From the Chair: Highlights

**ISCRA**M: International meeting on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, to be hosted by IS@NJIT May 2006—See flyer at end!!

**IS Department to help build and study SmartCampus**

The National Science Foundation announced is funding an exciting new initiative which will provide a pervasive mobile computing testbed at NJIT based on a partnership between faculty in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Information Systems:

Manikopoulos, C. (PI- ECE); Jones, Q. (IS), Hiltz, S.R. (IS) and Tekinay, S. (ECE), co-PIs. CRI: SmartCampus: A Wireless Mobile Community System for Connecting People-To-People-To-Geographical-Places, NSF-CISE, 785,000 (submitted August 2004; Awarded June 2005).

**Michael Bieber** was promoted to full professor by action of the NJIT Board of Trustees on June 9, 2005. Congratulations, Michael!

**Ricki Goldman** will be leaving us to join NYU as a full professor in the Program in Educational Communication and Technology in the Department of Administration, Leadership, and Technology in the Steinhardt School of Education, New York University. Best wishes, Ricki!

**Fadi P. Deek** accepted the call to become Dean of the College of Sciences and Liberal Arts at NJIT; good luck, Fadi!! May your student enrollments and alumni endowments blossom. Meanwhile, **Stephen Seidman** resigned as Dean of CCS, and will be joining the faculty of the IS department, after a year of administrative leave. A Dean Search Committee for CCS has been formed, and meanwhile, **Daljit**
Ahluwalia, Chair of the very successful Mathematical Sciences Department at NJIT, agreed to be Acting Dean.

**New Doctors**

IS had five graduates at the May 2005 ceremonies; these include everyone who deposited their final dissertation from mid-May 2004 through the beginning of May 2005. We expect several more to complete their degree requirements before the end of 2005. Our official graduates included:

**Catherine Campbell,** “Negotiation of Software Requirements in an Asynchronous Collaborative Environment,” advised by Fadi Deek and Bartel Van de Walle. (Catherine is now Associate Dean of CCS at NJIT).


**John Michael Lacontora,** “Live, Virtual and Constructive Environments for Performance Support,” advised by Fadi P. Deek and David Mendonca. He is with the Janus Research Group, at Fort Monmouth which provides consulting services to the Department of Defense.

**Jia Shen,** “Collaborative Examinations in Asynchronous Learning Networks,” advised by Michael Beiber and Starr Roxanne Hiltz. (Jia has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at New York Institute of Technology.)

**Yi Zhang,** “Modeling Usage of an Online Research Community,” advised by Starr Roxanne Hiltz. (Yi Zhang is now an Associate Professor at the University of California, Fullerton.)

**Journal Publications** (articles accepted or published in a refereed journal)

**SPECIAL SECTION OF Communications of the ACM ON THE DIGITAL SOCIETY**

Abbe Mowshowitz (CUNY) & Murray Turoff (NJIT), Editors

To appear October 2005

Papers include the following topics:
1) commerce and work (Professor Wolff, NYU): outsourcing and the reconfiguration of business enterprise; the changing nature of work

2) consumption and consumerism (Mowshowitz and Elia Zureik, Queens University, Canada): consumer power in cyberspace (e.g., successful consumer actions such as boycotts of Shell, Pepsi, Heinekin organized through the facilities of the Web)

3) education (Turoff and Hiltz): online learning, competition, commercialization, and methodologies of learning as they relate to current and future technology.

4) health care (Peter Goldschmidt): reconfiguration of health care providers due to computer applications in medical practice and the rise of telemedicine

Sidebars

1) politics and government (Eli Noam, Columbia University): the divide and conquer principle in cyberspace; challenges to legitimacy, authority, and sovereignty

2) community (Barry Wellman, University of Toronto): emerging concepts of neighborhood and social network

3) information provision (Hal Varian, UC-Berkeley): changing character of information access and new hierarchies of information providers

4) aging (Sara Czaja and Roxanne Hiltz): the significance of the aging of the population for the evolution of information technology and its functionalities.

IS PH.D Students

Conference Publications (articles accepted and published in a refereed conference proceedings)
Brook Wu
Yi-fang Brook Wu and Xin Chen, Web Mining from Competitors’ Websites, ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, Chicago (accepted)

Yi-fang Brook Wu, Quanzhi Li, Xin Chen and Razvan Bot, Extracting Conceptual Terms from Medical Documents, AMCIS 2005, Las Vegas (accepted)

Yi-fang Brook Wu, Quanzhi Li, Razvan Stefan Bot, Xin Chen, Automatically Finding Significant Topical Phrases from Documents, AMCIS 2005, Las Vegas (accepted)

IS PH.D Students

Xiaoyu Chen


Magazine / Newsletter Publications (articles accepted and published in a non-refereed venue)

IS PH.D Students

Xiaoyu Chen
Xiaoyu Chen, Marilyn Tremaine, "Multimodal User Input Patterns In A Non-Visual Context", Proceedings of the Seventh International ACM Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS'05), October 9-12, 2005, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Conferences attended

Michael Bieber
Michael Bieber and Soheila Kobler attended a 2-day Outcomes-based Assessment workshop sponsored by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (a federal granting agency) in March in Washington D.C.

