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What's New with the CSRC

Welcome to all new and returning CSRC members for the calendar year of 2011. The fall semester has certainly gone by quickly and we are quickly ramping up for the spring semester.

The fall semester of 2010 brought another increase in membership to the CSRC. The Fall 2010 CSRC Career Fair exceeded the numbers of both the previous two fairs. We were pleased to have so many new companies with us! At our fall CSRC events, we welcomed Amazon.com, BAE Systems, BIT Systems, Chesapeake Technology International, The CIA, Cognizant, Customs and Border Protec-



Graduating Senior, Jacqueline Addesa, speaks with Modea representative Richard Hammer

tion (Department of Homeland Security), Genworth Financial, Intel, Laureate Education, Marvell Semiconductors, Parature, and SoftSolutions Inc. We'd also like to welcome a new member for Spring 2011, Datran Media, and returning members, Bloomberg and Cisco.

At our fall luncheon, we

recognized sixty-two scholarship winners. Special thanks to CGI for providing funding through their endowed scholarship. The CSRC itself awarded over \$65,000 in scholarships through direct funding from CSRC dues and from our Investment in Excellence Scholarship Fund.



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 will be making another \$25,000 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 add an additional \$25,000 in each year from 2008 through 2010. For the academic year 2010/2011, this fund awarded four \$1000 scholarships to our best and brightest students.





Dr. Greg Lavender presents CS Department Head, Dr. Barbara Ryder, with a gift of artwork for the department.

The Computer Science Department honored Dr. Greg Lavender as its 2010 Distinguished Alumnus, and presented Nora and Dean Kirstein with its Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Barbara Ryder, Nora Kirstein, and Dean Kirstein

CS@VT Celebrates 40th Anniversary

As part of its recent 40th anniversary celebration, the Department of Computer Science of Virginia Tech, part of the College of Engineering, honored Greg Lavender as its 2010 Distinguished Alumnus, and presented Nora and Dean Kirstein with its Distinguished Service award.

Lavender, who earned a master's degree in 1988 and a Ph.D. in 1993 from the department, was honored for his significant contributions to both industry and academia. After graduation, he worked as chief scientist for Internet server software start-up companies.

From 2000 to 2004, he worked for Sun Microsystems, leading the development of Sun's Internet Directory Service product, creating one of the most successful distributed products in the company's history. He also helped develop the OpenSolaris and the Solaris I I operating system at Sun Microsystems before moving to Oracle, where he served as vice-president of engineering for the Solaris core operating system.

During this time, Lavender also served as an adjunct faculty member at University of Texas at Austin's computer science department. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Associate Chairman for Academics, boasting a department ranked in the Top 10 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Based in California's Silicon Valley, Lavender now works at Cisco Systems Inc.'s Network Software and Systems Technology Group as Vice-president of Foundation Engineering. He is charged with spearheading a next-generation Internetwork Operating System for the computer networking company's routers and switches.

As part of the mid-November 40th anniversary event weekend, Lavender gave a talk on the state of computer science, reaching back to the first use of the abacus and the creation of algorithms to what the future holds in cloud computing and broadband width.

Nora and Dean Kirstein were honored for their generous support of the Department of Computer Science. Both are two-time graduates of computer science, Nora earning bachelor's and master's degrees in 1979 and 1986 respectively, and Dean earning bachelor's and master's degrees in 1978 and 1985, respectively. Their Hokie love has kept the two close to campus, with Nora working as an application analyst and Dean employed as a senior technical lead, both for the university.

The Kirsteins were largely responsible for the creation of the Anne and George Gorsline Scholarship, endowed in memory of George Gorsline and to later honor his wife, Anne. Gorsline served as the first head of computer science from 1967, the initial pre-launch of the department, to 1973. The department did not receive approval for the undergraduate degree until 1970, hence the mark as 1970 as the department's true start. Gorsline died in 1987.

Nora and Dean have worked tirelessly to solicit contributions from fellow computer science alumni in support of this endowment, which funds several student scholarships annually, according to Barbara Ryder, current head of the department and the J. Byron Maupin Chaired Professor of Computer Science.

Article by Steven Mackay, College of Engineering, VT

Greg Gates, CS Junior, Wins Phi Beta Delta Speech Contest



Greg Gates teaching students in Kenya to use their new laptops.

Greg Gates won first place in the U.S. undergraduate category in Phi Beta Delta's International Experiences Speech Contest. The contest was hosted on November 15, 2010, by Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society as part of International Education Week. This year's theme was "Challenges and Successes: International experiences that have changed your outlook on life." This contest was open to all Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Greg's talk was entitled "America: The Streets Aren't Paved With Gold, but We Do Have Washing Machines."

Greg provided this abstract:

"I was awarded a grant in the summer of 2009 to take 100 of the 'One Laptop Per Child' computers to a small, impoverished town in Kenya called Kibwezi and teach primary school students (grades 1 – 7) how to use a computer. One of my most important goals before going to the school in Kenya was to set up a server so that the students could eventually access the internet (once the internet made its way to Kibwezi). I was unfortunately unsuccessful, despite making a day trip into Mombasa in an attempt to get supplies, and I was disappointed in myself for not accomplishing what I saw as an important goal. However, a discussion with an older student later on in the week would surprise me and make me shift my priorities. This student helped me come to the realization that what I think is important when helping someone is rarely ever important."

