A Note from the Editors:

We have received some positive comments on our introductory newsletter. Now our goal is to make it a routine communication from our department to you. This means that suggestions for articles or topics are welcome, as are submissions by faculty, alumni, friends, current students, and graduates. One of the items in this issue will be a short profile of one of the charter members of the CIS Advisory Board. Starting with this issue, we spotlight some of our students and try to introduce the members of our CIS Advisory Board.

CIS Advisory Board Member Joe Tait

The first meeting of the CIS Advisory Board took place in the spring of 2006. Regular meetings followed each semester as the CIS Advisory Board was challenged with questions about various industries and their current needs, how we might adjust our academic programs to satisfy future demand, and a myriad of other questions about trends, research, and dozens of other areas of interest to our department.

One of our charter CIS Advisory Board members is Joseph M. Tait.

Joe is a Senior Information Technology Leader with 20+ years of progressively responsible IT management experience in diverse industries. He has a proven track record of developing and building effective teams, turning around operations, spearheading start-ups, integration of IT, and forging cost effective IT organizations. He has recognized strengths in decision making, financial management, strategic planning and communications.

Joe holds an MBA in Decision Support Systems from Southern New Hampshire University, as well as a BA in Computer & Information Sciences from Temple University. He is active in support of the industry through his participation on numerous Society For Information Management (SIM) committees, local university technology advisory boards as well as presenting at seminars on topics of current interest.

Joe is currently the Director of Information Technology at NMS Labs in Willow Grove, PA. For more than 35 years, NMS Labs has been setting the standard for excellence in clinical toxicology and forensic...
testing—responding to the needs of healthcare providers, medical researchers, coroners, and the criminal justice system with state-of-the-art tests that other labs don’t or can’t provide. Prior to this position, Joe worked at a number of Philadelphia area companies including Nutri/System, Comcast, Covance, Systems and Computer Technology (SCT) and The Campbell Soup Company.

Future of Computing 2009

The annual CIS Future of computing competition once again coincided with the Temple Open House on March 29th. As in last year’s competition, we were once again treated to an impressive array of CIS undergraduate and graduate projects. You may want to start thinking about attending next year to see what it is like to compete in the “Science Fair Big Leagues.” In addition to the prestige of winning, there are also monetary awards totaling over $7,000. The corporate contributors to this year’s awards were InternU, Stryker and Almac. The official awards presentations will be at the ACM Awards dinner on April 16, 2009.

If you are interested in participating as a corporate sponsor, please contact Future of Computing Committee via CIS.Newsletter@Temple.edu.

Future of Computing 2009 Winners
Best Undergraduate Project Awards:

Gold award of $2,000 Sponsored by InternU
Henry Paradiz: Artician - A Creative Network for Art, Graphic Design, and Photography

Silver award of $1,000 Sponsored by Almac
Grae Cullen, Justin Roman, & Nikki Rankin: C Programming Teaching Tool

Bronze award of $500
T. Maxayn Henderson & Kevin Hoang: Are you smarter than a fifth grader?
Best Graduate Project Awards:

Three Gold awards of $1,166  Sponsored by Stryker Orthopaedics

Chengen Lu & Xingwei Yang: Image Understanding and Object Recognition
Uros Midic: Improved sequence alignment for intrinsically disordered proteins
Vladan Radosavljevic, Debasish Das, Kosta Ristovski, Qiang Lou, Haidong Shi: Data Mining Support for Prediction and Analysis of Geophysical Parameters

Special Awards:

Most Popular Project Award of $500
Sponsored by ACM, Temple University Student Chapter
T. Maxayn Henderson & Kevin Hoang: Are you smarter than a fifth grader

Participation Awards of $100
Xin Li: Learning Based Thumbnail Cropping
Shusha Li & Jingting Zeng: Recognizing the 3-Dimensional World: Shape Correspondences of 3D Point Clouds
Moussa Taifi: Performance Prediction and Evaluation of a Solution Space Compact Parallel Program using the Steady State Timing Model

The Power of Your Network
By: Joe Tait, Class of 1982
CIS Advisory Board

Whoever said “it is not what you know but who you know” was prescient regarding the state of the job market in these tough economic times. Networking has always been a key ingredient in a long-term career plan and it is even more important today.

What is networking? It means getting out of your shell and participating in activities related to your career. Not the technical training that we all need to do (that is a given) but more social things that will help to develop your career. It requires a time commitment on your part but is well worth the trouble.

Consider joining professional organizations - they are a great way to network. The student professional organizations at your school have chapters of AITP (used to be DPMA for us old fogies), ACM and many other societies that can help you now and more so down the line. Groups like Philly.net, PACS, and Infraguard are terrific ways to get involved in the technical community. A quick Google search will help you to find the right one for you - it will pay off in the long run.

As your career progresses you will want to stay involved and start to participate in the groups for more senior folks. TPNG (Technology Professionals Networking Group) is for people with eight or more years experience, and TENG (Technology Executives Networking Group) is for VP/CIO types. I personally belong to a few other groups like SIM (Society For Information
Management), IERG (International), Chem-Pharma (just what it sounds like) and GPSEG (all disciplines working in the Philly area). All of them are networking groups for senior executives that help to build your business contacts.

