September 10th Newsletter

To: All CS Undergraduates  
From: the CS Academic Office  
CS Undergraduate Newsletter  
September 10, 2007

Advising and Course Information

* Advising in the Academic Office

* REGISTRATION HOLD ON ALL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS, Thursday, September 6 - Friday, October 12

* A special note about CS 100 for new freshmen

Jobs, Internships, Contests and other opportunities

* Google "Office Hours" TODAY, Monday 9/10, from 1-3 pm - limited space available, see details below

* More details on Google Days (see below)

* Palantir - a start-up with UIUC CS alums involved - visits campus on September 12 (see details below)

* Be a Chic Tech recruiter - Chic Tech is an outreach initiative started to engage high school girls in computer science. You do NOT have to be female in order to help out! See details below!

* Important info about the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference, October 14-17, 2007 in the Disney Hilton, Orlando, Florida

* College of LAS Career Information Night, Tuesday September 25, 2007 in the Illini Union, Rooms A,B and C and the South Lounge

* Call for students to serve on departmental committees (juniors and seniors)

* Call for Participation in a NEW research-focused conference for undergraduate women in CS to be held at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA), Oct. 5-7, 2007

* CS Student Awards Website. Also: Microsoft Fellowship & CRA Award Deadlines.

* APPLY TODAY for the 2007 Fall Engineering Expo Corporate Social

Lectures, Symposia, etc.

* Argonne National Labs 18th Annual Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007 at Argonne National Labs -- Symposium presenters and attendees are required to pre-register and submit abstracts online by the September 14, deadline

* Colloquium: "Beyond Basic Search," Gary Marchionini, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, September 10 (Monday), 2007 at 4:00 p.m., 1404 Siebel Center for Computer Science

ADVISING AND COURSE INFORMATION

* Advising in the Academic Office

The staff in the CS Academic Office -- the advising office for all CS, Math & CS, and Statistics & CS majors -- is here to answer questions about degree requirements, policies and procedures and just about any other issue pertaining to your academics here at UIUC. Office hours are 8:00 to 11:45 am mornings and 1:00 to 4:45 afternoons, M-F. On rare occasions, the office may shut down for meetings or other events, but we usually limit these to an hour at most during low-traffic times. You can also ask advising questions by emailing Steve Herzog, the full-time CS advisor, at smherzog@uiuc.edu. To find out more about the academic office and the CS advising resources, visit the CS website's undergraduate advising wiki at https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/display/undergradProg/CS+Department+Advising.

* Call for students to serve on departmental committees:

The CS Department is accepting applications for students to serve on departmental committees - one student for the Undergraduate Studies Committee and one student for the Student Grievances, Petitions and Capricious Grading Committee. Seniors or juniors preferred. Interested students should submit a one-two paragraph statement of why you are well qualified to serve on the committee in question to Steve Herzog (smherzog@uiuc.edu).

The Undergraduate Studies Committee considers course and curricula matters, policies and procedures pertaining to the department's three degree programs (CS in Engineering, Math & CS in LAS, Stats & CS in LAS). It meets approximately twice per month, sometimes less frequently depending upon how many items the committee has on its agenda.

The Student Grievances, Petitions and Capricious "...handles appeals on grading decisions on grounds of capricious grading. The committee is elected and may not include officers that normally handle student petitions (Director of Undergraduate Programs and Coordinator of Graduate Education and Advisement). It has to follow up the procedures set forth in the campus' academic policies and regulations §3-107.* The committee meets only when a case arises - something that has not happened for several years - but the department sets up a committee to handle such cases every year.
* Registration hold on all College of Engineering students, Thursday, September 6 - Friday, October 12

After the "Add Deadline" each semester the College of Engineering places a hold on all undergraduate student accounts that prevents students from changing their schedule. They do this because there is a College of Engineering policy that requires Dean's approval (or in some cases your Home Department approval) for dropping certain restricted courses.

