Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) held its 9th initiation ceremony November 20, 2008, in the Crawford Wheatley Administration Building Rotunda. Five new members were inducted into the honor society. They were (pictured below, left to right) Andrew Jernigan, Aleksandr Anishchenko, William Reed, James McRee, and Anna-Kay Sterling.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon is an honor society whose membership consists of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in Computing Science. To be eligible for membership, undergraduate students must be at least a Junior or Senior with a minimum GPA of 3.0, or a graduate student with at least 18 hours and a minimum GPA of 3.5.

To find out more information about UPE, or to join as an alumni member, please contact Karen Cook at (229) 931-2818 or kcook@canes.gsw.edu.
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TRIP TO INDIA

Dr. Brian Adler, VPAA and Dr. Arvind Shah, School of Computing and Mathematics, went to India November 19-30, 2008. Their trip was in relation to the academic collaboration between GSW and academic institutions of the State of Gujarat in India. They visited Amity School, Hemchandrachary North Gujarat University (HNGU), and SEMCOM. At Amity School and North Gujarat University, Dr. Adler signed the MoU thereby paving the way for academic collaboration with these institutions.

While at Amity, they had meetings with administrators, teachers, and interaction with parents and students. The Amity administrators gave a facility tour of the Amity Educational Complex.

The three day visit to HNGU was a transforming experience. The Vice Chancellor of the University gave a brief presentation about the university and its affiliated colleges. The university serves nearly 90,000 students attending classes on various campuses and 20,000 students taking online classes. At HNGU, Dr. Adler signed the MoU that covers several academic activities of mutual interest to both the universities. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by administrators, students, faculty, and staff. The students in attendance were prospective students who would like to come to GSW for master degree programs in Computer Science and Business Administration. Dr. Adler gave a broad overview of GSW while Dr. Shah made a presentation on how the collaboration can work to mutually benefit HGNU and GSW. They articulated the procedure for accepting HGNU students to GSW. During their three day stay at HNGU, they visited a number of colleges in North Gujarat. They received a very warm welcome and their students showed remarkable enthusiasm. They observed that these colleges have excellent infrastructure in support of their programs.

Finally, they spent a day at SEMCOM. The discussion was held to strengthen the relationship of GSW with SEMCOM and to renew the MOU that was signed in past. SEMCOM is eager to have their undergraduate students come to GSW for further study leading to a master’s degree.

In summary, the 11 day trip to India brings hope to receive some bright students to join GSW and to create a relationship with these fine institutions that can grow and expand in academic activities.

Pictured left to right, Dr. Arvind Shah (GSW), Dr. K.K. Shah , and Dr. Brian Adler(GSW)

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In an effort to better understand how our programs prepare our graduates for entering the work force, we are asking that all of our alumni fill out an Alumni Survey. This information will allow us to assess our programs and make changes if needed to our current standards, policies, and procedures.

We greatly appreciate your input and comments.

Please use the appropriate link below to fill out a survey:

Bachelor of Science degrees: http://cis.gsw.edu/home/assessment/documents/undergraduate.pdf
Master of Science degrees: http://cis.gsw.edu/home/assessment/documents/graduate.pdf

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008 Vinh Vu gave a presentation about his home country of Vietnam.

This was a very interesting presentation. Some topics Vinh discussed were art, language, culture, traditions, and religion. Attendees enjoyed this presentation and learned interesting facts about Vietnam.

President Ivan H. Allen of Middle Georgia Technical College (MGTC) in Warner Robins and President Kendall A. Blanchard of Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) signed an agreement Tuesday, Oct. 21 allowing credits from MGTC to transfer in the areas of Computer Information Systems and Information Technology. Boris Peltzerger Ph.D., dean of the GSW School of Computing and Mathematics, and Arvind C. Shah Ph.D., computer science professor at GSW, joined Blanchard for the signing.

“I believe that if we can work together to help students accomplish goals, then we should do that,” said Blanchard. “This agreement between Georgia Southwestern and Middle Georgia Technical College will benefit many students. We look forward to a long and productive partnership.”

Cindy Rumney, program chair for Computer Information Systems (CIS) at MGTC, and CIS instructor Felicia Everidge, along with Gerri Sorrell, MGTC’s vice president for Academic Affairs, worked to secure the agreement with GSW. This joint program will be open to MGTC graduates of the Computer Information Systems/Information Technology associate degree programs and will allow for transferability of several MGTC courses toward a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology at GSW.

“We are excited about this new opportunity with Georgia Southwestern,” said Allen. “This agreement will be very beneficial to our students and is just one example of the avenues we continually pursue to give our students a chance to reach their goals and become productive citizens of our community.”

Similar to a more expansive agreement GSW has with South Georgia Technical College in Americus, the document between the two MGTC and GSW will take effect January 2009.

Middle Georgia Technical College offers both diploma and degree programs in the areas of Computer Information Systems and Information Technology, as well as several technical certificates of credit. Day, evening, and online classes are available.

For more information about the CIS/IT program between GSW and MGTC, call MGTC at (478) 988-6800 or Georgia Southwestern Academic Affairs at (229) 928-1361.
Computer Science Colloquium Series Presentations

Dr. Raymond G. Taylor gave a presentation entitled, “Applying Technology To Long-term Community Planning” on October 7, 2008. Dr. Taylor is the President of Commercial Services Corp, and Professor Emeritus, North Carolina State University. As President of Commercial Services Corp, Dr. Taylor oversees three of its constituent organizations: Felicity Press which publishes books and monographs in science and mathematics, Professors Online which develops on-line courses for schools and universities, and Precision Polymetrics which applies demographic analyses to the evaluation of real estate for commercial purposes. The topic of this colloquium pertains to the Laboratories’ primary work. His educational background includes an undergraduate degree in mathematics, an MBA, and two doctorates.

Also presenting this semester was Mr. Mike Saliba. Mr. Saliba’s topic entitled “My! How Things Have Changed” was presented on November 12, 2008. Mr. Saliba is the owner of TailorMade Software in Americus, Georgia. His education includes Pre-Optometry, B.S. in Music, and a M.S. in Mathematics. Mr. Saliba has an extensive background in technical management, business development, computer systems configuration and integration, mathematical analysis and software development for micros, and minis and mainframes. Since 1993, Mr. Saliba has concentrated his software development to business database design and development.

We would like to thank Dr. Taylor and Mr. Saliba for the very interesting presentations they made to our campus this semester.

DONATION INFORMATION

To make a tax deductible contribution to the School of Computer & Information Sciences and an “Investment in the Future”, go to the Alumni section of our newsletter on the web: http://cis.gsw.edu/home/