Computer Science Department
News Letter 2015 - 2016

A Note From Chair:

Dr. Bill Zhong, Chair

The department of computer science was officially created in 2012, although the computer science program has been with Troy University since the 1970's. Since the creation, the department has grown at a very rapid rate. The enrollment, undergraduate and graduate combined, grows at 20% annually, we have since hired 4 full time professors. Since last year, we have seen a large number of international students, particularly from India, at the graduate level and we expect this trend to continue. We have signed an agreement with a Chinese university to start a new 3+1 program and that program could potentially bring 50 to 100 students per year. Our students have been very successful in getting good paying jobs throughout the U.S. We are working with a number of local and regional employers to set up internship programs and some of them have already started to take our interns. We plan on hiring another professor in the coming year.

- Bill Zhong

Dr. Alberto Arteta joins Computer Science as an Assistant Professor

Dr. Alberto Arteta is the newest addition to the Computer Science department. He is from Madrid, Spain. He is currently working as an assistant professor. He joined the faculty on August, 2015. He is currently teaching Computer Science I and II classes.

Dr. Arteta is currently involved in a few research projects, including pattern recognition, automatic trading, and the writing of a book about mathematical models applied to politics

Dr. Alberto Arteta Assistant Professor

Computer Science and Mathematics Career Fair 2016

The Computer Science department, in cooperation with the Math department and the CS club, organized the first CS and Math career fair, exclusive for CS and Math major students. The event took place in the Spring of 2016. CS students were able to bring their resumes and network with possible employers and coworkers. These companies were offering both full-time position for recent graduates and internships for current students. Among the companies that attended the event were:

- CGI
- NASA
- FBI
- Command Alkon
- Jitterbit

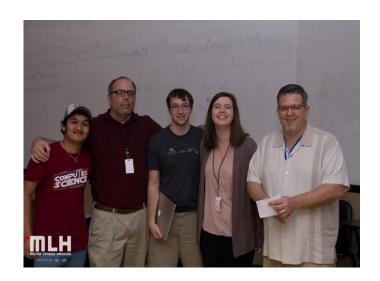*Special thanks to Craig for organizing this event

Computer Science Club Members participate in Hackathon

Members of the CS club participated in the annual hackathon hosted by Georgia State University in Atlanta. They had a lot of fun and earned a lot of experience in this intense coding competition. Among all the challenges they participated in, the Troy CS club won first place in GE's (General Electric) contest called the Internet of Things (IOT). The members created an app called *ShockDetector.* This shock detector detects the motion of a shipped package and reports to the web server when it reaches a certain limit. It sends the date and time of the event. Then the package owner/carrier can get information about when the event actually happened. This app was built in using android studio. As a prize for winning the competition, the students won an internship with GE for the summer of 2016.

Pearson Coding Competition

Members of the CS club also participated in the Pearson Coding Competition of 2016. The members of the team were: Aaron Martin, John Tran, Soumith Thumma, Travis Clinkscales, and James Davis. Together they made an app called *ClassMap*. Using mnemonic devices such as imagery and keywords, together with the concept of mind-mapping, *ClassMap* collectively creates course and subject learning paths that can be used by other students and instructors in adaptive teaching and learning. The drag and drop interface is simple to use, and students vote to rank concepts higher on the learning path. The students won second place in this intense competition, as well as a $1000 cash prize. These competitions are available every year, and students from the CS club are constantly participating to enhance their coding skills.

From Our Interns

- **Sahil Hamal, sophomore, intern at General Electric**

  "It was an excellent program, SWEAP: Software Engineering Apprenticeship Program that focuses on training students in an industrial setting, it was well paying and in a good location at a successful company.

  It is freaking hard, especially for an international student. The location of Troy does not help because it is not in a major metropolitan area. Not as many companies know that much about it, so you have to look elsewhere and put in a lot of self-effort. It's also more difficult to find internships the less experience you have, this one being after my sophomore year.

  I worked as a Front-end Web developer, and learned agile methodologies. The biggest thing I took is that no one knows everything, and the biggest thing you can learn from school is to learn how to learn.

  Everyone has to start somewhere, and an internship basically gives a student an entry level experience while being in college. So, don't be afraid to try and find something that excites you. If you're scared, don't be, because they know you're inexperienced, and are willing to work with you."

- **Charles Womble, senior, intern at CGI**

  1. I interned at CGI in here in Troy.
  2. I chose CGI even after receiving a few other offers because they were here in Troy, (I recently got married, in May and didn't want to move around right away) and because I new the company.
  3. Getting an internship was not easy, I applied for more than 300 positions (about 10-20 applications a day for several months) and only received a handful of offers. I think being in Alabama far from any tech hubs, coupled with the fact that so many students are looking for internships, and Troy being relatively unknown as far as technology jobs go makes landing an internship harder. Despite all that I believe every Troy student should try hard, as persistence will pay off.
  4. I primarily built experience in web development (server side code, client side scripts, databases, etc.) I also got to experience different methods of software development from start to finish (such as agile vs waterfall methods) and interacting with customers/Testers which is different from the kind of experience you get in University. The biggest take away I would say is that a real job is very different from what you do in University, but that doesn't mean University isn't important!
  5. My advice for future interns would be, Don't be afraid (internships are great confidence boosters), Learn as much as possible (you can never know too much in our career field), Talk to people (if you're stuck, or even if you're not, get to know your coworkers/mentors networking is very important in the workforce), and lastly don't give up (keep trying your best no matter what!).

Word from Our Professors

- **Dr. Yanjun Zhao, assistant professor**

  Hello, my name is Yanjun Zhao and I am from China. I graduated from Georgia State University with a PhD in Computer Science. I love teaching computer science and I think is very useful for other people to know about it.

  I have very good expectations for this year. I'd like my students to gain more knowledge and skills in computer science. I want them to be able to use what they've learned in class to deal with real-world problems.

- **Dr. Hyung Jae Chang, assistant professor**

  Hello, I am a professor from Seoul, South Korea. I got my PhD in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Dallas.

  When it comes to teaching, I know that teaching something new to others is challenging, but very rewarding in a sense that makes learners foster their interests and use their knowledge to contribute to the innovation of society. In addition, by teaching others, the best part is that I might also learn more on the subject and gain a new way of thinking that can be applied to the problems that I want to solve for my research. I chose computer science because I thought that the innovation would come from computing technology. And, in these days, it became one of the most important and popular disciplines in today's society as all industries involve certain level of computing.

  My expectations for this year are more dynamic activities in the Computer Science department at the Montgomery campus, and building more relationship and connections between the Troy and Montgomery campuses.

Computer Science Club in Pictures   .

The CS club organizes a few Game Nights throughout the academic year. Members get together and have a fun night. At the same time, they are able to enjoy free snacks, as well as the opportunity to win prizes in the gaming tournaments!

The CS club also organizes a few movie nights throughout the academic year. Different movies are proposed and the one with most votes is usually played at that movie night. Free snacks are also provided, and students are able to interact and network with each other.

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