CIS Department Named Top Ten for Graduate Programs

Mark Keil Wins Best Paper in the Journal of Strategic Information Systems

Bill Robinson Featured by IEEE Transactions on Services

Duane Truex Course Ranked in Top 100 by The Aspen Institute

Radu Vlas and Bill Robinson Win Best Paper in Internet and Economy Track

CIS Graduate Teaching Assistants Win College Teaching Excellence Award

AMCIS 2014 Slated for Savannah Georgia

Dan Robey Retires after 43 Years of Teaching

Arun Rai Receives Fellow Award from Association for Information Systems

cover photo
Greetings. Our cover story features Regents’ Professor Arun Rai who became an Association of Information Systems (AIS) Fellow this past year. Rai has published more than 80 refereed papers in premier scholarly journals and is ranked sixth in the world for work published between 2000 and 2010. We congratulate him on this award. Our Department now has 4 of the 58 named AIS Fellows; the other three are Dan Robey, Detmar Straub, and myself.

We garnered additional accolades which included Dr. Mark Keil’s recognition for the best paper published in the Journal of Strategic Information Systems for 2009. Dr. Bill Robinson and his co-author Sandeep Purao, Penn State University, were highlighted by IEEE earlier this year for their work on monitoring processes. Robinson and Radu Vlas, one of our doctoral students, won the best paper award at the 2011 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. Also, Vlas was named one of the five Robinson College graduate teaching assistants to win a GTA Teaching Excellence Award. This year, three of the five winners were CIS doctoral students including Jong Seok Lee and Eunice Park.

I’m pleased to announce that Richard Watson of UGA, Thomas Case of Georgia Southern University and I, will be co-chairing the Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) in 2014. The event will be held in Savannah, Georgia.

Arun Rai, Regents’ Professor and Harkins Chair of Information Systems at Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business, has received the 2010 Fellow Award from the Association of Information Systems (AIS) in recognition of outstanding research, teaching, and service contributions to the information systems discipline.

Rai cofounded the Center for Process Innovation, an interdisciplinary research unit within the Robinson College that promotes research partnerships between industry and academia; and he is internationally renowned for collaborating with companies in a variety of sectors to address scientific problems of practical importance. Firms with which Rai has worked include DaimlerChrysler, Gartner Inc., Georgia-Pacific, IBM, Intel Corporation, SAP, SunTrust, and UPS.

A prolific researcher, Rai has published more than 80 refereed papers in scholarly journals including *Information Systems Research (ISR)*, *MIS Quarterly (MISQ)*, and *Management Science* and in practitioner journals including *Communications of the ACM, IEEE Computer*, and *MIS Quarterly Executive*. He is ranked sixth in the world for work published between 2000-2010 in *ISR* and *MISQ*, the discipline’s two top journals.

He also has distinguished himself in teaching. During his career, Rai has developed and taught courses related to IT and business strategy, supply-chain management, technology and operations, and theory development at master’s, and doctoral level; chaired 24 doctoral dissertations; and served on 30 dissertation committees.

There are only 58 AIS Fellows in the world, four of whom are Robinson College faculty. In addition to Rai, they are: Ephraim McLean, chair of the Department of Computer Information Systems (CIS), inducted in 1999; retired CIS Professor Dan Robey, inducted in 2004; and CIS Professor Detmar Straub, inducted in 2005.

The Association for Information Systems is the premier global organization for academics specializing in information systems. Founded in 1994, it is an international professional society of 4,000 members from 90 countries and a key player in the advancement of the information systems academic community.

Bill Robinson and Sandeep Purao were highlighted in the January-March 2011 issue of *IEEE Transactions on Services Computing* for their research paper on "Monitoring Service Systems from a Language-Action Perspective."

Business processes are increasingly distributed and open, making them prone to failure. Monitoring is, therefore, an important concern not only for the processes themselves but also for the services that comprise these processes. This paper presents a framework for multilevel monitoring of these service systems. It formalizes interaction protocols, policies, and commitments that account for standard and extended effects following the language-action perspective, and allows specification of goals and monitors at varied abstraction levels. It demonstrates how the framework can be implemented and evaluate it with multiple scenarios that include specifying and monitoring open-service policy commitments.

