Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science (VTURCS) encourages Computer Science undergraduate students to become involved in research. This year's symposium featured 15 projects, including six capstone projects from the CS 4284 Systems and Networking Capstone course, CS 4414 Issues in Scientific Computing and CS 4624 Multimedia/ Hyper-text.

The organizers of VTURCS wish to thank all of the judges, including faculty Dr. Denis Gracanin, Dr. Eli Tilevich, and Dr. Godmar Back, and industry representatives Robert Gunter (Capital One), Don Sanderson and Sarah Bastian (Eastman Chemical), Christine Cantu (Fidelity), Steve Choquette (IBM), Laura Bain (Intel), Erin Starnes (Qualcomm), Greg Caufman (Solers), and Rebecca Taylor (Vanguard).

Awards were presented in four categories:

Research Award
1. R1: Enabling Efficient Intra-Warp Communication for Fourier Transforms in a Many-Core Architecture
   Carlo del Mundo
   Advisor: Wu-chun Feng

2. R6: Tracking Mental Engagement: Bringing Context to EEG Data
   Ryan Merkel, Jayanth Prathipati, Andrew Weckstein
   Advisors: Scott McCrickard, Bobby Beaton

3. R4: Bridging PhoneGap: Native Execution of JavaScript Mobile Applications on the Android Platform
   Mohammed Davoodi, Ethan Holder
   Advisor: Eli Tilevich

Capstone Award
1. C1: Fortran implementation of QNSTOP for global and stochastic optimization
   Brandon Amos
   Advisor: Layne Watson

2. C5: Event Aware Focused Crawler
   Ward Bonnefond, Chris Menzel, Zack Morris, Suhas Patel, Tyler Ritchie, Mark Tedesco, Franklin Zheng
   Advisors: Ed Fox, Mohamed Magdy Gharib Farag
   Antuan Byalik, Tyler Kahn
   Advisor: Eli Tilevich

Marston Award
   Antuan Byalik, Tyler Kahn
   Advisor: Eli Tilevich

T2. C3: Kinda Right
   Austin Lopez-Gomez, Divit Singh
   Advisor: Ed Fox

T2. R6: Tracking Mental Engagement: Bringing Context to EEG Data
   Ryan Merkel, Jayanth Prathipati, Andrew Weckstein
   Advisors: Scott McCrickard, Bobby Beaton

People's Choice Award
1. R4: Bridging PhoneGap: Native Execution of JavaScript Mobile Applications on the Android Platform
   Mohammed Davoodi, Ethan Holder
   Advisor: Eli Tilevich

2. R6: Tracking Mental Engagement: Bringing Context to EEG Data
   Ryan Merkel, Jayanth Prathipati, Andrew Weckstein
   Advisors: Scott McCrickard, Bobby Beaton

3. R1: Enabling Efficient Intra-Warp Communication for Fourier Transforms in a Many-Core Architecture
   Carlo del Mundo
   Advisor: Wu-chun Feng

Pictures from the VTURCS Symposium

CSRC makes another $75K donation to Investment in Excellence Scholarship in December 2013

The CS Department's corporate partners program, the Computer Science Resources Consortium (CSRC), made a $75,000 donation to the Investment in Excellence Scholarship fund in December 2013. The Investment in Excellence Scholarship was created in the fall of 2007 by funding provided by the CSRC. The CSRC has been able to make a sizable donation in each year since the endowment was created. With the 2013 donation, the endowment has reached $325,000. The CS Department thanks the corporate partners who made this possible.
CS Students win 2014 Student Business Concept Challenge

Joe Acanfora (Computer Science), Jeff Morris (Computer Science), and Paul Feagan (AIS) won the VT Student Business Concept Challenge competition.

As described in the Roanoke Times: "[they] won $10,000 in scholarships plus summer workspace at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Vestigo [their real-time smartphone parking lot GPS system] uses a novel data collection system that takes advantage of inexpensive, high-quality laser rangefinders in tandem with a mobile service – to provide a real-time map of available parking."

