



Bits and Bytes



J. MACK
ROBINSON
COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

News Magazine of the Department of
Computer Information Systems



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Professor Vijay Vaishnavi
Awarded Fulbright

CIS Department Named Top
Ten for Graduate Programs

Michael Morgan Wins
Cotterman Award

Rozelle Outstanding
Programmers Named

Robinson Team Wins
Deloitte Challenge

First Robinson Student in
the Federal Presidential
Fellowship Program

David McDonald Creates
First Classroom Text
Questioning System

High Performance Virtual
Lab is Launched

**2010
Fulbright
Scholar
Vijay Vaishnavi**

{cover photo}



One of my great pleasures as a Department Chair is to recognize the honors that have been awarded to members of the CIS Department here at GSU. Last year, it was **Dan Robey** who was given AIS's LEO Award for a Lifetime of Exceptional Achievement in Information Systems. This year I am pleased to recognize **Vijay Vaishnavi**, who has won a Fulbright Scholarship for fall 2010 to conduct research on methods of design research in his native land of India. The article on the facing page provides some more details of Vijay's 29 years on the faculty here at Georgia State.

In addition to these individual recognitions, the Department itself has once again been recognized among the top ten MIS programs in the nation as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* (2010).

With this issue, we have completed our second year of publishing *Bits and Bytes*. I hope that you, our reader, have found the issues informative and

they have kept you in touch with what is happening here in the Department. I and **Walter Rich**, the editor, are always interested in your feedback as to what you liked – or didn't like – and what you would like to see added. You can send your comments and suggestions on to me at my e-mail address: **Chair@gsu.edu**.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eph McLean".

Department Chair
Regents' Professor
Smith Eminent Scholar's Chair
in Information Systems

In the fall of 2010, the department will welcome 597 undergraduate students majoring in computer information systems, 130 masters students (both MBA and MS), and 22 doctoral students pursuing their Ph.D. degrees in information systems.

Six members of the faculty in the Department of Computer Information Systems (CIS) at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business received top recognition in a recent peer report published by the **Association for Information Systems**. Robinson was the only school with more than one faculty member listed.

According to the study professors **Richard Baskerville**, **Mark Keil**, **Arun Rai**, **Daniel Robey**, and **Detmar Straub**, and **Michael Gallivan**, all in the CIS department, are among the 30 most prolific researchers in the world in their field.

According to Robinson Dean **H. Fenwick Huss**, "This report illustrates the strength and depth of Robinson's CIS department. It also is a testament to the knowledge and hard work of these six premier scholars."

CIS chair and Regents' Professor **Ephraim McLean**, said "These are great achievements. This ranking demonstrates the caliber and extent of scholarly research produced by our faculty."

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Executive Editors
Ephraim McLean, Chair
Carl Stucke, Associate Chair

**Editor, Photographer
and Creative Design**
Walter Rich

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**Send letters to the editor
or story ideas to:**

Walter Rich
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 4015
Atlanta, GA 30302-4015
E-mail: wrich@gsu.edu

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404.413.7360



Vijay Vaishnavi Awarded Fulbright Scholarship in 2010



Vijay Vaishnavi, the Board of Advisors Professor of Computer Information Systems at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach and conduct research at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology in Delhi, India.

Besides giving lectures and offering a course on design research methods in information technology, Vaishnavi will collaborate with the institute's research groups on topics such as information management, data analytics and software engineering.

"The Fulbright award to Vaishnavi is well-deserved and a testament to his leading-edge work in design science research," said GSU Regents' Professor Ephraim McLean, chair of Robinson's department of computer information systems.

Vaishnavi joined the Robinson College faculty in 1981. He is known for his work on object modeling of knowledge-based systems, formal/informal software specifications, efficient data structures and computational geometry. In 2001, he was named a Fellow of the IEEE for his contributions to the theory and practice of software development.

The Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.

Ranked in Top Ten by
U.S. News & World Report



**Best graduate MIS programs
in 2010-2011:**

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan School of Management)
2. Carnegie Mellon University (Tepper)
3. University of Texas (McCombs)
4. University of Arizona (Eller)
University of Minnesota (Carlson)
6. University of Maryland (Smith)
7. New York University (Stern)
8. Stanford University
9. University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)
10. **Georgia State University (Robinson)**

Michael Morgan was recognized as the most outstanding computer information systems graduate student for the 2009-2010 academic year. The J. Mack Robinson College's computer information systems (CIS) department honors the student in the Master of Science CIS program with the most outstanding academic record each year. "Each of my professors and classmates has played a vital role in my academic success," said Morgan.

Called the William W. Cotterman Award, it is named for the first chairman of the CIS department at Georgia State University. Winners receive a cash award, and their name is added to a plaque displayed in the lobby of the CIS department.

"I realized that in order to move into management at a large company, a master's degree is almost always required. I plan to leverage my master's education plus my experience in order to obtain a management position and continue moving up the corporate ladder," said Morgan. He left his job as a database and security analyst at IBM Internet Security Systems to pursue his master's degree full-time.

