



Greetings from the CSE Chair

This newsletter is being mailed to more than 3,500 alumni who have graduated from our programs over the past 42 years. To reduce printing and mailing costs, we are only using letter mail for those of you for whom we don't have email addresses. Please send us your email so we may transmit this to you electronically in the future. On the other hand, if you are receiving this by email and prefer to get the hardcopy, let us know and we'll send you one. It has been a privilege to meet many of you on trips around the U. S. and also at alumni events in the North Texas area. I am grateful for the memories of your time at UNT that you shared with me as well as the generous gifts you have made to us. This year was a record year for such gifts, which we use for student scholarships and travel. For example, the CSE Cyber Defense Team joined the Southwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (SWCCDC), where they finished third among twenty-two teams. We also became bronze sponsors of the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing. This helped send six women students to Hopper and two African-American students to Tapia in addition to raising the visibility of our department and UNT and recruiting students from these communities. In the coming year we plan to continue such efforts.



Other highlights of 2013-2014 were Dr. Hassan Takabi joining our faculty, Dr. Rodney Nielsen winning the UNT Competitive Research Award, having our first NSF Fellowship winner - Natalie Parde, tying with Harvard for 6th in the ITWorld ranking of computer science degrees with the highest return on investment, and hosting six outstanding computer scientists in our Distinguished Seminar Series. Major developments include 2 new teaching labs, one for our introductory courses and the other for networks and security, and an undergraduate peer mentoring program to improve retention in the undergraduate program and reward our top performing undergraduate students. Our research continues to prosper through publications, research grants, and awarding PhD degrees (10 in 2013-2014). We also had an excellent year in faculty recruiting, which you can read more about on this page. We look forward to future faculty expansion and space expansion over the next few years as our department continues to be one of the fastest growing departments at UNT.

If I have not met you yet or if you have never been to the UNT Discovery Park campus, please come to visit us!

Barrett Bryant, Professor and Chair

Don Retzlaff retires after 35 years

Don Retzlaff, Principal Lecturer in the Computer Science Department, has retired after teaching Computer Science for thirty-five years. Don joined the Computer Science Department as a Lecturer after receiving his Master's Degree in Computer Science from North Texas State University (now UNT) back in 1978. Since that time, Don has taught a large variety of the undergraduate courses in the department. He is best known for developing several key courses in the department, including CSCE 4410 and 4420, the Software Development sequence where students write large-scale applications.



He has also produced other courses, including the Computer Programming for Non-Majors (1020), Assembly Language Programming (2010), and most recently the Internet Programming Course (3420). His interest has always been in teaching programming languages, and throughout his tenure he has taught programming languages including COBOL, Fortran, Pascal, C, C++, Java, and the most recent and his favorite, PHP. In recent years he authored the textbooks used in the 1020, 1030 and 3420 courses.

Don is also known in the department for developing many software-related tools to help with teaching courses, as well as other applications to assist the department itself. These include the WebCompiler environment and the ABET Course Assessment Management System. Don has been the department's webmaster since the department first had a web presence, also being one of the first departments in the university that had a website.

With his retirement, Don plans to continue developing code and writing books, something he's been interested in for many years. Don will still be the department's webmaster, as well as produce the various student and alumni newsletters and maintain the department's software tools. He is in the process of publishing on the web all of his course-related material that he has put together during his thirty-five years in the department. He also plans to travel extensively with his wife Elisa between doctor visits.

You can leave a farewell message for Don at his retirement page, <http://www.cse.unt.edu/people/DonRetzlaff>. You can also see pictures of Don's retirement party hosted by the CSE Department at <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/560>.

Welcome New CSE Faculty

Dr. Eduardo Blanco will join the CSE faculty as an Assistant Professor this Fall. He received his PhD from The University of Texas at Dallas in 2011. Dr. Blanco is currently a Research Scientist at Lymba Corporation and Adjunct Faculty at Southern Methodist University.



His primary research interest is in computational semantics. Topics include semantic relation extraction and inference, extra-propositional aspects of meaning (negation, modality, uncertainty, etc.), probabilistic semantic inference and customization of relation inventories.

Dr. Mark Thompson joins the CSE faculty as a Lecturer. He received his PhD from Louisiana Tech University in Computational Analysis and Modeling, an interdisciplinary program in mathematics, computer science, and statistics with a focus in Cyber Security. Dr. Thompson possesses Master's degrees in Mathematical Sciences and Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas and has a BS in Computer Engineering from Tulane University.