After Wednesday, September 05, 2007, you will need a dean's signature to drop any of your core Engineering requirements (MATH 115, 220, 221, 231, 241, 385; CHEM 102, 103; PHYS 211, 212, 213, 214). You will need departmental approval to drop CS 100, CS 125, CS 173, CS 225. You won't need a signature to drop any other class, but you will need to go through a web portal to do so. Here is the text of the email you received recently with specific instructions:

Engineering Students:

If you want to change your schedule in any way between September 6th and October 12th, you MUST read this e-mail thoroughly to find out how to do it.

As of September 6th, all Undergrad Engineering students will have an Advising Hold placed on their accounts. We place these holds each semester after the "Add Deadline" in order to prevent you from dropping certain restricted courses, due to a College of Engineering policy that requires Dean's approval (or in some cases your Home Department approval) for these course changes.

Between September 6th and October 12th you will need to go to the following web portal to do all schedule changes while this hold is in effect, which includes adding, dropping, changing sections, or changing credit hours for a course.

URL: https://engineering.uiuc.edu/request_course_change/

All schedule change requests that are not restricted will be processed within a few days of your request. If you want to see if your request has been processed yet, you can visit Banner...it will have your most up to date schedule.

If your request is a restricted one, such as dropping a required course, adding a course late, or going under 12 hours, these are not allowed without approval(s). If you have one of these, you will need to do the following...after you submit the request, the web site will prepare a form that you will need to PRINT OUT. You will then need to get approval on that form from either your Home Department and/or an Engineering Dean (the form will tell you which approval(s) you need to obtain).

DO NOT FORGET to print out the form for restricted requests BEFORE you continue on! You will not be able to go back later to print it out. Follow all instructions given on the form and turn it into 206 Engineering Hall for processing.

Finally, we ask you not to turn in a request that you are unsure of. These cannot be undone easily. Also, do not turn in the same request more than once.

If you have any questions about the policy or the web portal, please contact Engineering Academic Affairs (engrap@uiuc.edu or 333-2280).

* A special note about CS 100 for new freshmen:
If you're a new freshman enrolled in CS 100 and you're wondering why the course doesn't appear on their schedule for the week on UI Integrate, here's the explanation: CS 100 doesn't begin until Tuesday, October 2nd. A week or so before the class begins, we'll be sure to send a reminder to everyone enrolled.

* Google "Office Hours" TODAY, Monday 9/10, from 1-3 pm

Google is hosting "Office Hours" today, Monday 9/10, from 1-3 pm and would like to offer students an opportunity to register: http://www.uiuc.edu/goto/googleofficehours Students can sign up for 1 of 12 slots with a Google engineer. This is the perfect chance for students to get one-on-one interaction with Googlers and ask them anything just about anything; what it's like to work in the real world, advice on projects, etc.. The idea of office hours is to create a casual and relaxed environment for the student to interact with one of their engineers. Often times, at a career fair /presentation setting students have to deal with crowds or time pressure to talk to a company rep - this would minimize that. There are no interview questions asked during these visits and they are purely informational.

You can sign-up online or stop into our administrative office and sign up for a slot. We recommend stopping by our office so we can help you in person! We are in 2232.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you during Google's visit here, September 10 and 11!

Thanks,
Karen
Karen K. Hyman
Associate Director for Public Engagement
Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
201 N. Goodwin Ave
Urbana, IL 61801
217/244-4496
kkyman@uiuc.edu
www.cs.uiuc.edu
Google
September 10, 11, 2007
Google is here Monday and Tuesday, September 10 and 11: www.uiuc.edu/goto/googledays
Enjoy two days of educational events to help you prepare for technical interviews and resume building, generally, and to help educate you about opportunities at Google specifically. Many events require pre-registration, so please look ASAP at the full roster for this major employer and important Corporate Affiliate: www.uiuc.edu/goto/googledays
Events are open, and appropriate, for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Palantir
September 12, 2007
Also, please note the September 12 visit of Palantir, a start-up with many UIUC CS alumni: http://www.cs.uiuc.edu/industry/

Engineering Employment Expo
September 10, 11, 12, 2007
The Engineering Employment Expo (EXPO) is hosted by Engineering Council, a student organization, and spans three days and hosts more than 300 companies seeking to hire some of the nation's top engineering talent for full-time and summer internship positions.

