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Keep in touch!

We always look forward to hearing from our alumni—so drop by the CS website and let us know what you’ve been up to! You can email Mysti or visit the Alumni Website at http://www.cs.ttu.edu/orgs/alums/

and fill out the Alumni Update form, or check out the CS Alumni Directory to locate former classmates!

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**Five Questions with Susan Urban**

You just moved here from Arizona State University, where you taught for 19 years. That’s a long time! What has it been like starting over at a new university after all that time?

It is a challenge to start over after being in one place for almost 19 years. But change is also good and I’m excited about the challenge. Teaching has been the easiest part of the move, especially since I started the Spring semester teaching material that I have taught many times before. Students and the classroom environment are pretty similar everywhere. Establishing a new research group is more difficult. It’s a process of phasing out work with previous students and building new relationships. I’m still working with 2 MS thesis students and one PhD student at Arizona State through weekly Skype meetings. But I have already recruited several students here that are interested in data management research, with a visiting student researcher from Poland who will be joining the group in the Fall. When you move, it’s a lot of hard work to get new students oriented to your research, but it’s also an opportunity to investigate new directions and establish collaborative activities with new people. I’m also having fun ordering new equipment for the lab. So even though moving is a daunting task, it’s also a time to clean house and define new directions. I have also enjoyed exploring the Texas Tech campus and finding all the good steak restaurants and BBQ joints in Lubbock.

When - and how - did you discover your interest in CS?

I went into computer science because of a really smart high school guidance counselor. I graduated from high school in 1973 in a small town in Louisiana where there were no computers in the classroom. Computer science was an up-and-coming field. I had good grades in math (I was the class valedictorian), so the guidance counselor recommended that I consider computer science. When I was registering for classes during my first semester at Louisiana State University (back in days when you actually had to stand in line to register for a class), I ran into a friend of mine who had already taken the Fortran class I was trying to get into. I asked him about the class and he said it was OK as long as you keep up with the programs. I remember asking him “What’s a program?” So I actually knew very little about the field of computer science when I chose it as a major. It was quite by luck that I got into CS and liked it so much. Computer science, at the time, also didn’t have what I call the “geek factor” for women that it often has today. So it was very easy to pick CS as a major. Tell us a little bit about your research and areas of interest.

My research can be broadly categorized as the area of information and data management. I like to refer to it in these terms, rather than using the term database research, since most work in this area involves the need to access and integrate many different types of data, ranging from data in databases, to streaming data from sensors and event generators, to the many forms of semi-structured and unstructured data found on the web. The name of my research lab is the Reactive Behavior and Data Management Research Group. I specifically focus on complex event processing and the use of rules for responding to events in different types of data-centric applications. Complex events can be used to monitor multiple things that are occurring in an application, to establish correlations between different events, and to filter events with application context queries. One aspect of my research looks at how to express meaningful complex events and how to efficiently filter and correlate event occurrences. Another aspect looks at how to develop distributed rule processors for responding to events. These issues are relevant for the (continued on page 2)
development of autonomous, self-aware, and agent-based systems that have a need to monitor and reactive to different situations. I also have an interest in the transactional aspects of process modeling, specifically addressing data correctness issues for concurrent processes and how to use events and rules in the recovery and exception handling process. Other interests include the semantic aspects of data integration and current directions with the semantic web.

**What would you like to accomplish here at Texas Tech University?**

There are several things I would like to accomplish. First of all, since I am the only faculty member specializing in information and data management research, I would like to establish a strong teaching and research program in this area. Data management is central to just about everything in computing: internet browsing, social computing, enterprise applications, and data integration in areas such as science and medicine. So, in addition to establishing collaborative research activities with faculty in computer science, I would also like to reach out to other disciplines on campus to promote interdisciplinary research activity for data-centric applications.

Two other things I would like to accomplish are related to undergraduate teaching and diversity. Even with all of the changes in computing that have occurred with the introduction of the internet, it is still difficult to recruit and retain students in computer science. We need new and innovative ways of teaching computer science to undergraduates and selling computer science as a discipline. I would like to pursue some of the new funding opportunities that address these issues and also investigate interdisciplinary/applied computing tracks as part of the degree program. And as a senior female faculty member, I would also like to establish a women in computer science group to specifically focus on recruitment and retention of women. Computer science has been a great field for me to work in and is even more exciting now than it was when I began as an undergraduate student. I would like to encourage other young women to follow the same path.

**Last, but not least – our traditional question for new faculty. If you could be any programming language in the world, which one would you be? And why?**

Well, I will have to stretch the concept of a programming language a bit and say SQL. SQL is not a computationally complete programming language since it is primarily used for data access and does not support control structures. But in the famous words of Michael Stonebraker, SQL is “intergalactic dataspeak” for the database community. So since data management is my area of teaching and research, I would have to be SQL.