Before coming on board at UNT, Dr. Thompson was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of CIS at Northwestern State University (NSU) in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he taught courses across several disciplines in CIS, mathematics, and computer science. His broad research interests include telecommunications and networks, cyber security, computer forensics, programming and algorithms, and data mining.

Dr. Robin Pottathuparambil joins the CSE faculty as a Lecturer. After receiving his PhD from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Aug 2013, he worked at UNC Charlotte as a Visiting Lecturer for a year. Prior to his graduate studies he has worked three years building embedded system for medical equipment, home security systems, and wireless sensor nodes. Dr. Pottathuparambil completed his M.S in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi, India in 2005, and B.E Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Madras University, India in 2001.



Please register to receive our news by email four times a year at:
<http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/71>
To update your information, go to:
<http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/70>
To see our alumni newsletter archive, go to: <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/69>

CSE Grants in 2013-2014

Total active projects in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering for FY2014 are \$8,883,774, to date, which includes \$1,041,376 in recent awards listed below.

Continuing active research grants are led by the following CSE faculty members: Dr. Robert Akl, Dr. Renee Bryce, Dr. Ram Dantu, Dr. Qunfeng Dong, Dr. Mahadevan Gomathisankaran, Dr. Yuan Huang, Dr. Krishna Kavi, Dr. Armin Mikler, Dr. Saraju Mohanty, Dr. Rodney Nielsen, and Dr. Paul Tarau.

New awards for FY14 are as follows:

Dr. Cornelia Caragea - \$74,999 from the National Science Foundation for EAGER: Collaborative Research: Establishing Trustworthy Citizen-Created Data for Disaster Response and Humanitarian Action.

Dr. Qunfeng Dong - \$76,369 from Indiana University-Purdue University for Genomic Analysis of Immunity and Chronic Lung Inflammation in HIV Infection.

Dr. Qunfeng Dong - \$134,107 from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for Mechanism of Microbiome-included Insulin Resistance in Humans.

Dr. Krishna Kavi - \$180,669 from National Science Foundation for Supplemental Request to Net-Centric IUCRC to Support Innovative Managing Director Model.

Dr. Krishna Kavi - \$575,232 from National Science Foundation for IUCRC: NSF Net-Centric and Cloud Software and Systems.

CSE Alumni sponsor AppCamp

Computer Science alumni are sponsoring a co-ed Android AppCamp on the Cisco Campus in Richardson from July 28 to August 1. Chris Pearce, BS 1990, is helping to make this camp possible along with these other CSE alumni at Cisco: Ed Chen, MS 1985; Jin Tao, MS 2000; Hemil Chhatbox, MS 2000; and Chad Hawes, BS 2001.



The AppCamp will introduce participants to the skills needed to develop mobile applications for Android phone and Tablet platforms. Scholarships for the camp are provided by the National Convergence Technology Center. For more information about RoboCamp, go to <http://capstone.cse.unt.edu/robocamp/>.

Plan to attend STEM night with the Fort Worth Cats Baseball Club on Saturday, July 19th or Friday, August 1st.

Beverages, food and tickets underwritten by Lockheed Martin.

Please contact Reginald.Grant@unt.edu for more details.

CSE Research Lab News

The UNT College of Engineering held Design Day on April 25, 2014. Senior design teams presented projects with poster presentations and group presentations. To see the projects presented by CSE undergraduate students, go to <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/559>.

HiLT Lab wins Awards

Congratulations to CSE Associate Professor **Dr. Rodney D. Nielsen** on winning the Competitive Funding Award, one of the Office of Research and Economic Development's highest honors. This is part of UNT's Faculty Research and Creativity Award recognition process. The Competitive Funding Award goes to the Principal Investigator who promoted the mission of the University of North Texas in being responsible for the highest total amount of research funding on their competitive extramural grants during the preceding fiscal year. Dr. Nielsen is the Director of the Human Language Technologies (HiLT) Lab. Read more about his lab at <http://hilt.cse.unt.edu/>.



Congratulations to first-year CSE graduate student **Natalie Parde** on winning an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Natalie is the first student to win this award in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is the nation's flagship program directly supporting graduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The Fellowship is \$32,000 per year for up to three years, as well as a \$12,000 per year cost of education allowance including travel funding and equipment. Natalie's research "Building a Better Agent: The Next Generation of Teachable-Agent Technology" is under the guidance of Dr. Rodney Nielsen.