George Widmeyer
The Fourth Annual AIS Special Interest Group on Systems Analysis and Design (SIGSAND) conference at the University of Cincinnati, April 23-24, 2005.


Brook Wu
Presented a paper at the Information Resources Management Association International Conference, San Diego, May 2005

6. Talks given (at conferences, public venues, industry visitors or at other universities -

Michael Bieber

George Widmeyer

IS PH.D Students
Suki Grandhi will be interning during the summer and fall at the NN/group (Jakob Nielsen and Don Norman) working with the Director of Research.

Dezhi Wu got a job as Assistant Professor of Information Systems at Southern Utah University in the CSIS Department starting September.

Appointments to Editorial Boards, Conference Committees, etc:

Brook Wu
Program committee member, The 2005 International Conference on Data Mining

Grants submitted (list title, amount and agency)


Murat Tanik (PI, Univ of Alabama at Birmingham), David Allison (Co-PI, UAB), Jill Gemmill (Co-PI, UAB), Brook Wu (Co-PI, NJIT), Scientific Services for Education and Research: Personalized Knowledge Composition and Delivery, submitted to NSF-NSDL 04/11/2005, funds requested: $750,000.

Anything else of note, e.g., appearances on radio talk shows, etc.

Roxanne Hiltz: My Adventure with NJN
On June 9, I went to the studios of NJN in Newark. I thought I was going to be sort of ‘Professor of the Day’ (is that one step above or one step below “soup of the day?”) for an interview on Virtual Classroom and “Swift Trust in Virtual Teams” for a feature on the NJN nightly news. Oh, NO!!! Instead it was a half hour taped live (no cuts, no retakes) four person panel discussion on the topic:
“The Shape of Things to Come: the Future of Telecommunications and Information Technology.”
The guidelines were “jump in and talk, nobody is going to call on you particularly.” The other panelists included the President of the US Division of DoKoMo Japan. It will be broadcast on Saturday July 30 on Channel 13 and other PBS stations nationwide at 12:30; on Sunday July 31 on NJN at 8:30 am; On Monday August 1 on NJN at 11:30 pm (not exactly prime time, are they?) and other venues with a supposed total of 17, 657,000 households. I said “That’s
New Jersey Institute of Technology” very loudly when introduced as from NJIT and managed to say a few other things that hopefully were not totally foolish. I guess I did okay— I did not faint or vomit.

**ISCRAM TO BE HOSTED BY NJIT IN May 2006**

We will need all the faculty, staff, Ph.D. students and hopefully some industrial partners to help us hold a successful meeting that will raise the international profile of NJIT in general and IS@NJIT in particular, for leadership in information systems for crisis/ emergency response and management. The “one page flyer” is attached on the next page. A few days after 9/11/2001, we gathered as a department and vowed to do what we could to use our skills to help prevent, or if not prevent, then manage the crisis recovery from such devastating events, more effectively. ISCRAM, in which Bartel VandeWalle and Murray Turoff are the main organizers, is the end result of this.
Conference Theme
Information Systems as the integration medium for the continuous parallel lifecycle of Emergency Preparedness and Response (Planning, Training, Detection, Alerting, Response, Recovery, and Assessment), and the resulting need for an Information Systems Research and Development Community that can span these application areas.

Example Sub-themes

Important dates
Proposal for Special Session September 30, 2005
Proposal for Participatory Workshop September 30, 2005
Notification for the above October 28, 2005
Early Registration opens December 1, 2005 (Probable Limit 200)
Paper Submissions January 12, 2006
Ph.D. Colloquium Applications February 24, 2006
Review Notifications March 3, 2006
Final Camera Ready Paper* March 17, 2006
Workshops & Doctoral Colloquium May 14, 2006
Main Conference Program May 15-17, 2006

* Full papers 5,000 words; Research in progress, Practitioner Cases 2,500 words

Key Conference Personnel

General Conference Chair
Bartel Van de Walle bartel@uvt.nl
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Doctoral Colloquium Chair
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John R. Harrald, Director, Institute for Crisis Disaster and Risk Management, George Washington University
Starr Roxanne Hiltz, Distinguished Professor and Chairperson, Department of Information Systems, NJIT
Miklos Vasarhelyi, Director, Rutgers Center for Accounting Research and Peat Marwick Professor, Rutgers University

http://iscram.org for latest information and prior proceedings