* Be a Chic Tech recruiter

Where are the girls in your computer science classes?!

ChicTech is an outreach initiative started to engage high school girls in computer science. You do NOT have to be female in order to help out! These girls need to hear it from both guys and girls that there aren’t enough women, if any, in their classes.

This semester we will visit high schools in Chicago (suburbs included) and Champaign-Urbana. You only volunteer yourself for the days that you have time. During the visits we give presentations explaining what computer science is and what they can do with a computer science degree while they eat pizza lunches (which you also get to enjoy as a volunteer).

These girls will be invited to participate in the Technical Ambassadors Competition (TAC), in which they complete a technical project for a non-profit organization. The winning teams will be invited to the Retreat (April 19 - 20, 2008).

In order for the Retreat to run smoothly, we will be starting committees this semester. They will cover Food, Game/Movie Night, and a Major Computer Activity, among others. The weekend of the Retreat, we will also need a lot of volunteers. You do not have to be there the whole time (unless you are a counselor). Even a few hours of your time will be of tremendous help.
If you are interested, please send the following to sdchan@uiuc.edu:
  a) first and last name
  b) netid
  c) days you are able to go on visits (not mandatory but would be nice)
  d) best time for meetings to be held (must be Tuesday or Thursday after 7; your choice as to which day and what time)
  e) whether you want to be part of a committee for the Retreat

I look forward to meeting you! Samantha Chan
ChicTech Student Coordinator

* Important info about the Tapia Celebration! October 14-17, 2007

Students
If you have minority students you work with who would like to attend but who have no travel support, we will try to secure some assistance for them. Please have them register ASAP at https://my.rice.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1178907169932, where they can indicate their interest in attending.

Conference Registration
If you have not yet registered for the conference itself, today is the last day for the Early Bird discount. Registration information is available at http://www.richardtapia.org/2007/travel.php

Hotel Reservations
I have heard from some of you that you have had difficulty making hotel reservations for the Tapia Celebration. There is a new means to make a reservation, provided at the conference Website, http://www.richardtapia.org/2007/travel.php, as follows:

Hotel
Hilton Walt Disney World Resort Hotel
Phone: (407) 827-4000
The negotiated hotel room rate is $169+tax/night.

To register, call the hotel at (407) 827-4000.
Use the Group/Convention Code: “Grace Hopper - Richard Tapia” to receive the negotiated rate, which should also be available as early as three days before and as late as three days after the conference dates.

The Tapia Conference is aimed at providing a supportive networking environment for under-represented groups across the broad range of computing and information technology, from science to business to the arts to infrastructure.

The 2007 Conference will include several successful aspects of past events, such as:

- A robust technical program, which includes papers, workshops, panels, and birds-of-a-feather sessions.
- Invited plenary talks that feature the voices of our community who have excelled across different benchmarks and will discuss how they have organized their scientific and non-scientific ideas to find their niche and become successful.
- A dynamic poster session, focused on students, providing a place to present new, exciting research in a relatively informal, supportive setting. Winners of the poster competition will be eligible for ACM's Student Research Competition Grand Finals.
- The Doctoral Consortium, a full-day sounding board to guide and encourage students working on their Ph.D.s.
- Several opportunities to network, including the posters reception, breaks, and the gala awards banquet.
FYI:
This October 14-17, 2007 more than 400 students, professors, and researchers will gather at the Disney Hilton in Orlando, Florida for the fourth Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference. Held every two years, the Tapia Conference provides a welcoming and supportive setting for all participants and particularly for students and faculty from under-represented groups. For more info, visit http://www.richardtapia.org/2007/

* College of LAS Career Information Night, Tuesday September 25, 2007 in the Illini Union, Rooms A,B and C and the South Lounge
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Alumni Association will host its 11th Career Information Night on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 in conjunction with the LAS Office of Student Academic Affairs, LAS Council, and LAS Leaders. The event will be held from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. in Rooms A, B, C, and South Lounge of the Illini Union. This year the South Lounge will highlight a cluster of four tables (Division of General Studies, LAS Alumni Association, University of Illinois Alumni Association, and University of Illinois Career Center) under the banner of "Career Resources to Help Build Your Future."
From 4:00-5:00 p.m., the University of Illinois Career Center will also host resume writing and critiquing workshops in Rooms 404 and 406 of the Illini Union.
LAS Career Information Night is an annual fall event for LAS undergraduates. As you know, one of the toughest decisions for LAS students is the identification of a career path. This evening offers LAS alumni an opportunity to return to campus, where they dialogue one-on-one with LAS students. Discussion topics may include: how and why they chose their career path, how they landed their first job, the advantages and disadvantages of their occupation, and the skills and academic preparation required for their career.