Morgan also was part of the winning Robinson consulting team at the 2010 Deloitte Technology Consulting Challenge (see story on p. 4). The team comprised five master's students and took the top prize for best overall team. The participants were **Gayathri Kunapuli, Annie Law, Michael Morgan, Sangeetha Ramamurthy** and **Andrew Romear**.

"It was great to put all of my classroom knowledge and experience gained at Robinson and put it to a competitive test and come out on top. It's an experience and honor I'll never forget," said Morgan. "The most important thing I learned while pursuing my MS in Information Systems is just how inseparable business and IT really are. Business strategy has to drive IT, not the other way around – but IT is an essential enabler of business. My education in the CIS department has surrounded my previous IT knowledge with business concepts that are essential to understanding and leveraging both sides of the business and IT equation."

Michael Morgan
William W. Cotterman
Award Winner
2009-2010



Top Paid Bachelor's Degree by Major
{ Average Salary Offers }

- Petroleum Engineering	\$86,220
- Chemical Engineering	\$65,142
- Mining & Mineral Engineering	\$64,552
- Computer Science	\$61,205
- Computer Engineering	\$60,879
- Electrical Engineering	\$59,074
- Mechanical Engineering	\$58,392
- Industrial Engineering	\$57,734
- Aerospace Engineering	\$57,231
- Information Systems	\$54,038

Source: Winter 2010 Salary Survey, National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Rozelle Outstanding Programmer Award

Each year, the computer information systems department honors the student(s) in the CIS program with the most outstanding academic record in the programming courses. The award is named for **James P. Rozelle**, a former faculty member of the CIS department at Georgia State University. Winners of this award receive a cash award and their names are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the lobby of the CIS department.

The 2009 - 2010 winners are:

Levi Green

Dina O'Quinn

James Woodall

Congratulations!



Robinson Team Wins Deloitte Technology Consulting Challenge

A team of five graduate students representing Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business won this year's Deloitte Technology Consulting Challenge at its fourth annual Consulting 101 Workshop in Atlanta. Four of the students were computer information systems (CIS) majors, and the fifth was a managerial sciences (MSc) major. Team members included **Gayathri Kunapuli** (CIS), **Annie Law** (MSc), **Michael Morgan** (CIS), **Sangeetha Ramamurthy** (CIS) and **Andrew Romear** (CIS).

Deloitte's Consulting 101 is a two-part workshop designed to provide participants with a hands-on learning experience, offering insight into the world of technology consulting and what a professional career entails. During this workshop, participants learn about technology consulting and Deloitte's place within the market in addition to meeting Deloitte practitioners from all levels of the firm. Participants improve professional skills such as public speaking, creating presentations, interviewing clients and understanding the type of work involved as an employee for a consulting firm, and finally compete in a mock case competition.

The undergraduate and graduate students invited to participate came from Georgia

State University, Georgia Tech and the Atlanta University Center. The students are pursuing computer science, information technology and engineering majors. More than 20 teams applied for the eight spots available in the competition and workshop.

On the first day of the workshop, participants were given material needed to work through a solution for a mock company's IT strategy. The participants participated in impromptu client interviews, one-on-one sessions with the consulting partner, professional skills workshops and ongoing dialogue through the week. The workshop concluded with the final case presentations from all teams. In addition to recognition, the winners received a cash prize.

"This year we had an overwhelming response from applicants. Overall, the 38 participants from the eight teams represented some of the top participants Deloitte has seen," said **Kelly Nicole Snook** with Deloitte Consulting. Panther Consultants, the team from Georgia State comprised of five master-level students, took the top prize for best overall team. "The team provided a truly noteworthy presentation and was easily voted to the top spot by our judges, who are senior Deloitte practitioners," said Snook.



Pictured left to right: **Andrew Romear, Sangeetha Ramamurthy, Annie Law, Gayathri Kunapuli, and Michael Morgan.**

MBA CIS Student Rebecca Halloran Named Robinson's First Representative in the Federal Presidential Management Fellowship Program



"The flexibility and innovation seen in Robinson's CIS Department's MBA IS career paths is a perfect example of what gives Robinson graduates a significant competitive advantage," - **Rebecca Halloran**

Rebecca Halloran is the first student from the Robinson College of Business to enter the Presidential Management Fellowship program. This two-year program is the Federal Government's "cornerstone succession planning program to help agencies meet their critical need for leadership continuity." It is open to graduate and doctoral students who show a commitment to excellence in leadership and management. Rebecca feels very fortunate to have made the cut this year and looks forward to interviewing with numerous agencies at the PMF job fair in Washington, D.C. The PMF hires are groomed for leadership through a series of cross training rotations, sometimes in other agencies or involving international travel.

