New Center for Research in Information Systems - General Electric (GE) is the First to Join

CIS Department Ranked Top in Research in Study

CIS Alumni Recognized at Robinson Alumni Awards

CIS Programs Top Ten in 2009-2010 Rankings

AIS Marks Ten Years at Robinson College

Bergeron Scholarship and Women in Technology Partner for Mentors

Distinguished Speakers

Computer Forensic’s Expert from Coca-Cola Visits

And more ....

GE Energy and Manhattan Associates Join Robinson College’s Center for Research in Information Systems

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www.cis.gsu.edu
Of the five alumni recognized for achievements in business and community service at the 7th Annual J. Mack Robinson College of Business Alumni Awards Celebration, three were CIS majors! The award ceremony was held on November 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Robinson’s Buckhead Executive Education Center.

This year’s winners are Ahmet Bozer, president of the Eurasia and Africa Group, The Coca-Cola Company (Global Business Leadership Award); Ann-Marie Campbell, president of the Southern Division of The Home Depot (Outstanding Young Alumna Award); Brad Ferrer, EVP of finance and administration for CNN Worldwide (Award for Service to the Robinson College); Jeff Hwang, CEO and co-founder of Pyramid Systems, Inc. (Alumni Technology Award); and Sherry Hwang, president and co-founder of Pyramid Systems, Inc (Alumni Entrepreneurship Award).

Finally, I wish to congratulate the graduates of our first Executive Masters of Science in Managing Information Technology last summer. This intensive one-year degree program is offered each year in August and is designed to prepare working IT professionals senior-level managerial responsibilities. If you are looking for career advancement for yourself or your key staff, I urge you to give the program a look. A link to information on the one-year program can be found at www.cis.gsu.edu.

As I noted in the last issue of Bits and Bytes, the economic downturn has affected us here in the CIS Department. In addition to the elimination of Carol Patterson’s position, which I mentioned in my last column, two more staff positions have had to be eliminated; that of Elizabeth Carpenter, who had been with the Department for 11 years, and John Hupp, who had been with us for two years. Their contributions to the Department, as well as their cheerful dispositions, will be missed, although John Hupp has rejoined us as an instructor this fall.

On a more pleasant note, this year’s ranking in U.S. News & World Report show that, once again, both our undergraduate and graduate programs are in the top ten nationally. Also, CRIS, our Center for Research in Information Systems, is off to a good start with GE Energy and Manhattan Associates as initial members and several more companies considering joining in the coming year.

Three CIS alumni recognized at 2009 Robinson Alumni Awards

Ahmet Bozer
President of the Eurasia and Africa Group, The Coca-Cola Company

Jeff Hwang
CEO and Co-founder of Pyramid Systems Inc.

Sherry Hwang
President and Co-founder of Pyramid Systems Inc.
GE Energy Services and Manhattan Associates Join Robinson College’s Center for Research in Information Systems

GE Energy, one of the world’s leading suppliers of power generation and energy delivery technology, along with Manhattan Associates, a leading developer and implementer of supply chain software solutions, became members of Robinson’s Center for Research in Information Systems this October. Randy Fox, CIO of GE Energy Services, kicked off their gold-level sponsorship. Ken Rabun, CIO of Manhattan Associates, joined with a silver-level sponsorship.

The Center for Research in Information Systems (CRIS) is a university-based research center housed in the CIS Department in Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business. The Center is a boundary-spanning organization between the CIS Department and the IT business community modelled after the highly successful Center for Information Systems Research at M.I.T.’s Sloan School of Management.

The mission of CRIS is to partner with the IT business community; promote Georgia as a leader in the management and use of IT and thereby to attract new companies to Atlanta and to the State; assist companies in their use of IT to create business value; provide educational programs to enhance the skills of the IT workforce; and conduct “action research” to solve companies’ real-world problems.

A kickoff luncheon, lead by Ephraim McLean, CIS Department Chair, and Larry Clark, Executive-in-Residence, presented details about the purpose of CRIS to Atlanta-area CIOs. The following companies attended the luncheon: GE Energy, Manhattan Associates, Southern Company, Cox Communications, Turner Broadcasting, Accenture, Aquilex Corp., The Intersect Group, Tensar International, Tatum L.L.C., Zep, Beyond Corp., North Highland, TechLinks and the Technology Association of Georgia. were in attendance.

For more information about CRIS go to robinson.gsu.edu/faculty/cris.html.