Their team also advances to the VT KnowledgeWorks Global Student Business Concept Challenge in August at the Hotel Roanoke, part of the Global Partnership Week celebration, that involves university students, faculty and people from all over the world.

CS major Brandon Amos represents VT at the ACC Meeting of the Minds in April 2014

Brandon Amos was selected to represent Virginia Tech at the ACC Meeting of the Minds, a venue where undergraduates present their research and scholarship. Congratulations to faculty mentor Layne Watson. Brandon’s project is entitled "FORTRAN 95 Implementation of QNSTOP for global and stochastic optimization".

Brandon won Honorable Mention in the 2014 CRA Undergraduate Research Awards, working with Drs. Binoy Ravindran and Layne Watson. This is a second recent research honor for Brandon.
Spring 2014 CSRC Career Fair

On Monday, February 17, the Computer Science Resources Consortium spring luncheon was held in Owens Banquet Hall at Virginia Tech, followed by the CSRC Spring Career Fair later that evening. At the luncheon, company representatives, faculty, and invited students heard presentations from undergraduate and graduate students working on a variety of research projects.

Later in the day, over 400 students attended the CSRC Spring Career Fair in the Commonwealth Ballroom of Squires Student Center. The CSRC Spring Career Fair, in its twenty-third year, gave CS majors an opportunity to visit with our corporate partners to discuss internship, co-operative education, and full-time positions. The CSRC is pleased to see the continuing growth of its program, with four new members. The CSRC welcomed the following companies for Spring 2014: CustomInk, Hewlett-Packard Company, SimonComputing, and Visa. It is encouraging to see the membership in the CSRC grow.

Pictures from the Spring 2014 Career Fair!

Carlo Del Mundo places third in ACM Student Research Competition

Carlo Del Mundo, advised by Dr. Wu Feng, was selected as one of 6 finalists in the ACM Student Research Competition at Supercomputing 2013. Of the ~20 semifinalists, 6 were chosen as finalists to present their work at a technical session, and of those, 3 were awarded gold medals (Carlo was one of those). He advanced to the next stage in the research competition to vie with other ACM conference winners for a chance to win an ACM Grand Finals award.

Carlo’s project was entitled Enabling Efficient Intra-Warp Communication for Fourier Transforms in a Many-Core Architecture. A version of his poster can be found here: http://carlodelmundo.com/posters/073113-on-efficacy-shuffle-sc2013.pdf

Carlo placed third in the Grand Finals. He started graduate studies at the University of Washington in Fall 2014.

Jackie Falatko featured in the Collegiate Times

Jackie Falatko was featured in a complementary article in the Collegiate Times. This news article was featured on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. The article was to celebrate March as Women’s month and it was great to see such positive publicity for our department!

http://www.collegiatetimes.com/lifestyle/article_f35ead94-afae-11e3-b855-001a4bcf6878.html
Fall 2013 CSRC Career Fair

On Monday, September 16, the Computer Science Resources Consortium had its fall luncheon and Career Fair. This fall’s career fair, held in the Commonwealth Ballroom of the Squires Student Center, was the largest since the dot.com boom, with 84 companies attending. For the fall 2013 semester, the CSRC welcomed 13 new companies and institutes: Analysis, Computing, and Engineering Solutions, Appian, AT&T, AT Corp, Facebook, Interactive Achievement, JPI, Ocean’s Edge, Praxis Engineering, Technology Management Associates, Telarix, Tenable Network Security, and Vizuri. The CSRC also welcomed back Sapient and Deutsche Bank.

The members of the CSRC were on campus to learn more about the department and to recruit students as full-time employees, interns, and cooperative education students. CSRC companies provide support for CS student organizations and student scholarships.

Attending the luncheon in Owens Banquet Hall were 100+ company representatives, CS faculty and undergraduate scholarship winners. Sixty undergraduates were recognized for receiving scholarships for the 2013/14 academic year. The majority of these funds were provided by the College of Engineering, with CGI, the Department of Computer Science, the CSRC Sotera Defense Solutions, and SWIFT contributing to the total.

