



VirginiaTech

Computer Science Resources Consortium Spring 2009 Newsletter



Giving students the tools to invent the future

CSRC Fall Luncheon and Career Reception



The Fall 2008 CSRC Fall Luncheon and Career Reception, held on Monday, September 15th, were the largest CSRC events in five years. Over 100 company representatives, students, and faculty attended the luncheon held at The Inn at Virginia Tech. During the luncheon, thirty scholarship winners were recognized. Special recognition was given to CGI, for their new endowed scholarship, and to Lockheed Martin and SWIFT, for their continued scholarship support.

Later that day, twenty companies attended the Career Reception held in the Bowman Room of the Jamerson Athletic Center. Undergraduate and graduate students from the Department of Computer Science were invited to attend, as well as prospective students in General Engineering and University Studies. Employers reported being pleased with the number and quality of students attending the event.

CS Named 2008 Exemplary department



On December 2, the Department of Computer Science was named an exemplary department at Virginia Tech. These awards have been presented annually since 1994. This year, exemplary departments were recognized for their collaborative work with other departments. The Department of Computer Science was recognized for collaborations with “dozens of departments across all colleges in a wide range of projects, partnerships, and learning programs.”

Dr. Dennis Kafura accepted the award, on behalf of the department, from Provost Mark McNamee and President Charles Steger.

Ribbon Cutting for the new Undergraduate Learning Center

On Thursday, December 11th, the Department of Computer Science held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Undergraduate Learning Center. Provost Mark McNamee and Dean Richard Benson attended the ceremony and toured the new facilities. Dean Benson plans to bring visiting prospective students and their parents to this new showcase area, to demonstrate how the new engineering fees were used to create a collaborative learning space, specialty labs, and a community environment for undergraduate Computer Science students.

System G – It's Green and Powerful



System G, a 324 node, 2592 core Apple/InfiniBand cluster supercomputer, was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and Virginia Tech's [Center for High-End Computing Systems](#) to provide a research platform for the development of high-performance software tools and applications with extreme efficiency at scale. Pictured in the System G machine room are the leaders of the System G project, Drs. [Srinidhi Varadarajan](#) (right) and [Kirk Cameron](#) (left).

System G is "green" because of its unique power-aware capabilities. "We set out to design the fastest supercomputer with advanced power management capabilities such as power-aware CPUs, disks, and memory. Our partnership with Apple ensured the most advanced network of power and thermal sensors ever assembled in this type of machine," commented Cameron, an expert on green computing.

Article by Lynn Nystrom

CSRC Sponsors ACM teams at Regional Programming Competition

Three teams of students competed in the ACM-ICPC Mid-Atlantic USA Programming Contest held October 25th. VT teams took 8th, 10th, and 47th. With only one senior on the teams, they look forward to an even better finish next year. The ACM thanks the CSRC for sponsoring their entrance fees.

CSRC Helps with UPE dues



In the past few years, Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE), the Computer Science Honor Society, has seen a drop in the number of students accepting admission to the society. Since new members are expected to pay membership dues, cost has been mentioned as a factor. To help UPE, the CSRC has agreed to help underwrite costs of membership each semester, up to \$1000. Helping UPE bring in new members helps their group with their projects in the department, including the offering of free tutoring for our freshman and sophomore level courses.

CSRC Sponsors Richard Tapia Conference

The Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing is aimed at creating a "supportive networking environment for under-represented groups across the broad range of computing and information technology, from science to business to the arts to infrastructure." In addition to being a sponsor, the department plans to send several students to this conference in 2009.



Feng Wins IP Competition

Software that will save data centers millions of dollars in energy costs has won the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) first annual Intellectual Property to Market (IP2M) competition. The patent-pending invention, dubbed EcoDaemon by the researchers at Virginia Tech who created it, ranked number one among submissions from more than 60 research institutes in the southeast.

EcoDaemon, co-invented by Wu Feng, associate professor of computer science in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, and his Ph.D. student, Song Huang, can automatically save substantial energy for programs run on computers. Beyond the energy savings, the solution improves the reliability and useful life of a computer in the data center by reducing the core temperature, thus providing an opportunity to significantly lower the cost and environmental impact of data centers and many other computing devices.

Article by Susan Trulove

CSRC Donates \$5k to Grad Student Travel Fund

To help support CS graduate student travel, the CSRC donated \$5,000 to the graduate student travel fund. With the budget cuts at institutions increasing as the year goes on, having funds from the CSRC means that our students will not see a reduction in their travel funds for the upcoming year.

Estelle Kim Wins Vanguard scholarship



Estelle Kim was one of nine students selected to receive a Vanguard Scholarship for the 2008/9 academic year.

According to the Vanguard Scholarship website, “[t]he Vanguard Women in Information Technology Scholarship Program provides merit-based scholarships of up to \$8,000 to female students entering their senior year of college who are majoring in computer science, computer engineering, web design, or another IT-related discipline. Scholarships are offered each year for full-time study at a select accredited four-year institution of the student's choice.”

AWC Students at Grace Hopper



With support from the CS Department and the CSRC, eleven young women attended the 2008 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. With the department's sponsorship, the students hosted a table at the conference. They spoke to many young women about graduate school at VT and our REU program. The event was a huge success for AWC and CS@VT!

Spring 2009 - CSRC Recruiting Events

With your membership, you will have the opportunity to participate in additional recruiting events beyond those offered by Virginia Tech. Planned for Spring 2009:

CSRC Spring Luncheon – 11:30 a.m., Monday, February 16th, The Inn at VT

Undergraduate and graduate students pursuing research projects will be invited to this luncheon and several will be speaking about their current projects. We will also be inviting the top students from each cohort to join our faculty and you at this luncheon.

CSRC Annual Business Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 16th, The Inn at VT

During our business meeting, you will hear from our department's leaders about ongoing changes within the department and will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

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 (Premier Members only)

Tuesday, February 17th, 11:00 a.m. – McBryde 224 and

Tuesday, February 17th, 12:30 a.m. – McBryde 226

CS 3604 is a required course for all of our undergraduate majors. You will have a chance to briefly introduce your company and answer questions from our junior and seniors.

CS Senior Seminar (Premier Members only)

Tuesday, February 17th, 5:00 p.m. – Surge Building 104D

This is the second semester of our new senior seminar course. Dr. Cal Ribbens, our Associate Department Head, will be teaching the course and welcomes CSRC members to participate in a panel discussion on career paths open to CS majors.

CSRC Dinner with CS Faculty, McBryde 655, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17th, 6:30 p.m. in McBryde 655

We are having a dinner for you, with members our faculty, to be held in McBryde. After dinner, we will have a tour of our new Undergraduate Learning Center facilities on the first floor of McBryde. Faculty members leading each lab will be on hand to talk about the facilities.