ON THE EDGE WITH CS & MATH

GSW hosts CRA Event

Woman and minorities are greatly underrepresented within the field of computer science. Friday, April 3, GSW hosted a distinguished lecture series promoting their computer science graduate program. The series was funded by the Computer Research Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research (CRA-W). Georgia Southwestern was one of four successful schools to host the lecture series. The other three institutions were Missouri University of Science and Technology, Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada and the University of New Mexico. M. Brian Blake, Ph.D., of Georgetown University and Xiaolan Zhang, Ph.D., of IBM were the featured speakers. Blake is currently an associate professor and chair in the Department of Computer Science at Georgetown. He conducts applied research in the development of automated approaches for the sharing of information and capabilities across organizational boundaries. Blake received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in information and software engineering from George Mason University. Zhang has been with the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center since 2001 conducting research on secure systems. Her current interests include security and virtualization, trusted computing and software security. She received her Ph.D. in computer science in 2001 from Harvard University. Application fees for admission into GSW’s computer science graduate program were waived for students in attendance. Computer science undergraduates from every institution in the region were invited. Approximately 40 people attended. For more information contact The School of Computing and Mathematics at (229) 931-2100 or go online at www.gsw.edu.

SPRING 2009 CS/IT & MATH GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES!

Bachelor Of Science Degree

Michael Lee Barry (Information Technology)
Johannes William Boesten (Math with Teacher Cert.)
Wayne Darnell Coleman, Jr (Computer Science)
David Earl Decker (Computer Science)
Andrew David Jernigan (Information Technology)
Jewell Marcus Reeves, III (Math with Teacher Cert.)
Melissa Ann Shemwell (Mathematics)

Master Of Science Degree

Computer Science

Arlandus Jamel Coleman
Yinan Han
Misty J. Joiner
LinJia Li
YinNing Liu
Roland Barrett Reynolds
YuanTao Yin
Hao Zhang
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 would 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

“My State, My Country” Presentation

On Monday, April 6, 2009 Bamiki Keita gave a presentation about his home country of Mali.

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

NCSU Conducts Workshop at GSW

Three representatives of North Carolina State University (NCSU) visited Georgia Southwestern State University and conducted a workshop for faculty and students on May 19, 2009. The workshop was devoted to infusion technology in planning for schools and communities. School systems nationwide are facing difficult planning challenges arising from an increasing student population, an aging school infrastructure, and increasing complexity in pupil assignments. These challenges are shared by the communities that must fund building and renovation projects. The Operations Research/Education Laboratory (OR/Ed), NCSU has developed a system of Integrated Planning for School and Community (IPSAC) which fully integrates community and regional data, ten-year economic and demographic forecasts, demographic and land use studies, digitized pupil and school location files, and mathematical optimization algorithms.

The integrated planning system is comprised of multiple data-driven processes including Enrollment Forecasting, Land Use Study, Out-Of-Capacity Analysis, School Location Optimization Scenarios, and Attendance Boundary Optimization and Redistricting.

The goal of OR/Ed is to start a joint project with the School of Computing and Mathematics, which will offer the IPSAC services to public school systems in Georgia.
Stemming from a trip last fall to India by Academic Affairs Vice President Brian Adler, five students from North Gujarat University visited Georgia Southwestern State University recently for six weeks. Their stay was not simply a site-seeing venture – they were here to work.

The students were commissioned to develop software and/or methods to make life on the computer an easier task for individuals on GSW’s campus and within Americus Fire and Emergency Services (AFES). They presented their work on June 9, 2009. “These projects are the first part of a collaborative effort between Georgia Southwestern and North Gujarat University in India,” said Boris Peltsverger, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Computing and Mathematics. “We expect several graduates from North Gujarat to begin work on master’s degrees at Georgia Southwestern in the fall. All of the students involved in these projects want to come back as graduate students.”

Two of the five students, Agni Acharya and Aneri Desai, developed an Emergency Management System for the AFES. The new system provides Americus fire and rescue personnel easy access to important information documented on pre-fire surveys. This may include hazardous material located in various buildings within Americus. Until now, that information wasn’t available digitally or remotely. Having advocated for a system like this for some time, Americus Fireman Matt Winter said there are not many programs like this on the market. Fortunately, the students from North Gujarat University earned class credit for their work, so it came at no charge to the City of Americus. Each student must complete similar projects in order to graduate.

Durgesh Vishen, Sachin Mehta and Suhas Patel, three of the five students from North Gujarat, presented as well. Vishen developed a server farm that could increase capacity of a computer virtual lab within the School of Computing and Mathematics. Patel and Mehta developed a virtualization system.

Georgia Southwestern Professor Arvind Shah, Ph.D., coordinated all of the student’s activities and served as an advisor for two projects: the virtual lab and AFES.

Professor Semen Baev supervised the virtualization project.

The students described their trip as an “unforgettable six weeks.”
GSW hosts 35th Annual State-Wide Invitational Math Tourney

High school students from all over central and south Georgia squared off Saturday, January 24, 2009 at Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) to put their math skills to the test. The Mathematics Department and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program at GSW held its 35th annual state-wide invitational mathematics tournament. Math teams from 19 high schools competed in the written and ciphering problem-solving competition. Winners were recognized in five GHSA (Georgia High School Association) divisions and two GISA (Georgia Independent School Association) divisions. First place in the team competition was awarded to Chattahoochee County, Southeast Bulloch High School, Columbus High School, Rockdale Magnet School, Colquitt County High School, Flint River Academy and Tattnall Square Academy. Locally, Marion County High School (Division A) and Lee County High School (Division AAAA) won second place and Americus-Sumter High School (Division AAAA) won third place. Individual winners from surrounding schools included Kinsey Powell from Marion County (first place), Trevor Hohorst from Lee County (first place) and Zach Wilt from Southland Academy (second place).

In all, over 170 students and teachers from across Georgia competed in the event.

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/