A Farewell From The Chair

They say, "All good things must come to an end." And like the lavish monthly lunchtime meetings with the Dean where at one time chicken salad sandwiches and Nestea-brand bottled water were once served with abandon, so too must come to an end my chairpersonship. (I'll be on sabbatical next semester!) I must admit that it's been a challenging few years. In that brief period of time, I worked with 4 different Deans and two different Provosts, and now we are searching for our next President. (It reminds me of when I worked at GE Research.) Closer to home, Dr. Hodgson retired, Dr. Atalay took a yearlong leave of absence, and Dr. Koknar-Tezel announced that this will be her last year at Saint Joseph's. We also increased our enrollment in Computer Science significantly and began offering a new B.S. in Information Technology.

In that time and in that sea of change, one thing however has remained constant and that is our Computer Science students. They continue to inspire and reinvigorate us. They come here from high school knowing everything about computers. Yet somehow we manage to teach them something new. They leave here and become very successful and do good things in the world. We cherish the time that we had with them and are very proud of them.

In closing, when I was a child there was a comedian, Red Skelton, that had a TV show. (He could make people laugh without having to resort to outrageous language or topics.) He would close every show by saying very sincerely, "May God bless." May God bless.
Welcome to all new CS undergraduate and graduate students! We wish you (and all) a very successful academic year!

Dr. F. Betul Atalay will be taking a one-year leave, starting in Fall 2014. We will miss her!

Due to some HVAC work in Barbelin, The CS Department, along with Political Science, Mathematics, and Philosophy, was relocated to Sourin for the summer. All faculty and staff had to pack up their entire offices. We are happy to be back to normal and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this stressful situation a positive experience!

This academic year we welcome the new CAS Dean, Dr. Amanda Thomas, and Dr. Rosalind Reichard, the Interim Provost.

The Department has a new IT Degree!

Thank you, Dr. Grevera, for all of your hard work as Department Chair and with the undergrad and graduate programs in the Computer Science department! Enjoy your well-earned spring sabbatical!

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**Club Notes**

**News from the Computer Science Club**

**Open For All Computer Science Majors!**

The Computer Science Club had a terrific year! We have continued our Computer Buddies service program (wherein members voluntarily devote their time towards instructing local library patrons on basic computing skills) and had a celebration at the end of the Spring semester, held at Wynnefield Library. Volunteer coordinators at the library brought pizza for everyone and discussed our experiences with the program, its patrons, and possible changes for upcoming semesters.

The CS Club ran one of its biggest events yet—a Video Game Tournament! Members played rounds of basketball games on all of the televisions at the Perch, played music, designed a bracket with all competitors’ names, and declared a winner. We were delighted that people from outside the club also joined us!

We have some great events planned for the upcoming year: a movie night with popcorn and drinks, alumni talks, and the design of our new website. With enough interest, we will hold another Video Game Tournament in the Spring.

We welcome new members and look forward to meeting the new undergraduate and graduate students!

Christine Anderson

President

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**EYE ON IT**

According to Information Week the future of big data will be ‘where.’ Location intelligence is of paramount importance to companies as their customers are increasingly handling the majority of their daily activity on mobile, from online banking to restaurant check-ins and social sharing in real time. Having precise location data helps organizations understand relationships between specific locations so that they can identify growth opportunities, improve information sharing internally and to their customers, and make better strategic business decisions using technologies such as Hadoop and YARN.
Student Screenshots...

2014 Summer Internships

Emily Steele (Madison Square Garden & Radio City Music Hall)

My name is Emily Steele. I am currently a senior at SJU dual majoring in Computer Science and Film. This summer I interned at the Madison Square Garden Company and Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Before I was accepted into the program, I interviewed with the Marketing department for web design. I brought with me some sample work from my Computer Graphics course to show my abilities. The woman I interviewed with told me it was too impressive for her department and recommended me to the Chief Technology Office. A few days later I received another call asking me to come back for a second interview.

When I returned to MSG, the technology department was also highly impressed with my sample work. A few hours after I left my interview, I received a call that I had received the position. During the summer, I spent much of my time supplying the department with documentation for the Knicks and Rangers apps. I also taught myself Ruby code and updated and maintained Ruby scripts. In addition to working at MSG, I also had the chance to learn behind the scenes tech work for Radio City Music Hall. I worked on a project involving softwares known as AUTO-CAD and 3DSMax.

I was extremely lucky to have worked at such a renowned company this summer. The SJU Computer Science department has supported me fully in all my academic decisions during my undergraduate career. I believe that the training and education I received from the department is the reason I was given this opportunity. All my professors pushed me to be the best I could possibly be and I can’t thank them enough for their never-ending support and gratitude during my time here. THE HAWK WILL NEVER DIE!