CSRC members had the opportunity to visit several classes and speak with Computer Science students to discuss how to prepare for career fairs and interviews, the variety of opportunities in the field, and the abundance of jobs available to CS majors.

Pictures of the luncheon and the career fair.

Michael Stewart, Nathan Self, Siroberto Scerbo and Chris Frisina featured in the Roanoke Times

Radious is in the early stages of development on a “co-listening” application that would let users listen to music with friends. The Radious team is made up of four computer science graduate students from Virginia Tech: Michael Stewart, Nathan Self, Siroberto Scerbo and Chris Frisina. “We’re just trying to take off the blinders that are created by these individual [mobile] devices,” co-founder Michael Stewart said. “It doesn’t have to be this way that we can only do things [like listen to music] by ourselves. We’re trying to turn that on its head a little bit and give the opportunity for when we want to re-engage with the people that we might want to share those experiences with.”

Because they don’t have any intellectual property protection right now, the team didn’t want to share the specifics of their idea. All they would say is that, in a way, they hope to take users back to the days of boom boxes when everyone could share musical experiences together.

The startup is based in NuSpark, an office donated by the Virginia Tech Foundation to act as a launch pad for the area’s youngest companies. About eight startups are now based there, and behind each is a team of locals who have decided to forgo typical 9-to-5 careers.

See the May 4th Roanoke Times article.
Zalia Shams wins the 2014 SIGCSE Competition

Zalia Shams, advised by Dr. Steve Edwards, won the SIGCSE Student Research Competition in early March. Zalia's submission was entitled "Evaluating Quality of Student-written Tests". She provided the following abstract:

"Automated grading systems assess quality of students’ tests using code-coverage. However, it has a number of limitations. All-pairs testing and mutation analysis are two alternative strategies where a student’s tests are evaluated by counting how many faults the tests can detect from all other students’ solutions and from solutions having artificially injected bugs in them. We devise novel ways to apply these alternative measures in classroom assessment systems. We also compare defect-revealing capability of code-coverage, all-pairs testing and mutation testing, in terms of their accuracy in predicting the number of authentic, human-written defects the tests find. Experimental result with more than 700,000 test data analysis shows that, all-pairs testing is the most reliable test quality measure of the three."

This is Zalia's second award recently for her research. In October 2013, she won the John Vlissides Award at the SPLASH Doctoral Symposium. This award is given annually at the top conference in object-oriented programming languages and systems, to the doctoral student “showing significant promise in applied software research.” To read more about this award, please see http://www.sigplan.org/Awards/Vlissides/

Ji-Sum Kim places 2nd in ACM GHC Grad Student Research Competition

Ji-Sun Kim, 2012-2013 PHD graduate of the department, with co-advisors Denis Gracanin and Francis Quek, on being named 2nd place winner of the ACM Grace Hopper Celebration (http://gracehopper.org/2013) Graduate Student Research Competition. Her competition entry, entitled "Action-Transferred Design Approach of Navigation Techniques for Effective Spatial Learning in 3D Virtual Environments", describes the core part of her doctoral research.

Ji-Sun describes her research thusly: "The proposed action-transferred design approach was inspired by observations from theories of learning, action, perception, and neuropsychology. We empirically demonstrated the proposed action-transferred design approach addresses the practical usability issues of previous walking-like navigation techniques, while effectively supporting spatial learning. We believe that the action-transferred design approach can open many research opportunities and applications in human computer interaction (HCI) research area. These applications include virtual exploration of scientific datasets, historic places, or real estate, architectural or urban design, military or firefighting training, and even robotics (operation of unmanned vehicles)."

