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What's New with the CSRC

Welcome to all new and returning CSRC members for the calendar year of 2012! The fall semester has just come to a close, but we are busy getting things ready for spring 2012.

The fall semester of 2011 brought yet another increase in membership to the CSRC. The Fall 2011 CSRC Career Fair exceeded the numbers of both the previous two fairs. We also have outgrown Owens Banquet Hall. We were pleased to have so many new companies with us! At our fall CSRC events, we welcomed AOL, Assured Information Systems, Boeing, Boston Technologies, Commonwealth Computer Research, Cvent, Deloitte



Consulting, the Federal Reserve Board, GCE Financial Services, IMC Financial Markets, Innovative Defense Technologies, Mapcom Systems, Near Infinity, the NSA, Pariveda Solutions, Phase2 Technology, Pyramid Systems, Raytheon – BBN Technologies, REI Systems, Snaga

job, SourceFire, Tata Consultancy Services, Tridium, Ultra Electronics 3eTI, White Oak Technologies, and WillowTree Apps. We also welcomed back ExelaCom and Qualcomm. We look forward to welcoming new companies to the CSRC in the spring 2012 semester!



We look forward to seeing you in February!

CSRC Makes Another Donation to Scholarship Fund

Thanks in part to the additional growth in the CSRC, we have made a \$50,000 donation to the Investment in Excellence Scholarship Fund.

The Investment in Excellence Scholarship was created with an initial endow-

ment of \$50,000 from the CSRC in the winter of 2007. Since then, we have been able to make an additional donation each year from 2008 through 2011. For the academic year 2011/2012, this fund awarded five scholarships to our best and brightest students.



New Virginia/D.C. Aspirations Award for Computing

The Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech has joined with George Mason University and the University of Virginia to create a Virginia/D.C. Affiliate program, in conjunction with the National NCWIT (National Council for Women in IT) Aspirations in Computing Award. From the NCWIT website, "the Award for Aspirations in Computing honors young women active and interested in computing and technology. We are looking for the next generation of technical talent. Award winners receive cool prizes, gadgets, scholarships and all girls can join a community of fellow technically-inclined young women." (More information about the Aspirations program can be found at <http://www.ncwit.org/award/award.index.php>.)

Even though this was only our first year, we had 45 applicants for our award. With the help of our applicant reviewers, we selected 10 winners. We are pleased that our top scoring young woman was selected as a national award winner and that we had five national runners up! Each Virginia/D.C. winner will be invited to bring her parents and her sponsoring teacher to an awards luncheon on March 31, 2012 at the Mason Inn in Northern Virginia. At the luncheon, we will recognize each young woman and present her with a trophy and a prize. Each awardee will also receive a matching trophy to take back to her high school, to be placed in her high school's trophy case.

In addition, the CSRC is offering a \$1000 renewable scholarship to any National or Virginia/D.C. regional winner who enrolls in Virginia Tech and declares CS as her major. The CSRC offered this same scholarship to any national award winner last year and we are pleased that one of the winners is now in her first year at Virginia Tech and plans to major in computer science.

How you can help!

For this year, we are still seeking additional financial support for this program. *Many thanks to Google for providing \$2000 of funding for this year's event.*

- Your funding can help fund the program itself, student awards, or even student/parent travel grants to the awards program (if needed).
- Your company can underwrite one of the \$1000 renewable scholarships by providing \$3000 for one scholarship.
- We are also seeking prizes for the award winners. Other affiliates have included items from supporting companies, such as various brands of video and digital cameras, iPads, and Vera Bradley purses.

In addition to funding support and providing prizes, you can help next year's program in several ways:

- Help us recruit girls to apply to this program. We are trying to reach as many high school girls in the state of Virginia and the District of Columbia as possible. Applications are accepted from September 15 through October 31. The award program will most likely be in late March.
- Judging submitted applications. This will happen between early November and early December. *Special thanks to Steve Choquette from IBM for helping to review this year's applications.*

If your company is interested in supporting this program, please get in touch with Libby Bradford as soon as possible.



Regional Women in Computing Conference a Huge Success



On Friday, October 14, 2011, seven Virginia Tech student members of the Association for Women in Computing (AWC) drove to the Tennessee Celebration of Women in Computing, a regional conference located in Pikeville, Tennessee. The first annual conference was held at Tennessee Tech University. Throughout the two days of the conference, our undergraduate and graduate students attended panels, birds of a feather sessions, technical talks, and listened to invited and distinguished speakers. Topics covered ranged from entrepreneurship and robotics to internships and obstacles facing women in computing-related careers.

The invited speaker sessions were a particularly inspiring portion of the conference. Pooja Sankar, who founded Piazza and spoke during the CS@VT Graduate Seminar earlier this semester, gave a talk on entrepreneurship. Erin “Ed” Donahue from Microsoft gave a speech that inspired our students so much that they invited her to give a talk at Virginia Tech on mobile phone apps, which she presented on October 28, 2011.

