Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

State of the Department:

Last year, was a busy and exciting year for the Department of Computer and Information Sciences. We began the year by launching our graduate program in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. The program started with 17 students in its first semester, and Dr. James Wolfer our graduate director reports that currently we have 34 graduate students in the program. Another exciting development has been the expansion of our programs. Last year, we began offering courses leading to a minor in Informatics. Approximately 72 students have taken at least one course leading to this minor.   The department also successfully proposed and obtained approval for a B.S. degree in Informatics. The Informatics program is a new initiative at Indiana University. IUSB is the third IU campus which has been approved to offer degrees in Informatics. A number of people are directly responsible for the successful proposal and approval of this program at IUSB. These include Chancellor Reck, Vice Chancellor Guillaume, Dean Shillingsburg, Associate Dean Williams, and our own Informatics Director, Dr. Ruth Schwartz. The Informatics program will bring $700,000 in new state funding to IUSB.

Last Spring, the department also marked the retirement of Dr. John P. Russo.   Dr. Russo was a founding member of both the Mathematics and the Computer Science departments. In his 34 years at IUSB, Dr. Russo has been an excellent teacher, advisor and mentor to numerous students. He will surely be missed by all of us at IUSB.

The department is pleased that it succeeded in recruiting a new colleague. Dr. Vasile Rus was hired as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science. The computer science faculty welcomes him to IUSB and to the Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Last year, we were also able to obtain the necessary funds to upgrade a significant number of our laboratory computers.   Mr. Jerry DeKeyser (our CS lab supervisor) will be upgrading the computers during the month of July, just in time for the Fall semester.

The *student chapter of the ACM* had a very productive year. Among their activities were a successful membership drive, fund raising, and sponsorship of five presentations. The department faculty applaud the members of the ACM chapter. More details about ACM activities can be found on their web site at www.iusb.edu/~acm as well our departmental news web site at www.cs.iusb.edu/news.html.

Introducing the New Faculty:

Dr. Vasile Rus received his Bachelors degree in Computer Science from Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in June 1997 with a Diploma Thesis entitled Distributed and Collaborative Configuration Management, implemented while at LSR Laboratory, INPG, Grenoble, France. Dr. Rus earned his Master of Science in Computer Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science from Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas, in May 1999 and May 2002, respectively.   His research interests include intelligent systems, software engineering, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, knowledge representation based on natural language and question answering. His professional interests are mainly focused on systems software, software systems analysis and design and configuration management.

Graduate Programs:

Last year was indeed a busy year for Dr. Wolfer, our graduate director for the new M.S. in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. Aside from teaching a full load of undergraduate and graduate courses,   Dr. Wolfer's duties included admitting and advising graduate students, coordinating graduate course offerings in Mathematical Sciences and Computer and Information Sciences, working with our campus external affairs staff to publicize the graduate program (i.e., radio, newspaper and direct mail), organizing events and presentations such as "Graduate Welcome Night", and

communicating with existing and perspective graduate students. I am happy to report that as the result of the hard work by the director and the graduate committee, the department has succeeded in admitting 34 graduate students to IUSB. A number of these students have completed their first year of study and are well underway to completion of their graduate studies.

In addition to some 400-level courses which may be counted toward the graduate program, last year the department offered the following graduate courses:

A504 Introductory C++ Programming
A506 Object-Oriented Programming in C++
B524 Parallel & Distributed Programming
B538 Networks & Distributed Computing
B503 Algorithms Design and Analysis
B561 Advanced Database Concepts
B581 Advanced Computer Graphics
B553 Biomorphic Computing

The Department of Mathematical Sciences also offered a similar number of graduate courses.
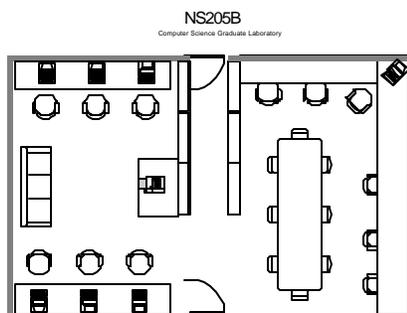
Welcoming Our New Graduate Director:

Starting July 2003, Dr. Michael Kinyon will serve as the new graduate director for the M.S. in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. Dr. Kinyon is an Associate Professor of Mathematics. His research is in the area of differential equations and dynamical systems. Current graduate students or those who are interested in applying to the program should make an appointment with Dr. Kinyon.

