

# ***CSCI ADVISOR***

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## ***Fall 2004***

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## INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is published biannually by the Student Advisory Board (SAB) of the Department of Computer Science at Northern Illinois University. The newsletter is intended to help our students become more informed about the activities and projects in which our department is involved. It is also sent to prospective students and employers seeking information about NIU's Department of Computer Science along with other information about the department.

The Computer Science Student Advisory Board fulfills the university requirement that each department have a student advisory board to provide student input on department practices and policies.

Other activities sponsored by the SAB include hosting an annual reception at Homecoming for alumni and conducting the department's teacher evaluations each semester and summer.

## SAB OFFICERS

*President:* **OLGA GARCIA**

*Vice President:* **KATHLEEN VARLAND**

*Secretary:* **JOHN HARNISCH**

*Treasurer:* **ERIC BRYNJOLFSSON**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Effective Spring 2005, the Schedule of Classes book will only be available online at the listing "Courses" under "Academics" on the Office of Registration and Records' web page <http://www.student.niu.edu/students.shtml>.

The reference numbers for all computer science courses, other than those that require permission, can also be found on the department's home page [www.cs.niu.edu](http://www.cs.niu.edu) under the listing "Course Offerings." The reference numbers for computer science courses are also posted on the bulletin board outside the departmental office PM460, Psychology/Computer Science Building.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

The department's Spring 2005 500-level graduate offerings are CSCI 530: *Computer Networks*, CSCI 563: *Systems Design & Analysis*, CSCI 568: *Advanced Systems Programming*, and CSCI 588: *Data Base Concepts*.

In addition to the graduate courses listed above, the following graduate courses with their indicated topics and teachers will be offered in Spring 2005:

CSCI 531: *Network Application Prog.*

Dr. Ibrahim Onyuksel

CSCI 575: *Web Development*

Professor Penny McIntire

CSCI 580E-1: *JAVA*

Dr. Jie Zhou

CSCI 580E-2: *JAVA*

Dr. Jim Henry

CSCI 580K: *Server Side Web Dev.*

Dr. Kathi Davis

CSCI 580M: *Natural Language*

Dr. Reva Freedman

CSCI 580Q: *Graphical Modeling*

Dr. Kirk Duffin

CSCI 580R: *Neural Networks*

Dr. Jie Zhou

CSCI 580U: *Computer Security*

Dr. Neil Rickert

CSCI 595-1: . *NET Programming*

Dr. Jia Zhang

CSCI 595-2: . *NET Programming*

Dr. Robert Zerwekh

Graduate students wanting to complete reading courses must secure permission from both the department and the individual teacher with whom they wish to read. The names of faculty eligible to offer graduate reading courses can be obtained from the department's receptionist, **FRANCES WISSMILLER**.

Additional graduate courses are offered at the Multi-University Center, Oak Brook; at NIU-Hoffman Estates; and at Rock Valley College's Stenstrom Center. Interested graduate students should refer to the article, "Regional Courses," which appears in this publication.

## GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Undergraduates may be allowed to take a graduate course for undergraduate credit if they have:

- 1) a minimum of 90 credit hours
- 2) completed CSCI 440 or 464
- 3) at least a GPA of 3.0
- 4) departmental permission.

Also, undergraduates who are scheduled to complete their graduation requirements in their final term without carrying a full load have the possibility for early admission into Graduate School. This option allows students to combine both undergraduate and graduate studies in their last semester of undergraduate work.

See the department's chair, **DR. RODNEY ANGOTTI**, to investigate either of these possibilities if you are interested and believe that you are qualified.

In addition, undergraduates interested in attending graduate school in the field of computer science either at Northern or elsewhere are encouraged to speak with Dr. Angotti about their plans.

## REMINDERS

### Pre-Majors



Spring 2005 applications for admission to the Department of Computer Science must be submitted between January 31, 2005 and February 25, 2005. Students attending school during the spring term at NIU who have not attended a pre-computer science declaration meeting should make arrangements to attend one of these meetings. Such arrangements can be made during the early weeks of the Spring 2005 term by contacting the department's receptionist, Frances Wissmiller, at PM460, Psychology/Computer Science Building.