*IEEE Transactions on Services Computing* is a journal that focuses on the algorithmic, mathematical, statistical, and computational methods that are central in services computing; the emerging field of service-oriented architecture, Web services, business process integration, solution performance management, and services operations and management.
Their research aims to provide an automated technique for the discovery and classification of requirements in natural language texts of open source software (OSS) development projects. To that end, they developed software, a Requirements Classifier for Natural Language (RCNL). The RCNL classifier provides an alternative to existing methods that require substantial input from the researcher. The RCNL classifier runs autonomously.

The automated requirements classifier is aimed to help researchers discover patterns and trends in open source software development. By reviewing many projects with a classifier, a researcher can gain a perspective on what kinds of requirements are common. Such observations can be correlated with other project factors, such as project success, timeliness, or quality.

This may lead to advice of this form: “many successful OSS projects for embedded systems include requirements classified as X.” Requirements classification may eventually be applied to a project during development. A project manager may discover, through classification, that there are no requirements of type X (e.g., security). With such knowledge, the project manager can seek remedial action.

Dr. Bill Robinson and Radu Vlas, doctoral student

AMCIS 2014 will be in Georgia

The Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) in 2014 will be in Savannah, Georgia. The three 2014 co-chairs will be:

Ephraim McLean, Georgia State University
Richard Watson, The University of Georgia
Thomas Case, Georgia Southern University

Savannah is one of the most beautiful destinations in the United States. USAWeekend Magazine declared Savannah one of the “top 10 Most Beautiful Places in America.” The New York Times named Savannah one of the “World’s Top Ten Trendy Travel Hot Spots.” Conde Nast Traveler picked Savannah as a “Top 10 U.S City to Visit.” Southern Living readers placed Savannah in second place. In 2008, Savannah was recognized as a “2008 Gold Service Award,” winner by Meetings & Conventions Magazine on its “Best Southern City” list.

Congratulations to Dr. Carl Stucke, Associate Chair of the CIS Department upon receiving the 2010 Robinson College Faculty Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the University, College and Department.
The Aspen Institute recognized Dr. Duane Truex’s Technology and Global Competition (GMBA8220) course among the world’s best in The Aspen 100 ranking. Truex’s course "Technology and Global Competition" was one of only 45 information technology and systems course syllabi worldwide deemed by the Aspen Institute’s awards selection committee as exemplary and worthy of making it available to others to instruct them on what can be done. It is also one of the few in its category at any business school recognized by the Aspen Institute.

The Aspen 100 ranking is the result of over 18 months of rigorous research - designing the survey, outreach to MBA programs around the world, data collection and analysis - looking at how well MBA programs incorporate social, environmental and ethical issues into the training of future business executives. Approximately 80,000 pages of data were collected from 149 participating schools.

Recently examined:
In a 2009 paper published in the Communications of the AIS, “Assessing Researcher Publication Productivity...” six Robinson College researchers were listed among the top 30 IS researchers in the world - Detmar Straub, Mark Keil, Michael Gallivan, Richard Baskerville, Arun Rai and Daniel Robey. No other university had more than one researcher on this list!

Recognized in Top 100
CIS Taught MBA Course

Dr. Duane Truex

The Aspen Institute recognized Dr. Duane Truex’s Technology and Global Competition (GMBA8220) course among the world’s best in The Aspen 100 ranking.

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www.gsu.edu/giving

Direct your gift to Robinson College, select “other,” and type “Computer Information Systems”
Professor Dan Robey retired from GSU in January 2011 following more than 15 years of continuous service to the CIS Department.

Dan was born in Cleveland, OH and attended Hawken School where his father was a faculty member. He graduated from Western Reserve Academy and continued his education at Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH. There he met his future wife, Barbara, whom he married right after college graduation in 1966. Dan attended graduate school at Kent State University, earning his MBA (1968) and DBA (1973).

Dan’s teaching career began in 1968 when he became an Instructor at Gannon University in Erie, PA. He recalls his first classroom lecture: “I covered about half the course on the first day, then realized I would have to adjust a little to make it through the term. Over the next two years, I taught a variety of courses including Management Science, Human Resource Management, and Accounting. Teaching was a great learning experience, so I went back to Kent State to get my doctorate so that I could keep teaching at the university level as a career.”