CSRL and Net-Centric IUCRC News

Dr. Krishna Kavi traveled to Lübeck, Germany in February to attend the 2014 International Conference on the Architecture of Computer Systems (ARCS-2014), where he presented "3D DRAM and PCMs in Processor Memory Hierarchy," co-authored by Kavi with S. Pianelli, G. Pisano, G. Regina and M. Ignatowski. Three of the co-authors visited UNT during Spring 2013 to conduct their MS Thesis work in the CSRL lab. These students subsequently graduated from the University of Pisa in Italy. Read more about the Computer Systems Research Lab at <http://www.csrl.unt.edu/>.

The semi-annual Industrial Advisory Board meeting of the NSF Net-Centric Industry/University Cooperative Research Center was held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, April 2-3, 2014. Dr. Kavi is the director of the center, which includes the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Arizona State University and the Missouri University of Science and Technology. More than 20 industrial members support the research of the center. For more information, go to <http://netcentric.cse.unt.edu/>

Lab for Recreational Computing News

PhD student **Jonathon Doran** has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at Bradley University in Peoria, IL. Jonathon and Ian Parberry's paper "Emergent Economies for Role Playing Games" was accepted to appear in the International Journal of Intelligent Games and Simulation. Dr. Ian Parberry is the Director of the Laboratory for Recreational Computing. For more information about LARC, please see <http://larc.unt.edu/>.



More CSE Research Centers and Labs at <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/37>. Read about CSE in *UNT Research* at <http://www.unt.edu/untresearch/>.

Outstanding Graduate Instructional Assistants



(L-R) Ian Brooks, Jorge Reyes-Silveyra, Sai Kalluri

Three outstanding graduate instructional assistants were recognized by the CSE faculty. Outstanding Teaching Fellow is **Ian Brooks**. He is a Teaching Fellow for CSCE 4011 "Engineering Ethics." Ian is seeking his PhD in Computer Science and Engineering under his major professor Dr. Kathleen Swiger.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant is **Jorge Reyes-Silveyra**. Jorge is a PhD student with his major professor Dr. Armin R. Mikler. Jorge is a Teaching Assistant for CSCE 4110 "Algorithms" and CSCE 4820 "Computational Epidemiology."

Outstanding Grader is **Sai Kalluri**. Sai is a Grader for CSCE 4410 "Software Development I" and CSCE 4444 "Software Engineering." Sai is an MS student in Computer Science under his major professor Dr. Bill Buckles.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 6th to attend the UNT football game against Southern Methodist University at Apogee Stadium. You will receive an invitation soon! Come to the College of Engineering tent for tailgating and fun!

Alumni Focus: Eric Lim

Eric Lim, BS 2005, wrote the following email to Don Retzlaff:

Don, Congratulations on your retirement!

It's been a long time! I hope you're doing well!



In case you don't remember me, I took both of your Software Development classes in 2004-2005. One of the projects was to write a parser in PHP to automatically retrieve class schedules within PeopleSoft. I still remember the many nights I spent working late trying to figure out a way to make those Javascript sessions persist from one page to the next.

I graduated in Fall 2005 and went to Brown University for a master's degree in CS. I later joined the PhD program in Biology, also at Brown, and became a bioinformatics scientist.

I've been in oncology research for the past 3 years, where we apply statistical and machine learning techniques to sift through large amount of genomic data collected from cancer patients. These analyses allow us to understand the many drivers of cancers at the genomic level and to identify novel therapeutic targets using specific genetic features. Our goal is to discover new biological insights that allow us to pursue patient-based, genomics-driven, small molecule drugs in difficult-to-treat cancers.

From algorithmic development to implementation of efficient data structures, classes I took at UNT provided me with a solid foundation of my quantitative ability to excel in the big data era. In addition, skills in software development I learned from you continue to be extremely important in my day to day work.

Once again, congratulations on your retirement! Please also send my regards to the rest of the department.

Thank you. Eric

Share your news with other alumni! Send an email to: csenewsletter@unt.edu.

CSE PhD Page

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering has a PhD Recipients page which recognizes all of our PhD graduates with their dissertation titles and major professors. Please go to <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/353> to see our PhD page. To update your current position and website, please contact csealumni@unt.edu.

Etta Clark awards PepsiCo scholarships



(L-R) Mayaria Johnson, Etta Clark, Jeremy Gonzales

Etta Clark, BA 1980, Senior Director at PepsiCo, Inc. in Plano, awarded three PepsiCo scholarships to CSE undergraduate students in 2013-2014. The award was offered to Juniors and Seniors in the CSE Department with at least 24 credit hours at UNT and a 3.25 GPA.

Jeremy Gonzales is an Honors College student from Fentress, Texas, majoring in the Communication and Networks specialization in Computer Engineering and minoring in Mathematics. He has served as an Ambassador for the UNT College of Engineering and a Senator for the Student Government Association.