Additional information about the graduate program in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science can be obtained online at *www.cs.iusb.edu/graduate_programs.html*

New Graduate Laboratory:

NS205B
Computer Science Graduate Laboratory

Efforts are underway to prepare the new graduate laboratory before the Fall of 2003. This new lab will be in NS205B (currently the server/lab supervisor room).

Graduate Teaching Assistantship:

The department of computer and information sciences will offer opportunities for graduate teaching assistantships.

Applications for teaching assistantships can be obtained from the department web site at www.cs.iusb.edu/employment.html

BS in Informatics @ IUSB:

Informatics is the study of the science and application of information technology to various disciplines. This is distinct from the studies of computer science and information systems, which cover the theory of a particular discipline in depth. Informatics covers a breath of issues in various disciplines including the social and ethical issues facing our information society.

During the last year, our department began offering courses leading to a minor in informatics. We also proposed to develop a bachelor of science in informatics. We are happy to report that last April our proposal for the bachelor of science degree in informatics was approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Starting Fall 2003 this program will begin admitting students. Currently we are working hard to create an informatics laboratory, a classroom, and faculty offices for Fall semester.

I would like to congratulate our Informatics director Dr. Ruth Schwartz, as well as the departmental and university wide informatics committees, for their efforts to bring this new program to our campus.

I would also like to thank Chancellor Una Mae Reck, Vice Chancellor Alfred Guillaume, Associate Vice Chancellor Linda Fritschner, Dean Miriam Shillingsburg, Associate Dean Lynn Williams, Dean Michael Dunn, our state representative Patrick Bauer and numerous department chairs and faculty who helped make this program a reality on our campus. Due to everyone's efforts, the Indiana legislator has appropriated over $700,000 in new funds for our campus.

Additional information about the Informatics programs can be obtained by contacting the director (574-237-4816, ruschwar@iusb.edu).

New Informatics Classroom:

The construction crew are working hard to prepare the new Informatics classroom/laboratory as well as the new research laboratory by October 1, 2003. The new classroom will accommodate up to 28 students and will be equipped with state of the art computer and audio visual technology.

Student Chapter of the ACM:

I would like to thank Dr. Mike Scheessele, the ACM faculty advisor and the officers of the student chapter of the ACM for making the 2002-2003 academic year one of the most dynamic

and successful years in the history of the club.

I encourage all computer science and informatics students to join the Student Chapter of the ACM. The ACM (Association of Computing Machinery) is the premier computing organization in the United States. Membership in the Student Chapter is free and has many benefits, including social events (pizza parties), lectures, tutorials and camaraderie with other CS students. Membership and participation in the ACM can be a plus when you go for that first job interview as well. You can obtain more information about the ACM and its activities from their web site at www.iusb.edu/~acm or email the officers at acm@iusb.edu.

Elective and Graduate Courses:

The department has scheduled the following courses as upper level electives. Please consult the CS booklet or your advisor to make sure you have the proper prerequisites.

Fall 2003 Offering
B438 Fundamentals of Computer Networks, taught by Dr. Surma.
C490 Object Oriented Programming-Java, taught by Dr. Hakimzadeh
A504 Introductory C++ Programming and A506 Object Oriented Programming in C++ , taught by Dr. Knight
B582 Image Synthesis, taught by Dr. Vrajitoru. (Please note the time change)

Spring 2004 Offering
C435 Operating Systems, taught by Dr. Wolfer
C463 Artificial Intelligence, taught by Dr. Scheessele
B503 Algorithms Design and Analysis, taught by Dr. Knight
B551 Elements of Artificial Intelligence, taught by Dr. Scheessele
P565 Software Engineering I, taught by Dr. Rus

The Department of Mathematical Sciences will also be offering the following graduate courses:

Fall 2003 Offering
M413 Introduction To Analysis 1, taught by Dr. Kinyon
M463 Intro To Probability Theory 1, taught by Dr. Cheng
M471 Numerical Analysis 1, taught by Dr. Song
M546 Control Theory, taught by Dr. Kinyon
M571 Analysis of Numerical Methods I, taught by Dr. Song

