Commencement 2009

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) graduated 64 students on Sunday, May 17, 2009. A departmental ceremony was held in the morning and attended by the graduates, their families, and CSE professors. This year’s faculty speaker, selected by the students, was Paul R. Brenner, high-performance computing engineer in the Center for Research Computing and concurrent assistant professor in the department. Schubmehl-Prein Professor Kevin W. Bowyer, the department’s chair, served as the master of ceremonies. The ceremony was organized and coordinated by seniors Daniel Collom, Michael Ellerhorst, and Anh-Minh Pham, with help from administrative assistants Dian Wordinger and Ginny Watterson.

This year’s Outstanding CPEG Senior Award recipient was Christopher Fallin, who also received the Rev. Thomas A. Steiner Award from the College of Engineering. The Outstanding CS Award recipient was Adam Lusch.
Chawla Gives Keynote at PAKDD Workshop

Assistant Professor Nitesh Chawla gave an invited talk during the workshop on quality issues — Quality Issues, Measures on Interestingness, and Evaluation of Data Mining Models — during the 13th Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD) in April. Titled “A Framework for Monitoring Classifiers’ Performance: When and Why Failure Occurs,” his talk presented a framework for proactively detecting breakpoints in classifiers’ predictions and shifts in data distributions. The talk incorporated the work of Chawla’s Ph.D. students, David Cieslak and Troy Raeder.

Patent Issued to Chen and Hu

Radiation therapies for cancer treatment present a variety of challenges for new algorithm development, which researchers in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering are addressing. Most recently, two faculty members — Professors Danny Z. Chen and X. Sharon Hu — were issued a U.S. utility patent for their team’s efforts in intensity-modulated radiation therapy.

Patent 7,466,797 contains new algorithms for solving a key problem in controlling delivery error for a common radiation cancer therapy approach called step-and-shoot intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT). The algorithms (and resulting patent) were developed in conjunction with Shuang Luan, assistant professor of computer science and radiology at the University of New Mexico; Xiaodong Wu, assistant professor of electrical and computing engineering and radiation oncology at the University of Iowa; Chao Wang, scientist at Xcision Medical Systems; and Dr. Cedric X. Yu, University of Maryland School of Medicine. Luan, Wu, and Wang each received their doctorate from the University; Chen served as their adviser.

Steinhaeuser Wins SIAM Award

Karsten Steinhaeuser won “Best Poster Award” at the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics International Conference on Data Mining (SDM 2009), for his doctoral forum presentation titled “Descriptive and Predictive Analysis of Climate Data.” Steinhaeuser’s adviser is Assistant Professor Nitesh Chawla.

Meurer Database Projects Competition

The second annual Advanced Database Projects Contest, sponsored by the Thomas Meurer Endowment Fund for Excellence, was held earlier this year. As part of CSE 40746: Advanced Database Projects, which is taught by Professor Ramzi Bualuan, students compete while they study advanced topics in database design, development, and management. The top three teams each received cash awards.

First Place: Left to right, Leanne LeBlanc, Lisa White, and Sarah Ring

Second Place: Left to right, Nicholas Lovell, Daniel Collom, and David Larcara

Third Place: Left to right, Robert Wetach, Mark Boedman, and Alexander Tomala

The awards are supported by the Ateyeh Endowment for Excellence Fund, which has supported activities aimed at recruiting, retaining, and nurturing the best undergraduate and graduate students since its inception in 2007.

Meurer, a 1966 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, started working in software engineering and databases with Goodyear Corporation, the U.S. Navy, and Cullinet. He then started, sold, and took public a series of companies, all of which develop and market successful products based on database technology.
Fallin Receives NSF Fellowship

Christopher Fallin was one of three University of Notre Dame seniors awarded 2009 National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate fellowships. The NSF Graduate Fellowship Program supports outstanding graduate students in engineering, mathematics, science, and technology, who are pursuing research based master’s and doctoral degrees.

This fall he will be studying electrical and computer engineering and will be part of the Computer Architecture Lab at Carnegie Mellon University. He hopes to stay in academia, with the goal of becoming a professor.