This is the 2nd year in a row that the department had a graduate student win 2nd place in this competition. As a winner of a Student Research Competition at GHC Ji-Sun will be eligible to participate in the Grand Finals of all the ACM student research competitions for 2013-2014: http://src.acm.org/?searchterm=student+research+competitions
Kunmi Otitoju, (MS in CS from VT in 2007), was recently named one of this year’s Forbes ‘30 Most Promising African Entrepreneurs’ List. She built on her foundation in computer science (CS, Howard University, summa cum laude) and design to eventually found Minku Design in Barcelona. This has led her back to her roots in Africa. Now multinational, Minku designs in Spain and manufactures in Nigeria. It specializes in custom designed leather bags for men and women. In her own words, “two years on, Minku continues to define a fresh sub-Saharan aesthetic through its subtle use of cultural elements and artisan approach to contemporary bag-making.” Yes, that is some distance from CS, but the combination of understanding of craft (of programming), the role and practices of design, computational thinking, and entrepreneurship come together in this exciting business.

The website for Minku is http://www.minku.com. The key philosophy of the company is

- There lies a unique beauty in things painstakingly handmade.
- Repurpose, reuse, and reduce waste (80% of our bag interiors are lined with repurposed items of Yoruba ceremonial dress - aso-oke and damask fabrics).

She was attracted to Virginia Tech for a Masters in computer science in large part because of our support for “creative computing”. Expanded by the recent founding of the Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology, creative computing is both an undergraduate track and a special foci in the Human-Computer Interaction area of our graduate programs. Her master’s thesis, “Man in the Mirror: A Mythology-Driven Exploration of Multiple User-Interpretations in a Multimedia Space” led to two research publications:


Besides the article in Forbes, you can read about her incredible journey (including an internship at Goldman Sachs) at http://foundersgrid.com/fashion-startup-nigeria.
CS PhD 2012 graduate Alex Endert winner of the first annual IEEE VGTC

Alex Endert (and advisor Chris North), winner of the first annual IEEE VGTC Best Doctoral Dissertation Award. The award was presented at the IEEE VIS Conference in October 2013.

Alex completed his dissertation in Computer Science at Virginia Tech in August 2012, under advisor Chris North. His dissertation is entitled "Semantic Interaction for Visual Analytics: Inferring Analytical Reasoning for Model Steering". Alex also won the Best Dissertation Award in the Department of Computer Science.

"The IEEE VGTC Doctoral Dissertation Competition IEEE Computer Society Visualization and Graphics Technical Committee (VGTC) has recently established the Best Doctoral Dissertation Award program to recognize outstanding academic research and development in visualization and visual analytics. The dissertations must address a topic relevant to visualization or visual analytics. The competition will be administrated by the IEEE VGTC Visualization Pioneers Group (VPG) under the auspices of VGTC. The award, to be known as the IEEE/VGTC VIS Pioneers Group Doctoral Dissertation Award, will be presented annually at the VPG Reception held at IEEE VIS conference."

Alumnus Raj Suri wins Dorito’s Crash the Super Bowl Contest

Visit the College of Engineering website for more information about Suri and his winning commercial:


Congratulations to Chris North on his COE Dean's Award for Research

Congratulations to Dr. Chris North on his COE Dean's Award for Research Excellence -- an award attesting to an "extraordinary level of achievement in research" over the past 2 years. This award is an honor for both you and for the department! It is also wonderful recognition of the excellent visualization work in the Discovery Analytics Center.
Congratulations to Wenjing Lou on becoming a COE Faculty Fellow

Congratulations to Dr. Wenjing Lou who became a COE Faculty Fellow at the College awards ceremony on May 7, 2014. This award comes with $5,000 stipends per year for 3 years to be used for discretionary spending. The award is given "for exceptional merit in research, teaching and/or service". The award is a great acknowledgement of faculty achievement!

Congratulations to Steve Edwards - Webcat reaches a milestone

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Edwards as Web-CAT reaches this impressive milestone in handling student assignments (external and internal). Steve reports that over 60,000 were processed in the past 30 days. The highest weekly total reported by Steve has been just under 25,000 with the busiest day last month having over 5,000 submissions from students at multiple institutions. Another measure of the size that Web-CAT has grown as an impactful service: the primary server has almost 13,000 user accounts from about 20 schools. For more about Web-CAT, please see Steve's webpage:

http://people.cs.vt.edu/~edwards/

Wu Feng wins SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award

"The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has named Virginia Tech’s Wu Feng as a 2014 Outstanding Faculty Award winner. The awards, sponsored by the Dominion Foundation, a philanthropic unit of the energy company based in Richmond, Va., is the commonwealth’s highest honor for university faculty. It honors a Virginia faculty member’s commitment to excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration, and public service.

