



VirginiaTech

Computer Science Resources Consortium Fall 2008 Newsletter



Invent the future with us

Department Update

Dr. Barbara Ryder to head Department of Computer Science



Barbara G. Ryder, Professor of Computer Science at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, will become the Head of the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech, starting in fall 2008. She is the first woman to serve as a department head in the history of the nationally ranked College of Engineering.

New Undergraduate Learning Center

Renovations on the first floor of McBryde have begun, and the new CS Undergraduate Learning Center is expected to open during the Fall 2008 semester. The CS-ULC will be the location for Computer Science on the main VT campus. Specialty labs in Software Engineering, Systems and Networking, and Multimedia will be created, as well as space dedicated to undergraduate teaching. A more structured undergraduate lounge will be a gathering place for all of our students and can be considered a new benefit for our CSRC members. New avenues for advertising your company will be created with this flexible space.

Investment in Excellence Scholarship Created



In February 2008, the Department of Computer Science proudly announced the creation of a general scholarship fund for our undergraduate majors. The initial endowment of \$50,000 came directly from the 22 member companies of the Computer Science Resources Consortium. The "Investment in Excellence" Computer Science undergraduate scholarship fund is established in recognition of the long-standing partnership between CS@VT and the CSRC. The first awards from this new fund will be made for the 2008/9 academic year.

The support of the CSRC companies for the programs, faculty and students in the Department of Computer Science is gratefully acknowledged.

CGI Scholarship Created



CGI, a member of the CSRC, created an endowed scholarship for undergraduate CS majors. CGI employees were deeply moved by the tragedy of April 16, 2007, and created this scholarship in memory of everyone impacted by the events of that day. Additionally, CGI wants to encourage students to attend Virginia Tech by helping the College of Engineering recruit and retain highly talented students interested in the field of computer science. The first CGI Computer Science Scholarships will be awarded for the 2008/9 academic year.

Students

CS Students invited to join Phi Beta Kappa



Four Computer Science majors were recently inducted into the Virginia Tech Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society. Phi Beta Kappa was founded at The College of William and Mary in 1776, and recognizes undergraduate excellence in liberal arts and sciences. Seniors inducted into Phi Beta Kappa are in the top 10% of their graduating class and have earned an overall GPA of at least 3.8.

Pictured left to right are Robert Hagan, Scott Conner, Nicholas Ryan, and William Randolph.

VTURCS has another successful year



This year marked the 8th annual Spring Research Symposium. VTURCS (Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science) has surpassed its 200th student and our 100th project. Interest continues to be high, particularly from industry. This year, we had more industry participants than students, an indication of the high level of demand for CS graduates.

Pictured: College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson and Andrew Zimmer

Scholars of the Future



The Scholars of the Future (SoF) project provided research opportunities (through VTURCS) and mentoring to sophomore and junior Computer Science majors, with a focus on underrepresented students. Fellowships were provided to the students selected to participate in the program.

The Scholars of the Future project was funded by a grant from NSF to encourage graduate studies in computer science.

Kania named 2007/8 SWIFT scholar



SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Communication), a member of the CSRC, awarded its 2007/8 scholarship to Ken Kania. The SWIFT Scholarship recognizes a student with a strong academic background and leadership potential. Ken, who is from Crozet, Virginia, will be a junior in 2008/9. The 2008/9 SWIFT scholar will be recognized at the Fall CSRC luncheon.

Faculty

VT and Meridium receive NSF grant for agile software usability project



Scott McCrickard, Associate Professor of Computer Science (CS) at Virginia Tech, and Todd Stevens, Development Team Leader, Meridium, Inc., the leader in asset performance management software and consulting solutions, recently received a National Science Foundation Small Business Technology Transfer grant of \$150,000 for the first phase of a software research and development project called "Integrating scenario-based usability engineering and agile software development practices."

Meridium is a member of long standing with the CSRC.

Green500 List makes headlines



Computer Science professors Dr. Wu Feng and Dr. Kirk Cameron have created the Green500, ranking the most energy-efficient supercomputers. After premiering this spring, the list has created much interest in the project.

Read more at www.green500.org

Dr. Ali Butt wins NSF CAREER Award



Ali R. Butt, an Assistant Professor of Computer Science in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering, has received a \$400,000 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, which is the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award for creative junior faculty who are considered to be future leaders in their academic fields. The goal of Butt's CAREER research is to address the increasing performance gap between computing power and storage technology, especially for high-performance computing environments.