* CS Student Awards Website. Also: Microsoft Fellowship & CRA Award Deadlines.
As the academic year gets underway, I am writing to direct your attention to the Student Awards Information Agora page for the Department of Computer Science, where you can find a listing of relevant upcoming award, scholarship, and fellowship opportunities, as well as additional resources. https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/display/studentawards
Many of these are external opportunities, but some (at the top of the page) will require an application through the Student Awards Committee for the selection of an official nominee or winner for the Department. I hope that you will take a look at the page, and I wish you the best success in the new school year.
Also, at this time, I am announcing Departmental deadlines for the Microsoft Research Graduate Fellowship and the CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Award Program. Additional information and requirements are available on Agora.
1) Microsoft Research Graduate Fellowship
   When: Internal Deadline - 9/21/2007
   Who: 2nd and 3rd year Ph.D. students
   Award: 100% of tuition and fees plus a $20,000 stipend https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/x/BIEP
2) CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Award Program
   When: Internal Deadline - 9/21/2007
   Who: Undergraduates engaged in research; seniors are preferred.
   Award: $1,000 https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/x/24AP
On behalf of the Student Awards Committee,
Sincerely,

Colin Robertson

* Call for Participation in a NEW research-focused conference
for undergraduate women in CS to be held at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA), Oct. 5-7, 2007
OurCS: Opportunities for Undergraduate Research In Computer Science http://www.cs.cmu.edu/ourcs/
Kindly Sponsored by Microsoft Research
We are pleased to announce that Frances Allen, 2006 Turing Award Winner will be our Distinguished Speaker.
Other Keynote speakers include
- Jennifer Chayes, Co-founder and Co-manager, Microsoft Theory Group and Research Area Manager at Microsoft Research and
- Jeannette Wing, Presidents' Professor of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon, and Assistant Director of CISE, National Science Foundation.
The conference will give undergraduate women opportunities to:
-- Meet others who share their curiosity and interest in computer science
-- Discuss their research
-- Tackle research problems with leaders from industry and academia
-- Learn about life in graduate school
-- Present a talk and/or poster: great for first-timers!
Check out the website for details: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/ourcs/---------------------------------------------

* Especially for Students interested in Human-Computer Interaction: Join the CALLAS community (Conveying Affectiveness in Leading-edge Living Adaptive Systems)
My name is Danny Lucchesi, a '03 grad from the U of I and I came across your department at UIUC as I was researching affective computing initiatives at the university. I'm working on behalf of a project called CALLAS here in Italy, which I'd like to present to your department. The CALLAS (Conveying Affectiveness in Leading-edge Living Adaptive Systems) Integrated Project intends to develop affective interface technology which will be central to the new media experience such as: Digital
Theatre, Interactive TV, Augmented Reality Art, and Interactive public performances. We would like to extend an invitation to visit our project website (www.callas-newmedia.eu) and register as a member into the CALLAS community. We don’t have any American community members yet, and as an alum I’d love to incorporate some members into our community from UIUC. I wanted to ask if it would be ok to send some CALLAS brochures that perhaps could be set out for some students or colleagues to take a look at.

CALLAS is co-financed by the European Union within the Sixth Framework Programme for RTD - (Contract IST-034800) and has started on 1 November 2006.

CALLAS incorporates an open and collaborative network of professionals and organisations around the world who will actively take part within the project. This community will have access to CALLAS technologies and have priority in the adoption of CALLAS solutions. We would like to invite you to visit our website and see what CALLAS can offer. Membership to the community is free and provides users with the opportunity to interact with a network working together to advance the state of the art in multimodal affective applications.

