

Upcoming Events

- August 3: REU Research Forum 10 am to noon Molecular Biology Building
- August 17: Grad College New Student Orientation 9-11:30 am
- August 17: New HCI Graduate Student Orientation 1 pm
- August 20: First day of Fall 2007 Semester

Inside this
issue:

Summer 07 Graduates	2
HCI Student Group Officers	3
Fall Courses	3
New Students	4
Eva Tao	5
Stephen Gilbert	5
Mentors Needed	5
HCI Faculty in the News	6

REU Research Forum to be held on Friday, August 3

The fifteen students that have been participating in the SPIRE-EIT program this summer will present their research on Friday, August 3 from 10 am to noon in the Atrium of the Molecular Biology Building. The public is invited to attend.

The students have been working in five interdisciplinary teams on research projects related to Human Computer Interaction. Teams that will present posters and technical demonstrations of their research include the following:



Magic Box: Interns created an 'inverse cave' allowing the user a new means of interacting with computers and virtual spaces. They were under the direction of **Jim Oliver** and graduate student **Tyler Streeter**. Interns on this team included **Dylan Spencer** from the University of Evansville, **Aaron Meldrum** from the University of Maryland, and **Jason Rohe** from Iowa State.

Laser Target: Interns created a prototype of an electronic archery scoring system. They were under the direction of **Jim Oliver** and graduate student **Jesse Lane**. Interns on this team included **Andreea Danielescu** from the University of Arizona and **Matt Poulter** and **Bryan Aull** from Iowa State.

Direct Interface to Digital Communities: Under the direction of **Eliot Winer** and graduate students **Andrew Koehring** and **Ken Kopecky**, interns used interface technologies and immersive VR to enable a direct interaction with a digital community. Interns on this team included **Jana LePon** from Harvard University, **Tony Carr** from Macalester College, and **Oleksiy Golovin** from Truman State University.

Battlespace: Interns enhanced the Virtual Battlespace platform by adding a game-playing environment. They were under the direction of **Stephen Gilbert** and graduate student **Tom Batkiewicz**. Interns on this team included **Shaleta Bennett** from Jackson State University, **Derek Rollend** from Clemson University, and **Daniel Francis** from Iowa State.

Biology in VR. Students created a GUI library to facilitate creating an interface using Open SG on both 2D and 3D virtual reality environments. This project was directed by **Eve Wurtele** and graduate student **David Kabala**. Interns on this team included **Jonathan Flory** from Drake University, **Lee Zaniewski** from West Virginia University, and **Alden Peterson** from Iowa State.

The program was directed by **Jim Oliver** with assistance from **Stephen Gilbert** and graduate assistants **Chad Kilgore** and **Eva Tao**. More information about the summer REU program can be found on the web at <http://www.hci.iastate.edu/REU07/bin/view/REU07/WebHome>

**GRADUATING in
Fall 2007?**

**Please contact
Pam Shill if you
plan to graduate
in the Fall 2007.
By doing this,
you will be in-
cluded on an
email list to re-
ceive important
graduation infor-
mation, includ-
ing deadlines for
submittal of
forms to the
Graduate Col-
lege.**

Summer 2007 HCI Graduates

Five HCI students will graduate this summer with HCI degrees.

Kim Weaver will be awarded her MS in HCI after successfully defending her thesis titled “Design and Evaluation of a Perceptually Adaptive Rendering System for Immersive Virtual Reality Environments”. Kim was vice president of the HCI student group and an HCI fellowship recipient. Her major professor was **Derrick Parkhurst**. She will attend Georgia Tech in the fall and pursue her PhD.

Josh Reed will earn his MS in HCI. His research involved developing a piece of software for core logging called PSICAT, under the direction of his major professor **Cinzia Cervato**. Josh spent three months at McMurdo Station in Antarctica using PSICAT to assist the ANDRILL project with their data management and core logging procedure. His PSICAT software won an Eclipse Community Award for the Best Open Source RCP Application in March 2007. After graduation, Josh will continue to work with ANDRILL and will travel to Antarctica again later this year.

Steven Pautz will earn his MS in HCI. His thesis is titled “Painter Training in VR: Conceptualization, Design Implementation”. He worked under the direction of **Dirk Reiners**. Steven is currently at Clemson University working on his PhD.