Randy Fox, CIO GE Energy Services Joined CRIS in October, 2009

Information Systems Research Ranking from Articles Published in Eight Leading IS Journals from 1999-2008:

1. 1. Georgia State University (USA)
2. 2. University of Maryland (USA)
3. 3. University of London (UK)
4. 4. University of Arizona (USA)
5. 5. University of Texas - Austin
6. 6. University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
7. 7. Georgia State University
8. 8. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
9. 9. Indiana University - Bloomington
10. 10. University of Pennsylvania - Wharton

Best graduate MIS programs in 2009-2010:

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan School of Management)
2. Carnegie Mellon University (Tepper)
3. University of Texas (McCombs)
4. University of Arizona (Eller)
5. University of Minnesota (Carlson)
6. University of Maryland (Smith)
7. New York University (Stern)
8. Stanford University
9. University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)

Best undergraduate MIS programs in 2009-2010:

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Carnegie Mellon University
3. University of Arizona
4. University of Texas - Austin
5. University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
6. University of Maryland - College Park

Coca-Cola Company Computer Security Expert Visits

Dr. Richard Baskerville regularly invites computer forensic professionals to share their expert knowledge in his ACCT 8680/CIS 8080 course: Security and Privacy of Information and Information Systems. The course is designed to develop knowledge and skills for the management and assurance of security of information and information systems in technology-enabled environments. It focuses on concepts and methods associated with planning, designing, implementing, managing, and auditing security at all levels on different platforms, including worldwide networks for e-business. The course presents techniques for assessing risk associated with accidental and intentional breaches of security and covers the associated issues of ethical uses of information and privacy considerations.

Previous guests invited to speak have included the U.S. Army School of IT, the Secret Service, Hunton & Williams, Grant Thornton, and Lockheed Martin. His latest guest was Mark Moore, forensics manager at The Coca-Cola Company. Mark is responsible for the company’s global information assurance practices. In addition to speaking to the class, Mark held a special session with CIS faculty members to discuss topics ranging from password cracking, hiding files, rebuilding logical versus physical image files, master format tables and recounted past corporate criminal cases in which he was involved. Mark continues to be a valuable resource for the department’s computer forensics’ instructors.

“Mark’s technical computer forensics expertise and criminal case experience really illuminates the field to both our students and faculty,” noted Dr. Baskerville. “We’re very fortunate that he is able to allocate time away from his global responsibilities to periodically chat with our students and faculty to discuss the latest developments and discoveries in the field of forensics.”

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Sixteen years ago, in March 1993, five past editors-in-chief of the Management Information Systems Quarterly (MISQ), authored an editorial that pointed to the need for a professional society to serve I/S academics around the globe and provide sustained leadership and direction for the entire profession. In response to this challenge, Bill King, Eph McLean, and others who were attending the Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences (HICSS) the following year came together to form the nucleus of a group that was to become the Association for Information Systems (AIS).

Since its inception, AIS has been led by some of the most distinguished names in the field. One of the founders, Bill King, served as the first AIS President (1994-95) and then executive director until 1998 during which time the fledgling AIS was housed at the University of Pittsburgh and began its growth. In 1998, AIS moved to its current home, hosted by Georgia State, where the current GSU CIS department chair Eph McLean lead the Association as executive director from 1998-2007, implementing several key initiatives resulting in growth and refinement.

One of these initiatives was the integration of the dedicated staff and association professionals to manage the administration of AIS and implement the decisions of the AIS Council. In 2007, Dr. McLean retired his position as executive director in order to focus his attention on the GSU CIS Department, and the AIS Council selected Pete Tinsley, a Certified Association Executive, to take the helm and continue to lead AIS.

According to Tinsley, “The founders aptly recognized in 1993 the need for an organization such as AIS was indeed present, and the Association has now grown into one of the most respected societies in the I/S academic community. Our founding leaders, including Bill, Eph, and many others, laid a firm foundation upon which we continue to grow today.”

AIS hosts two distinguished annual conferences, the Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) and the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS), whose networking opportunities provide rich prospects for attendees and whose proceedings are featured in the collections of prestigious libraries around the world. AIS also provides critical job placement services, linking universities with top recruits in the field. AIS members and subscribers also enjoy access to articles and research from top journals and renowned conferences in the recently revamped eLibrary.

