



# THE CS TIMES

Volume 3, Issue 2

Iowa State University Computer Science Graduate Newsletter

October 2005

**A Quotation to Chew On:** All programmers are playwrights and all computers are lousy actors. - Anonymous

## UPCOMING EVENTS

by Yu Cao, Campus Events Editor

### October

**Wednesday, 10/12** - 7:30 p.m., ISU Jazz Ensembles - concert, Jazz Ensemble I will be conducted by James Bovinette and Jazz Ensemble II will be conducted by Gary Kleptach, \$3.00 adults / \$2 students, Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall, Music Building, 515-294-3831.

**Friday, 10/14** - 2 p.m., *ComS/ECprE Lecture*, Steven P. Miller of Rockwell Collins will present a lecture entitled, "Proving the Shalls: Requirements, Proofs, and Model-Based Development" in 223 Atanasoff Hall. Coffee, punch, and snacks will be served.

**Thursday, 10/20** - 2:10 p.m., Executive In Residence Lecture, Kenneth L. Thome, senior vice president for Financial Operations with General Mills, Inc., and a 1969 Iowa State alumnus, will give the fall 2005 Executive In Residence, Sponsored by the College of Business, free and open to the public, 1148 Gerdin Business Building.

**Sunday, 10/23** - 2:00 p.m., Collect It! Paintings, Prints, and Photographs, In part three of our Collect It! series, University Museums again seeks to educate attendees about objects found in their own home. This time we will be talking about care and handling of two-dimensional works of art. Make sure you know the safe way to handle and frame everything from your most recent purchase to precious family heirlooms by attending this program., free, Brunner Art Museum

### November

**Tuesday, 11/1** - 7:30 p.m., ISU Percussion Ensemble, Student percussion ensemble, Barry Larkin director, Free, Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall, Music Building.

## MYTHS AND MISDIRECTION

by Brian Patterson, Editor

GAC held its visit to the ComS 591 seminar earlier this September to briefly discuss some of our department's degree requirements and other, miscellaneous topics of interest to new students. Through that meeting, it became clear to me that there's a lot of rumors that float around the department regarding degree requirements and other topics. So this month's column is about common myths you hear when talking to older graduate students that may need clarification:

### Myth #1:

All graduate students are working toward their degree using the same requirements.

### Actuality:

A graduate student may use the degree requirements from any Graduate Handbook that was published during a year that they attended Iowa State as a graduate student. For this reason, many graduate students who have been here longer may have different degree requirements than you. Note, however, that you must satisfy the degree requirements of some graduate handbook in total - no picking and choosing your requirements from several years!

### Myth #2:

ComS 610 courses (Seminars) do not count towards your Program of Study (POS).

### Actuality:

As of the 2005-6 revision of the course requirements for a graduate student, Master's students may include up to 3 ComS 610 credits and PhD students may include up to 6 credits. In both cases, this is for elective credit only (not the breadth or depth requirements). Note that handbooks prior to 2005-6 do not allow 610 for any credit on your POS!

### Myth #3:

You can work as a TA over breaks on an hourly wage, thereby avoiding tuition charges.

### Actuality:

In the summer of 2004 and, for some, the summer of 2005, graduate TAs were able to avoid the tuition charge for being a full-time student assessed TAs by arranging to be paid hourly for their work as a TA. It is the current policy of the University and Graduate College that this not be done any more.

### Myth #4:

You need 1 or 2 journal papers for Ph.D.

### Actuality:

You do not technically need any publications to receive a degree. There is a Research Skills Requirement for a PhD in all handbooks I am aware of where you must study a foreign language for a year, two semesters of communication courses, or be the "sole or major author" of a paper accepted in a reputable computer journal or conference proceedings that gives you written reviews (which then go in your file). The other portion of the requirements referring to a journal paper is Phase 1 of your preliminary examination in Computer Science - to pass this phase, you must either produce a *publishable* research paper or take an examination administered by your POS Committee.

If you would like a job doing research in Computer Science, at least a few conference papers and, ideally, journal articles would be helpful. In some other fields, only journal articles are considered true publications so those without journal articles may have a hard time getting a job. Also, some Masters and PhD student's thesis or dissertation are just several published papers - whether you can do this depends on your committee.

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**Wednesday, 11/2** - 11:00 a.m., Memorial Union, Dia de Los Muertos: Day of the Dead: Displays. This will be an opportunity to honor those who have left us for a better life. Students will create altars to honor special people in their lives who have passed away.

**Friday, 11/11** - 9:00 p.m., ISU After-Dark Casino Night, Second Annual ISU AfterDark Casino Night! Try your luck at a variety of casino games: Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, and Chuck-a-Luck! Must have your ISU student ID with you to claim prizes, Free and open to ISU students only.

Want *your* event to appear here? E-mail [yucao@cs.iastate.edu](mailto:yucao@cs.iastate.edu) for inclusion.

