



Spring 2001- Fall 2001

Welcoming our New Dean and Faculty:

As many of you already know, this year has been a very busy and dynamic year for our program as well as our college. We welcome the arrival of Dr. Miriam Shillingsburg, the new Dean of the College of Liberal Art and Sciences. We look forward to working with Dean Shillingsburg and continue to grow and improve our computer science program. We also, eagerly anticipate the arrival of Dr. Vrajitoru for the Spring Semester.

Computer Science Hiring:

The department will begin the search and screen process to replace Josh Tenenberg's position during this Spring semester. As usual we invite students participation in this process. You will be notified of the candidates interview schedule and presentation topics. Please make an effort to attend these talks and provide us with your feedback.

Departmental Split:

The administration has approved our department's request to split along discipline lines. Pending approval of the Trustees and Higher Education Commission (July 2001), the department will be split in to the *Department of Mathematics* and the *Department of Computer Science*. Among other benefits, we hope that this split will improve our ability to attract computer science faculty and students to our campus.

New Graduate Programs:

In the last four years, we have worked hard to develop two new graduate programs. These programs are the Master of Science in Management of Information Technology (MS-MIT) and Master of Science in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science (MS-AMCS). The MS-MIT is a joint program with the School of Business and Economics and the MS-AMCS will be a joint program with Department of Mathematics. More information about these program can be obtained from our department's web site.

New Departmental Homepage:

In 1994, our department was one of the first in IUSB to publicize its documents on the World Wide Web. This year, we felt it was time to develop a new look for our web pages. The URL for our homepage remains the same at <http://www.cs.iusb.edu>. We invite you to browse the new homepage and hope that you enjoy them. (As usual, we welcome your feedback.)

Upper Level Elective Courses:

Dr. Vrajitoru will be teaching the C481 Computer Graphics course during Spring 2001 semester. She has written the following course description:

C481 Interactive Computer Graphics. P:C243,C335, M301. An introduction to interactive programming: design and implementation of graphical user interfaces (GUI). Fundamentals of modern interactive graphics: image representation and processing, geometrical modeling, data structures, rendering, animation, virtual reality, hardware and software. No prior background in graphics is needed, although a good background in C++ programming and data structures is required. Prior completion of a geometry course is recommended. Some familiarity with computer architecture is assumed.

Please note that if you have already taken a C490 Computer Graphics course, then you cannot take the above C481 course for credit.

The other upper-level elective course offered this year is C490 Advanced PC Techniques, which Dr. John Russo will be teaching in the Spring 2001.

C490 Advanced PC techniques. P: C243 and C335. C490 is a course that takes a close look at "PCs", computers that use Intel-based microprocessors. The course starts at a low level (hardware) and finishes at a high level (Windows programming environment). The PC world changes rapidly and the course must also be periodically updated to keep up with the changes. Some of the likely topics are: PC Hardware, ROM BIOS, batch files, event driven programming, visual programming tools, security, viruses, worms. Hopefully, the course will help you to become a "PC guru".

The upper level courses for Fall 2001 have not been finalized. Once they are, you may find them in our departmental web pages.

Internship:

Y398 Internship/Professional Practice is additionally offered on a limited basis. Students who take this course earn both a salary and 3 credits toward their CS degree while working 15 to 20 hours/week. Prerequisites include C308, C335, and one more course above the level of C243. Interested students can contact me or John Russo (237-4297, Northside 319, jrusso@iusb.edu).

New Advising Policy:

Starting Fall 2001, the University will be switching to a *Direct Admit* policy. Direct Admit allows students to directly apply to a given college instead of starting off in the freshman division. Our department welcomes this policy, since we expect that new students will benefit from getting advised by faculty in specific departments rather than the freshman division. However, due to the popularity of our discipline, we expect a large increase in our advising load. Therefore, in anticipation of this event, the department has prepared a new *advising homepage*. Students should consult the advising homepage prior to making an appointment with their advisor. Consulting this new web site, provides you with a wealth of information and ensures that you have the proper documentation prior to meeting with your advisor. The new advising homepage can be found at <http://www.cs.iusb.edu/advising.html>.

If you have questions or need advising for the Fall 2000, or Spring 2001 semesters, feel free to contact me, Dr. Russo or Dr. Knight. My office hours are listed on my home page given below, during which time I would be happy to provide academic advising. I am also available by appointment or drop-in.

Sincerely,

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Alumni Profile:

In this issue we will profile Mr. Jay Danner.

Mr. Jay Danner graduated from IUSB with a B.S. degree in 1997. While at IUSB, he distinguished himself and won the excellence award in computer science. Before graduation, he joined the **Summit Group** (of Mishawaka) as a consultant and software developer. Mr. Danner worked on developing a warehousing/traffic package on the AS/400 using RPG. Jay states that "*At first I thought RPG was not the language I wanted to work in, but came to respect the language, and enjoy the challenges of being part of a team developing a great product.*" Later Mr. Danner took more of an analysts position, where he was able to create both conceptual and detailed designs, manage projects, and oversee the implementation of products. Jay indicates that, "*This to me is the exciting part of developing a software product, in that you are a part of seeing the idea formed, to the reality of the client using the software.*" In 1999, Jay joined the newly created **Intrepa** (a spin off from the Summit Group). Mr. Danner's work, has allowed him to travel all over the United States to implement new solutions for their customers. Currently, Mr. Danner is a Software Development Manager in charge of a number of projects for their new warehouse product called **Logistics PRO for NT**. This new product uses J++ for the UI and business logic, Oracle for the database, and runs on Microsoft NT.

Employer Profile:

In this issue we will profile Syscon International.

Syscon International is a leading manufacturer of temperature control instrumentation and production management systems for the steel and plastics industries. Syscon has been delivering microprocessor based equipment since 1975. Engineers at Syscon design and build both the hardware and software necessary to produce complete customer solutions. Syscon serves a world market with offices in U.S., England, France and India. Annually, Syscon's electronic divisions ship about five million dollars worth of computer-based systems. IUSB computer science graduates have played an important part in Syscon's growth. In addition to hiring our graduates, Syscon and its founder Mr. Tom Thomas, have been strong and enduring supporters of our program. The computer science faculty appreciate Syscon's commitment to our community and contributions to our program.

Additional information about Syscon, may be obtained on the web at <http://www.syscon-intl.com/>

You may obtain additional information about the computer science programs, courses, laboratories and faculty at <http://www.cs.iusb.edu>