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**Faculty/Staff Bytes**

Derek Birkenfeld, Micro Specialist, received his second BS, this time in Computer Science in May 2008.

Daniel Cooke, Professor, Nelson Rushton (soon to be Associate Professor), Brad Nemanich, Research Assistant, Robby Watson, Instructor, and Per Andersen, Assistant Professor published “Normalize, Transpose and Distribute: An Automatic Approach for Handling Nonscalars” in ACM Transactions of Programming Language Systems, Vol. 30, Issue 2, Article 9 in March of this year.

Ray Desrosiers, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Advisor, tells us that during exit interviews with the Spring 2008 seniors, one student informed us that he had eleven interviews and eleven offers! Every student in the exit interviews was either going to graduate school (2) or had a job (11). Good time to be a CS grad!


Brad Nemanich, RA, received a Texas Space Grant Consortium Fellowship. The Texas Space Grant Consortium is a group of 36 institutions which include universities, industrial organizations, non-profit organizations and government agencies within Texas that are joined to ensure that the benefits of space research and technology are available to all Texans. The Fellowships have been established to encourage graduate study in the fields of space science and engineering.

Nelson Rushton and Michael Shin were both promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Eric Sinzinger, Associate Professor, had his proposal “OSCAR: Obscure Surveillance Cadre of Autonomous Robots” selected for funding by the TTU Spring 2008 Research Enrichment Fund Competition. Only 36 of 161 proposals in the competition were funded.


The National Science Foundation has awarded Susan Urban, Professor, a grant for her project “SRS: A Decentralized and Rule-Based Approach to Data Dependency Analysis and Failure Recovery in Service-Oriented Environments” for 3 years. This is the first NSF grant fully housed in the Department of Computer Science.

Dr. Urban also had several publications this spring. “Process dependencies and Process Interference Rules for Analyzing the Impact of Failure in a Service Composition Environment,” with Yang Xiao, was invited to appear in the Journal of Information Science and Technology as a special issue on selected papers from the 10th International Conference on Business Information Systems. Only three out of 49 papers were selected to appear in the special issue.

“The DeltaGrid Service Composition and Recovery Model,” also with Yang Xiao, was accepted for publication in the International Journal of Web Ser-
ACM Banquet Revival

ACM capped off a great year by bringing back the annual ACM Banquet. This year’s banquet was held in the Matador Room in the Student Union on 4/17/08. After enjoying a slide show of the various activities the ACM participated in this academic year while dining, Provost William Marcy introduced our keynote speaker, Dennis Carroll from IBM.

Scholarship recipients announced at the banquet this year included the Terry G Myers Endowed (Darren Biel, Matthew Roth), SPACE (Jonathan Ray), Alumni (Matthew Cotton), ExxonMobile (Jennifer Emanuel), Raytheon (Chad Cumba), Tim Osmulski (Julie Rice), Gary & Maria Ruwaldt Endowed (Jeremy Smith), Zachary Mullins Endowed (Lauren Brown), William M Marcy Endowed (Adam Fidel) and the ACM (Angus Helm).

This year, the CS students were once again given the opportunity to vote in their choice for outstanding faculty, TA and graduating senior. Outstanding Faculty for 2007-2008 is Ricardo Morales, Lecturer. Outstanding TA for this year is Eric Rees. And Outstanding Graduating Senior is Miranda Rodriguez. We also honored the top undergraduate students in CS as well (see pg. 5).

One of the events ACM coordinated this year was a programming contest on campus. The winner of the undergraduate category was Angus Helm. The winners of the graduate category were Nachiappan Veerappan and Khuong Vu. The ACM officers also made a point to recognize those who had outstanding service to the organization over the last year. Those recognition awards went to Viktoria Gontcharova, Darren Hedrick, Jennie Mellado, Ricardo Morales, and Scott Shannon.

Joseph Urban, our new chair, also took the time to come in for the banquet and spoke on his plans for Computer Science as well. ACM officers for 2008-2009 will be Brad Nemanich (Chair), Eric Rees (Vice Chair), Eric Garcia (Treasurer), Mike Kent (Secretary) and Viktoria Gontcharova (Social Chair).

Thank You

We’d like to extend our thanks to all the alumni, corporations, and friends that have contributed to the Computer Science Department. All of you make

$100 - $249  
Brad Buice  
Ernesto Garcia  
Changming Ma  
Greg Storm  
Edmond Tam & Belinda Tai

$250 - $999  
David Seese

Corporate Donations

Microsoft

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

The following students were the recipients of scholarships this year. Congratulations to our outstanding graduate students!