NSF and NASA support CS research



Dr. Adrian Sandu, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech in collaboration with Dr. I.M. Navon of Florida State University, have received funding of \$350,000 from NSF for research entitled "Solution of Inverse Problems with Adaptive Models." \$186,000 of this award is assigned to Virginia Tech. Another \$211,000 is allotted to the CS department by NASA-JPL for the development of a Sensor-web Operations Explorer, in collaboration with PI M. Lee and Co-Investigators K. Bowman and C.E. Miller of Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Outreach projects

CSRC sponsors etiquette dinner for C-Tech² campers

CSRC funds are sponsoring an etiquette dinner for campers at C-Tech², a two week summer camp targeting high school girls. The purpose of the camp "is to introduce participants to engineering and related technologies through various hands-on activities, laboratories, and presentations. C-Tech² also provides participants with the opportunity to learn about college life – from residence halls to classrooms and everything in between." (www.eng.vt.edu/academics/ceed_precoll.php) Members of the Association of Women in Computing will also be supporting this event to encourage students to consider Computer Science as a future career.

CSRC sponsors the CS Department ad in the Freshmen Planner

Each year, the Student Engineers' Council provides all freshmen in General Engineering with a Student Planner. This planner not only provides a calendar to help freshmen keep up with their challenging schedules, but also provides an advertising opportunity for departments in the College of Engineering. Thanks to the CSRC, the Department of Computer Science is able to support this SEC service project and provides General Engineers an overview of our department that they can refer to throughout the year.

CSRC members invited to speak with Galileo/Hypatia learning communities

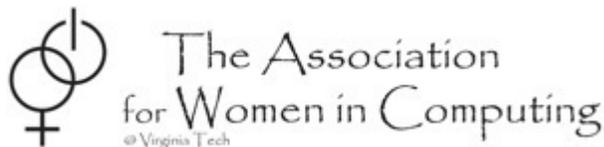
For the second year, Premier CSRC members were invited to participate in a panel for students in the College of Engineering's residential learning communities. Representatives had the opportunity to introduce their company, impart needed career and professional advice, and do a bit of recruiting for the CS Department.

CSRC and CS Department sponsor Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

The CS Department at Virginia Tech joins other institutions, including Princeton, Carnegie Mellon, New York University, and Cornell, as a sponsor of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. This event promotes and encourages women in the field of technology.

"Past Grace Hopper Celebrations have resulted in collaborative proposals, networking, mentoring, and increased visibility for the contributions of women in computing." gracehopper.org/2008

Thanks to the generous support of the CSRC, the women of AWC look forward to attending this conference in Keystone, Colorado, in October 2008.



10th Annual Women in Computing Day

The Association for Women in Computing hosted their biggest Women in Computing Day on April 18, 2008, headed by Meg Kurdziolek and Lise Vincent. Eighty-two middle school aged girls attended the day's events, and had a great time. The day started with a keynote talk by Brenda Hayes from IBM, and then broke into four different sessions. This year the sessions were on robotics, large displays, wireless technology, and bioinformatics. The day's events came to a close with a visit from the Hokie Bird.

The CSRC was the primary sponsor for this event.

Fall 2008 - CSRC Recruiting Events

With your renewed membership, you will have the opportunity to participate in additional recruiting events beyond those offered by Virginia Tech. Planned for Fall 2008:

CSRC/ACM picnic – Sunday, September 14th, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Duckpond Field

Kick off the week of CSRC events and Engineering Expo with our departmental picnic. All CS students, prospective students, faculty, staff, and their families will be invited to attend.

CSRC Fall Luncheon – 11:30 a.m., Monday, September 15th, The Inn at VT

All undergraduate scholarship winners and student group presidents are invited to attend this luncheon.

CSRC Fall Career Reception – 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Bowman Room of the Jamerson Athletic Center

All CS students, graduate and undergraduate, and prospective CS majors are invited to attend this career fair.

CS 3604 Professionalism Panel

This fall, there is only one section of our CS 3604 Professionalism course. At this time, we plan to have six panelists. Our Premier members will have preference and any remaining slots will be filled in the order in which I receive the RSVP forms.

CSRC Dinner with CS Faculty

We are having a dinner for you, with members our faculty, currently planned to be held at our KWII facility located in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The dinner will be on Tuesday, September 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

Hypatia/Galileo Panel

We have tentatively scheduled two panels with the Hypatia/Galileo learning communities. This event with Galileo/Hypatia will offer an opportunity for you to speak about career opportunities and to give career advice as well as giving you the opportunity to help recruit these students to the field of Computer Science. Like the 3604 panel, we plan to have no more than six panelists. Premier members will have preference and any remaining slots will be filled in the order in which I receive the RSVP forms.

CS Senior Seminar

Our new senior seminar starts this fall. Dr. Cal Ribbens, our Associate Department Head, will be teaching the course and has asked for CSRC members to participate.