"Among my top prospects are the Department of Energy, the International Trade Commission and the Department of Homeland Security. But in light of the Obama Administration's Open Government directives, all agencies will be looking for their next generation of leaders to value transparency, collaboration and innovation. Because these values are stressed in the MBA program at Robinson, I am able

to compete with prospective hires on a national level. My experience with Dr. Danis as his graduate research assistant at the Institute of International Business has given me a richer management perspective and a competitive edge. This together with my concentration in IS Consulting, a rare background combination of management and IT, sets me apart from the other MBA applicants. The flexibility and innovation seen in Robinson's CIS Department's MBA IS career paths is a perfect example of what gives Robinson graduates a significant competitive advantage," Halloran says.

Halloran continues, "The Presidential Management Fellowship program is an extraordinary opportunity for Robinson students to fast track into top management in the public sector. Dr. Maggie Tolan, the PMF coordinator at the GSU Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, and Dr. Jane Mutchler, Associate Dean at Robinson, were instrumental in my progress through the long assessment process. I hope that it will become a tradition at Robinson to send a team of leadership representatives to Washington every year, starting in 2011."

Hi Dr. Stucke,



Dina O'Quinn's response after **Dr. Carl Stucke** (CIS Department associate chair) informed her that she was a recipient of the 2010 Rozelle Outstanding Programmer Award at GSU.

Thank you so much. I am so grateful and honored to receive this award. I really don't know how to express what it means to me to know that my name will be on the [Rozelle Award] plaque.

I have been hanging around Georgia State since I was a child, when my mom attended GSU. She was originally a physics major, and she would help out her professors by occasionally leading labs or doing odd jobs. My sister and I would wait patiently in one of the little offices in Kell Hall (So tiny, with nothing to play with but a slide rule!) while she attended class on some days when she did not have child care. We knew the location of every candy machine on campus.

She switched to respiratory therapy; and again, we waited in a small office in Kell Hall while she took her classes (this was usually during the summer, and it was many summers!) or she dropped us off at the pool for swimming lessons. I learned to swim in the GSU pool, and I took diving lessons there as well. I got to look through a special telescope and see the sun, from the top of one of the GSU buildings, when I was about 10 years old. I have so many memories of GSU, which go way, way back.

To think that my name, MY NAME, would officially be recorded on a plaque that hangs in the lobby of the CIS department, for which I have so much respect, is just an incredible honor for me. I just don't know how to tell you how much it means, and I am thankful from the bottom of my heart.

I am sorry to run on so, and I won't take any more of your time, but I really appreciate your congratulations.

Cheers!
Dina

Dina O'Quinn - Rozelle Award Winner

New Technology Allows Students to Ask Questions in Class via Text Messages.

- Questions are automatically scrolled on a projected screen -

Students sending text messages in class might drive some instructors batty, but in a handful of business classes, texting is becoming a means for students to ask questions and learn. Georgia State is piloting a new texting technology called Text Question System (TQS), said **David McDonald**, director of emerging technologies in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

"Think of the shy or international student who feels lost in a classroom of 200," McDonald said. "This allows them to anonymously ask questions using technology they already know and use, and they get credit for doing so."

McDonald helped create the system with FanDriveMedia, an Atlanta-based company already using similar technology on sports scoreboards and JumboTrons.

In fact, McDonald was at an event at Philips Arena when he came up with the idea. "That's where the light bulb went up over my head," said McDonald. "I did some research, found nothing similar, and thought, 'I want to bring this to campus.'"

With TQS, when an instructor turns on a Power Point classroom presentation, students can text their questions directly from their cell phones to a specific number. Moments later - after going through a screening process - the questions scroll across the



Dr. David McDonald

bottom of the presentation like a ticker in Times Square.

So far, the texting tool is being tested in 15 business classes. By next fall, McDonald hopes to roll out the technology campus-wide, and possibly at other institutions.

The CIS department was awarded two tech fee grants totaling \$374,000 to upgrade its current virtual environment. The grant allows the department to accommodate additional requests for virtual machines housed in the department's High Performance Virtual Lab (HPVL) located inside a climate controlled room.

The goal is to virtualize the entire CIS department and provide anytime, anywhere access to the HPVL from work or home computers for students. This will significantly help part-time master and undergraduate students who are unable to use the physical laboratories due to their busy schedules. Students can use the HPVL for the entire semester as it can now accommodate what once was overwhelming demand and strain on the existing virtual environment.

According to **James Sneed**, the department's technology manager, "the new servers will provide a software/systems development and delivery environment on which students may prototype systems as part of CIS class systems development and delivery activities. This will help the department be more competitive in attracting students. We can expand our exposure to more advanced types of computing."

Technology Fee Grant Awards \$374,000 for High Performance Virtual Lab



Above: James Sneed oversees 16 TB of storage and increased processing power. Installation completed with the assistance of an onsite IBM team.

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Georgia State University"



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Have You Considered Becoming a Part-time Instructor Teaching CIS Students?

If you have a masters in information systems and five or more years experience in IS or a related field, come and give back to our CIS students as a part-time instructor. Contact **Carl Stucke**, Associate Departmental Chair at cstucke@gsu.edu.

Help Support Computer Information Systems at GSU

To donate to the CIS department, visit:

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Direct your gift to Robinson College, select "other," and type "Computer Information Systems"