Make sure that you join and stay involved in the Temple Alumni Association – another great way to network. A very high percentage of Temple alums still live and work in the greater Philly area and you will come across them many times during your career. Register at www.myowlspace.com.

Join groups like Linkedin and Plaxo (think Facebook for business) - it is a great way to stay connected in the business world. Your 6-degrees of separation link to virtually anyone on the planet comes into play here so use your parents, aunts, uncles and friends too. People all work somewhere and you will be amazed at where the connections come from and how valuable they can be.

And finally think about volunteering for local organizations that need help. At a technology steering committee for the Free Library of Philadelphia a few years ago I got to know a number of high profile CIO types who I am still in touch with.

The value of your Temple connections can make a great impact on your career if you manage it properly. Network, Network, and Network some more…

**Capstone Course Projects – Spring 2009**

**CIS4339: Home Inventory Project**

The purpose of this project is to implement a computer based inventory of household items. The inventory should consist of general items in a given household such as clothing, DVDs, furniture, groceries, etc. The Inventory will consist of three core functionalities, namely, an automated purchase suggestion feature, a database of items and a GUI to access the database.

**CIS4339: Web-Based HTML Editor**

The purpose of this project is to create a user-friendly, web-based tool for creating HTML pages for use by professors who may not be well versed with HTML or even how to use it. This tool will have similar functionality to Google Sites, except we will be using an open source project which handles a lot of the functionality needed for this project. However, there are some enhancements we are hoping to add to the project to make managing and creating websites much more useful than the current project allows.

The current functionality from the open source project is similar to that of a text editor. This functionality includes font size, type, and decorations such as bolding and italicizing, empty table declaration, content alignment(left, center, right, justify, etc), hyper linking, creating ordered and unordered lists, view toggling(Text to HTML and vice-versa), adding images, creating superscripts and subscripts, and undo/redo functionality.

We are proposing to add the following enhancements: saving the current HTML to file on the server, adding applets to the webpage, embedding video (e.g. YouTube), creating templates of pages so all subsequent page, adding a Flash program to the webpage, framing, adding a spell checker for the text, and being able to dynamically change the number of rows/columns in an existing table(or at least making a note to the end user to be certain of the table size when first creating it).
CIS4296: Project Abstract for Pcocq

The business of a patent lawyer revolves around deadlines. These deadlines come from many places, such as the USPTO, clients, judges, other lawyers. Keeping track of these deadlines is quite a challenge to a patent lawyer. Mismanaging these deadlines may result in lost revenue, cases, or even clients. When a need to create or modify a task arises, this system shall be able to create events and auto-fill at least some of the event's reminders, depending on the event. Our system will also allow the law firm to delegate the creation and management of these events to whomsoever the partners so please, such as a secretary or another fellow lawyer. Each lawyer will have a login name and password that will allow them access to a dashboard that will list their deadlines and tasks for the current day and for some number of days in the future. This will allow each lawyer to better plan the use of their time and to help them to miss fewer deadlines and to spend less time managing their schedules and cases.

CIS4296: Cost Modeling

Elite Cost Modeling System is an innovative and effective tool for cost modeling. Typically, a standard cost modeling system will show a company’s expenses and current allocation of funds. However, many of these systems are not able to dynamically adjust these expenses as a company’s allocation of funds changes. Therefore, this process can prove to be very time consuming for the company’s financial managers. The Elite Cost Modeling System is unique in this regard in that it dynamically re-allocates spending as programs are added and subtracted by the company. This functionality allows for a more efficient process in that these important business decisions can be represented accurately and immediately. This product is a tool which will greatly improve upon the decision making process for the financial managers in a company and is a significant upgrade from the previous versions of cost modeling software systems.

CIS4296: Employee Hours Monitor

The system will replace and eliminate the tedious hours the payroll officer must spend with the current system. The application will automatically calculate employee’s sick and annual leaves as they are used and accrued. The application will generate informative reports pertaining to employee’s sick hours, vacation hours and comp hours. Because the current system is a complex system to track different types of hours earned, it is important that this system is very specific to the needs of this organization. It will feature an easy to use interface that will make entering in payroll and comp hour earned quickly and effortlessly without confusion. As a result, the payroll officer will be able to respond to employee inquiries quickly and efficiently.
CIS4296: Database Migration

This product will automate the transfer of database items from Microsoft Access to FileMaker. This will save hours of time spent manually transferring items. With this product, a business can operate at a faster pace instead of wasting time copying redundant information, can utilize both database platforms, and save hundreds of dollars in work hours. The opportunity to develop such a product is due to a unique circumstance. The two most popular database products on the market are Microsoft Access and MySQL.

Direction

Now it is up to you to let us know about where we go from here. Please send us your ideas, recommendations, thoughts on lessons learned in your careers and at Temple, recommendations for change, or just say hello.

CIS.Newsletter@Temple.edu