On October 1, 2009, AIS announced the chartering of its first student chapters. With the assistance of AIS members worldwide, student chapters will provide much-needed resources and recruitment opportunities for student I/S organizations. According to VP of membership, Jason Thatcher, “Student chapters will also serve as a platform to attract middle school, high school and undergraduate college students to the profession—critical to the future of the I/S profession and many other dependent fields.”

As is appropriate in a field that is known for forward-thinking, AIS also has its eye on the future. Current initiatives include inviting I/S practitioners to join the organization for the first time, providing a critical interface between the academic community and those who practice their I/S education in their careers. According to AIS President, Bernard Tan, “The potential for knowledge-sharing, networking and recruitment as a result of this initiative is enormous. AIS will continue its global expansion, with a focus not just on attracting more members from culturally and geographically diverse locations, but also on developing infrastructure and unique resources to serve those members on a local level as we broaden the Association’s scope.”

As Executive Director Tinsley put it, “AIS has come a long way in 15 years. We are proud of our short history and excited about our bright future.”

On August 31 - September 4, 2009, leading industry practitioners and academics gathered in Atlanta for the 17th IEEE International Requirements Engineering Conference. The five-day event, chaired by Dr. William Robinson of Robinson’s Department of Computer Information Systems, offered presentations, tutorials and networking events that provided interaction and dialogue between renowned faculty and industry professionals. Prestigious key note speakers from companies such as Forrester Research and Gartner along with leading academics presented at the event. More than 250 academic faculty and technology-related professionals attended this year’s event. The IEEE International Requirements Engineering conference provides an international forum for researchers, educators, and industrial practitioners to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, experiences, and concerns in the field of requirements engineering.

Topics ranged from agile development, requirements elicitation, analysis, documentation, validation and verification; requirements specification languages, methods, processes, and tools; requirements management, traceability, viewpoints, prioritization, and negotiation; modeling of requirements, goals, and domains; prototyping, simulation, and animation; interaction between requirements and design; evolution of requirements, product families, and variability; relating requirements to business goals, products, architecture, and testing; social, cultural, global, personal and cognitive factors in requirements engineering; collaborative requirements engineering; domain-specific problems, experiences and solutions.
In 2006, Sandra and Douglas Bergeron established a $1 million scholarship-mentorship grant to Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business. Named the “Bergeron Women in Technology Leadership Fund,” $50,000 is awarded annually to five female undergraduate or graduate students who have expressed or demonstrated high potential for leadership careers in technology. These scholarship winners are partnered with senior women executives in a one-on-one mentorship program designed to assist them in their educational and career advancement. The five Bergeron Scholars and their mentors for 2009-2010 are:

Ms. Monica Bull, Sophomore
Ms. Shilpa Chakravarthy, Junior
Ms. Breonna Deloach, Sophomore
Ms. Roxanna Manzanarez, Sophomore
Ms. Catherine Mickle, Junior

Vicki Hamilton, Senior Vice President, Turner Broadcasting
Patti Dismukes, Chief Operating Officer, OnSite Resources
Lisa LaVallee, Chief Information Officer, McKesson
Gladys Andrews-Agwai, IBM Client Executive, IBM
Krista Marlatt, Director, AutoTrader.com

Women in Technology Partners to Provide Executive Mentors for the CIS Department

The CIS Department and Atlanta-based Women in Technology (WIT) organization are working together to provide information technology executives to female CIS students as mentors. This year’s Bergeron mentors were identified through the hard working efforts of WIT’s executive director, Heather Rocker. In addition, three other high achieving CIS students were paired with mentors with the help of WIT. Beth Alexander, MBA-IS student, was paired with both Lajuana Earwood, director of IT at Norfolk Southern, and Diane Schulteiss, program systems manager at Norfolk Southern Corporation. Reena Mann, BBA-CIS student, was paired with Sheryl Cherico, president and COO of mPacts. Ariane Robledo, MBA-IS student, was paired with Marva Bailer, software sales leader from the IBM Corporation.

Women in Technology was founded in 1992 by and for women in technology. It began as a venue for women working in the technology industry to meet, share ideas and support one another. Since then it has grown to become a premier networking setting for both men and women in the technology industry. WIT’s meetings and events have become the place that the technology community gathers to learn the latest trends and to recognize accomplishments. WIT focuses on accelerating the career growth of their members and offers programs, events and initiatives to promote their advancement.

“If there is one consistent theme among our most successful women in technology, it is the impact of mentoring,” said Heather Rocker. “WIT is pleased to support the Bergeron Scholars program by connecting these students with the female technology leaders in our community - providing both a powerful mentoring experience and meaningful volunteer opportunity.”