Our attendees felt that this shorter conference provided a fantastic opportunity to network and reap the benefits of sessions tailored to women in computing without the need to miss a week of classes. Additionally, the smaller size of the conference allowed our students to forge bonds with other attendees by seeing them at multiple events. The bonfire in between days one and two offered a way to get to know experienced researchers and industry workers in an informal setting.

Overall, the Tennessee Celebration of Women in Computing was a success, and the members of AWC look forward to attending this regional conference for years to come.

Article by Lauren Bradel, AWC Public Relations



Elena Nadolinski, Arielle Cohen (AWC President), and Monika Akbar (Grace Hopper Conference Co-Chair) exploring the scenic Falls Creek Falls near the conference site.

CS@VT and AWC well represented at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

The Association for Women in Computing at Virginia Tech (AWC) and the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech made a huge impact at this year's national Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. The conference, held this year in Portland, Oregon, offers female computer scientists the opportunity to network with fellow students, researchers, and professionals, attend technical, academic, and professional sessions, and present their research to a general audience of computer



scientists. As a conference aimed at computer scientists in general, Grace Hopper offers the opportunity for attendees to pick up tips for success in industry or academia. Some of the sessions offered included negotiating in the workplace, developing research proposals, and building personal brands. However, the conference was not limited to these general sessions. Sessions on mobile computing, security, and large-scale computing were just a few of the topics covered.

In addition to attending valuable sessions, Virginia Tech students and alumni ran panels and presented their research during the poster session. Stacy Branham led a panel on time management. Anamary Leal was a member of the panel for this session. Laurian Vega, a recent PhD graduate from Virginia Tech, served on two panels regarding motherhood and maternity leave. Lauren Bradel, Sarah Dotson, Shaimaa Lazem (GHC scholarship winner), Anamary Leal, and Rongrong Wang presented their work at the poster session.

The AWC attendees volunteered their time at Virginia Tech's sponsor booth. As a gold sponsor, Virginia Tech's booth was located right in front of the entrance to the exhibitor and sponsor booth area. Attendees who staffed the booth fielded questions from potential undergraduate and graduate students as well as current PhD students looking for faculty opportunities.

The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing was started in 1994 in honor of Admiral Grace Murray Hopper and has expanded to include an additional annual conference in India. Next year's Grace Hopper Conference will be located in Baltimore, Maryland.

The CS Department and AWC wish to thank [Freddie Mac](#) and [Northrop Grumman](#) for their generous support. Their financial support helped make this year's trip possible.

Article by Lauren Bradel (AWC Public Relations)

Eeshan Shah, CS undergrad, receives CRA Undergraduate Research Honorable Mention Award for 2012



Computer science student Eeshan Shah, advised by Dr. Eli Tilevich, is the recipient of a CRA Undergraduate Research Honorable Mention Award for 2012. This is the Computer Science Department's third year of having a CS@VT undergraduate being an awardee in this competition. The CRA annual competition recognizes significant undergraduate computing research projects from the US and Canada. This year there are awards for male and female winners, runners-ups and finalists (a total of 14 students this year) plus a set of female and male honorable mention awards (total of 47).

More information about the program can be found at: <http://www.cra.org/awards/undergrad/>

Scholarships for the 2012/2013 academic year will be awarded in June 2012. If you'd like to provide a scholarship in your company's name, please get in touch with Libby Bradford.

Designated Sponsorship List How your company can support our students and student organizations

Beginning with the spring 2009 semester, the CSRC has offered special opportunities for companies to underwrite student activities via a Designated Sponsorship List (DSL). Since then, a variety of companies have helped provide additional funding for student activities, events, and travel.

Here are several highlighted opportunities:

ACM Programming Team Local Competition

For many years, the CS@VT ACM programming teams have competed in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. Their new coach, Dr. Godmar Back, hopes to hold a local programming competition in the

spring semester, to draw interest and possible new members to the programming teams. The programming team would like a sponsor to provide funding for refreshments throughout the day of the competition as well as prize money for winners. They seek \$1500.

CS-Squared Needs Equipment for Local Volunteer Sites

Computer Science Community Service (CS²) is a totally volunteer organization. They do not charge membership dues and rely on donations for support of their organization. One of their current sites has outdated equipment and they are looking to replace it. The request from CS²: "The West End Center in Roanoke, VA has an after-school program for underprivileged, inner-city children in

the area. CS Squared originally set up the computer lab there around 2005, but the computers are now aging and could use replacement. The new computers obviously do not need to be high end - I looked up the cheapest computer on dell.com, which is an Inspiron model for \$300. Shipping and Handling is \$30, plus a tax of \$17, which gives us a total of about \$350 per computer. The lab can hold up to 12 computers, so sponsorship of this proposal could range from at least \$1400 for four computers to as much as \$4200 for all twelve computers." The CSRC has recently provided \$2000 of funding for this opportunity. If you'd like to help, please let Libby Bradford know.

