Faculty Feature: Hector Hernandez

The last 3 years have had a multitude of new faculty in Computer Science. One of those is Dr. Hector Hernandez, previously of New Mexico State University. Dr. Hernandez joined the department in the fall of 2000, and currently teaches our database courses, as well as Algorithms.

Dr. Hernandez was raised in Monterrey, the main industrial city in Mexico. After teaching and working in industry for almost four years, he went to Canada to do his Ph.D. In 1987, he began his university career with Texas A&M, moving to New Mexico in 1989.

Texas has a special appeal for Dr. Hernandez. As part of a field trip from in college, he went to visit the NASA Space Center at Houston. Since then he knew that he wanted to live and work in Texas. He says, “Texas is a state of mind. Its interpretation of life is unique, peculiar, sui generis. Texans put their energy, their money into things where it matters the most. One of them is education. That is one of the reasons why I decided to join Texas Tech, when couple of years ago, in spring of 2000, there was a job opening.

“I came to TTU to try to help, in whatever way I can, as part of Dr. Dan Cooke’s team, to build a better Department of Computer Science. I came to TTU because I believe in his leadership. I hope to be able to do a little for a country, for a state, for an institution that has given me the chance to work in a job that I like so much.”

Currently, Dr. Hernandez is doing research in the area of Databases, and is also starting to explore the exiting area of parallel processing.

SORCER

The Laboratory for Service-Oriented Computing EnviRonment (SORCER), headed up by Mike Sobolewski, is an interdisciplinary laboratory at the Computer Science Department at Texas Tech University. Our principal goal is research in network, service, and object-centric programming. We apply object-oriented techniques directly to the network, and everything on the network we treat as a service (service-orientation). SORCER brings together faculty, researchers, and students in research, development and experimentation with network objects. Our members pursue innovations in distributed computing that will yield substantive long-term improvements in the ways that people collaborate and share network resources. SORCER strives for excellence, relevance, and social purpose. The way not to get lost, in the complexities of our own making is our basic challenge. Thus, we create self-aware and autonomic environments as a conceptually simple grid of federated network resources. These resource federations provide an execution environment for a new generation of interactive service-oriented programs. Thus, the computer is the grid of network objects.

If interested check it out at http://www/cs.ttu.edu/~sorcer/

Programming Team News

During the Fall semester, the Texas Tech programming teams competed in the South Central Regional programming competition. This was a rebuilding year for the programming teams. Most of the top programmers from 2001-2002 had either graduated or become ineligible. Ricardo Morales led the training sessions for Dr. Pyeatt this year and has done an excellent job of preparing these students for a victory in 2003. Although in 2002 we did not place in the top five overall, Daniel Richards, Chris Fielder and Shivaji Marisarla won an award for solving...
"The Umbrella Problem" in less time than any other team. The second team, with Krishnan Pazhayanoor, Mikkel Garcia, and Martyn Garcia, also put in a good showing. If these students practice as diligently next Fall as they did in 2002, then we can expect them to bring home a trophy.

**Faculty/Staff Bytes**

Per Andersen, Lecturer, received his Ph.D. in December. Dr. Andersen studied under Daniel Cooke. He is also involved with the IEEE student chapter project of teaching pre-engineering concepts to jr. high and high school students. After giving a presentation on CS theories and concepts, he then presented an introduction to circuits which involved teaching Ohm's Law and its application to Parallel and Series circuits. Afterwards the students demonstrated Ohm's Law by physically constructing Parallel and Series circuits using Xmas tree lights as resistors.

New CS Professor Mike Sobolewski was nominated for Vice-president/Research, ISPE (Int. Society for Productivity Enhancement). ISPE supports Int'l CE conferences and Int'l Journal of Concurrent Engineering: Research & Applications (CERA). He also accepted the role of a program chair of CE2004 in China and the role of general chair of CE2005 in USA.

On top of that, he received "Best Paper Award" on the basis of his presentation to the 8th ISPE/CE’2001 International Conference on CE and publication in the International Journal of Concurrent Engineering: Research & Applications (CERA)(Volume 10, No.4, Dec 2002). The award was given in the Palace of the Duke of Bedford during the CE2002 banquet.

Yu Zhuang, Assistant Professor, is on the technical committee of a parallel & distributed computing workshop, to be held on Sep 22 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Michael Gelfond, Professor, had members of his Knowledge Representation lab present four papers at conferences in the USA, Canada, Germany, and Italy this year, including an invited talk at the Joint European Conference on Logic in Artificial Intelligence presented by Dr. Gelfond. Two more papers were accepted for publication and will be presented at conferences in the Spring. And to top it all off, he was elected a member of the European Academy of Sciences as well.

---

**Thank You!!!!!**

We’d like to extend our thanks to all the alumni, corporations, and friends that have contributed to the Computer Science Department in the last few months. All of you make a huge difference in what we’re able to accomplish!