2007—2008

Jun Hoon An  
Binit Bhatia  
Sreekanth Bobbala  
Vanchin Chandrasekaran  
Nivas Chandrashekar  
Sujatha Chappidi  
Srikanth Gadde  
Kiran Gopala Reddy Sunanda  
Parthiban Gunasekaran  
Yugendra Guvvala  
Yamuna Kancham Reddy  
Venkat Kundukuri  
Chaitanya Kasarkod  
Arun Kudikala  
Chendong Li  
Kunyu Li  
Sonxin Li  
Ziao Liu  
Gregory McChesney  
Rekha Mylavarabhatla  
Arun Parajuli  
Lakshmi Pavuluru  
Arunoday Sarkar  
Vedik Shetty  
Swetha Siddavatam  
Akriti Singhal  
Sharath Srinivasamurthy  
Umesh Sunnapu  
Varun Surana  
Abinaya Abinaya  
Aniket Tendolkar  
Naga L Yalamanchili

Faculty/Staff cont.


Dr. Urban also became a founding member of the Event Processing Technical Society in May 2008. The purpose of the EPTS is to promote understanding and advancement of event processing technologies, to assist in the development of standards to ensure long-term growth of event processing technology, and to provide a cooperative and inclusive environment for communication and learning of event processing issues.

“Double Feature Selection & Cluster Analyses in Mining of Microarray Data from Cotton” by Eun Youn, Assistant Professor, M. Alabady and T. Wilkins, appeared in BMC Genomics. Also, “Connecting Protein Interaction Data, Mutations & Disease Using Bioinformatics” with JY Chen and SD Mooney appeared as a book chapter in Methods in Molecular Biology. He also had papers with Khuong Vu (“Protein Classi-
Alumni Updates

Sai Arigala (MS’94) is living in Irving, TX and working as a Programmer/Analyst for Ciber, Inc.

Sailendra Banda (MS’97) works as an Applications Analyst for Worldcom and lives in Round Rock, TX.

Peter and Shelley Barnes (BS’96) are expecting their 2nd child in August. They – and big sister Wendy – are anxious for their new arrival!

Darrell Bateman (BS’84) was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Vice President for Information Technology here at TTU. He will be assisting the CIO and Dr. Katherin Austin, also an Assistant Vice President for IT with the overseeing of the IT departments. In addition to his assessment role, he will oversee the operations of the Telecommunications Department and the High Performance Computing Center.

Thomas Bizzell (BS’88) writes that he is still single, living in southwest Austin and currently working for Ultra Electronics, Advanced Tactical Systems. He has just shifted into a newly created internal research & development group called Systems Innovation. He says he seems to be able to work in all parts of their systems and solve problems or develop various pieces of software from GUIs, network socket/TCPIP communications, protocols and threading issues.

Christopher Caceres (BS’06) lives in the McKinney, TX area and works for The Raytheon Company.

Mario Condit (MS’96) works as a Software Lead, Ground Control Station, Unmanned Systems for Northrop Grumman Corporation in California. He is also the editor of the San Diego Bonsai Club newsletter.

Swamidas Dalvi (MS’98) is living in Pennington, NJ and works as a Software Developer for TECCO.

Wayne Dunkel (BS MECS’01) wrote to let us know that he is now working for Boeing and moved to Everett, WA. He is busy getting used to the beautiful scenery!

Andrew Eggleston (BS’91) has moved to Chandler, AZ and works for AT&T Inc. as a member of their Technical Staff.

Brian Fields (BS’99) currently lives in Arlington, TX and works for Lockheed Martin as a Systems Engineer.

Bryan Gantz (BS’96) lives in the Ft. Worth, TX area with his wife Lianna, and works for L3 Communications as a Software Engineer.

Eric Gibson (BS’03) writes to tell us that he and his wife still live in Lubbock and are expecting their 2nd child this summer. They already have a 2 year old daughter. Eric works for Tyler Technologies Inc., INCODE Division, where he spends a lot of time flying to other Tyler offices to help out with other projects focusing on government software. Most recently he has been managing 15 developers in Hyderabad India to strengthen and support existing products while developing exciting new products.

Johny Halbert (BS’95) works as a Features Engineer for Nortel Networks and lives in Selma, TX.

Elyse Schorzman Hogan (BS’98) and her husband Ben welcomed twins Grace and Graham in January 08. All four are doing fine and couldn’t be happier.

Jerrod Horton (BS’07) writes to tell us that he is working for Sheshunoff Management Services as a Software Developer/Architect in Austin, TX. He says the work is going well and the pay is fantastic! And he recently got engaged to his long-time girlfriend Leslie.

Chistopher Johns (BS’06) is still here in Lubbock, and works as a supervisor here at Tech.

Prashant Khadka (MSSE’07) wrote to tell us that he is working for Merrill Lynch in Hopewell, NJ.