Dan majored in Administrative Science at Kent State because programs in information systems were just getting started at a few universities. His dissertation studied the effects of computerization on routine decision tasks, and three papers from the dissertation were published quickly in top journals. “I probably would have majored in IS because I was always interested in how computers and information systems would affect management and organizations. There just weren’t many people around with the same interest as me, but I went ahead anyway and eventually found a few kindred spirits.”

After joining GSU, Dan became coordinator of the CIS Department’s Ph.D. program for 13 years and also organized the Department’s Research Colloquia and Professional Development Workshops from 2003 till 2010. Over his career, Dan supervised a total of 44 doctoral dissertations, 22 at GSU, and chairing 15 students’ dissertation committees. “It’s a lot of reading. I remember one dissertation that was over 700 pages long! But it’s so rewarding to see young scholars launch their careers, publish their work, and gain stature in the profession. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful people and also get to know them on a personal level. My students are the core of my ‘academic family,’ which also includes dozens of other people I’ve mentored and worked with over the years.”

Dan’s own research has focused, from the very beginning, on the impacts of information systems on organizations. His publication record on this topic has consistently placed him as one of the mostly widely cited authors in the field of IS, according to published surveys. “You don’t succeed by trying to be the most published scholar in your field,” says Dan. “I just conduct research carefully and try to have each article make a useful contribution to knowledge about the social consequences of IS. I care about that topic, so I want the work to reflect my best efforts. Having great co-authors helps too.”

Dan’s co-authors include researchers at top universities, including MIT and UCLA, and universities from all over the world. “Early in my career, I connected with researchers in Canada, Denmark, and the UK where IS research developed in parallel to the US. Lately, I’ve collaborated with scholars in China, Taiwan, Sweden, France, and other countries. It’s a truly global research community.”

Dan has been invited to give lectures at numerous universities, including UCLA, Harvard Business School, University of Minnesota, London School of Economics, London Business School, University of Manchester, Case Western Reserve University, New York University, University of Oslo, Emory University, Indiana University, and HEC Montréal. He is a frequent contributor to doctoral student and junior faculty development workshops sponsored by academic organizations. He has been program chair or co-chair of the two major IS conferences, ICIS and AMCIS, and has also served on the editorial boards of many top journals in both the IS and management fields.

In his retirement, Dan plans to continue as Editor in Chief of the journal, Information and Organization, a position that he has held since 2000. “I want to continue working with the journal so that its reputation is firmly established as a leading outlet for premier research on the relationship between information technology and organizations. We are a niche journal, so gaining widespread recognition is a bit harder. But if you look at the journal’s editorial board, authors, and articles, you will see quality everywhere. Our articles receive awards, just like the so-called ‘major’ journals, and our articles are cited frequently by authors writing in other journals.”

In addition, Dan said that he wishes to continue working on several other papers that are not yet published. “Some projects take longer than others to finish. I’ve pledged to continue my work on these papers until they get published, as long as I am able to contribute. It’s not that I need more publications, but I care about my co-authors’ careers more than mine now.” He is also preparing a chapter for a book on academic careers, using his own career experience to draw lessons for other scholars.

Dan’s career achievements have been recognized with several awards. In 2000 he was named John B. Zellars Professor of Information Systems at GSU; in 2004 he was elected Fellow of the Association of Information Systems (AIS); in 2009 he received the LEO Award from AIS and ICIS for a Lifetime of Distinguished Contribution; and in 2010 he received the Lifetime Service Award from the Organizational Communication and Information Systems Division of the Academy of Management.

We asked Dan about his secret to career success. “I prefer to call it career fulfillment rather than career success. I have no special secret recipe for career fulfillment, except to find something that you enjoy doing every day and making that your goal. In other words, don’t view your work as a stepping stone to something else, like wealth or a comfortable retirement. As a researcher and an educator, I’ve enjoyed writing papers and tried to make a positive difference in the lives of other people. When you work with Ph.D. students, these two activities come together and forge very strong bonds between people. I am very fortunate to have had this opportunity and a supportive environment at Georgia State.”

-Walter Rich-
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.

One-Year Master’s Degree

A one-year, 12-course Executive Master of Science in Information Systems concentrating on managing information technology is being offered by the CIS Department. More information on the program and how to apply is available on the program website: robinson.gsu.edu/masters-managing-it.

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