Congratulations to Greg!



Dr. Barbara Ryder and Jacqueline Addesa, at a previous function.

Jacqueline Addesa, Finalist in CRA Competition

Computer Science and Mathematics double degree student Jacqueline Addesa was a finalist in the CRA's Outstanding Undergrad Researcher Awards for 2011. Jacqueline was supervised by Dr. TM Murali and Dr. Wu Feng, in her bioinformatics research. Jacqueline is graduating with her undergraduate degree in computer science in December 2010. She is graduating summa cum laude and as an Honors Scholar. She will be completing an undergraduate degree in applied discrete mathematics in May 2011.

Congratulations to Jacqueline!

CS@VT Students Attend Grace Hopper Celebration

The Department of Computer Science broke a departmental record for students attending the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. The department had 31 students and five faculty members attend the conference, held September 28 through October 2 in Atlanta, Georgia. Of the 220 colleges and universities represented at GHC, Virginia Tech had the fourth largest number of attendees, following Georgia Tech, Harvey Mudd College, and Indiana University.

CS@VT was a silver sponsor of the conference this year, which provided 5 additional conference scholarships for our students. The students also had financial support from Freddie

Mac, Lockheed Martin, the CS Department, and the CSRC. This financial support helps students from freshman through graduate students attend a professional conference, network with industry professionals, and speak with other women in computing.

Both undergraduate and graduate students presented posters and sessions at GHC. Poster and session topics included: "Usable Security in Practice," "Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers: Panel on Diversity and Inclusion in Computer Science Education," "Treating Your Elders with Respect: Dynamic Adaptation of Service for Older Clients," "A Tangible Query System for Learning the Structure of Amino Acids," "An Exploration of 3D Surface Design With Fabric," "Body-based Interaction for Desktop Games," "Brain Signals Instead of Questions: Building an Adaptive/Interactive Mobile Learning System," and "Enhancing Early Childhood Education with Computer Science Curriculum."

Thanks to Lockheed Martin and Freddie Mac for providing funding to help make this possible!



CS Sophomore, Derek Ong, Wins SMART Scholarship

Scholarships for the 2011/2012 academic year will be awarded in June 2011. If you'd like to provide a scholarship in your company's name, please get in touch with Libby Bradford.

Derek Ong, a sophomore computer science major, was recently awarded a Department of Defense sponsored SMART (Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation) scholarship. The program is described on its webpage: "The Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program has been established by the Department of Defense (DoD) to support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program aims to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at DoD laboratories."

Congratulations to Derek!



CSRC Designated Sponsorship List

Beginning with the spring 2009 semester, the CSRC started offering 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.

Recent DSL contributions:



Google has provided funding for ACM's Students Teaching Students, support for Grad Council meetings, and will be the primary sponsor for AWC's Women in Computing Day.



Laureate has provided funding for the VT Gaming Project.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

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



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



Lockheed Martin has provided funding for this year's Grace Hopper travel and additional funding to CS-Squared.

If you would like to see your company recognized as a sponsor of our student activities, we can help you make that happen!

New CSRC-DSL Opportunities

ACM Programming Team Local Competition

For many years, the CS@VT ACM programming teams have competed in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. At the regional programming competition held this fall at Radford University, they placed 13, 47, 52, 55, and 96. 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."

Additional Sponsorship Opportunities: The online DSL listing is the most up-to-date. Please see www.cs.vt.edu/partnering/dsl for more information.

If your company would like to sponsor either of these activities or any listed on the DSL, contact Libby Bradford directly.

February Events—February 21, 22, and 23

CSRC Spring Luncheon

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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 early February.

Prior to the luncheon, you will have time to mingle with CS students and faculty attending the luncheon. This will allow you time to circulate amongst all students attending, prior to sitting down for lunch at your table. Students pursuing undergraduate research projects and the top students from each of our undergraduate cohorts will be invited to this luncheon.

Spring Business Meeting

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

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.

Spring CSRC Career Fair

5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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.

For Premier Members:

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

CS 3604 Professionalism Class

Tuesday, Feb 22, 11:00 to 12:15
Wednesday, Feb 23, 2:30 to 3:45
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 4944 Senior Seminar

Tuesday, Feb 22, 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.

CS@VT

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Reception and Tour of Off-Campus Facilities

Tuesday, February 22, 6:15 p.m. — 2202 Kraft Drive

We will host a reception and a tour of our off campus facilities. For those of you who have never seen these facilities, it will give you a chance to view the research that is being done and the equipment available. For those of you who have, you can see and hear about the latest updates to these facilities. Computer Science faculty will be invited to this event.

Upcoming Events — For your calendar

Department of Computer Science Open House

March 25, 2011

Continuing our 40th Anniversary Events into the new year, the department will have an open house in the spring. Poster presentations, lab tours, and speakers are planned. More information to be provided in the spring.

Annual VTURCS Symposium

Late April, 2011

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 2010-11 academic year.

Fall 2011 CSRC Events

Engineering Expo has been tentatively scheduled for September 13, which would have our events scheduled for Monday, September 12. We will plan our luncheon and fall CSRC career fair on September 12, with additional panel opportunities and events on September 13.