Xuefei Hu (West Catholic Prep High School, Philadelphia) My name is Xuefei Hu and just graduated in May. I was having an internship at West Catholic Prep School from January to March in 2014 spring. Using a software called Blackbaud, I was responsible for assisting in managing all constituent data related to student, alumni, and parent records. I was also able to use analytic skills run reports as well as track information. Generally speaking, the work is not hard, but I still have some pieces of suggestion and opinion want to share with other CS students. As an international student, I know how important it is to have intern experience in the US and it did help when I was hunting for a full-time job. So the problem comes with how to find an internship. You might come up with Monster, Indeed and linkedIn. Yes, they are useful, but for computer science major, you have a specific website for hunting jobs. Dice.com is more focused on IT area. On the other hand, never forget the post on lab, message on CS department page on facebook and school career center service. Those opportunities are posted because they really want to hire someone and they are close to you. Thank you for reading this article. Feel free to ask if you have any questions. You can add me facebook or send me email: sophia.xuefei.hu@gmail.com, I wish every student in SJU would enjoy studying there.

Matthew Karliner (Lockheed Martin, King of Prussia, PA) During the summer of 2014, from May through August I was an intern at Lockheed Martin. I worked out of their Valley Forge Offices more specifically in the IS & GS Division, which stands for Information Systems and Global Solutions. I was put on the JASSM (Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile) Program and worked closely with the other interns and Engineers. We used C#/.NET and SQL Server as the back end system for our web application we created over the summer. Working at Lockheed Martin was a really good experience. I learned a lot and gained valuable on the job experience. I highly recommend this internship program.
Hima Bindu Gowda (Linx/AS) Within my study of Computer science, I am interested in designing front end (UI) for applications. It was a great opportunity for me to do a 3 month internship on front end designing with the company LINX-AS. The internship was concentrated on developing scripts using GuiXT (it is a client-server system developed by Synactive, Inc. it provides user-interface customization to SAP standard screens). In the beginning I had set several goals regarding the improvement of knowledge on different SAP modules, improving communication skills and also learn about the business overview of the company.

During my work period several activities have contributed to achieve a number of goals. I had an opportunity to learn GuiXT from the team, I worked with who have experience in GuiXT and many SAP modules. I participated in training sessions for ABAP which was very informative. The session included teaching the concepts and also practice sessions from the examples. I also had an opportunity to work on a few ABAP function modules. I had a great experience working in a team. The internship was a useful experience. I have found out what my strengths and weaknesses are; I gained new knowledge and skills and met many new people. I achieved many of my learning goals.

At last this internship has given me new insights and motivation to pursue a career in computer science. To prepare myself for my future career I can improve several things. I can work on my Communication skills so that I am able to present and express myself more confidently. I could take more courses related to my field of work and I can practice by taking up interesting projects.

Banu Kutlu (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) During my summer internship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, I worked as an Application Analyst at the Information Technologies Services department. Some of my responsibilities included understanding the business needs for the Infoporte system and translating those into system requirements, developing and implementing these requirements, performing unit testing on new and modified components, writing and maintaining queries for grabbing data from the campus-wide data warehouse and business intelligence system and finally, documenting in the bug tracking tool.

During this time, I gained experience in working with a custom built PHP framework organized in a Model-View-Controller structure and got familiar with the object-oriented design aspects of PHP and JavaScript and also with database connectivity via PHP (ODBC, mysqli, oci8) and Object Relational Model for querying and transactions/CRUD. Various tools that I have used includes NetBeans, GIT - distributed version control system, Mantis - bug tracking tool, Oracle SQL Developer - Oracle Database IDE that allows users to do their database tasks.

My job mostly incorporated of implementing and unit testing the Infoporte’s new release requirements for the modules that I was responsible of. In this roll-out, Infoporte system was migrating its source database from the University’s data warehouse to the new PeopleSoft structure. Along with this change, the underlying security for authorization of pages and data has changed as well. I’ve mostly involved on the issues those included migration and security on the HR, Calendar and Inbox modules of Infoporte. Doing an internship had been a great opportunity for me to gain more experience and allowed me to test my technical skills so that I could get more prepared to attain my goal of continuing my career in the computer science field.
Michael Schiff (Star Group, Philadelphia, PA)
I spent the summer as a web development intern at Star Group in Philadelphia. During that period I gained firsthand experience working in a modern development environment. Web development requires knowledge of a variety of web technologies, and as such, I developed skills in PHP, HTML, CSS, SASS, JavaScript, jQuery, MySQL, and MongoDB. I also gained experience working with content management systems such as WordPress and Drupal.

I learned the importance of version control, and how to work on large-scale team projects. During the course of my internship, I worked on a variety projects. The primary project was a large-scale survey system for use by PepsiCo of South America in Mexico, Brazil, and other countries. This was designed as a web application that could be used online in desktop browsers and offline on android tablets for survey administration. The project brought with it a large number of challenges with regards to data organization and migration. I also worked on a number of WordPress sites, and a website built upon the CodeIgniter framework.

I went into the internship with some web development experience, though I was not proficient, nor did I know modern practices. The team at Star Group was extremely understanding with regards to my skill-set. They assured me that they brought me on because it was apparent that I was driven to learn, and that I could quickly become an asset to their team.