Mayaria Johnson is an Honors College student majoring in Computer Science. She has been the President of the UNT Society of Women Engineers for the past year. At the end of March, the UNT Society of Women Engineers co-hosted the Design Your World STEM Conference for Girls at UNT Discovery Park and Mayaria led the Computer Science/Technology activity.

Nathan Thurmond (not pictured) is a senior level student in the IT program. While taking CSCE 4010, Nathan volunteered to provide help lab assistance for students in the CSCE 1040 class. He was also named Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Information Technology by the CSE Faculty on UNT Honors Day.

If you or your company would like to award an Undergraduate Scholarship, please contact Sally Pettyjohn at sally.pettyjohn@unt.edu.

Alumni Gifts to CSE

Alumni support the CSE Department in many ways. CSE alumni in this picture are members of the College of Engineering Advisory Board: **Lettie Haynes**, 1981 BS Computer Science; **Etta Clark**, 1980 BA Computer Science; and **Chris Pearce**, 1992 BS Computer



Science. They and other members of the College of Engineering Advisory Board were touring newly constructed labs in the College. **Costas Tsatsoulis**, Dean of the College of Engineering, led the tour of expanded facilities for the College.

Scholarships for students and student travel are largely supported by gifts from faculty, alumni and friends of the CSE department. Through the first three quarters in FY 2014, CSE received over \$79,350 in such gifts, including a recent donation of \$4,250 from PepsiCo for student scholarships. We are grateful for this support of our current CSE students! If you would like to make a gift to support CSE, please go to this website: <http://www.cse.unt.edu/site/node/430>.

Russell Anthony is Professor for a Day

Russell Anthony was a "Professor for a Day" in CSCE 3420, Internet Programming. He Skyped with the class about important web development technologies, and also touched on how to build a business as a freelancer, meet clients, and partners.



Shortly after graduating from UNT in December 2009, Russell moved to California where he and his former business partners raised a round of capital to further develop the blogging platform he developed while attending UNT.

Since then he has founded Augimo, a web development firm specializing in e-commerce and online marketing, and Deep Origins, an online publishing company. He will soon be launching Growth, a startup in the new Personal Analytics / Personal Informatics sector.

Thanks to Russell for being a Professor for a Day! Our students enjoyed hearing a CSE graduate talk about life after UNT. If you would like to come back and be a Professor for a Day, contact csealumni@unt.edu.

CSE Chair and CENG Dean meet Alumni

CSE Chair Dr. Barrett Bryant and/or CENG Dean Dr. Costas Tsatsoulis met with the following CSE Alumni during 2013-2014:

- Anurag Arepally – MS 2006
- Cecilia Canada – BS 1986
- Jason Christian – MS 2005
- Etta Clark – BA 1980
- Courtney Corley – PhD 2009
- Zachary Derrick – BS 2012
- Mark Eastwood – BS 1988
- Rex Farris – BS 1985
- Kathy Foster – MS 1979
- Wes Fox – BS 1992
- E. Neil Goldman – BS 1983
- Jeff Hatfield – BA 1996
- Lettie Haynes – BS 1982
- Wei He – MS 2003
- Reggie Hill – BA 1983
- Lisa Hite – BS 1999
- Devin Joll – BA in IT 2011
- Tandy Lofland – BS 2006
- Prakash Kolan – PhD 2007
- Joseph Longoria – BS 1985
- Michael Mainard – BS 1985
- Usha Patten – MS 1999
- Chris Pearce – BS 1990
- John Rozeboom – BS 1991
- Larry Sullivan – BS 1992
- Guili Sun – BS 2001/MS 2003
- Greg Thurman – BS 1998

Sign up for the UNT Computer Science Alumni Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=72667678766&ref=mf>



Outstanding CSE Students for 2013-2014

Okobiah (Karo) Oghenekarho
Outstanding Doctoral Student in Computer Science and Engineering



Jose Barcenas
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Computer Engineering



Nathan Thurmond
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Information Technology



Sunitha Karlaputi
Outstanding Master's Student in Computer Engineering



Dillon Fisher
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Computer Science



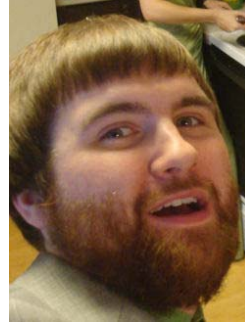
Christopher Wolfe
Outstanding Computer Science and Engineering Sophomore



Siyuan Liu
Outstanding Master's Student in Computer Science



Hudson Jameson
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Computer Science



Mindy Nguyen
Outstanding Computer Science and Engineering Freshman



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