Fallin completed his B.S. in computer engineering in spring 2009, as well as an honors thesis in face image annotation under the direction of Patrick Flynn, professor of computer science and engineering.

Blaich and Liao Place Second at NSIC

Graduate students Andrew Blaich, right, and Qi Liao took second place in the Third Annual National Security Innovation Competition (NSIC) held on May 1, 2009. Their innovation, Enterprise Network Activities Visualization (ENAVis), streamlines the way in which network administrators can view a complicated network.

Using ENAVis, administrators can gain greater insights about the connectivity between hosts, users and applications that is often lost in multi-user systems deployed in an enterprise network. Thus, they can better manage and track user identity to determine “who” is doing “what” on the network. This is particularly important as the nation continues to focus on implementing strategies and security measures to protect the United States from terrorist attacks or threats.

Sponsored by the Colorado Homeland Defense Alliance, Colorado Springs Technology Incubator and National Homeland Defense Foundation, the contest is open to full-time students at U.S. universities. The 2009 competitors featured some of the nation’s most prestigious schools, including Air Force Institute of Technology, Arizona State University (first-place winners), Colorado School of Mines (third-place recipients), Colorado State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Michigan Technological University, Pennsylvania State University, Rice University, University of Arizona, University of Buffalo, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, University of Denver, University of Washington, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Washington State University.

All teams were also required to have a faculty adviser. Advisers to the Notre Dame team were Associate Professor Aaron Striegel and Assistant Professor Douglas Thain from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Commencement 2009 (cont.)

Michael Kelly was a member of the winning iPhone development project team in CSE 30322, a new course in programming paradigms that will be required of all computer science majors beginning in 2010. Kelly worked with physics graduates Andrew Massari and Marissa Pillerle to develop an application named iShouldReadMore that works with web services from BetterWorld Books to identify books of interest to the user based on multidimensional searches.

Finally, the Outstanding CSE Faculty Teaching Award was granted to Assistant Professor Douglas Thain.

Most of our graduates are planning to take a position in industry, four are entering graduate school, and one is joining the armed forces.

Students receiving their degrees at this ceremony were Sam Banina, Kyle Barkes, Michael Batanian, Patrick Braha-Henebry, John Bray, Anthony Ceravolo, Bryan Chamberlain, Daniel Collom, Mark Durst, Michael Ellerhorst, Joshua Entz, Christopher Fallin, Devin Fee, Adele Fleury, Michael Garrison, Brent Gills, Lindsay Gilmour, Amanda Lentz, Gregory Hochsprung, Joseph Hof, Robert Horst, Michael Kelly, John Kinney, John Kustura, Charles Lamanna, Michael Lammie, David Larcara, Daniel Lohmer, Nicholas Lovell, Adam Lusch, Phillip MacCart, R. Ryan McCune, Tamika Mclean, Brendan McNutt, John Meehan, Jonathan Metallo, Michael Moriarty, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Daniel Niceswanger, Mark Pasquier, Anh-Minh Pham, William Ratliff, Sarah Ring, Nicholas Shaneyfelt, Adam Sporinsky, Patricia Strei, Kevin Sullivan, Edward Suski, Joseph Thompson, Kristopher Tracy, Jorge Vendries Algarin, Phillip Whelan, Lisa White, and Jared M. Zenk.
ANNUAL EE-CSE PRE-GAME TAILGATE PARTY

October 3, 2009 • Notre Dame vs. Washington

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Payable to: University of Notre Dame, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering

Mail form with payment to: EE-CSE Pregame Tailgate Party
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
ATTN: DIAN WORDINGER
384 Fitzpatrick Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5637

Tailgate only cost is $15 and includes hamburgers, bratwursts, salads, chips, cookies, and soft drinks. The party will be located in the foyer of Cushing Hall and start at 11:30 a.m.

Limited number of game & tailgate ticket packages for EE-CSE alumni only, $83 each. Payment is required to reserve a game & tailgate ticket package.

For more information, contact:
Dian Wordinger, (574) 631-8320 or Wordinger.3@nd.edu
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