In the early weeks the developers took turns breaking off from their tasks to give the interns lessons on modern development practices and tips and tricks for various languages. They would also occasionally assign us minor tasks on which to work, aside from the current development project, to strengthen our abilities. I appreciated these extra steps that the developers took, and I came out of the internship much more capable than when I started.

I highly recommend an internship to any computer science student. It is a perfect way to complement the education that is received in the classroom, and to gain experience developing in a real-world environment.
The Computer Science Department had three teams enter the ACM Programming Contest on November 1st at Washington College!

**Team 1: The Hawks**
Ryan Stull  
Sebastian Hurtado Parra  
Jonathan Rapp

**Team 2: The Crimsons**
Jimson Mathew  
Sarah Cooney  
Luigi Nunez

**Team 3: The Grays**
Brendan Szefinski  
Karl Morris  
Seth Fields

The Computer Science faculty, staff, and graduate students gathered at Dr. Wei’s home on October 18 for a pot luck lunch. There was an abundance of food from many cultures and everyone enjoyed a festive day! See pictures on page 8.

On Thursday, October 30, the department celebrated the fall semester and Halloween. It was a great turnout! See pictures on page 9.

**Remaining Fall Events**

December 2: Internship Presentation

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- Congratulations to Mohmmad Alsubaie on the birth of his first son, Mohsen, born on February 12, 2014! Mohmmad is a second-year Graduate Student.

- Devin McDermott (B.A./2011) a current graduate student, became a new dad over the summer! Brielle Marie was born on August 2, 2014, and weighed in at 6 lbs. 12 oz! Congratulations to Devin and Andrea Fitz on their beautiful new daughter!

- Congratulations to the following 2014 Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) inductees: (from left to right): Ryan Stull, Michael Schiff, Greg Dobson, Valerie Bennett, and Kayla Asistido.

- Congratulations to the following students who made the Dean’s List: Matthew Karliner, Elizabeth Mancini, Jimson Mathew, Sean Monahan, Nathan Otto, Brendan Szefinski, Tianhang Yang.
News from the Career Development Center

*Mark your calendar now for some spring events!*

**Talk With Hawks: Creating Professional Connections**
Wednesday, January 28 | 6:00 – 8:15 pm | Doyle Banquet Hall, Campion

**Hawk Career Network Series**

**Health & Science:** February 3rd | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Doyle Banquet Hall (South)
**Non-Profit & Human Services:** February 4th | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Doyle Banquet Hall
**Marketing & Communications:** March 4th | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Doyle Banquet Hall
**Education:** March 23rd (tentative) | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Doyle Banquet Hall

**SJU Career Fair**
Thursday, February 19th | 10:00 am – 1:30 pm | Athletic Center

**Non-Profit Career Fair**
March 26th | Villanova University | Time TBD

**DVEC Teacher Job Fair:**
Wednesday, March 18th | Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks | Time: To Be Announced

**How to Land an Internship:**
Wachterhauser Seminar Room | 11:15 am – 12:00 pm

February 10th
March 17th
April 14th

Check the CDC site on a regular basis for employment and internship opportunities!

careerhelp@sju.edu | www.sju.edu/careers

Drop-in Hours: 1:00 – 4:00 pm | MWF, Campion 30
Pot Luck Lunch at Doctor Wei’s
October 2014
Welcome to Fall/Halloween Celebration
October 2014
Kayla Asistido (B.S./2014): Currently employed at iPipeline.

Walt Fee (B.S/1994): Walt recently retired after 20 years in the US Air Force as a cyber warfare officer. He is currently an IT Systems Engineer at Progressive Insurance in Colorado Springs. Walt reports that it is a very dynamic environment with “lots of fun stuff” to keep him busy.

Brian O’Neill (B.S./2007): Brian graduated in December, 2013, with a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Since January 2014, he has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology at Western New England University, located in Springfield, Massachusetts. Brian’s research is in artificial intelligence and computational creativity—the ability for computers to be creative and assist people in creative acts. His thesis work focused on an intelligent system for detecting and measuring suspense in stories.

Danlin Song (M.S./2010): In June, Danlin accepted a position at eBay in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, as a Performance Engineer with the Operations Performance Team. Together, they focus on resolving the root cause of performance related problems, help fine tune applications and ensure they have the capacity to handle all transactions while still performing within SLA. Danlin reports that she enjoys working at eBay, which is driving innovation of eCommerce and exciting things are happening with technology in the eCommerce industry. There are a lot of opportunities within the company to learn and grow as everything moves really fast. eBay has a culture that values people and focuses on developing them as the means of achieving great results. She says “I’m glad that I work with very talented, positive and fun people and we work together building on top of each other’s strength to bring out the best results of the team. It is a very casual environment and it’s flexible and fun working here.”

During the 2014 World Cup, Danlin reported: “On the days when World Cup is on, we bring our laptops to the cafeteria to catch some matches in the afternoons. We have a café in the building which can make you a customized healthy smoothie, a gym, a ping pong table on site, plus it never hurts to have couches around to sit back and relax a bit in the middle of the day, right?“