

**Computer and Information Science News October 2006 – April 2007**  
**Spring 2007 Engineering Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Updated 27 March 2007 (Version 5)**

Dr. Jianping Wang has resigned her Assistant Professor position effective 31 July to take a position at the City University of Hong Kong. She is on leave from Ole Miss during the Spring 2007 semester but will return to the USA for approximately two months in the summer to complete work on her NSF grant.

In 2006-7, we conducted a search to fill the Assistant Professor position vacated by Dr. Wang. Paul Ruth, a PhD candidate at Purdue University, has agreed to accept our offer to join the faculty. Ruth's specialization is in high performance computing and networking, with a current focus on machine and network virtualization. The search committee was co-chaired by Dawn Wilkins and Philip Rhodes and includes Stephen Rice, Yixin Chen, Charles Jenkins, Tobin Maginnis, and Brenteria Travis.

We hired Dr. Rainey Little to teach CSci 361 (Introduction to Computer Networks) and a 500-level special topics course on data compression during the Spring 2007 semester. Dr. Little was chair of the Department in the 1980-85 period and is Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Mississippi State University.

For Spring 2007, we also hired Ms. Kristi Davidson (MS graduate) to teach one section each of CSci 111 (Computer Science I) and CSci 191 (Office Applications), Mr. Jie Tang (MS graduate and IT staff member) to teach an undergraduate special topics course (CSci 490) on internet programming, and Ms. Carla Rego (IT staff member) to teach an experimental Alice-based section of CSci 103 (Survey of Computing).

Dr. Pamela Lawhead served as an ABET/CAC evaluator again this year. She was on a team that visited an institution on the East Coast in October.

Lawhead is also co-Pi on a new National Science Foundation (NSF) Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) grant, collaborating with Steve Cooper of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

In February, Dr. Dawn Wilkins was named President-Elect of the MidSouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society (McBIOS) board. She will also serve as chair of the 2009 McBIOS conference which will likely be hosted in Oxford.

Wilkins will also speak in the Department of Computer Science colloquium at the University of Memphis as a part of our speaker exchange with that department.

In December, Dr. Conrad Cunningham was named Program Chair for the 2007 Conference on the Principles and Practice of Programming in Java (PPPJ) to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September.

Cunningham is also serving as the Chair of the Consortium of Computer Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) Mid-South Conference Regional Board for 2007-8.

Dr. Yixin Chen is currently serving as a Program Committee member for three conferences:

- 9th International Conference on Visual Information Systems (VISUAL 2007)
- 8th ACIS International Conference on Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Networking and Parallel/Distributed Computing (SNPD 2007).
- Recherche d'Information Assistée par Ordinateur (RIAO 2007).

Dr. Philip Rhodes is currently serving as a Program Committee member for two conferences:

- 2007 Symposium on Information Visualization in Biomedical Informatics (IVBI),
- 2007 International Conference on Computational Science (ICCS).

Rhodes also served as a reviewer for an NSF program in spring 2007.

On March 9, Charles Jenkins attended the regional high school science fair in Greenville, Mississippi, to select and present the Ole Miss Engineering award. This is a part of the School's efforts to recruit students to enroll in engineering or computer science at Ole Miss.

PhD student Yuanyuan Ding was awarded a Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship to enable her to focus on completing her dissertation during Spring 2007. Ding is on a schedule to complete her dissertation in Summer 2007 under the direction of Dr. Dawn Wilkins.

Yuanyuan Ding also recently accepted an appointment as an Assistant Professor at Maryville College in Tennessee to begin in January 2008.

PhD student Susan Lukose successfully defended her dissertation prospectus in December 2006 under the direction of Dr. Pamela Lawhead.

In February 2007, Marcus Golden successfully completed the comprehensive examinations for the PhD degree.

PhD student Baoqiang Yan will be working on an internship at Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) during Summer 2007. Yan's PhD work is supervised by Dr. Philip Rhodes. His summer work will be under the supervision of Dr. Sudharshan Vazhkudai, who received his PhD from the Department in 2003.

For the January-August 2007 period, PhD student Jian Weng is an intern at Rockwell Collins in Iowa. The company's business is in aviation electronics and similar products. Weng is working to complete her MS thesis during this period.

The Department nominated Senior Scott Blackburn for a 2007 Taylor Medal.

The Department selected the following students for the 2007 Student Achievement Awards: Conner Campassi (Freshman), Achini Herath (Sophomore), Brent Roth (Junior), and Scott Blackburn (Senior). The Department also selected Brent Roth to receive the Richard E. Grove Award for service.

The ACM student chapter fielded a programming team to compete in the student programming contest held at the Consortium of Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) Mid-South conference in Monroe, Louisiana, on 30 March. The team is coached by Dr. Stephen Rice and includes undergraduates Courtney Humphries, Jason Boyd, and David Thigpen.

Seniors Andy Anderson and Courtney Humphries have part-time internships during this academic year with the Oxford-based Information Technology division of Global Technical Systems, a Virginia-based company. GTS-Oxford emphasizes the application of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware and open source software for defense-related systems applications. PhD student Derek Park and MS student Ben Pharr are full-time staff members of GTS.

The Department continues to be innovative in its course offerings by teaching four new course topics in Spring 2007. Jie Tang is teaching an undergraduate special topics course on internet programming. Yixin Chen and Rainey Little are teaching 500-level special topics courses on image processing and data

compression, respectively. Dawn Wilkins is teaching a 600-level special topics course on parallel programming. (Some of the content of these courses have been taught by other instructors in different formats in the past.) In addition, Philip Rhodes and Stephen Rice are teaching courses for only the second time—Rhodes has a 500-level course in three-dimensional graphics and Rice has a 600-level course on computer audio.

Speakers in the Computer Science Seminar Series for Spring 2007 include Jason Hale (MCSR), Yuanyuan Ding, Dr. Hiu Chen (University of Memphis and Autozone), Paul Ruth (Purdue), Dr. Khuzaima Daudjee (Waterloo), and Charles Jenkins. At this writing, we have Dr. Huimin Chen (EE, New Orleans), Dr. Hanxiang Peng (Mathematics), and Bill Ward (US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Major Shared Resource Center) scheduled to present in April.

In Fall 2007, the Department purchased the SynchronEyes software package for the Adler labs. This allows the instructor to observe and control the students' computers during laboratory sessions.

In November 2006, the Department purchased two new Dell servers. One is a dual-processor server that was installed as the primary file server for the Windows-based computers on the Department network. The older server in that role (Jupiter) became the backup server. The second new server is a dual-processor, dual-core machine installed as the student Linux server (Turing). The previous student server (purchased last summer) will be reconfigured to replace the Unix-based faculty server (John). The old faculty server, a Sun Enterprise 250 server purchased in 1999, will likely be decommissioned at that time.

Dr. Philip Rhodes' NSF research project has purchased two new systems in the past months to support the group's scientific data networking research. One is an Intel-based, dual-processor, dual-core Apple Mac Pro and the other is a dual-processor, dual-core Dell Windows server. Both systems have high-end graphics cards and displays. The Apple supports the work of Rhodes' graduate students in the Department. After configuration, the Dell server was deployed at the University of New Hampshire, where it is the remote end of the group's experiments involving large-scale Internet data access.