## Majors

In Spring 2005, CSCI 230: *FORTRAN*, CSCI 240: *C++*, CSCI 241: *C & C++*, CSCI 330: *UNIX*, CSCI 360: *Assembler*, CSCI 440: *Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis*, and CSCI 470: *JAVA* will be offered in conjunction with CSCI courses numbered 462 through 468.

In addition to the above undergraduate offerings, qualified majors can enroll in topic courses under the descriptors CSCI 461 and CSCI 490 in the following areas:

*Advanced Systems Program*  
*Computer Security*  
*.NET Programming*  
*Graphical Modeling*  
*Natural Languages*  
*Pattern Recognition*  
*Server Side Web Development*  
*Web Development*

Students wanting to learn more about these special courses can obtain information from the departmental office.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

### Undergraduate Teaching Fellows

Applications for Spring 2005 Undergraduate Teaching Fellowships should be filed by November 15, 2004. The criteria for these awards include a GPA of 3.0 or above in computer science coursework. Interested computer science majors can obtain applications from the department's receptionist at PM460.

### Internships

You will discover that numerous well paid and interesting job opportunities are available to declared computer science majors.

## **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (cont.)**

### **Internships (cont.)**

Academic credit can be earned for these jobs through the department's internship course CSCI 390: *Internship* and, in the case of graduate students, CSCI 590: *Internship*. Earning credit for CSCI 390 is a convenient way to meet the three-hour 300-400 level elective requirement that declared undergraduate computer science majors must complete successfully.

The reports filed to meet the requirements for internship credit are also useful documents to include in students' job portfolios.

This year's Fall 2004 Internship Fair was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2004, in the Holmes Student Center. There will be another Internship Fair on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at the Convocation Center. Information about internship opportunities can also be found at <http://www.niu.edu/coop>. Look for the announcements about the department's internship meetings held prior to the university's internship fairs.

### **JOB FAIRS**

The Office of Career Planning and Placement will conduct a job fair on October 20, 2004. There is also a job fair scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005. Both of these fairs will be conducted in NIU's Convocation Center. For more information about these important events visit the web site [www.niu.edu/cppc](http://www.niu.edu/cppc).

Northern Illinois University's fairs are among the largest campus-based job fairs in the country. In addition to these opportunities, Northern's Career Planning and Placement Center posts announcements on job fairs held on other regional campuses. Interested students can obtain additional information about these fairs from the web site mentioned above.

Students exploring job opportunities should also visit the listing *Victor eRecruiting* at the above web site. In addition to job opportunities for alumni and current students, there is information about how to search for a position, sample resumes, places where previous graduates are employed, and information about other valuable services.

### **REGIONAL COURSES**

*Editors' Note:* Courses commonly referred to as "Off-Campus Courses" are officially designated by the university as "Regional Courses." The information below concerns the department's Spring 2005 Regional Courses.

The Department's Regional Courses are conducted at the Multi-University Center (MUC), Suite 200, 1010 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL; at NIU-Hoffman Estates (HEEC), 555 West Trillium Blvd., Hoffman Estates, IL; and at the Stenstrom Center, RockValley College (RVC), 4151 Samuelson Rd., Rockford, IL. The graduate program is offered at the Oak Brook and Hoffman Estates sites; the undergraduate General Computer Science Emphasis is offered in Rockford.

The Spring 2005 Regional Courses are:  
CSCI 440: *Data Structures* (RVC)  
CSCI 461: *Assembler* (MUC)  
CSCI 464: *Data Structures* (HEEC)  
CSCI 465: *External Data Structures* (HEEC)  
CSCI 467: *System Design and Analysis* (MUC)  
CSCI 468: *Systems Programming* (MUC)  
CSCI 490M: *Web Development* (RVC)  
CSCI 580M: *Unix* (MUC)  
CSCI 588: *Database Concepts* (HEEC)

Questions about the department's Regional Courses should be directed to the Department of Computer Science (815-753-0378); information about graduate or student-at-large status can be obtained from Northern Illinois University's Graduate School -- Tel. No. 815-753-0395 or <http://www.grad.niu.edu/apply.htm>.

