

Upcoming Events

- October 3 —
Midterm Grade
Reports Due
- October 3 —
Envisioning the
Future of VRAC
and HCI, 9 am in
Room 20 Howe
Hall
- October 18 —
Registration Period
for Spring 2007
begins
- October 26 —
John Deere Day in
VRAC

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First Graduate of the HCI Certificate Program

Branko Strok, MD, MS, is the first graduate of HCI's Graduate Certificate program. As an informatics physician for the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care in West Des Moines, Branko works with physician offices and hospitals to apply information technology solutions to manage health records. Branko says that "The courses were beneficial as they helped me better understand the issues relating to the usability of computer applications including Electronic Health Records (EHR)." He uses this knowledge to educate Iowa physicians on how to evaluate the usability of Electronic Health Records prior to purchase and then how to use them efficiently to improve patient care. Branko's MS is in Medical Informatics and he is continuing his education in the PhD program at the University of Minnesota.

Other students admitted to the certificate program include two engineers employed by Rockwell Collins who test cockpit displays and controls, the director of UI Design at a California HR/Payroll outsourcing vendor called Synch Source, and the international web manager at Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Des Moines.

Digital Thesis Submission Now Required

Effective Fall 2006, changes to the thesis submission process have been made. All theses must now be submitted electronically. The thesis Signature Page is being replaced by the Thesis/Dissertation Submission Form. This form needs to be submitted before you will be allowed to log onto the UMI website to submit your thesis. You will need to convert your thesis to a PDF document before you begin the electronic submission process. You will also need to submit an abstract of your thesis, with abstracts for Master's theses having a 150 word limit and abstracts for Doctoral Dissertations having a 350 word limit. The abstract should not be in PDF format, but should be in an electronic form, ready to copy and paste into the submission website. There are also additional fees for this process, including a Thesis Fee of \$100 and a Publication Fee of \$45-\$55. Optional copyright fees are an additional \$65. More information about this process can be found on the Graduate College website, under Thesis Requirements at <http://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/degree/thesisrequirements.html>.

A list of courses that can be used as electives for the HCI Graduate program can be found on the HCI website under the Courses tab. This is not an all inclusive list, but lists some of the options available.

Are you confused about the relationship between VRAC, the HCI Presidential Academic Initiative, and the HCI Graduate Major? Jim Oliver will lead a discussion on what we are, how we got here, and how best to position ourselves for the future on Tuesday, October 3 at 9 am in Room 20 Howe Hall. Interested faculty, staff, and students are welcome to join this discussion.

Globalization Course to be offered in Fall Semester

The course Technology, Globalization, and Culture, ME/FLNG 484X/584X, will not be offered this spring semester, but will change to a fall course offering. The course will be offered next in the Fall 2007 semester.

This course provides a cross-disciplinary examination of the present and future impact of globalization with a focus on preparing students for leadership roles in diverse professional, social, and cultural contexts. The instructors, **Jim Bernard** from Mechanical Engineering and Mark Rectanus from World Languages and Cultures, bring in well know experts in this area to interact with students in the class. Those speaking to classes in the past include Newt Gingrich, Robert Reich, and Ray Kurzweil, along with several leaders from academia, business, and industry. See <http://www3.me.iastate.edu/me484/> for more details.

This course can be used as elective in the HCI Graduate Certificate Program.

Cross-listing your Course with HCI

If the course you teach has strong HCI applications, we would like you to consider cross listing your course with HCI. This will help us to recommend courses to students who are asking about electives for the program and will help the Supervisory Committee when they review the curriculum later this year. To have your course cross listed, a brief memo requesting the cross-listing should be processed and signed by both department chairs and both departments' College Curriculum Committee Chairs. If the course is an experimental course, a copy of the original, fully signed Experimental Course Form should be modified and then signed by all parties involved. If you have questions about this process, please contact Pam Shill.

HCI Student Group

The HCI student group has been meeting weekly for social activities in addition to the regular weekly meetings with student and faculty presentations. They have gathered at places such as Olde Main Brewery, Peoples and the Stomping Grounds, held a console game night, and tailgated at one of the ISU football games. If you have suggestions for social activities for the group, please contact **Kim Weaver** at weaverk@iastate.edu.

Thanks to the new officers for their efforts to make the student group a success!

Matt Heying Recognized at NSF Challenge



Matt Heying,
HCI PhD
student.

Matt Heying received Honorable Mention in Science Magazine and the National Science Foundation's 2006 Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge. He competed in the Informational Graphics category. The title of his entry was Materials Informatics: Visualization of High Dimensional Combinatorial Data, which showed how chemists and materials scientists can use visualization to easily extract information on the composition of thousands of catalysts and their chemical reactivity. Faculty authors include Mechanical Engineering professor and HCI's DOGE **Jim Oliver** and Krishna Rajan, Materials Science and Engineering professor. More information about this Challenge and the full graphics can be found on the Science Magazine website at <http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/vis2006/> and on the NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/index.jsp?id=win2006+. Congratulations, Matt!

Microsoft Student Ambassador

Teresa Karr is serving as the Microsoft Student Ambassador this year. She has had three internships with Microsoft, making her qualified to answer your questions about the company or their products. She is planning to start a Technology Club that will meet once a month where she will share the newest products and how they can be used. If you would like more information about Microsoft or the new Technology Club, please contact Teresa at tkarr@iastate.edu.



Teresa Karr,
HCI MS
student.

Lew Hill Recognized

Lew Hill was recognized in August by the Iowa African American Hall of Fame as the first recipient of "The Future is Now Award". The award states "Your dedication to excellence is the pathway to a better society and a brighter future in the modern world of technology". The award, a research stipend, and a summary of his research in musical synesthesia were presented by George Jackson, President of the Iowa African American Hall of Fame and Assistant Dean of the Graduate College. Lew will graduate with his PhD in HCI in December, 2006.

Congratulations, Lew!



Lew Hill, HCI PhD
Student.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Human Computer Interaction Graduate Program

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

HCI Faculty Demographics

Number of HCI faculty = **63**

Number of departments represented = **19**

Number of faculty serving as major profes-
sors for HCI students = **32**

Number of faculty members that are serving
on HCI student POS committees = **28**

September HCI Supervisory Committee Meeting

The HCI Supervisory Committee met on September 6. The following topics were discussed:

HCI's budget was reduced by 10% to \$90,000 for this year.

Collaboration, Marketing, and Curriculum were seen as the three main priorities at the HCI Retreat in May. These topics will be discussed at future meetings.

Surveys sent to HCI faculty this summer asking if they would still like to participate in HCI were received from 57 of the 69 faculty members.

An email will go out to faculty asking if they have a course that would be appropriate for an elective for the HCI Certificate program this spring.

Requirements for eportfolios, which are a

requirement of the HCI program, will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

HCI will apply for a \$1500 TEACH Grant by proposing a series of luncheon workshops covering foundational technologies of VR for HCI faculty.

Chiu-Shui suggested an international partnership with universities in China and Taiwan, with the possibility of creating a joint PhD program with them.

More detailed minutes of the September 6 meeting can be found on the HCI Supervisory Committee page on the HCI website at <http://www.hci.iastate.edu/supervisory.php>.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4.