## GAC EVENTS

by Brian Patterson, President of GAC

**Fall Picnic** - Due to rain, a reduced departmental picnic (hosted by GAC) was held in Linden Shelter in Brookside Park this past weekend (9/25). The event was called because of rain but the people who did not receive notice shared the food present. Dishes from various cultures and a good time were had by all despite the rain. The meet-people game will be held instead in October during a lunch event in Atanasoff (see next entry!).

**Mondays in the Lounge** - Starting October 17th, each 3rd Monday of the month will be a potluck to get you out of your office and to meet other people in the department that you might not otherwise have a chance to. From noon to 2pm, GAC will be hosting a potluck lunch in Atanasoff B01 (the graduate lounge).

For the first potluck only, GAC will be holding a short get-to-meet-people game with the *prizes* not used at the picnic. So drop by and join us!

**Fall Racquetball Tournament** - Since the Spring tournament was such a success, GAC is hoping to hold a tournament this Fall as well (tentatively sometime in early November). Please contact Samarth Shetty ([shetty@cs.iastate.edu](mailto:shetty@cs.iastate.edu)) if you would like to help organize the event.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE DEPARTMENT

Q N B W I P C M S D B W C O M P U T E R  
 F V Z W R A I S R P R Z Y S C I E N C E  
 Q V N A I T V L L C B C I F A C U L T Y  
 O E B Q R K Z M K U W O B T Z F G Z N Z  
 L H Q A H V N R M P T H B Y K G F Y J U  
 U C L U N O E F G F K Z H A N G D S M R  
 T T O M L I N S O N L R K G S F Z L V R  
 Z Y N Q N H K A A K F A V I N U E S K E  
 O O U E O G R N V R Z N T T R A W E T S  
 S T R A W N A A O A I I U H V T H F S Q  
 R S A I Y M O D J S R E R E R Z E C R C  
 Y E L V G U N J I A O T N A U O H C I H  
 Y E L R A E R B G A N S E Z H A P W L A  
 H L E L T N U R U E E N R E U T D M R N  
 R B U S I A A P T A V E D D A R O U X G  
 G R O M W M N P X W S L H G N D C K R K  
 U R V W P E I C O H O U G N G O E B U I  
 A C A B Z E D N A N R E F A Y F O R T Y  
 F M R I F R G T E I G P X H C E I G H T  
 D D N H Q F Y M J R M H B C K N A M E S

by Becca Wemhoff, Puzzlemaster

**Instructions:** Circle all the appropriate names you can find in the word puzzle to the left. Words are spelled forwards, backwards, up, down, diagonal, and backwards diagonal. Answers will be posted with the next issue of the CS Times!

**Bonus:** Submit your completed word puzzle at the October "Monday in the Lounge" for a free entry to win a prize!

**Hint:** <http://www.cs.iastate.edu/people/faculty.jsp>

## RESEARCH AND JOB NOTES

- **Facundo Bromberg** was awarded a 2005 Upsilon Pi Epsilon - Honor Society for the Computing Sciences - Graduate Scholarship Award.
- **Josh Dehlinger** and **Robyn R. Lutz**, "Applying Product-Line Fault Tree Analysis to Build Safer Multi-Agent Systems," Fast Abstract, to appear in Proc. of the 16th IEEE International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering (ISSRE 2005), Chicago, IL, November 8-11, 2005.
- **Seo-Young Noh** and **Shashi K. Gadia**, "A Comparison of Two Approaches to Utilizing XML in Parametric Databases for Temporal Data," accepted by Information & Software Technology journal.
- **Jinchun Xia**, **Yujia Ge** and **Carl K. Chang**, "An Empirical Performance Study for Validating a Performance Analysis Approach: PSIM", In Proc. of the 29th Annual International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPSAC'05), Scotland, September 2005, pp.307-312. One of six papers at the conference selected to be recommended to submit to a special issue on High Assurance Software Systems in The Computer Journal.

If you don't write to us, it won't appear here! Send all announcements of achievements to [dehlinge@iastate.edu](mailto:dehlinge@iastate.edu) for inclusion in the next issue!

### CS Times Writers

Brian Patterson, Editor in Chief  
 Josh Dehlinger, Research Notes  
 Yu Cao, Campus Events  
 Becca Wemhoff, Word Puzzle

### 2005-2006 GAC OFFICERS

**President:** Brian Patterson  
**Secretary:** Janet Liu  
**Treasurer:** Samarth Shetty  
*Graduate and Professional Student Senate Members:*  
 Becca Wemhoff, Josh Dehlinger, and Yunan Song  
**Graduate Committee:** Tao Long  
**Equipment Committee:**  
 Chad Brewbaker  
**Webmaster:** Tao Long

The next GAC meeting will be Wednesday, November 2nd at 5pm.