

# COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SPRING 2009

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- International Initiatives within CSIS
- Studying Technology While Abroad
- Co-ops and Internships for students of CSIS
- Recent Minor and Major Additions

Welcome to the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) at Kennesaw State University. We have many exciting things going on in our department that we want to share with you.

**Mission:** The mission of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) is to provide high quality degree programs for our students that give them an outstanding education, to develop high quality research products, and to interact with local, national and international constituencies.

**Programs:** Our department offers ABET accredited degree programs at the Bachelor level in Computer Science and Information Systems. We also offer a Bachelor of Science in information Security and Assurance. At the Graduate level, we offer two programs: the first is a premium-priced program in applied computer science (MSACS) and the second is a program in information systems leadership (MSIS). We are developing a joint degree with the Coles College of Business with the MBA/MSIS degree to begin Spring 2010. We are actively working on a Doctorate in Computing and Information Technology that we are targeting to begin Fall 2010. We also offer certificates in CS Education, e-Business, Security, and Information Technology. Our department also has a focus on Computer Science education and teacher training, working with KSU's Bagwell College of Education to prepare high school Computer Science teachers.

**Courses:** We believe in continuous improvement of our courses. Innovative career tracks and courses that are offered in the CSIS department include: game programming, cyber defense, green IT, health informatics, and robotics, to name a few. Our introductory information systems course (IS 2101) has won awards for innovation and quality. Our first courses in computer science (CS 2301, CS 2302) have been redesigned to work with students in labs and have been very successful in enhancing the learning environment for our students. We use the newest technology in the delivery of our courses to students. We teach many of our courses (1) online, (2) using a hybrid format, and (3) using traditional delivery formats. Our focus is to provide the best educational value to students in our programs and to increase retention of our students.

**Faculty and Staff:** In CSIS, we have a bright and energetic faculty and a dedicated, helpful professional staff who are all available to assist our students as they grow and mature. Located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Clendenin Building, we house our administrative offices, faculty offices, graduate student lab, ICIT research center, and advising offices. We have 25 full-time faculty members and 5 dedicated staff working with our students in their career paths. We believe in enabling the student while at Kennesaw State University with what we call the "Bumper-to-Bumper" model where students are given help and assistance from when they first come into the program until they graduate. Our faculty engage graduate and undergraduate students in research projects that result in conference papers and journal articles. The ICIT research center also puts together team projects for industry with students and faculty.

**Students:** Our students are following career paths that take them into graduate schools, industry employment and international opportunities. Our department has growth in students in the last few years, especially in our undergraduate majors, from 623 to almost 800 majors in the Spring 2009. We have strong relationships with corporate sponsors and an active Advisory Board giving guidance to our curriculum changes, with members from Coca-Cola, Georgia Pacific, Sun Trust, Home Depot, and many other organizations. We actively pursue internships, co-ops and job opportunities for our students. Our research center, International Center for Innovation in Technologies (ICIT) is very active in the Atlanta business community as well as internationally. Each year we have two Job Fairs for our students, bringing the best organizations on the KSU campus to recruit our students. We have active student chapters in the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Women in Technology (WIT). We have CSIS Student Nights throughout the year to keep students connected.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED**

**International Focus:** Our department has an international focus in the activities that we pursue and support. We conduct annual international Study Abroad trips to Japan (every June). We are also developing Study Abroad trips to China, England, and Mexico for 2010 and India for 2011. Recently, we traveled to China (2007), Japan (2008), and Brazil (2008). We also collaboratively work in the areas of research in many countries. KSU led the effort to create a Ph.D. program in Information Systems at Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethio-

pia, teaching the first cohort of doctoral students in 2008. Currently we are working on developing international student cohorts in our MSIS program in Japan and China. We are looking at providing faculty exchange between strategically targeted international destinations. Currently, we have international students in all of our degree programs. We are developing student exchange programs to support our cohort groups through ISEP and our International Programs Office.

Please feel free to browse the site and find out more about our department. If you have any questions, please email either myself

[damoroso@kennesaw.edu](mailto:damoroso@kennesaw.edu) or Ms. Katelyn Ewaskiew

[kewaskie@kennesaw.edu](mailto:kewaskie@kennesaw.edu), our departmental advisor.

Thank you for your interest in KSU!

**MORE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES**

Along with developing centers outside of the US, the CSIS department is also working on creating a center here at KSU. **The International Center of Innovation in Technology** (ICIT)'s goal is to develop and enhance relationships with global organizations and institutions.

The Center will provide many opportunities for institutions

wanting to interact with researchers, students, and faculty in the College of Science and Mathematics at KSU.

The ICIT plans to develop alliances within ten different countries to compare Internet adoption and the variety of ICIT infrastructures they have. The collaboration on an international scale may include large multinational

corporations and startups. Not only with the Center work with international institutions, but will continue work with local industries.

Mr. Ed McPherson has come on board as the ICIT Manager. Ed retired in January 2009 from Price Waterhouse Cooper.