Spring 2004 Offering
M415 Elementary Complex Variables with Applications, taught by Dr. Kinyon
M466 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics, taught by Dr.Cheng
M472 Numerical Analysis II, taught by Dr. Song
M572 Numerical Analysis II, taught by Dr. Song
M576 Forecasting, taught by Dr. Shafii

2003 Excellence Award Winners:

Each year the computer science faculty has the pleasure of selecting the excellence award winners in our undergraduate program. Academic achievement is the primary, but not the only criterion for selection. Our award winners this year are seniors with excellent computer science as well as overall academic achievements. During their studies at IUSB, much has been expected of these students, and they have been consistent in their efforts to excel.

The computer science faculty congratulates our 2003 Excellence Award Winners.

Tom Perez
Jacob Ratkiewicz

Dr. John P. Russo Retires:

It is with mixed feelings that I bring this news to you. After more than 30 years of teaching, one of our best and brightest faculty, Dr. John P. Russo, is retiring. Early in his career, he was a founding member of the Department of Mathematics at IU South Bend. Later in the 1980's, Dr. Russo initiated the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, resulting in approximately 250 graduates so far. Most recently, Dr. Russo has been instrumental in founding the new Department of Computer and Information Sciences and developing the Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science. Indeed Dr. Russo has been the father of the mathematics and computer science disciplines at IU South Bend.

Those of you who have had the opportunity to take a course from him know that Dr. Russo is a distinguished teacher; he has been the recipient of a number of campus and university-wide teaching awards. Throughout his career at IU South Bend, Dr. Russo has been a mentor to thousands of computer science and mathematics students.

Furthermore, he has been a mentor to numerous faculty members in our department. His lecture notes, laboratory examples and tutorials are widely used by instructors in such courses as A106, C101, C201 and C335.

The John P. Russo Scholarship:

To honor John Russo's achievements and his pursuit of excellence, we are proud to announce that a scholarship in his name has been established.

> John P. Russo Fund
> for Academic Excellence
> in
> Computer and Information Sciences

The purpose of this fund is to provide current undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Computer and Information Sciences at IU South Bend with financial assistance in completing their degrees. The basis for the scholarship is demonstrated potential for academic excellence in Computer and Information Sciences. The Scholarship will be awarded annually through the Computer Science Scholarship Committee. You can find additional information about this scholarship online at www.cs.iusb.edu/scholarship/jprusso.pdf.

Alumni Profile:

Yijing Chen-Robertson graduated from IUSB with a B.S. degree in Computer Science and a B.A. degree in Fine Arts in 1996. Ms. Chen won the excellence award in computer science in 1995. After graduation, she worked as a Programmer/Analyst at Teachers Credit Union in South Bend, developing client/server connectivity programs and designing web applications.

Later, Ms. Chen moved to Connecticut where she obtained a M.B.A. degree from Yale University. After graduate school, Ms. Chen worked as a Treasury advisor for IBM in Armonk, New York, creating capital market strategies to increase shareholder value and providing in-house consulting services to various IBM business units. Recently, Ms. Chen has taken on a new assignment with IBM's Financing Unit, concentrating her efforts on pricing strategies and methodology. She believes that the education she received while at IUSB not only benefitted her as a computer scientist working at Teachers Credit Union, but taught her principles of basic logic which apply to her current position in finance. The faculty and staff of the department of computer and information Sciences are proud of Ms. Chen's achievements.

New Advising Policy:

Starting Fall 2001, the University switched to a *Direct Admit* policy. Direct Admit allows students to apply directly to a given college instead of starting in the Freshman Division. Our department welcomes this policy, since we expect that new students will benefit from being advised by faculty in specific departments rather than the Freshman Division. However, due to the popularity of our discipline, we have experienced a large increase in our advising load. Therefore the department has prepared an *advising homepage*. Students should consult the advising homepage prior to making an appointment with their advisor. Consulting this 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 *www.cs.iusb.edu/advising.html.*

If you have questions or need advising for the Fall 2003, or Spring 2004 semesters, feel free to contact me, Dr. Knight or other computer science faculty. My office hours are listed on my home page given below, during which time I would be happy to provide academic advising. I also am available by appointment or drop-in.

Sincerely.

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