## REGIONAL COURSES (cont.)

Undergraduate students not admitted to Northern who wish to pursue the General Computer Science Emphasis at the Stenstrom Center, RVC, should contact the Northern Illinois University's Office of Admissions for details. (<http://www.admissions.niu.edu/applyniu.html> or Tel. No. 815-753-0446).

Commuting NIU undergraduates can enroll in classes at the Multi-University Center, at NIU-Hoffman Estates, or at Stenstrom Center, RVC, but they must receive permission to do so. In addition, graduate students can complete available courses at Stenstrom Center, RVC but also need permission to do so.

Additional information about Regional Courses can be found at the listing LAS-CSCI at <http://www.outreach.niu.edu/rcc/>.

## ACM NEWS

The Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) serves as a focal point for information regarding the advantages of being associated with this organization of computer professionals. As in the past, the ACM will sponsor speakers from industry to talk on various computer related topics.

Representatives from the following companies will make presentations this fall:

**Martin Schray**, Microsoft, Tuesday, September 28, 2004, 3PM, PM251

**Lisa Desimone**, Discover Financial Services, Tuesday, October 12, 2004, 3PM, PM251

**Jesse Winsock**, IBM, Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 3PM, PM251

Look for the Student Chapter of the ACM's fliers posted around campus for announcements of additional activities, or on the department's home page, [www.cs.niu.edu](http://www.cs.niu.edu).

**DR. ROBERT RANNIE** is the advisor to the Student Chapter of the ACM.

## COLLOQUIUM NEWS

The department's Fall 2004 featured colloquium speaker is **TED PEDERSEN**, University of Minnesota. He will speak at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, October 15, 2004, in the Sky Room, Holmes Student Center. The title of his address is *Word Sense Discrimination in Similarity and Vector Spaces*.

## BYRNES HONORED

The SAB selected **AMY BYRNES** as the department's outstanding teacher for the 2003-2004 academic year. Amy regularly teaches the courses CSCI 240: *Computer Programming in C++*, CSCI 241: *Intermediate Programming in C++*, CSCI 360: *Computer Programming in Assembler Language*, CSCI 440: *Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis*, and CSCI 465: *External Data Structures*. Her students praise her for being extremely helpful, always well prepared and available, and in command of the courses that she teaches. Amy joined the faculty in Fall 2001 after completing her master's degree in computer science in August 2001. She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics in May 1999.

## MORE HONORS

**DR. ROBERT RANNIE** was awarded the Laetitia Harrer Snow Memorial Award for Humanitarian Service to SHARE, Inc. at its August 2004 meeting in New York, NY. Dr. Rannie was recognized for his many service contributions to SHARE, Inc. over the past 25 years. These include the important role he plays as Manager of Training and his past work as the Project Manager of the OS/MFT-MVT project. Dr. Rannie was praised as a "living icon" for the type of volunteer necessary to make SHARE meetings successful.

NIU's **MICHAEL STACK** and **JOHN DRAVNIKS** and **JOHN EHRMAN** of IBM were presented with a Best Session Award for their presentation *Introduction to Assembler Language - 'Boot Camp'* at the winter 2004 meeting of SHARE, Inc. in Long Beach, CA.

## **MORE HONORS (cont.)**

**JULIA DRAGAN-CHIRILA**, who completed her bachelor's degree with a major in theoretical computer science at Northern in Spring 2002 and now a graduate student at the University of Illinois, was awarded a prestigious Siebel Scholar Award for the year 2004. This award grants outstanding computer science graduate students at select US universities tuition waivers plus stipends of \$25,000. Julia was one of five graduate students at the U of I named as a Siebel Scholar. Fifty-five Siebel Scholars are selected every year.