You can find more information at the Center's website:

<http://icit.kennesaw.edu/>

**“The ICIT plans to develop alliances within ten different countries to compare Internet adoption,,,”**

**IN THE REAL WORLD, EXPERIENCE PAYS**

Kennesaw State University has made Experiential Education (Internship and Cooperative Education) a top priority. To this end, The Career Services Center has created an embedded staff position within each College to expand the internship and co-op programs, to advise and assist students, and to connect with employers in

the field.

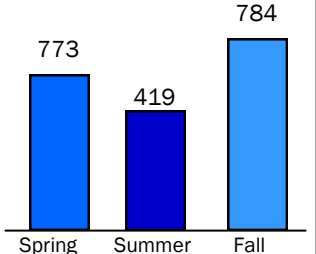
There are currently 22 students from the CSIS department participating in the program. Career Services looks to increase the number of participants by 10% each semester, both within the department and, more broadly, in the University as a whole.

The Experiential Education Associate for the department

of Computer Science and Information Systems is Ana Baida. Ana recently completed her Masters in Educational Administration at Texas A&M University, and moved to the Atlanta area in July.

If you would like more information on the internship and cooperative education programs at Kennesaw, please feel free to contact her by email at [abaida@kennesaw.edu](mailto:abaida@kennesaw.edu).

**Growth in Enrollment for CSIS Department for 2008**



## STUDIES ABROAD IN CSIS

Globally, Information Technology is increasing and reaching every inch of the earth. In order to provide the most well rounded technology education, a student may choose to study technology in other parts of the world.

The CSIS Department offers 2 different study abroad trips for the summer semesters to enhance one's understanding of technology. Students studying Information Systems may opt to study the "high-tech mindset" in Japan. While exploring Japan, students will view its flourishing IT industry. They will

visit many Japanese universities and organizations such as Toshiba, Toyota, Sony and Panasonic. In addition, students will experience the rich culture of Japan and explore major tourist attractions such as Mount Fuji and Hiroshima.

Information Securities and Assurance majors have the opportunity to study in London for the summer semester. London is the "most surveilled city in the world with roughly one camera for every 14 resi-

dents". Students will visit the Oxford Streets Surveillance Center and hear from government and industry speakers on topics of surveillance. A tangible experience, students will be able to see the potential of studying Securities through this trip. Students will also get the opportunity for cultural experiences such as trips to the London Museum, Scotland Yard, and the National Maritime Museum.



## CHANGES IN THE MSACS PROGRAM

The Masters of Applied Computer Science Program (MSACS) is currently being restructured to make the program more effective to satisfy both students' educational needs and needs of the marketplace. The first major change in the program will be to provide students with more breadth-of-knowledge in a variety of areas in computer-science versus depth in only two areas. The second major change will be to offer a more rigorous set of foundational

courses in a three credit hour format versus one credit hour. The program was initially designed to allow students to take one credit hour foundational courses and regular three credit hour graduate level courses at the same time. The program will now require that students who need to take foundational courses to complete these first before taking the regular graduate courses.

The MSACS program targets working professionals in the computing

field whom **may** or **may not** hold an undergraduate degree in Computer Science. Therefore, students not holding an undergraduate degree in Computer Science are required to take foundational type courses. These program changes should be in place by **August 2009** (Fall 2009).

If you have any questions, contact the Program Director, Dr. Victor Clincy, at [vclincy@kennesaw.edu](mailto:vclincy@kennesaw.edu)

In order to provide the most well rounded technology education, a student may choose to study in other parts of the world.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Teaching conceptual understanding is challenging. For many students, commonly used teaching methodologies such as lectures and textbooks are not sufficient to aid in the assimilation of abstract concepts. In many disciplines, including computer science, animations and visualizations have been touted as a means to provide additional instructional support to

complex and dynamic topics.

Through an NSF funded CCLI grant, we are developing a set of animations to support the teaching of database concepts. We are currently in the second year of this four year grant and already have implemented over 100 animations, all of which have been developed by CSIS computer science or information

students.

Current modules available cover areas such as database design, interactive SQL, stored procedures and triggers, transactions and database security. The software has been made freely available and may be accessed at <http://adbc.kennesaw.edu>



**We are on the Web!**  
<http://science.kennesaw.edu/cs/is/>

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Please welcome the CSIS Department's new advisory board members:

- **David Rowan**, Sun Trust Corporation, Executive Vice President for Enterprise Risk Management
- **Gary Hill**, Georgia-Pacific, IT Vice President, Chief Technology Officer
- **Craig Bierman**, Genuine Parts Company, Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer
- **Gene Sciven, Jr.**, The Home Depot, Chief Information Security Officer
- **Gregory Park**, The Coca-Cola, Director, eBusiness Services

## MSIS PROGRAM UPDATE

The MSIS program is undergoing exciting new changes to the curriculum! In response to industry needs, and to make our graduates even more marketable, we have designed a curriculum that focuses on the development of IT leaders. These leaders will have strong technical skills, coupled with the ability to manage the IT operations of multinational organizations. Look for information on the program changes in April. If you have any questions, contact the

Program Director, Dr. Amy Woszczyński, at [awoszczy@kennesaw.edu](mailto:awoszczy@kennesaw.edu).