Pasha Antonenko will graduate with his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction and a co-major in HCI. His dissertation is titled “The Effect of Leads on Cognitive Load and Learning from Conceptually Rich Hypertext”. **Dale Niederhauser** and **Ann Thompson** served as his co-major professors. Pasha served as the HCI student group webmaster. This summer he joined the faculty at Oklahoma State University and will be teaching courses in educational technologies.

Abhishek Seth will graduate with his PhD in Mechanical Engineering and a co-major in HCI. He developed a system for haptic assembly and realistic prototyping under the direction of **Judy Vance**. Abhishek will continue to work in VRAC in a post doctorate position

Congratulations to these students!

New HCI Student Group Officers

The HCI Student Group will have a new slate of officers this year. **Jeremiah Still** will serve as president and **Lisa McGarthwaite** will be vice president. **Janea Triplett** and **Michael Oren** will serve as the Graduate and Professional Student Senators.

The group is still in need of a treasurer and a webmaster. If you are interested in these positions, please contact Jeremiah Still or Pam Shill.

HCI Courses Offered this Fall

Several courses will be offered this fall that may be of interest to HCI students. Further details about these courses can be found on the HCI website at <http://www.hci.iastate.edu/Academics/courses.php>

HCI/PSYCH 521 The Cognitive Psychology of HCI. This required HCI course will offer an introduction to human-computer interaction using the lens of cognitive psychology. It will be taught this fall by **Stephen Gilbert**.

MIS 655 Organizational and Social Implications of HCI. This required HCI course will be taught by **Tony Townsend**. It will examine opportunities and implication of information technologies and human computer interaction on social and organizational systems.

HCI 591 Seminar in HCI. **Jim Oliver** will lead this one credit discussion seminar this semester. Each week he will invite a different HCI faculty member to share a journal article and lead the discussion. All interested faculty and students are invited to participate in these discussions, in addition to the registered students.

HCI 592X Entrepreneurship Workshop. **Jim Oliver** will lead this one credit workshop. This course will take students step-by-step through activities that must be undertaken when attempting to commercialize a technology or start their own company. Speakers will be brought in to introduce relevant topics, provide resources, answer questions, and provide working examples.

HCI/ME 580X Virtual Worlds and Applications. The purpose of this course is to provide a systematic introduction to the underpinnings of VEs, Virtual Worlds, advanced displays and immersive technologies and will give students a short overview of some of the application areas. This course will be taught by instructors from four institutions, including Old Dominion, the University of Florida, Desert Research Institute, and Iowa State. The ISU instructors are **Mark Bryden** and **Doug McCorkle**.

HCI/LING/ENGL 515X Statistical Natural Language Processing. Students taking this course will understand the fundamental theoretical infrastructure of natural language processing and the contributions of its underlying fields: computer science, linguistics, machine learning, and statistics. They will also learn about the existing, emerging and possible real-world computer applications involving natural language interfaces. **Nick Pendar** is the instructor.

Other courses of interest to HCI students are listed on the HCI website at <http://www.hci.iastate.edu/Academics/courses.php>.

Students needing to register for HCI 699 Research Credits this fall can contact Pam Shill for the reference number of your major professor's section.

Graduate College Student Orientation will be held on Friday, August 17 from 9-11:30 am in 1137 Pearson Hall.

HCI New Student Orientation is scheduled for Friday, August 17 at 1 pm in the VRAC Conference Room.

Both of these orientation sessions will be helpful to new graduate students and

New HCI Students

Three new students joined the HCI Graduate Program over the summer and six more students will come in the Fall of 2007.

Utkarsh Seth will be working on his MS in HCI with **Judy Vance**. He comes to us from India, where he earned his B. Tech in Information Technology from BIET Jhansi University.

Catherine Peloquin will be working with **Eliot Winer** on her MS in ME and a co-major in HCI. She earned her undergraduate degree from ISU.

Adam Faeth is working on his PhD in Computer Engineering with **Jim Oliver** and his MS in HCI with **Chris Harding**. Adam also earned his undergraduate degree from ISU.

The following students will join the program this fall:

Brandon Newendorp will work with **Eliot Winer** on his MS in HCI. He earned his BS in Computer Engineering in May 2007 from ISU and has been on an internship with John Deere this summer.

Travis Engelhaupt is working at the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State and will begin his MS in HCI this fall. His major professor is **Tony Townsend**. Travis earned his BS in Computer Science in May 2003 from ISU.