Thanks and looking forward to hearing from you,

Danny Lucchesi
CALLAS Communications
Metaware SpA
Pisa, Italy

* APPLY TODAY for the
2007 Fall Engineering Expo Corporate Social

http://expo.cen.uiuc.edu/
(look for corporate social under students)

September 11th, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.

Alice Campbell Alumni Center

Recruiters from participating companies attending Engineering Expo on Tuesday and Wednesday will review your application.

Over 30 companies will be present at the Corporate Social. Note that this event is FREE and INVITATION-ONLY!

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, ETC.

* Argonne National Labs 18th Annual Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007 at Argonne National Labs – Symposium presenters and attendees are required to pre-register and submit abstracts online by the September 14, deadline

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Argonne National Laboratory is hosting the 18th Annual Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, to be held at the Laboratory on Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007. Last year the Symposium was very successful in generating interest and enthusiasm among over 400 persons in attendance including undergraduates, Argonne scientists, university faculty, and graduate students. Please encourage your undergraduate students who are engaged in research to present the results of their work at this year’s Argonne Symposium. Undergraduates not involved in research are also encouraged to attend to learn about the various research opportunities that are available at Argonne. All Symposium presenters and attendees are required to pre-register and submit abstracts online by the September 14, deadline. The registration fee includes a reception/banquet that will be held on Friday evening, November 2, 2007. Instructions for preparation of abstracts, abstract submission, and registration information are available online at *http://www.dep.anl.gov/p_undergrad/ugsymp.*

We would appreciate it if you would post the Symposium Flyer where undergraduates are likely to see it. Selected abstracts and final program information will be posted on our website by October 15, 2007.

Thank you for your help in promoting this important event. Please distribute to your undergraduates.

Sincerely,

The Symposium Organizing Committee

L. Phaire-Washington, PhD
Senior Program Leader
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue/DEP 223
Argonne IL 60439-4845
Tel: 630-252-1751
Fax: 630-252-3193

* COMPUTER SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM
(and Graduate Seminar)

Beyond Basic Search
Research and development in information retrieval (IR) over the past half century has led to today's search engines and a new information industry. This industry does an adequate job of satisfying basic search requests for well-specified or highly specific information. Many research and development challenges remain, most notably, support for open-ended, learning and knowledge creation information goals and other kinds of exploratory search activities. Achieving such goals typically requires iterative, ongoing information-seeking processes in ill-defined solution spaces and benefit from systems that are tuned as much to recall as they are to precision. These kinds of searches require the information seeker to be actively engaged in examining and interpreting results that in turn may change the search strategy. In addition to the inherent intellectual and technical challenges this kind of search entails, it is very difficult to evaluate effectiveness without direct involvement of the human seeker -- a costly constraint. This talk will discuss some of the characteristics of exploratory search, current efforts to develop information seeking support systems that support them, and examples of evaluation techniques.

Bio:
Gary Marchionini is Cary C. Boshamer Professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he heads the Interaction Design Laboratory and the Open Video Project (http://open-video.org/). His current research projects focus on interfaces that support information seeking and information retrieval; usability of personal health records; video surrogation; personal identity in cyberspace; and evaluation of interactive media, especially for learning and teaching. He has had grants or awards from the National Science Foundation, the National Library of Medicine, the Library of Congress, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Kellogg Foundation, NASA, The National Cancer Institute, Microsoft, Google, and IBM. He has published over 150 articles, chapters and reports in a variety of books and journals and is author of a book titled "Information Seeking in Electronic Environments." He is Editor-in-Chief for the ACM Transaction on Information Systems and serves on the editorial board of ten other journals. He was the Conference Chair for ACM Digital Library '96 Conference and for the 2006 ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries. He was program chair for the 2002 ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries and Americas-chair for the ACM SIGIR 2005 Conference. He served as an at large member of the board of directors for the American Society for Information Science & Technology from 1998-2001 and currently is serving a four-year term (2006-2010) on the Biomedical Library and Informatics Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine. He was a co-organizer for workshops on exploratory search at SIGIR and SIGCHI in 2006.