

Upcoming Events

- August 4: REU Poster Session in Molecular Biology Building. SPIRE-EIT students will present from 2-4 pm.
- August 18: New Graduate Student Orientation 9-11:30 am in Pearson Hall
- August 18: HCI New Student Orientation 2 pm in the VRAC Conference Room.
- August 21: First day of class for Fall semester.

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REU Student Poster Session

The Research Experience for Undergrads programs on campus will wrap up their sessions with a joint Research Forum, to be held on Friday, August 4. The morning session will run from 10 am to noon and include participants from the Chemistry and the Ames Lab Student Undergraduate Laboratory Internships programs. The afternoon session will run from 2-4 pm and include participants from the Molecular Biology, Chemical and Biological Engineering, and the SPIRE-EIT programs. The SPIRE-EIT program invites all interested persons to attend.

The fifteen interns in the Summer Program for Interdisciplinary Research and Education- Emerging Interface Technologies (SPIRE-EIT) have been conducting research on five HCI and VRAC projects and will present posters and technical demonstrations to share the outcome of their research during the Forum. The multi-disciplinary projects include:

Biology in Virtual Reality: Faculty Mentors: **Eve Wurtele, Diane Bassham, Julie Dickerson, Steve Herrstadt**. Grad Student Mentors: **David Kabala, Teresa Karr**. Interns: **Tyler Brown, Nicole Jensen, Erica Zbornik**.

Haptics-Based Interactive Product Development in Virtual Reality: Faculty Mentor: **Judy Vance**. Grad Student Mentor: **Dao Vo**. Interns: **Nicholas Hammonds, Dipayan Mitra, Garland Trice**.

Interface Design for Immersive Command and Control Application in Virtual Reality: Faculty Mentors: **Jim Oliver, Derrick Parkhurst, Eliot Winer, Alexander Stoytchev**. Grad Student Mentors: **KC Dohse, Tom Batkiewicz**. Interns: **Rob Dixon, Adam Lavelly, Neil Roberts**.

Methamphetamine Abuse Education using Virtual Reality and Video Games: Faculty Mentors: **Amy Wisniewski** from Drake University, **Derrick Parkhurst**. Grad Student Mentor: **Kim Weaver**. Interns: **Natalie Greco, Michelle Reinke, Andrea Schwager**.

Technology for 3D digital Art Creation Using Tradition Art Interaction Techniques: Faculty Mentors: **Dennis Dake, Derrick Parkhurst**. Interns: **Tabitha Johnson, Josh Mahan, ChenRu Zheng**.



The SPIRE-EIT interns will present posters and demos of their research at the Research Forum on August 4 from 2-4 pm in the Molecular Biology Atrium.

The Summer Graduation Ceremony for Graduate Students will be held Saturday, August 5, 2006 at 9:30 am in J. H. Hilton Coliseum

An HCI faculty survey was sent out this summer to compile faculty contributions to the program. If you have not done so, please return those as soon as possible.

Matt Heying is the new HCI Student Group President for the coming year.



Summer 2006 Graduates

This summer, three HCI students will be awarded their HCI degrees during the commencement ceremony on August 5. **Jared Knutzon** will graduate with his PhD and **Jake Ingman** and **Tom Batkewitz** will graduate with their MS degrees.

Jim Oliver and **Adrian Sannier** served as Jared's co-major professors. Jared will receive the third PhD awarded since the program began and was offered a position with Lockheed Martin after graduation.

Tom Batkewitz will stay at ISU and begin work on his PhD. His major professor was **Adrian Sannier**. **Greg Luecke** served as major professor for Jake Ingman. Jake is working at ISU for the College of Engineering as a Youth Program Assistant. His future plans are uncertain at this time.

Congratulations to these HCI graduates on a job well done!

New HCI Faculty

Three faculty members have been granted HCI faculty status over the summer months. The new HCI faculty members include **Roger Baer** from Art and Design, **Shankar Subramaniam** from Mechanical Engineering, and **James Bloedel** from Biomedical Sciences. Professor Bloedel is working with HCI student **Mandella Connors** as her major professor and Professor Baer is serving on the committee of **Pasha Antonenko**.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the HCI program!