Steven Lincoln (BS’83) is working for Lockheed Martin as a Software Engineer. He and his family live in Aledo, TX.

Barbara Maeker (BS’84) works for Criterion, Inc. and lives in Las Vegas, NV.

Randy Padgett (BS’89) still works for TTU as a Senior Programmer/Analyst. Randy and his family live in Lubbock.

Vir Phoha (PhD’92) is the W W Chew Professor of Computer Science at Louisiana Tech University. He lives in Ruston, LA.

Subramanian Ramesh (MS’86) is living in Cupertino, CA and working for Fermatica.

Radhika Rangarajan (MS’90) currently lives in Milpitas, CA and still works for Intel as a software developer.

Tim Rea (BS’92) is working for American Management Systems and lives in Nokesville, VA.

James Ries (BS’97) wrote to let us know that he is still working at Alcatel-Lucent. He is now a Product Manager in the Microwave Transmission Product Group, responsible for the Microwave Packet Radio product line. He also has 2 daughters, 4 & 2. The 4 year old already loves playing on the computer!

David Scheppmann (BS’88) lives and works in the Nashville, TN area.

Craig Terry (BS’84) has retired from the US Air Force and now works for Logistics Information Machines as a Senior Software Developer. He and his wife live in Austin, TX.

Kim Tor (MS’91) works as a Software Engineer for IMSL, Inc and lives in Bee Cave, TX.

Brandon Vasquez (BS’06) is living in Austin, TX and works as a Software Engineer for National Instruments.

Tim Watson (BSEECS’97) works for GMAC. He and his wife Sheri live in Frisco, TX.

Wei Zhang (MS’98) moved to Phoenix, AZ and works as a Support Engineer for Microsoft.
Personal Information Update

Please check preferred mailing address: ( ) Home ( ) Business

Name: ____________________________  (Please correct mailing label if necessary.)

Home: ____________________________  Home Phone: ( )
Address: ____________________________  Work Phone: ( )

Email: ____________________________

Position/Title: ____________________________  Company Name: ____________________________

Company Address: ____________________________

We'd love to hear from you - let us know what's going on with you these days!

If you would like to contribute to the Computer Science Department—please check one of the following and return the top portion of this page and your donation to:

Computer Science Department
Box 43104
Lubbock, TX 79409-3104

☐ Computer Science Fund for Excellence  ☐ SPACE Scholarship in Computer Science
☐ William M Marcy Scholarship Endowment  ☐ ACM Scholarship in Computer Science
☐ Weiner Scholarship in Computer Science  ☐ Newsletter Publication
☐ Tim Osmulski Memorial Scholarship  ☐ Outreach Scholarship in Computer Science
☐ Alumni Scholarship in Computer Science  ☐ Computer Science Scholarship Fund
☐ Graduate Scholarship in Computer Science  ☐ ACM Student Chapter

Top Undergrads

Congratulations to all of our top undergraduates for 2007—2008. Below is a list of those with the highest GPAs as of 4/30/08.

Freshmen
Jodwighta D Birch
Nicole Juliette Greak
Russell Kole Perkins

Sophomores
Matthew Geng
Trevor Karjanis
Aaron Lee
Jason Linnard
Bryant Nelson
Jeremy Nortey
Aaron Schwartz

Juniors
Adam Fidel
Zev Friedman
Darren Hedrick

Seners
Jonathan Ball
Blake Webb

Dan Cooke Named Horn Professor

We are so pleased to announce that the TTU Board of Regents voted this spring to approve Dr. Daniel E Cooke as one of Texas Tech's four new Paul Whitfield Horn Professors. This is the highest honor conferred on faculty at TTU.

Dan is a professor and past department chair of the Computer Science Department. He is internationally recognized for his development of a new programming language, SequenceL. He and his research colleagues have applied the language to NASA’s guidance, navigation and control for the manned Mars space mission. Dan has published over 90 journal and conference publications and has received over $2.3 million dollars in research funding.

Dan is the first Horn Professor in CS.
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 don’t want anyone to miss getting his or her newsletter!

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<td>Mikyeong Ahn</td>
<td>MS CS 95</td>
<td>Farizu Ahsan</td>
<td>BSEECS 96</td>
<td>Han Sheng Beh</td>
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<td>Patpoke Bhatitamrak</td>
<td>GRD 86</td>
<td>Marta Calderon Campos</td>
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<td>Shyam Doddavula</td>
<td>MS CS 97</td>
<td>Hemchand Dova</td>
<td>MS CS 98</td>
<td>Diane Hill</td>
<td>BS CS 04</td>
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<td>Kapil Prakash</td>
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<td>Shang-Wen Sheu</td>
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<td>Padmanabhan Thattai</td>
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