## **FALL 2004 EVALUATION OF TEACHING**

Wednesday, November 17, 2004, and Thursday, November 18, 2004, have been designated for evaluating the department's teachers. Students are encouraged to participate responsibly in this exercise so that our teachers can obtain feedback on their teaching practices and performances.

The department relies heavily on these evaluations in making personnel decisions. In addition, the results of the evaluations play an important role in selecting the department's annual teaching excellence winner.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

**JEFFREY BRUNER** (M.S. 1993) is a Level 2 Manager of Support/Development for Computer Associates International in Lisle, Illinois. He resides in Naperville, Illinois.

**MARKO DIMITRIJEVIC** (M.S. 2000) is a Staff Software Engineer for IBM's Silicon Valley Laboratory in San Jose, California. He resides in San Jose, California.

**DON DUFFY** (B.S. 1995) is a Project Lead for Accenture in Chicago, Illinois. He currently resides in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

**SHIVRAM GANDURI** (M.S. 2000) is an Advisory Software Engineer for IBM in San Jose, California. He resides in San Jose, California.

**ALLISON HAHN** (B.S. 1985; M.B.A. Kellogg Graduate School, 1990) is a Sales Manager for IBM in Oak Brook Terrace, Illinois. She resides in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

**KRISTINE (SCHREMPF) HUNSTAD** (B.S. 1982) is a Programmer/Analyst for Science Applications International Corp. She resides in Diamondhead, Mississippi.

**JAMES JANUS** (B.S. 1988) is a Manager with the Financial Technology Department at Allstate Insurance Company in Northbrook, Illinois. He resides in Gurnee, Illinois with his wife, Renata (Drobinski) and son, Albert.

**PHILIP HEINISCH** (M.S. 2002) is a Mainframe Programmer with the Archer Daniels Midland Company in Decatur, Illinois. He resides in Decatur, Illinois.

**KELSEY HOPKINS** (B.S. 2003) is an Application Developer with Allstate Insurance Company in Northbrook, Illinois. Kelsey lives in Grayslake, Illinois.

**JAMES W. HUGUELET** (B.S. 1993, M.S. 1995) is President of the Huguelet Group, LLC, where he resides in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

**LAURA (EUL) JENNINGS** (B.S. 1984) is a Project Leader (Intelligence Reporting) for Cardinal Health in McGaw Park, Illinois. She resides in Lake Forest, Illinois with her husband, Bill and two children.

**JEFFREY JOHNSON** (B.S. 1991) is the owner of a construction contracting business in Woodstock, Illinois, where he currently resides.

**TRIPTI (SHAH) KASAL** (B.S. 1984) is Vice President of Rubloff in Chicago, Illinois, where he resides.

**PENNY MCINTIRE** (B.S. 1977, M.S. 1982) is the Assistant to the Chair, Department of Computer Science, NIU. Her hair is not gray, and she has not aged--much. (*Just checking to see if you're reading.*)

## ALUMNI NEWS (cont.)

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN (B.S. 1988) is a Systems Analyst for Herman Miller Inc., in Zeeland, Michigan. He resides in Ada, Michigan with his wife, Lynne, and their four children.

PETER MILLER (B.S. 2000) is a Software Engineer with IBM in San Jose, California. He also resides in San Jose.

MARY (HAYES) MONDL (B.S. 1981) is an EDI Technician with Wal-Mart in Bentonville, Arkansas. She resides in Bella Vista, Arkansas with her husband, Michael.

PEI LAN MORGENROTH (B.S. 1984) is a Systems Developer 4 with SAS Institute Inc. in Cary, North Carolina. She resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina with her husband, Robert.

ANDREW NEAR II (B.S. 1985; MBA 1990 from DePaul University) is a Systems Analyst for Zurich North America in Schaumburg, Illinois. He resides in Naperville, Illinois with his wife, Carol and two children.

CAROL (NOVAK) NEAR (B.S. 1984) is a homemaker and is pursuing her master of arts in elementary education at Aurora University. She resides in Naperville, Illinois with her husband, Andrew and two children.

