



Dept. of Computer Science & Telecommunications Annual Report

For the time period
May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008

This past academic year was a challenging one in CST, but we feel we are making the necessary adjustments to position our programs for future growth in both quality and quantity of students. Listed below are some of the more significant events and changes in our programs.

Internal School Improvements

- 1) The downtown student computer association (RUCA) had its most active year ever, sponsoring many successful events for students, such as A History of Video Game Development, Microsoft's Silverlight, and a PC Maintenance & Security workshop for current students (of any major). Many events were held in conjunction with the Chicago Chapter of the ACM (Assoc. for Computing Machinery).
- 2) The CST faculty has been right-sized to comprise nine full-time faculty positions, one of which will be open this Fall semester.
- 3) We admitted our first three full-time students under the auspices of our sisterhood partnership with SPTC (Shijiazhuang Post & Telecom. Technical College in China).
- 4) Telecommunication lab upgrades were implemented as planned over the summer (Miner funded)
- 5) Extra network storage space for Dr. Berkowitz's Navon Project was purchased (Miner funded)
- 6) A CST "wish-list" for special funding was developed in consultation with Dolores Metzgar, the college's new Development Officer.
- 7) More faculty began using Blackboard as a course tool.
- 8) CST standards were clarified for proficiency exam requests (which are only available to College of Prof. Studies students in non-CST majors).
- 9) Our plan to discourage students from registering for External Studies sections during open registration periods for regular terms was implemented.

Curriculum Developments and Modifications

This year we implemented many of the recommendations from last year's CST Program Review. The major outcomes were:

- 1) As part of a streamlining effort CST faculty reluctantly agreed to discontinue our MS in Telecom. effective Sp 08 and reduce the BS in Network Computing to just the SCH campus.
- 2) We developed new course content for many CST courses, including CST 100, 101, and 387/405
- 3) Major revisions to the MS-CS degree were developed and approved internally, with a proposal to go to the Graduate Council this fall. Highlights include:
 - A reduction in the number of required undergraduate prerequisite courses from seven down to just four (CST I, II, III, and Discrete Math).
 - A reduction in the total number of graduate credits required from 36 down to 33.
 - The addition of a series of Graduate Seminars whose topics will rotate with faculty.

- 4) The Network Infrastructure concentration was revised to keep up with Cisco Systems' CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional) curriculum and moved from the BS in Network Computing to the BA in Info. Tech.
- 5) Two new courses were developed and approved: Internet Security (CST 368/468) and Computer Forensics (CST 375/475).
- 6) A revised Visual Basic course (CST 263-95) was developed using CD-based modules.
- 7) We continued to struggle with the change in graduate tuition pricing whereby four courses (an overload) is priced the same as three (std. full-time load). Some students have been observed to "shift their coursework" from summer into either spring or fall (e.g., CST 485 and 490 or 499).
- 8) We developed 3 new on-line courses: CST 246, 333, and 370 and also piloted a new synchronous online learning mode using the "Elluminate" BlackBoard plug-in. Three courses will be taught in this mode in Fall term, and if successful this technology will replace the prior teleconferencing of certain CST courses between the two campuses.
- 9) We decided not to pursue ABET accreditation at this time, due to difficulty in maintaining the requisite level of faculty participation in data gathering and the changing nature of the ABET requirements (e.g., a requirement that CST majors take the same natural science sections as science majors was added this year, which means non-calculus based physics would no longer be acceptable).

External Recognition

CST continued work on our joint venture with our sister school, SPT in China. Dr. Wolpert is planning a visit there this summer under the auspices of our faculty exchange initiative.

Several contacts and visits have been made at local community colleges to increase the knowledge, mutual understanding and benefits between us (e.g. College of DuPage).

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications: Dantsin (1)
 Review/Referee Panels: Berkowitz (4), Dantsin (4), Wolpert (3), Wright (2)
 Invited Address: Dantsin (1), Wolpert (1), Wright (2)
 Conference Proceedings: Berkowitz (2), Wolpert (2), Dantsin (3)
 Technical reports: none
 Workshops: Dantsin (1), Mihavics (1), Muzzillo (2), Wolpert (1)
 External funding: Dantsin (1)
 Internal funding: Dantsin (1), Schwartzman (1), Wolpert (1)
 Paper presentation: Dantsin (3), Wolpert (1)
 Journal article: Wolpert (1)
 Newspaper articles: Mihavics (2), Wright (2)
 Radio interviews: Wright (2)
 Tenure & Promotions: Dantsin (tenured)

Publications

E. Dantsin and E. A. Hirsch. Worst-case upper bounds. Chapter in the Handbook of Satisfiability. IOS Press, expected publication in mid 2008.

E. Berkowitz and J. Davis. Relating Computer Generated Topics to Human Generated Topics for Information Classification and Presentation Nineteenth Midwest Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science conference, MAICS 2008, pp 118-124. (April 2008)

E. Berkowitz. Using Automated Generation of Meta-View Topic Graphs for Intelligent Perenstation of Large Scale Document Collections Proceeding of the Nineteenth Midwest Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science conference MAICS 2008, pp 110-117. (April 2008)

Enrollments

Fall 07 total enrollment was 395 (including theses and graduate capstone projects (CST 490/499), research courses (CST 485), external studies, and independent studies. This was up 1% from the 390 total in Fall 06. Spring 08 total enrollment was 338, down 12% from the 383 in Spring 07. New applications for Fall 08 as of June 2008 are showing over a 100% increase, which is very encouraging.

Personnel Changes

Dr. Carl Entemann is retiring as of Summer 2008, after 13 years of distinguished service to the CST programs. His teaching, research, and service will be greatly missed by students and staff.

Dr. Leslie Schwartzman from University of Illinois Chicago concluded her seven year Assistant Professor appointment in the Spring of 2008.

Dr. Jin Tang from Georgia Inst. Of Technology concluded her two year Visiting Assistant Professor appointment in the Spring of 2008.

Jennifer Costello transferred over to the Dept. of Communications and we hired Nancy Soudy as our new Senior Secretary.

Mary Thon left Roosevelt University and we have yet to hire a replacement Academic Advisor for the Schaumburg campus.

Goals for 2007-2008

- 1) Stabilize declining enrollments and begin to rebuild.
- 2) Establish or renew 2+2 agreements with area Comm. Colleges (w/ Alice Blomquist).
- 3) Utilize Miner Funding wisely; enhance new student recruiting.
- 4) Successfully transition CST 150 and 250 (Computer Science I and II) to Java.
- 5) Discourage registrations in external studies during open registration periods.
- 6) Foster a better sense of teamwork within the CST dept.
- 7) Distribute student newsletter each semester.
- 8) Encourage all CST faculty to utilize Blackboard.com as a class supplement.
- 9) Expand the CST catalog of written operating procedures and policies.
- 10) Promote merits of a faculty workload based on "work units" vs. mere teaching load.
- 11) Maintain our democratic decision making environment and "point count" based performance review system.
- 12) Revitalize student club at Robin campus (ACM student chapter).