Current DSL Sponsors

Recent DSL contributions:



Google has provided funding for the Virginia/DC Affiliate's Aspirations in Computing Award, which is part of the National Aspirations Award program run through NCWIT.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman has provided funding for next year's Grace Hopper Travel and provided additional funding to the ACM chapter.



Intel has provided \$500 of funding to AWC for the academic year 2011/2012.



Freddie Mac has provided funding for this year's and next year's Grace Hopper Travel, as well as funding for AWC and ACM.



Rackspace has provided \$1000 of funding for general student support as well as \$500 of funding for senior capstone course support.

Current DSL Opportunities

Would your company like to be listed as a sponsor of our student activities? If so, please see the opportunities listed below. This is a copy of the current online DSL list. The list is dynamic and the online version should be considered the most up-to-date. As items are underwritten, a notation (§) will be made next to the item on the list.

Some items will have a notation (*) to show that they are available only once per year.

Bronze Level Sponsorships (up to \$500)

\$250 Level

- CS² - Senior citizen outreach in the Blacksburg Area*
- Sponsor student travel/attendance to a professional conference

\$500 Level

- Provide additional funding for one organization's meeting expenses for a year (AWC§, ACM§, CS², CS Grad Council, Mobile Application Developers§, UPE, VT Gaming Project)*
- Secondary Sponsorship for Women in Computing Day*
- CS² - Elementary school outreach in the Blacksburg Area*
- One time book scholarship in your company's name
- Sponsor student travel/attendance to a professional conference
- CS-Squared site travel -- CS Squared visits multiple sites each week, some of which are not in Blacksburg. CS Squared reimburses students who drive to these sites. \$500 will fund their travel for one semester. *
- Computers for the [West End Center](#), for an after school program in a housing development. CS Squared would like to replace up to all 12 computers, at a cost of approximately \$300 each.
- Mobile App Development -- Mobile Device Requested (Windows Phone or Apple Phone)*
- VT Gaming Project -- Sponsor student talks and workshops for an academic year*
- Sponsor one semester capstone project.

Silver Level Sponsorships (\$1000—\$5000)

\$1000 Level

- Sponsor student travel/attendance to a professional conference
- ACM teams entrance fees to the Regional ACM programming competition* (This provides funding for up to 5 teams and additional funding for refreshments at team practices.)
- One time scholarship in your company's name
- Secondary sponsorship for Women in Computing Day*

\$1500 level

- A MacBook Pro for the Mobile Application Development Group*
- One time scholarship in your company's name

\$2000 Level

- Sponsor a speaker in the CS@VT Distinguished Speaker Series, featuring eminent computer scientists from academia and research industry
- One time scholarship in your company's name, which may be awarded to one or more students
- Sponsor student travel/attendance to a professional conference §

\$2500 Level

- Purchase a tablet computer to be used in the Undergraduate Learning Center
- One time scholarship in your company's name, which can be awarded to one or more students

\$5000 Level

- Sponsor one MS or PhD student for the summer.
- One time scholarship in your company's name, which can be awarded to one or more students
- Sponsor student travel/attendance to a professional conference

Gold Level Sponsorships (\$10,000+)

\$10,000 Level

- Sponsor our attendees to the Grace Hopper Conference and/or Richard Tapia Conference (both are aimed at increasing diversity in CS)*
- Sponsor graduate student travel
- Graduate tuition scholarship for one year. Covers in-state tuition, partially covers out-of-state tuition
- One time scholarship in your company's name, which can be awarded to two or more students

\$32,500 Level

- Sponsor a graduate student (MS or PhD) for one year

\$50,000 Level

- Create an endowed scholarship in your company's name, which provides funding in perpetuity

\$100,00 Level

- Name one of our undergraduate teaching labs (Software Engineering, Systems and Networking, Media/Creative Computing)

February Events—February 13 and 14, 2012

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. Additional information will be provided with your packet in late January/early February.

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

12:30 to 1:30 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

3:00 to 7:00 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.

We are also requiring all students from our new Sophomore Seminar class to attend this event.

Student volunteers will be available to assist you with getting in to and out of Squires. Further information about unloading will be provided in your CSRC late January/Early February packet.

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 14, 9:30 to 10:45 and Tuesday, Feb 14, 2:00 to 3:15

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 14, 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 14, 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.

Upcoming Events for your calendar:

Spring Etiquette Dinner

March 13, 2012

The CSRC invites all regular and premier members to join us for our spring etiquette dinner. Attendees at this event will mostly be drawn from our CS 1944 Sophomore Seminar. Plan to join us to host a table!

Annual VTURCS Symposium

Late April, 2012

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our spring symposium. We invite our CSRC members to send a judge and/or giveaways and prizes for our winners. Come and see the research projects our students have been working on throughout the 2011/2012 academic year.

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