CSRC Summer Newsletter

A SUMMER UPDATE ON THE CSRC, CS DEPARTMENT, AND OUR STUDENTS

Upcoming Events

- August 23 — First day of classes for the fall semester
- September 13 and 14 — CSRC Fall Luncheon, Career Fair, and other events
- November 12 - 14 — Department of Computer Science 40th Anniversary Celebration

VTURCS Spring 2010 Symposium

The Spring 2010 Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science (VTURCS) Research Symposium took place on April 28th with 18 students presenting 13 different projects. Almost 100 people attended the event, including students, faculty, administrators, and industry representatives. Faculty members Dr. Barbara Ryder, Dr. Denis Gracanin, and Dr. Anil Vullikanti selected the Faculty Choice winners. Representatives from the CSRC — IBM (Alex Shaffer) and Rackspace (Bill Boebel and Basharat Wani) — were present and helped select the winners of the Industry Choice awards. This year’s Industry Choice Awards are:

1. Large Display Collaboration with Multiple Input Devices by Russell Wolf (Faculty advisor — Dr. Chris North)
2. Treating Your Elders with Respect: Dynamic Adaptation of Service Interfaces for Older Clients by Kristin Whetstone (Faculty advisor — Dr. Eli Tilevich)
3. ThoughtSwap Teacher Tools by Ryan Honig (Faculty advisor — Dr. Deborah Tatar)

Other awards were announced, including the Faculty Choice and People’s Choice winners. A complete list of winners can be found at www.vturcs.cs.vt.edu

VTURCS would like to thank the CSRC members for donating prizes for the participants’ giveaway bags over the past year, with special thanks to Fidelity, General Dynamics AIS, and Lockheed Martin for sending items especially for this event.

Another Record Year of Scholarship Applications

After last year’s record number of scholarship applications, the Computer Science Department was surprised to receive an even larger number of undergraduate scholarship applications this spring. Last year, 80 applications were submitted. This year, we received over 100 submissions. For the last two years, we have been able to award scholarship funding to every qualified student who applied for a scholarship through a combination of our endowed scholarships, funding from the CSRC, and through the generosity of the College of Engineering. This is a tradition we’d like to maintain.

All July 1 renewal forms will be e-mailed by the end of June. Your company can always renew earlier. Your renewal could mean more scholarship money for our students in 2010/11.

A big thank you to Qualcomm for donating a Nexus One phone, Microsoft for the donation of three copies of Visual Studio Professional, and Lockheed Martin for the donations of a solstice clock, a USB Port Mousepad, and a hooded LMCO sweatshirt for our top winners.

Thanks to IBM and Rackspace for sending judges for the competition!

Russell Wolf, first place industry choice winner, explains his VTURCS project to College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson.
On November 12—14, 2010, the Department will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We are looking forward to a weekend full of events and opportunities to reconnect with CS@VT alumni.

The Department has reached out by postcard to its 5000+ alumni. We would like all alumni to complete the Reconnect survey at www.cs.vt.edu/alumni/reconnect. This survey helps our department by giving alumni a place to update their contact information and to gauge interest in our upcoming events.

If you are an alumnus or if there are CS@VT alumni at your company, encourage them to complete the Reconnect Survey. Even if the postcard reached you, we still want to hear from you!

The CSRC welcomes its three newest members for the 2010 / 2011 academic year:

- BAE Systems
- BIT Systems
- Parature

Don’t forget — there are always opportunities to underwrite additional activities for our students and student organizations. Our students can always use additional scholarship funding!

A big thanks to Freddie Mac, Lockheed Martin, and Qualcomm for their current sponsorship of many of our student activities!

More information at www.cs.vt.edu/partnering/dsl

Reminder of CSRC Benefits

As a member of the CSRC, make sure that you get the most out of your membership.

We encourage all members to attend the CSRC lunches, held the same day as the CSRC Fall and Spring Career Fairs. These lunches provide an opportunity to:

- Meet our best and brightest students before the career fair.
- Speak with scholarship winners (Fall) and students pursuing undergraduate research and undergraduate students at the top of their cohorts (Spring).
- Meet CS faculty.

For Premier Members, we encourage you to hold a company day in our Undergraduate Learning Center (McBryde 106). The ULC provides ample space for your company to meet students on an informal basis. We recommend having some type of event, for a more focused visit. Of course, refreshments always help draw traffic to your table.

Also for Premier members, we offer interview space when Career Services has no space available. Space is on a first come, first served basis.