Eric Marsh will work with **Jim Oliver** on his PhD in HCI. He earned his BS in Computer Science from Arizona State University and his MSE in Human Factors Engineering from Wright State University. He comes to ISU from Springfield, Ohio.

Kofi Whitney will work with **Les Miller** on his PhD in HCI. He earned his BS in Computer Science from Benedict College in 2004. Kofi is currently working with the Intel Corporation in Chandler, Arizona.

Joseph Frost earned his BA in Computer Information Systems from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in 2007. He will begin working this fall in the Admissions office as a web developer. **Ann Thompson** will serve as his major professor as he works on his MS in HCI.

Simon Setterstrom will work on his MS in HCI under the direction of **Ann Thompson**. He will work in the Provost office as a web developer. Simon earned his BS in Computer Science from Taylor University. Simon currently lives in Alexandria, Indiana.

We welcome these students to the HCI Graduate Program and to Iowa State University.

Eva Tao is Named Wakonse Teaching Fellow

Li-Shan (Eva) Tao, Phd student in Food Service and Lodging Management with an HCI co-major, attended the Wakonse Conference on College Teaching, May 24-29 was selected as a 2007 Wakonse Teaching Fellow. She works with co-major professors **Miyong Jeong** and **Tony Townsend**. Congratulations, Eva.

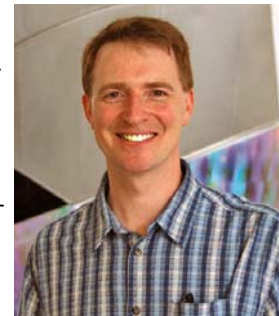
Stephen Gilbert working with REU Interns

Stephen Gilbert has been working with the SPIRE-EIT program this summer, teaching the interns about the steps of product innovation and development using project-based activities that give the interns a glimpse of the ways in which HCI professionals work.

In addition to teaching one of the courses to introduce the interns to the concepts of HCI, Stephen mentored the Battlespace research team and led the Journal Club discussions. He also brought in speakers from business and industry to speak to the interns about HCI in the real world.

Stephen received his BSE from Princeton University in civil engineering, focusing on human-computer interaction, and his PhD from MIT in brain and cognitive sciences.

Stephen's company, ClearSighted, Inc., is an education and technology consultancy in Ames.



If you have any items of information to share with HCI faculty and students, please contact Pam Shill. We are interested in hearing about faculty and student awards, publications, conference presentations or other items of interest.

HCI Student Mentors are Needed

We are looking for HCI students who are willing to serve as mentors for the new students this fall semester. The HCI program began using mentors for new students last fall and we are interested in continuing this program this fall.

The mentors would meet the new students at the HCI New Student Orientation meeting and then serve as their contact for information during the semester. The mentors will:

- Meet informally with their student at least twice a month.
- Introduce their student to other HCI graduate students.
- Take their student to the HCI Student group meetings or social events.
- Be available to answer questions their student may have about the program or ISU in general.
- Engage in a positive relationship with their student.

We are looking for nine students to serve as mentors this semester. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Pam Shill.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Human Computer Interaction Graduate Program

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www.hci.iastate.edu.

Fall 2007 HCI Application Recap

84 Applications received.

35 PhD applications.

48 MS applications.

58 from international students.

26 from domestic students.

58 male applicants.

26 female applicants.

6 students accepted.

HCI Faculty in the News

Brian Mennecke, Associate Professor in Logistics Operations, and Management Information Systems and HCI, was in the news this summer because of his innovative way of teaching his summer course. Brian taught MIS 534 Electronic Commerce using Second Life. Brian had 19 students located on campus and 12 students at remote locations. He used the ISU island on Second Life as their meeting place.



KCCI TV, The Des Moines Register, and the Ames Tribune all covered

Brian Mennecke

this story.

More information about Brian's project can be found at <http://www.iastate.edu/news/2007/twomin/mennecke.shtml>

Chad Harms, Assistant Professor in Journalism and Mass Communication and HCI received media coverage for his research to stop online sexual predators. He created a website at <http://www.stopandhelp.org/> and wrote a two-part series on the grooming of child victims by sexual online predators for the newsletter "Sex Offender Law Report." Chad also created a system in which online communication can be coded to detect an online predator. His



Chad Harms

research was presented at the International Conference on Cybernetics and Information Technologies, Systems and Applications last summer and he has submitted a grant to NSF for funding

The ISU News Service article about his research can be found at <http://www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2007/jul/predators.shtml>