CICS Digs into IT security

Michael Wulff

CICS faculty member Dr. Ron Kovac and graduate assistant Michael Wulff will be giving a 3-hour presentation on IT security geared toward non-security professionals at the annual ACUTA Conference on April 18-21 in San Antonio, TX. Their seminar will look at recent IT security breaches, trends, and IT security principles. Kovac and Wulff will explain the impact of current regulations on security and how to meet those standards. There will be discussion of the most relevant security certifications and how to create an organizational security policy. Kovac and Wulff will also cover what role non-security types play in maintaining and ensuring security inside their organization.

Thomson Usability Lab Evolves Into a Reality

Nick Marsh

The **Human Factors Institute** (HFI) has been playing a key role in advancing the status of its User Experience Lab, which has been furnished with equip-

ment donated from the Thomson Equipment Company. To date, the lab is running recording devices and will soon be exploring software capturing and editing live video feed. The goal is to estab- the User Experience Lab. lish and expand

a client base that requires a lab environment for focus groups and usability testing.

Already, HFI has used the lab for a

focus group study conducted by the John and Janice Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology at Ball State University.

Project managers and CICS research

associates John Hottle and Nick Marsh are invesfurther tigating plans for maintaining the space for efficiency and full productivity. Engineering Manager and research Scott associate Morford has also provided vital assistance in making the



John Hottle tests audio and video equipment in

lab functional.

The lab features control panel gadgetry including four video panels with audio feeds that can be provisioned for

Director's Perspective

Daniel Laatz



Dr. Steve Jones

In a recent interview, CICS Director Dr. Steve Jones discussed his outlook on the future of our program as well as the ICT industry.

How much interest is the program receiving from prospective CICS candidates?

"The program is receiving a lot of interest right now from prospective students, as the outlook for the ICT industry continues to grow. The recruiting process has remained strong with

colleges and universities throughout the Midwest, as more schools are becoming interested in our recruiting process. Moving into the future, the program still holds great balance for professionals by leading them towards a program like CICS."

What's new in the recruiting process?

"Recently, CICS has begun to stream live informational videos explaining what our program has to offer for interested people that have potential for the program. It is interactive, and is open to the public. With the current economic climate that we are experiencing today, it is important that people are made aware of the opportunities that they have to push their careers forward and to strengthen their tool

set with a program like CICS. The first broadcast was to about 20 people, the most recent was just over 100 people. This opportunity shows not only the direction that technology is taking our program and industry, but also, the current interest of prospective students."

What's the current outlook in the ICT industry for current CICS Candidates?

"The desired skill sets that companies look for in the industry are exactly what CICS offers to their masters candidates. Employers associated with a CICS degree in the ICT industry know that students can "hit the ground running" upon graduating and beginning their careers. On that note, the industry seems to be picking up. The number of companies that are planning to hire in the near future is on the rise."

What is the current economic state of the ICT industry?

Dr. Jones is cautiously optimistic about the current state of the ICT industry. "Many companies throughout the industry are relying on proper development and management of technology to cut costs and solve their efficiency problems. As long as the economy doesn't take any drastic turns in the next few months, graduation should be a happy time for current students-and that should be the continuing trend for future graduating classes."

Save the Datel

April 16, 2010

Women Working in Technology Conference @ Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel

April 30, 2010

Cisco Certified Annual Retreat (CCAR) @ Ball Communications Building Ball State University

May 8, 2010

CICS Graduation @ Field and Sports Building Ball State University

Accomplished Legal Professional Becomes Newest CICS Distinguished Visiting Professor

CJ Holmes



Stuart N. Brotman

Stuart N. Brotman, J.D., is the newest faculty member to join the Center for Information and Communication Sciences (CICS). He comes to CICS from Harvard Law School,

where he teaches Telecommunications Law and serves as a research fellow in Entertainment and Media law. Brotman has extensive teaching experience, having taught over the past 20 years at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy within Tufts University, Boston University School of Law, the International Communications Studies Program at The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, and Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Brotman has published extensively, covering a wide area of subjects—business, technology, policy, history, negotiation, law, regulation and international trade. His articles have appeared both in scholarly and professional publications such as Communications Week, Journal of Communication, and The National Law Journal, as well as The New York Times and The Washington Post. He is also the author of numerous books, including *Broadcasters* Can Negotiate Anything and Communications Law and Practice, which is now in its 27th edition.

Brotman has worked extensively in Washington, D.C., serving as Special Assistant to the President's principal communications policy adviser and Chief of Staff at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) during President Carter's administration.

Brotman has also worked in the private sector serving as president, since 1984, of Stuart N. Brotman Communications, a global consulting firm out of Lexington, MA.

In CICS, Brotman is co-teaching ICS 642 (Regulatory Research in Context/ Problems) with Dr. Robert Yadon and Professor Barry Umansky. Finally, Brotman brings his scholarly experience and expertise to the classroom as well as his considerable work in the United States government and legal system. Brotman also is serving as a Senior Research Fellow with the Digital Policy Institute (DPI), where his industry connections have been a considerable addition, allowing for the possibility of expanded work during his tenure.

CICS Tests Intel® Reader

Nick Marsh

disability markets.

The research is looking at voice speed,

The Intel® Reader is marketed under Intel Health, an enterprise for assistive technology within Intel®. Currently, Ball State University's English Department is using these devices in its ESL (English-As-A-Second-Language) classes.



The annual Colorado ski trip, which took place from March 4-10, was a great experience for the 14 students who participated with faculty, Dr. Steele, Dr. Kovac and Kirsten Smith.

A team of CICS research associates. in the ICS 660 (Human Factors) class, is conducting a semester-long project that looks at the adaptability of Intel® Reader devices as tools that may assist in the way people learn and education as a whole. Researchers are examining the use of leveled texts based on different variables in an effort to provide insight into how the devices may be used as assistive tools in education and specifically

tone, text size, and group comparisons for text reading levels.

CICS Students Develop Innovative Multi-Touch Table that was created to manufacture tech-

Celeste Ruttan & Kyle Smithson

Center for Information and Communication Sciences (CICS) graduate students and research associates are

constructing a prototype multi-touch table to be showcased in the Center and at various events.

The concept of the multi-touch table is to make possible innovative collaboration and bring cutting-edge technology into CICS for the direct benefit faculty and students. This type of technology can grant immediate the multi-touch table project. and seamless user in-

teraction, which can help create more effective meetings.

The full-scale table will be completed and implemented successfully by June 9, 2010, and it is intended to be put into action in one of the primary conference rooms in the Center.

Jeramey Franklin, a CICS graduate student, started Concept Consortium (CC). CC is a not-for-profit organization nology for the touch table and for use in the Center to bring public awareness to CICS and its students.

Multi-Touch technology is a relatively unproven form of system user-interface design that involves sensing the location of multiple user touch points interpreting and the meaning of the points in relation to the underlying The group of Concept Consortium volunteers operating system. work on engineering infrared cameras for This table can

provide each user

with multi-touch driven workspace.

Specifically, the multi-touch table is composed of LED sensors around the frame of the table. The sensors are able to precisely detect where the table is touched as well as recognize various movements. The touches are fed through a built-in camera, and software is able to display the appropriate function.

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