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**Peer-Tutoring Program**

During the Fall of 2013 and Spring of 2014, Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty established a “Peer-Tutoring” Program at Americus High School. In the fall our faculty worked with a group of 20 Americus High seniors to help sharpen their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and trained them in the dynamics of interacting with their peers, to help them become more proficient in Mathematics. In the Spring term, these young “peer-tutors” stepped in to help their supervising teachers prepare at-risk students to take a variety of end-of-term mathematics and AYP tests. We’re still waiting for data to determine the effectiveness of the program, but are encouraged by enthusiasm and hard work of all participants, including Mr. Donnie Smith, Superintendent of Sumter County Schools, the administrators and Mathematics faculty at Americus High. A generous grant from AT&T funded the project. Ervin Anderson, Jan Boesten, Kailash Ghimire, Chadwick Gugg, Boris Peltsverger, Dongwen Qi, and John Stroyls represented the School of Computing and Mathematics at GSW on the project.

We are hopeful that data from the program will allow us to seek funding to sustain and replicate “Peer-Tutoring” at other high schools in Georgia Southwestern’s thirteen county service area.

**Fall 2013 / Spring 2014**

**Congratulations Computer Science, Information Technology, and Math Graduates!**

**Fall 2013**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Shannon Nicole Ashmore
- Christopher James Eastwood
- Aslam F. Gangji
- Desmond Sherod Harris
- Edward Stanley Lowell
- Kirstie Ariel Pickens
- Forrest Elijah Price
- Todd Michael Smith
- Shareka Anissa Turner
- Darian Deonte Wimes

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Blake Thomas Phillips
- Jurgen Paul Malinao
- John C. Jones

Master of Science in Computer Science
- David Andrew Bradshaw
- Marshall Thomas Fordham
- Ashokkumar R. Patel
- Brooks Robinson
- Brian L. Rolland
- Chenyao Zhang

**Spring 2013**

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Luyao Jia
- Brittany Christine Kobs
- Dieu Merci Nsangwa
- Ian Kariuki Wahome
- Yunfeng Zhao

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Briana Sabrina Courtois

Bachelor of Science Math/Teacher Certification
- Kathryn Elizabeth Conger

Master of Science in Computer Science
- Alexander Scott Dean
- Shondra T. Harris
- Mingxuan Li
- Scott Larry Pritchett
- Yujia Wang
- Wei Zhang
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,

Project with Georgia Forestry Commission

A team of graduate and undergraduate students from the Department of Computer Science at GSW started working on a project targeted towards creating a mobile application for classification, grouping, and identification of trees in the state of Georgia. The project addresses needs of the Georgia Forestry Commission who provided original documentation and guidance on desired features of the application. The work is sponsored by GSW Foundation from Charles Cofer Scholarship fund.

Currently the application is being developed only for Android platform but iOS target is as well. The pre-alpha version of the ‘application is capable of displaying known trees, grouped with respect to genus name and equipped with various images illustrating bark, leaves, stem, etc. One of the main challenges, making this application very special, is the approach used to identify a tree based on a set of questions. User is displayed with guiding questions in a specific order affected by her answers to the previous question(s). The process always starts from the same question asking for the current season, i.e. Winter or Summer. At the end of the process (up to 8 questions to be asked in total), user is pointed to a particular tree or a group of trees that cannot be distinct any further. It is worth mentioning that although such an approach has been adopted from the well-known practice for tree identification, it has a unique implementation feature allowing to extend questions database to achieve more accurate identification outcome.

Hooding Ceremony

Georgia Southwestern State University held the first ever Graduate Hooding Ceremony on May 10, 2014 between 9 and 10 a.m., in Jackson Hall prior to the of Commencement. This special Hooding Ceremony adds to the graduation experience by making it possible to focus on advanced degree candidates and their accomplishments. It allows graduate faculty and staff, family and friends a chance to witness the ceremonial hooding of the graduate student in a more intimate setting. The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. Today, hoods are the most expressive component of the academic costume. They serve to communicate the owner’s school, degree and field of study through their length and the colors of the lining and binding. Today’s hoods have evolved from a serviceable article of clothing to a type of elongated scarf draped over the shoulders and displayed down the back with the lining turned inside out. Georgia Southwestern State University master’s degree graduates and candidates received their hood because of the level of education they have pursued beyond the baccalaureate degree. Georgia Southwestern State University’s colors are blue and gold, hence these colors are on the hood. The velvet trim on the hood signifies the scholar’s field. Twenty graduate students were hooded during the ceremony, of which 4 students were from the Computer Science department.
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://gsw.edu/Assets/SchoolofComputingandMath/files/Alumni_undergraduate.pdf](http://gsw.edu/Assets/SchoolofComputingandMath/files/Alumni_undergraduate.pdf)
Master of Science degrees: [http://gsw.edu/Assets/SchoolofComputingandMath/files/Alumni_graduate.pdf](http://gsw.edu/Assets/SchoolofComputingandMath/files/Alumni_graduate.pdf)

**“My State, My Country” Presentation**

On Wednesday, March 5, 2014, Nicholas Ward and Jordan Baker gave a presentation about their home country of the United Kingdom. This was a very interesting presentation. Some topics discussed were art, language, culture, traditions, and religion.