To read more, please see the VT News Article: http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2014/01/012414-engineering-wufengstateaward.html"
Eli Tilevich receives IBM Faculty Award

Congratulations Dr. Eli Tilevich, on your recent IBM Faculty Award. Eli describes the focus of this award as follows: "The intent of this award is to support my ongoing research and teaching projects in mobile computing at both graduate and undergraduate levels." It is great to have this strong interest from IBM in your efforts in mobile computing. Eli has received previous awards from IBM for his research.

Dr. Kirk Cameron selected as an organizer for the 2014 IAFOE

Dr. Kirk Cameron has been selected as an organizer for the 2014 Indo-American Frontiers of Engineering Symposium. Kirk was asked to chair and organize a session on Green Approaches to Communication with an Indian computer scientist colleague. (Note: Kirk is a column editor on green computing for IEEE Computer.) Being an organizer for this Symposium is an honor, as is being asked to attend.

The Indo-U.S. Frontiers of Engineering (IAFOE) program aims to bring together outstanding, early-career Indian and American engineers from industry, universities, and other research institutions to introduce their areas of engineering research and technical work, thereby facilitating an interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge and methodology that could eventually lead to collaborative networks of engineers from the two countries. The 2014 Indo-American Frontiers of Engineering will be held May 19-21, at the Infosys Center in Mysore, India. About 60 outstanding engineers under the age of 45 will meet for an intensive 2-1/2 day symposium to discuss cutting-edge developments in four areas: Biomaterials, Water Resource Management in the Face of Climate Change, Green Approaches to Communications, and Engineering in the Context of Big Data. The event facilitates international and cross-disciplinary research collaboration, promotes the transfer of new techniques and approaches across disparate engineering fields, and encourages the creation of a transatlantic network of world-class engineers.

T.M. Murali named ACM Distinguished Scientist

Congratulations to Associate Professor T. M. Murali for being named an ACM Distinguished Scientist. The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) recognizes up to 10% of its members with this membership grade. Recipients must have at least 15 years of professional experience and must have made significant accomplishments or impact in the computing field.

To read more, please see the College of Engineering article.
Osman Balci receives SCS service award

Osman Balci has been awarded the McLeod Founder's Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession by The Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS). SCS states "the awards in this category are intended to recognize outstanding contributions to the science and technology of the modeling and simulation process." SCS is the world’s premier professional society devoted to modeling and simulation.

VT GPU Computing Workshop a sold out success

The Virginia Tech Department of Computer Science and NVIDIA collaborated to host a hands-on, two-day workshop to survey the broad range of GPU-accelerated applications across all domains of scientific and engineering research. The August 14-15 workshop attracted more than 120 attendees from four institutions and 18 different departments. Participants included graduate students, postdocs, researchers, and professors all learning first-hand how to program graphics processing units (GPUs) via the use of libraries, OpenACC compiler directives, and CUDA programming. Participants performed hands-on exercises to acquire the skills to use and develop GPU-aware applications.

Dr. Wu Feng of the Department of Computer Science began the workshop with an overview addressing heterogeneous parallel computing and an introduction to HPC environment and tools at Virginia Tech. Other presentations were made by Bob Crovella, who leads a technical team at NVIDIA and is responsible for supporting GPU computing products in the high performance computing ecosystem. Crovella gave an introduction to GPU computing and then dove into two more intense sessions, all hands-on by the participants.

Feng and Crovella addressed why heterogeneous computing and GPUs have become so important in sustaining and advancing the state of the art in scientific and research computing. Virginia Tech has its own GPU-accelerated supercomputer, HokieSpeed, designed and deployed by a team led by Dr. Feng, which debuted as the most energy-efficient commodity super computer in the U.S. in November 2011.
CS@VT Celebrates Faculty, Staff, and Student Achievements at Spring

On Friday, April 25, the second annual CS Spring Awards Banquet was held to recognize faculty, staff, and student achievements from the 2013/2014 academic year. In addition to faculty, staff, and student award winners, CSRC members Capital One, Eastman, Fidelity, IBM, Intel, NetApp, Qualcomm, Solers, and Vanguard sent representatives to the two days of events.