**$1,000 & up**
- ExxonMobile

**$100 & up**
- Cisco Systems Foundation
- Nicole Huebe
- Todd Knowlton
- Matt McGlothlin
- Shawn O’Neill
- Devon Peasley
- Lawrence Peck
- Marianne Rives
- David Seese
- Christopher Smith
- Greg Storm

**$20 & up**
- Karl Higgins
- Kevin Jones
- Hank Pace
- William Prusha
- David Stevens
- David Tannen
- Qiquan Xu

---

CSAN

Is the biannual Alumni Newsletter of the Computer Science Department, Texas Tech University. Please direct comments about this issue to:

Mysti Digby
Computer Science Department
M.S. 43104,
Lubbock, Texas 79409
Mysti.digby@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3527

CS WWW site:
http://www.cs.ttu.edu
http://www.cs.ttu.edu/alumni
Graduate Scholarships

This year we were able to award competitive scholarships to several of our graduate students. Congratulations to these outstanding recipients for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Karan Gupta
Sunghyuck Hong
Changsu Jiang
Carrie Knerr
Ravi Malladi-Venkata
Shivaji Marisarla
Krishnan Pazhayanoor
Shridar Upadhyaya
Rajani Vanam
Lei Wu
Yan Xu

Alumni Updates

Natalie Bueno-Vasquez (CSBS93) and her husband Richard, welcomed their son, Richard Vasquez III (better known as Trey) on 10/24/02. He weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz and was 21 ¾” long.

Brenton Chapin (CSBS90) recently received his PhD in CS from the University of North Texas. His dissertation was on “Higher Compression from the Burrows-Wheeler Transform with New Algorithms for the List Update Problem.”

Janet Chou (CSBS00) is working for Sprint and has recently moved to Kansas City.

Paul Covington (CSBS02) writes that he and long time girlfriend Jennafer Piper are now married. He is working as a software developer for The Software Group in Plano.

Greg Kraus (CSBS97) the last we heard, Greg was attending Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. He & his wife have one son.

John Miller (CSBS84) writes to tell us that after years of contracting as a software developer for large corporations (IBM, GE, etc.), he started his own software development company in 1997, moved to the country and does most of his work now from his ranch NW of Houston as an independent consultant. He specializes in desktop business applications.

Chris Myles (CSBS99) is working for Inet Technologies, Inc, in Plano, TX. He was working on software for the GeoProbe, a monitoring device for the SS7 telecommunications network, the last we heard.

Kosit Nopvichai (CSMS97) was living in North Plainfield, NJ when he emailed us last.

Joe Pollard (CSBS02) is now working for Dell Computer as an Information Technologist in Austin, TX.

Dale Sanders (CSBS93) writes to tell us that he’s just enjoyed his 7th anniversary with i3 Mobile, Inc. in the Dallas area. He is currently a Senior Project Manager and received his MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1999.

Geetha Sankaran (CSMS95) tells us that she is manager of eBusiness Applications for the marketing division of Toyota in Houston, TX. She & her husband, Prabhu, have a four year old daughter named Shreavya.

James Spires (CSBS83) wrote to say he’s living and working in the Austin, TX area.

Bryan Stephens (CSBS98MS00) is currently working at Lockheed and is living in Argyle, TX.

Mark Teal (CSMS95) is still living in Houston and working as a lead programmer for a NASA contractor. He received his MS in Physical Science with a Space Science concentration from the University of Houston at Clear Lake in May of 2001 and married Charyl in June of 2001.

Scott Terrell (CSBS96) writes to tell us that he’s left Sprint and is now working for TXU.

There are several ways you can let us know what you are up to these days, via email to mysti.digby@ttu.edu or with the CS Alumni Website at http://www.cs.ttu.edu/Alumni/updtfm.html. Or heck, you can send us a letter at Box 43104, Computer Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3104. Just let us know what you’re doing, who you’re doing it for, or if you received any awards or special recognition for doing it! We’d just love to hear from you!
Missing Persons

We’ve found a few, but these are still missing! If you know where to find anyone on this list, please let us know! We’d hate for anyone to miss getting his or her newsletter!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sai Arigala</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunil Bhat</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Cooper</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemchand Dova</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parthiban Durai</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigo Gonzalez</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>CS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Mathew John</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sajini Katta</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajay Konduru</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukir Kumaresan</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ledbetter</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>EECS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing Sze Lo</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>CS 97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiao-Hui Meng</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satish Narayananurthy</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muralidhar Seelam</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goutam Sinha</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palanikumar Tamilsami</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhengfan Tian</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vijay Venkataraman</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wen-chiang Wu</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhibin (Ben) Zhu</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>CS 96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Computer Science Department
PO Box 43104
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-3104
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED