New student enrichment fund

The CIS Executive Board begins a new fund raising initiative with the establishment of a fund to support student academic endeavors.

Alumni invited to share successes with students

Graduates of the CIS Program are invited to join faculty and students at a welcome reception for new students on August 27. The informal event will follow the first class session of CIS 720, the interdisciplinary seminar, and will be held at Manoa Gardens on campus starting at 5:45 pm. This is just one of the ways program alumni are invited to interact with current and prospective students.

Last fall, a brochure announcing the deadlines for applications for admission was sent to alumni through the University of Hawai‘i Foundation. Alumni are being asked to encourage applications from qualified individuals suited to this unique interdisciplinary program.

News is also welcome. Announcements of job changes, promotions, awards or significant publications will be included in future newsletters, along with any personal news such as marriages or new babies (send photos!). We would also like to add photos and quotes to the testimonials section of the CIS website.

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>CIS New Student Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>CIS welcome: faculty, alumni, and students</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Area exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/22-26</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Area exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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The CIS PhD Program is a collaborative effort of the School of Communications, the Department of Information and Computer Sciences, the Department of Information Technology Management and the Library and Information Science Program.
Exam, focus area changes

During the 2008-2009 academic year, a number of changes took place in the CIS Program. The most recent is the addition of Biomedical Informatics as one of the interdisciplinary focus areas. BMI has been a secondary area on a trial basis since Fall 2005. At its spring meeting, the Executive Board voted to make it a primary focus area as well, based in part on faculty expertise and student interest. (See article, p. 3.) At the same time, the focus area in Computer Software Systems was removed. Most of the students interested in CSS are now pursuing it through the Information and Computer Science Ph.D. program rather than CIS.

Changes affecting the area exams went into effect for students who entered in fall 2008. “The most significant changes are directed at a greater emphasis on research orientation early in the program,” says CIS Program Chair Dr. Dan Suthers. Students are assigned a faculty mentor by the beginning of the second year. A research publication requirement replaces one of the primary exams. The hope is that students will complete their exam period ready to write a proposal, according to Suthers. Other program changes clarify milestones and expectations to better prepare students for their final defenses.

The CIS Program also has its first staff person. For the more than two decades of its existence, the program has been run by a faculty volunteer with the support of a graduate student. As the result of a formal program review, CIS was allocated a half-time staff person. The new staff member is Cindy Scheopner, who is also a graduate student in the UH Philosophy department.

Congrats to grads!

Recent CIS graduates are listed on the right side of this page, along with their dissertation titles and chairs. A full list of dissertation titles and abstracts, along with committee members, may be found on the CIS website.

**Fall 2007**

**John Reardon** (Chair: Davidson)
A Study of the Assimilation of Electronic Medical Records by Independent Physician Practices

**Stephanie Rolfe** (Chair: Wedemeyer)
Conceptualizing ICTs for Development: A Comparison of Four Pacific Island Countries and New Zealand as Donor

**Ravikiran Vatrapu** (Chair: Suthers)
Technological Intersubjectivity and Appropriation of Affordances in Computer Supported Collaboration

**Ip-Kin Wong** (Chair: Macdonald)
Information and Communication Technology in Professional Organizations: An Empirical Investigation of the Social Actor Model

**Spring 2008**

**Paulo Marin** (Chair: Suthers)
Informational Exchanges Among Hawaii Marine Stakeholders

**Matt Sharritt** (Chair: Suthers)
Students’ Use of Social and Cognitive Affordances in Game Play Within Educational Contexts: Implications for Learning

**Summer 2008**

**Junghyun Nam** (Chair: Bui)
Perceived Quality and Motivations on Intention-To-Use of a General Web Portal

**Fall 2008**

**Jennifer Campbell-Meier** (Chair: Knuth)
Case Studies on Institutional Repository Development: Creating Narratives for Project Management and Assessment

**Spring 2009**

**Patricia Donohue** (Chair: Crosby)
Cooperative Groups in Practice: An Analysis of Affect and Productivity in Group Interactions

**Claire Hitsugui** (Chair: Remus)
Effects of Culture on Online Initial Trust: Individual Level Analysis

**Marc LePape** (Chair: Suthers)
Human-Computer Interaction in Extreme Environments: Interaction Effects Between Field Dependency-Interdependency and Altered Gz Accelerations on End-User Performance

**Miwa Yamazaki** (Chair: Davis)
The Effect of Message Framing on Attitudes and Intentions Towards Diabetes Mellitus Type II Prevention
Biomedical Informatics, an emerging new interdisciplinary field, is comprised of Bioinformatics (which finds itself at the intersection of Biology and Computer Science and includes Genomics, Proteomics and related fields), and Medical Informatics (which finds itself at the intersection of Medicine, Public Health and Computer Science). The domain of biomedical informatics intersects frequently with concepts from the information sciences, computer sciences, information technology management, biology, clinical sciences, healthcare delivery, health finance, health economics, communications sciences, public health and epidemiology, nursing, and so on. That is, biomedical informatics is a broad, multi-disciplinary field that encompasses key areas of the Communications and Information Sciences Ph.D. program.

Development and use of Biomedical Informatics techniques and technologies has the potential to improve access, equity, efficiency and quality of healthcare delivery and to support action on global challenges, but effective deployment and use remains elusive. This faltering success to-date is often attributed to the lack of knowledgeable, well-trained and focused professionals in the field. The growing demand for and complexity of health services and the important role that communication and information systems play in healthcare delivery increases the demand for professionals, managers, instructional faculty, and researchers who are knowledgeable about the intersection of healthcare delivery, health information and information technology applications for healthcare.

The proposal to the CIS Executive Committee to expand BMI offerings included the work of these faculty members:

- Elizabeth Davidson (ITM) – the Electronic Medical Record, healthcare actors, health finance
- Dineh Davis (COMM) – healthcare messaging
- Julia Patriarche (ICS) – diagnostic algorithms, health technology
- Guylaine Poisson (ICS) – bioinformatics
- Nancy Reed (ICS) – heart sounds analysis, autonomous agents for health
- David Pager (ICS) – the Electronic Medical Record, future medical technology
- Luz Quiroga (LIS) – organization of medical information
- Dennis Streveler (ICS) – medical informatics, international public health.

Professor W. Wesley Peterson (CIS, ICS) passed away on May 6th, 2009. Dr. Peterson is known for inventing the Cyclic Redundancy Check for which he was awarded the Japan prize in 1999. He also researched and published in the areas of error correcting codes, signal detection theory, programming languages, systems programming, networks and cryptography. He received the IEEE Centennial award in 1984 and the Claude E. Shannon award in 1981.

Ravi was also co-author on a paper first authored by Richard Medina (ICS PhD student) that received the Best Student Paper award at the Computer Supported Collaborative Learning 2009 conference. This paper was also nominated for Best Paper: Medina, R., Suthers, D., & Vatrapu, R. (2009). Inscriptions becoming representations. In C. O'Malley, P. Reimann, D. Suthers & A. Dimitracopoulou (Eds.), Computer Supported Collaborative Learning 2009. Rhodes, Greece. Ravi has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at the Center for Applied ICT at the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) in Copenhagen, Denmark.


In March, Zach Tomaszewski (CIS student) presented his fourth conference paper: "Demeter: An Implementation of the Marlinspike Interactive Drama System." He's now spending the summer trying to actually complete said implementation. He still enjoys TAing ICS111.

Kumiko Aoki (1995) writes, “After teaching at the Rochester Institute of Technology for three years and at Boston University for 5.5 years, I came back to my home country in January 2004. Since then, I’ve been working for the National Institute of Multimedia Education (NIME), which was merged with the Open University of Japan in April this year. So, my current job title is Associate Professor at the Center for ICT and Distance Education, the Open University of Japan. My primary job responsibility is research e-learning development around the world and also to inform professionals around the world of the current status of e-learning development in Japan. I travel frequently, especially to Europe and North America. From July 15 to August 15 this year, I will be working for the Open University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain, as an invited visiting researcher. I’ve been speaking at numerous international conferences and I will be a keynote speaker at the International Conference on Interactive Computer aided Learning in September.”

Candace Chou (2001) is now an associate professor in Learning Technologies at the Department of Organization Learning and Development at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. She lives with her husband and six-year-old son in the Twin Cities, Minnesota.


Application deadlines:

Fall 2010: 3/1/2010
Non-US residents: 1/15/2010

Encourage qualified applicants to consider the CIS PhD Program at UH-Mānoa!
New enrichment fund to support CIS students

The Executive Board of the CIS Ph.D. Program has established a new fund to help students with the expenses associated with academic life, such as conference fees, travel and research expenses. Even a small donation to this Student Enrichment Fund will make a big difference to students, many of whom do not have research funding.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, or to the CIS Program Fund for operational expenses, please contact the University of Hawai‘i Foundation (www.uhf.hawaii.edu) or see the Make a Gift tab on the CIS website (www.hawaii.edu/cis/).

The printing and mailing of this newsletter, as well as the CIS program brochure and application announcement, are funded by donations to the CIS Program fund. We are very grateful to donors for their support and that of the four sponsoring departments.

CIS Ph.D. Program
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

1680 East-West Road, POST 305G
Honolulu, HI 96822

www.hawaii.edu/cis/