“The CIS Department and Robinson College are honored to be working with one of the best technology-focused organizations in Atlanta,” said Dr. Ephraim McLean, chair of the CIS Department and one of Georgia’s first eminent scholars.

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Dr. Baskerville is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Information Systems. In addition to building Georgia State’s Computer Forensics Center with a technology grant, he has conducted research on design science funded by the National Science Foundation, and logic simulation development for Intel Corporation. His consulting experience includes advanced information system designs for the U.S. Department of Defense and Energy Departments. He is a Chartered Engineer for the British Engineering Council. He received a U.S. Navy Commendation from Fleet Operations Command Center Europe in his early years - note that he was a civilian and not in the U.S. Navy.

Pictured: Computer forensics expert, Mark Moore with The Coca-Cola Company, shares his industry expertise with CIS faculty members. Pictured from left-to-right are Dr. Richard Baskerville (CIS’s forensics’s guru), Mark Moore, Dr. Yi Ding, Jonathon Kim, and Dr. Dave McDonald, Dir. of Emerging Technologies. The CIS Department’s associate chair Dr. Carl Stucke was also in attendance.
Dr. Mathiassen’s research focuses on software development, IT-enabled change, and business process innovation. He has co-authored more than ten books, including *Professional Systems Development, Object-oriented Analysis & Design, Computers in Context: The Philosophy and Practice of Systems Design, and Improving Software Organizations*. In addition, he has published nearly 200 scientific papers.

His approach to research has been published as “Collaborative Practice Research” (*Information, Technology & People*, 2002), a form of action research that focuses on understanding, supporting and improving IT-practices across different industries. Over the years, this approach has been practiced within industries like IT, software, pharmaceuticals, finance, auto-makers, electronics, public administration, and healthcare. In many cases, these activities have involved professionals who under Dr. Mathiassen’s supervision successfully defended a PhD based on scientific investigations into their own practices. Dr. Mathiassen has engaged in developing new educational programs to meet the changing demands for IT-competency in society.

In terms of service, Dr. Mathiassen has served as senior editor for *MIS Quarterly*, he is on the editorial board of several leading journals, and he co-founded *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*. Currently, he is chairing the Danish National Committee for Research into Information Systems, the highest recognition for researchers in the IS field. Mathiassen’s editorial work is prominent in the discipline of IS.

His approach to research has been published in such publications as *Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review, Communications of the ACM, MIS Quarterly*, and others. In 2007, a published survey ranked his research as the most-cited IS research paper published in the world in the last 15 years. He is the co-author with John Soden of McKinsey & Co., of *Strategic Planning for MIS* (Wiley, 1977), and co-author of the textbook *Information Technology for Management* (Wiley, 5th ed., 2005), which is the second largest selling information systems textbook in the world.

In 2002, he was appointed as Chairman of the CIS Department at Georgia State University, representing less than one percent of the faculty in the system. In 2007, he was appointed as Professor and Chair of Information Systems in the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. In 2002, he was named Regents’ Professor in the University System of Georgia, representing less than one percent of the faculty in the System. In 2007, he was named Professor Emeritus and Chair of Information Systems in the Robinson College of Business.

While at M.I.T., he was instrumental in developing the Lahey Clinic Automated Medical History System. During the same period, he served as an Instructor at M.I.T. and assisted in the publication of three books: *The Impact of Computers on Management* (1967), *The Impact of Computers on Collective Bargaining* (1969), and *Computers in Knowledge-Based Fields* (1970).

Professor Ephraim McLean joined the faculty of the Anderson Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the fall of 1969. In the fall of 1987, he was named to the G. E. Smith Memorial Chair in Information Systems in the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. In 2002, he was appointed as Professor Emeritus and Chair of Information Systems in the Robinson College of Business.

Dr. McLean has published over 135 articles in such publications as *Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review, Communications of the ACM, MIS Quarterly*, and others. In 2007, a published survey ranked his research as the most-cited IS research paper published in the world in the last 15 years. He is the co-author with John Soden of McKinsey & Co., of *Strategic Planning for MIS* (Wiley, 1977), and co-author of the textbook *Information Technology for Management* (Wiley, 5th ed., 2005), which is the second largest selling information systems textbook in the world.