HCI Student Group Officers

The HCI student group appointed new officers for the coming year. The officers include:

Matt Heying—President

Kim Weaver—Vice President

Emily Ericson—Treasurer

Pasha Antonenko—Web Master

These students will be meeting soon to discuss speakers and meeting topics for the coming year. Please contact them with any suggestions that you may have. Please consider attending the meetings this year. This is a good opportunity to interact with HCI students from other disciplines and to find out about other research projects in the program.

HCI Faculty Retreat Recap

The 2006 HCI Faculty Retreat was held on May 12-13 and was facilitated by Mark Snell from MHS Management Group in Ames.

The Friday afternoon session of the retreat was attended by 19 faculty members. **Jim Oliver** gave the welcome and stated that the purpose of the retreat was to set priorities for the future direction of the program. He also discussed how the new budget model may impact HCI. Mark Snell led a discussion about retreat expectations.

Mark Snell also led the discussion during the Saturday session for the 12 participants. Three priorities and several action items for each of these priorities were agreed to by the end of the session. Priorities included work in the areas of collaboration, marketing, and curriculum. Some of the action items included creating opportunities for HCI faculty to network and collaborate, a redesign of the HCI website, and a curriculum review. A full report from Mark Snell is expected soon.

As a result of the Retreat discussions, a survey was sent to all HCI faculty to compile faculty contributions to the program.

The HCI program received a total of 56 applications for the fall semester, with 34 of those from international students.

Fall Applicants to Program

The HCI Graduate program received a total of 56 applications for the Fall 2006 semester. Of these applications, 27 were to the PhD program and 29 were to the MS program. 36 applications were received from males and 20 from females. Of the 56 applications, 34 were from international students.

Last March, HCI invited 8 applicants to campus for a campus visit. These students spent their time attending the HCI Seminar, meeting individually with faculty, touring VRAC and the ISU campus, and meeting with HCI students.

HCI will admit eight students for the fall semester. These students will be highlighted in a future newsletter.

Summer HCI Admissions

The Human Computer Interaction Graduate Program admitted a total of five students over the summer months. In addition to **Marisol Martinez** and **Andrew Koehring**, who were highlighted in the May newsletter, HCI admitted **Dawn Laux**, **Todd Dusold** and **Jivko Sinapov**. Dawn is working on her PhD in HCI with **Brian Mennecke**. Todd is working towards his MS with **Mark Bryden**, and Jivko Sinapov will co-major in HCI and Computer Science while working towards his PhD. **Alex Stoytchev** will be supporting Jivko in his HCI work.

We welcome these students to HCI!



Todd Dusold and Jivko Sinapov, new HCI students. Dawn's photo was not available.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Human Computer Interaction Graduate Program

Pam Shill, Administrative Specialist
1620 Howe Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 5011
Phone: 515-294-2089
Fax: 515-294-5530
E-mail: pshill@iastate.edu

Please see our website at
www.hci.iastate.edu.

FY 06 HCI Statistics

(Summer 05, Fall 05, Spring 06)

Applications to Program = 80

Number of Admissions = 22

PhD Admissions = 10

MS Admissions = 12

Graduates = 7

MS Graduates = 6

PhD Graduates = 1

Number of students in program at end of FY 06 =
50

HCI Courses for Fall 2006

In addition to the required courses of HCI/PSYCH 521, Cognitive Psychology of HCI taught by **Derrick Parkhurst**, and MIS 655, Organizational and Social Implication of HCI taught by **Tony Townsend**, other HCI courses will be offered this fall semester. These include:

ArtGR 672, Graphic Design and Human Interaction, 3 credits, taught by **Sunghyun Kang**.

ComS 401, Projects in Computing and Business Applications, 3 credits, taught by **Alex Stoytchev** can be taken for non-major graduate credit, if approved by your POS Committee.

ComS 572, Principles of Artificial Intelligence, 3 credits, taught by **Vasant Honavar**.

Both HCI/PSYCH 521 and MIS 655 will be offered online this fall to off-campus students in the HCI Graduate Certificate Program.

GEOL 552, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Geoscientists I, 4 credits, taught by **Chris Harding**.

HCI 591, Seminar in Human Computer Interaction, 1 credit, taught by **Derrick Parkhurst**.

JLMC 574/TSC 574, Communication Technologies and Social Change, 3 credits, taught by **Daniela Dimitrova**.

Please contact Pam Shill if you are teaching a course that would be of interest to HCI students.

More information about these and other courses will be posted on the HCI website under the link to Courses at <http://www.hci.iastate.edu/courselist.php>.