TRUDY (SMITH) NICHOLLS (M.S. 1982) is a Systems Analyst for the Office of the Dean in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She resides in Fort Collins, Colorado with her husband, Peter, who is the Provost at Colorado State.

EDIT PERONJA (B.S. 2002, M.S. 2004) is a Programmer for Arc-Finesstri in Rockford, Illinois. She resides in Sycamore, Illinois.

RYAN PRITCHARD (B.S. 1997) is an Information Technology Analyst for John Deere and Company in Moline, Illinois. He resides in Moline, Illinois with his wife, Andrea (Johnson) and one child.

PRASHANT PURANIK (B.S. 1992) is a Software Architect for Unique Computing Solutions, Inc. in Homewood, Illinois. He resides in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

ELIZABETH (MAY) SALTMARSH (B.S. 1993) is a Project Engineer with Central DuPage Health in Winfield, Illinois. She resides in Carol Stream, Illinois.

MARGARET (KEELE NOLAN) SCHUETT (B.S. 1982) is a Senior Systems Analyst for Nicor Gas in Naperville, Illinois. She resides in Batavia, Illinois.

MICHAEL SORENSON (B.S. 1991) is First Vice President of Commercial Banking Technology for Bank One Corporation in Chicago, Illinois. He resides in Carol Stream, Illinois.

LAURIE (OSEN) SORMAN (B.S. 1984) is a teacher with Kindermusik Northwest in Palatine, Illinois. She resides in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

MARK SZYMANSKI (B.S. 1986) is an MVS Systems Programmer with IBM in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He resides in Farmington, Minnesota.

PRAVEEN TAMMANA (M.S. 1993) is a Principal Software Engineer with Videojet Technologies, Inc. in Wood Dale, Illinois. He resides in Hoffman Estates, Illinois with his wife and one child.

JOHN VOLMER (B.S. 1979; M.S. 1981) is a Manager of Security Services for Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois. He resides in Downers Grove, Illinois.

DOUG WILSON (B.S. 1978) resides in Rockford, Illinois with his wife, Diane and one child.

ROBERT ZERWEKH (M.S. 1987, B.A. 1972 & Ph.D. 1979 from University of Illinois) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at NIU. He resides in Sycamore, Illinois with his wife, Susan Russell.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*Editors' Note:* **PROFESSOR GEORGIA BROWN** shared the following e-mail message with us. We thought our readers would find it interesting.

Hi Georgia,

I hope you are having a good summer. I'm interning at CNA in downtown Chicago. **BRIAN BARTGEN** (B.S. 2004), who works full time for CNA, helped me obtain the internship.

The projects I'm working on are directly related to NIU's courses CSCI 360, CSCI 465, CSCI 466, and CSCI 467. Of course, I'm learning new stuff, but it's kinda cool that what I am doing so directly relates to NIU's curriculum. What is more interesting to me is that one of my fellow interns from one of the state's most prestigious universities never heard of JCL, QSAM, or VSAM. His school doesn't teach COBOL and its graduate database class is optional. He's having a tough time; I'm not.

See you when I return to campus.

Dave

## A SAD NOTE

**DR. XIAOSHAN WANG** died on July 16, 2004, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dr. Wang joined the department's faculty in August 1999 and successfully taught CSCI 210 - the department's service course for social science majors, CSCI 250 - COBOL, and CSCI 360 -Assembler.

The SAB offers its condolences to Xiaoshan's wife, Lin, and his son, Henry.

## HOME PAGE ADDRESSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER  
SCIENCE

<http://www.cs.niu.edu>

GRADUATE SCHOOL

<http://www.grad.niu.edu>

REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

<http://www.reg.niu.edu>

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*Below is a list of recent donors whose contributions for the period March 13, 2004 - September 17, 2004 were received prior to September 22, 2004. The SAB thanks each of these contributors for their generous support and recognizes the important role donors play in the department's continued success.*

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