**Online Students’ Presentations**

This Spring semester students in the CIS 6900 “Special Problems in CIS: Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (Methods and Software)” class had the opportunity to present their term projects using WebEx collaborative distance learning technology. Students enjoyed WebEx as it helped them make effective presentations as WebEx enabled online students to present their projects within the framework of a regular class setting that all participants could well as see and meet their online and in-class peers for the first time.

Since WebEx offers such high-quality image and sound transmissions, students are eager to use this technology in subsequent semesters.

Online class offerings typically have one major drawback compared with in-class counterparts. Not only is it hard (sometimes impossible) to state that a student, submitting some work is the one who performed it, but also it is barely possible to bring the same or close to the same discussion experience to online students. Modern technology allows to minimize the gap between face to face and online class offerings by introducing live session component in form of video conferencing. It is mainly convenient for online presentations and other synchronous activities where students are not only offered with a virtual meeting environment but also can prove their active involvement in a certain part of the course. One good example of such technology is Google Hangouts. All students at GSW are given with e-mail addresses hosted by Google, and since recently, they are also granted with a permission to use those accounts to access Google Hangouts service. The only thing an instructor needs to do is to make sure that students, enrolled in the online section of some course, have joined Google+ environment (Google’s social network required for multi-user hangouts activity). The entire class can now be invited to participate in a dedicated Circle with a few clicks of the mouse by importing class roll from RAIN directly to the Google+ interface. Then, at certain day and time an invitation can be send to all interested students and those who will accept it can join live session, organized by the instructor. This approach was successfully tested in CSCI 6220 “Distributed Operating Systems” course in Spring 2014 term. Students were presenting their research topics at their convenient places. They were also given an opportunity to see and communicate with each other by utilizing web cameras. Finally, desktop screen sharing feature of Google Hangouts seemed to perfectly fit with online presentation activity. It is planned to continue using Google Hangouts in various other classes.
Math Tournaments

2014 High School & Junior High Mathematics Tournaments

Every year, from 1974 through 2014, the Department of Mathematics at Georgia Southwestern (GSW) has hosted a tournament for high school students from throughout the state. Over 400 students from 45 schools competed in the high school tournament on Friday, February 7, 2014 in the GSW Student Success Center. This tournament has brought hundreds of students to the campus in the early spring each year to compete with one another. The longest running math tournament in Georgia, the annual GSW competition has served as a model for a host of imitators. Teachers from across the state would select a minimum of four and a maximum of eight outstanding mathematics students from each school to participate. (Extra students are welcome to participate and enjoy the tournament, but only the team-of-eight will contribute to the official score for the school’s team.) Individuals who are home schooled are also welcome to compete in the individual part of the tournament. Parents of interested home schooled students may contact the organizer at the information listed below to register for the 2015 tournament.

On Saturday, March 8, 2014 the Junior high students from all over Georgia squared off at GSW to put their math skills to the test. The School of Computing and Mathematics at GSW held its 3rd annual junior mathematics tournament. Sponsored by the AT&T Foundation, the competition attracts dozens of schools each year.

In all, more than *600 students competed in the event. Individual winners were recognized in grades 3-8. Five students from each grade were awarded. Winners were Brandon Gomez, Southwestern Elementary School (3rd grade); Haley Mins, Schley County Elementary School (4th grade); Griffin Musselwhite, Southwestern Elementary School (5th grade); Hiroki Nishida, Tattnall Square Academy (6th grade); Colleen Molton, Tattnall Square Academy (7th grade); and Carterion Whitlock, Merry Acres Middle School (8th grade).

Other local students who placed included Jamal Floyd, Sumter Co Middle School (5th place, 6th grade), Connor Cloer, Schley Co Elementary School (3rd place, 4th grade), and Deron Dowdell, Sarah Cobb Elementary School (5th place, 3rd grade).

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ghimire at mtourney@gsw.edu by email or 229-931-7350 by phone.

Job Showcase

UPE hosts Job Showcase

On April 10, 2014, GSWs’ chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society hosted a Job Showcase in Crawford Wheatley Hall. Advisory Council Members from the School of Computing & Mathematics were invited and had the opportunity to meet students in the computer science field from GSW. Council Members accepted resumes and conducted informal mock interviews during the event. This was a great opportunity for local employers to become familiar with our students as well as good experience for our students to talk one-on-one with the local employers. The students were informed about what kinds of skills and educational background that will be expected of them when they graduate.