In 1999, he was recognized as one of the first Fellows of AIS, one of only seven in the world so honored at that time; and in 2007 was given the LEO Lifetime Achievement Award in Information Systems, the highest recognition for a scholar in the IS field.
On August 5, 2009, the first one-year Executive Master of Science in Managing Information Technology (MSIS MIT) class graduated. The ceremony, reception and dinner were held at Maggiano’s in Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers at the ceremony included Fenwick Huss, Dean of the Robinson School of Business, Ephraim McLean, Chair for the Department of Computer Information Systems, and John Hupp, program manager. Congratulations to the class of 2009:

Mr. Scott Akers, Network 1 Consulting
Mr. Ramiro Canovas, EMC Corp
Ms. Dream Gomez, Turner
Mr. Simon Iberos, AT&T
Mr. Franklin Howell, Metropolitan Life
Mr. James Little, Consolidated Container Corp.
Ms. Cristina McLeod, CDC Software
Ms. Richa Mishra,

Previous exp. HP/Canon/Texas Instruments
Mr. David Pickens, AT&T
Mr. David Tatum, FiServ

Additional, congratulations to Cristina McLeod and James Little who received promotions within months after graduation!

Robinson College Gains ISACA Certification for Information Systems Audit and Control Masters Degree Program

The Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) has certified the new Master of Science in Information Systems Audit and Control (MS-ISAC) program at Georgia State’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business. The Robinson College thus becomes one of only eight universities in the country and one of only 16 in the world to receive this recognition. Robinson’s MS-ISAC program is also the first specialized master’s program in the area of IT Audit and Control to receive this approval at an AACSB accredited institution.

With more than 65,000 members in more than 140 countries, ISACA is a recognized worldwide leader in IT governance, control, security, and assurance. Graduates of this program qualify for one year work experience toward the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA®) designation.

Students who graduate from the MS-ISAC program will need only four years, instead of the five required of other graduates, to complete the professional experience requirements of CISA certification. CISA certification also requires passing an exam, adhering to a code of ethics, upholding auditing standards and an ongoing commitment to professional education.

“The Robinson College of Business is the only program in the state of Georgia for students to obtain these skills in both accounting and information systems,” said Dr. Ephraim McLean, chair of Robinson’s Computer Information Systems Department. “The ISACA certification shows that our students will have the deep understanding of information systems that is so critical for today’s accounting majors.”

Dr. Galen Sevcik, chair of Robinson’s School of Accountancy, also noted that, “Organizations want to know that their information technology is reliable, secure and efficient to support effective operations and to comply with regulations such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Robinson’s accounting and management information systems faculty have a long history of research expertise, industry experience and instructional competence integrating these two important disciplines.”

Visit www.cis.gsu.edu and click the MS-ISAC link to get details about the program.

Scholars Visiting the CIS Research Colloquium

During the Fall of 2009, the following scholars made presentations at the CIS department’s research colloquium.

Ram Chellappa, Associate Professor of Information Systems and Operations Management in the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, presented Myths and Facts of Digitization of the Music Industry: On the Temporal Nature of Sales-Rank Relationship, the Relevance of Billboard Charts and the Long Tail Phenomenon.

Wolfgang Maass, Professor of Media Computer Science at the Hochschule Furtwangen University, presented Smart Drugs: Leveraging Ubiquitous Computing and Semantic Technologies in Healthcare Environments.

Huseyin Tanriverdi, Associate Professor in Information, Risk and Operations Management at the University of Texas at Austin, presented Disintegrating Information Technology in Corporate Divestitures: Implications for Regulatory Compliance Risks and Costs.

T. Ravichandran, Associate Professor in the Lally School of Management & Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, presented An Exploration of B2B Information System Governance: Understanding Why Firms seek to Control and Own B2B Information Systems.
One-Year Master’s Degree

A one-year, 12-course Executive Master of Science in Managing Information Technology is being offered by the CIS Department. The courses are the same full-length courses taught in the normal two-year program, but tailored to an executive audience.

Individuals working in the IT field with a minimum of four years of industry experience and an undergraduate degree from an accredited university are eligible. More information on the program and how to apply is available on the program Web site: robinson.gsu.edu/masters-managing-it.

Have You Considered Becoming a Part-time Instructor Teaching CIS Students?

If you have a masters in information systems and five or more years experience in IS or a related field, come and give back to our CIS students as a part-time instructor. Contact Carl Stucke, Associate Departmental Chair at cstucke@gsu.edu.

Help Support Computer Information Systems at GSU

To donate to the CIS department, visit:

www.gsu.edu/giving

Direct your gift to Robinson College, select “other,” and type “Computer Information Systems”