Pictures from our Spring Awards Banquet

VT helps host National Center for IT event honoring high school girls

Excerpts by Steven Mackay:

The Virginia/Washington, D.C., affiliate of the National Center for Women in Information Technology held its 3rd annual Award for Aspirations in Computing ceremony during the recent Capital Area Professional Women in Computing Conference. The award honors young women at the high-school level for their computing-related achievements and interests. Awardees are selected for their computing and information technology aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education. On the national level, the award is part of the center's talent development program that encourages young women to succeed in a field where they are underrepresented. It provides winners with visibility, community, leadership opportunities, support, research experiences, scholarships, and internships.

Dr. Barbara Ryder served on the organizing committee, as did Libby Bradford, director of external relations and undergraduate studies for the computer science department.

For more information, and to see the original article, visit the College of Engineering website:


Pictures from the Event
February Events—February 22, 23, and 24

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Career Fair Prep Session
Time and location TBA
This is an informal event, intended to help give our students additional confidence going into the spring job fair week. We are planning to offer a resume review and critique, mock interviews, elevator speech practice and critique, and a chance to have a Question/Answer session with our reps. You can think of the Q/A session as "Everything I’d like to ask before, during and after a career fair, but was afraid to ask." Dress code is casual, for students and reps.

Monday, February 23, 2015

CSRC Spring Luncheon
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Owens Banquet Hall
The CSRC Luncheon will be held in Owens Banquet Hall on campus. To assist with parking, the CSRC will be providing a shuttle service from the Chicken Hill parking lots. You will get your parking passes from the shuttle drivers.

Prior to the luncheon, you will have time to mingle with CS students and faculty attending the luncheon. All students pursuing undergraduate research projects and students from the top of each of our cohorts will be invited to attend this luncheon. This is your chance to meet our best and brightest students before the career fair.

Spring Business Meeting
1:00 to 2:00 p.m. — Owens Banquet Hall.
During our business meeting, you will receive an update from leaders of our student organizations on their current activities. You will also hear from our department’s leaders about recent news within the department and you will have the opportunity to provide feedback. We encourage each company to send at least one representative.

Spring CSRC Career Fair
2:00 to 6:00 p.m. — Squires Student Center—Commonwealth Ballroom
The CSRC Spring Career Fair is a career fair for all undergraduate and graduate CS students. We also invite all students on our CS-Interest listserv which includes interested new freshmen from General Engineering.

Student volunteers will be available to assist you with getting in to and out of Squires. Further information will be provided in late January/early February.

For Premier/Regular Members:

We have opportunities for regular/premier members to be on panels for several different student audiences:

CS 3604 Professionalism Class
Tuesday, Feb 24, 9:30 to 10:45 and Tuesday, Feb 24, 11:00 to 12:15
Juniors and seniors in computer science are invited to ask representatives about their companies, searching for that first full-time position, and the current job market.

CS 1944 Sophomore Seminar
Tuesday, Feb 24, 4:00 to 4:50
The sophomore seminar is a new requirement for all students completing their degrees in 2014 and thereafter. Topics for the panel will include how to interact with recruiters, how to prepare for a career fair, what makes an effective elevator speech, and more. This panel should mostly be about how to interact professionally with corporate recruiters.

CS 4944 Senior Seminar
Tuesday, Feb 24, 5:00 to 5:50
These graduating seniors are moving on to positions in industry or on to grad school. Topics include transitioning to the workplace and career management.

Women in Industry Panel and Networking Session (tentative)
Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.
Invited students include all female CS undergrad and grad students, as well as students interested in the CS major and minor. The panel is held during the first 45 to 60 minutes, with a networking event immediately following. Plan to bring plenty of business cards to share with our young women.