Welcome, Students

Dr. Edward L. Jones, Chair

We begin a new year. What an opportunity for new experiences, new friends ... a new start. I want to personally welcome back returning students. New students, I want to thank you for choosing to study computer and information science at Florida A&M University. The faculty and staff look forward to serving you and helping you grow and develop as computer professionals.

We are coming off a very successful year, 2001-2002. And yes, things are changing. I am delighted to introduce two new faculty members, Mrs. Jean Muhammad and Mr. Aubrey Rembert. Mrs. Muhammad is a Ph.D. student at Florida State. Her work experience includes 10 years at Bell Labs/ Lucent Technologies. She has taught in a woman's college in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Rembert is a 2000 graduate of this department. He earned the M.S. in Software Engineering Science in 2002, also from this department. He has plans to enter a Ph.D. degree program in 2003. Be sure to welcome the new faculty members.

Computer Information 'Science' Major Accredited!!

The "Science" major has been awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET) Computing Commission (CAC). This means that our program satisfies national standards for curriculum, faculty, computing resources and institutional support. NOTE: this accreditation applies only to the Science major. Thanks go out to staff, faculty and students who worked very hard for a successful site visit by accrediting team, and for the follow-up actions subsequent to the site visit.

Fall Internship Fair

Medtronic, Inc. is sponsoring the first CIS Internship Fair, September 24 in the TEC A Sun Room. Students will have posters and exhibits from recent internships at various companies. Be sure to stop by to get insights on how to land an internship position. And ... don't forget about the Career Expo on Wednesday, September 25, 2002. Dress up, get out, impress!!

CIS Mission and Values

The mission of undergraduate majors is to provide fundamental knowledge and relevant experience to support career development. You will be expected to use your head to understand the basic concepts of computer and information science. You will be trained to use your hands to build software that solves practical problems. You will be expected to make good heart decisions regarding ethical behavior and
Check Your Mail!!

All CIS students have a departmental computer account through which you can receive email. This account is used for official communication from your advisor and the department chairman, such as: announcements about job opportunities, deadlines, advisement appointments, and graduation applications. You are expected to check this account regularly, at least once a week. That is your responsibility. Avoid hardships by checking this account.

If you are a new student, you can get your account by seeing Ms. Jones in Room 313 TEC A. You must sign an agreement to be a good cyber citizen.

If you are a returning student who has not used your CIS account, you need to get a new password from the lab staff: Harvey Wilson or Joe Attalla (in the basement), or –as a last resort– from the system administrator, Robert Dawkins, in room 302.

You can access your CIS email over the web. Go the departmental website www.cis.famu.edu, and click on the mail icon.

Raising the Bar – A Reminder!!

The challenges facing our department are many, but not insurmountable. Students play a surprisingly important role in rising to these challenges. Let me point out a few ways.

☐ Take responsibility for your own academic career.

CIS Values (Cont’d)

good citizenship.
Any organization is judged by the values that are stated, modeled and lived out. The CIS Department depends on and supports its stakeholders: students, current, past and future; corporate/government employers; our local community; the FAMU administration; and the academic community at large. The corporate values of the CIS department are:

Respect. All stakeholders are treated in a way that shows that they are valued. Respect includes following established protocol.

Achievement. Our commitment is demonstrated by the actions we take and things we accomplish, not just by the words we speak.

Teamwork. Each stakeholder shares in the responsibility, risk and rewards of achieving our goals. We’re in this together.

Let us all commit to learn to live out these values, starting now.

• Pass the course the 1st time
• Go to class, keep up
• Get advised, follow advice
• Stop trying to skip over prerequisites
• Keep your own planning and progress worksheet up to date.

☐ Practice academic honesty. Do your own work. Don't get caught up in plagiarism.

☐ Follow the rules; don't expect exceptions or waivers.

☐ Rise to the challenge of teachers who demand more.

☐ Don't get tricked into trying to force the bar lower.

☐ Respect the resources you are provided – faculty, staff, labs, building (don't litter).

☐ Volunteer to help in areas of need – lab assistants, tutors.

☐ Go on an internship – see what the work world is really like.

☐ Do things on time!

☐ Trust us.

Is This Really Your Major?

Did you know that there is no such thing as a CIS major?? Surprised? Let me make it clear. The Computer & Information Sciences (CIS) Department offers two undergraduate majors: Computer Information Systems (major code 28102), and Computer Information Science. (code 28103). The difference goes deeper than a single word or digit.

It is important that you are correctly classified so that you can be advised correctly, and so you can meet the requirements of your major.

How can you tell what your major really is? Go to the Rattler Link and view your transcript. It will list the name of your major. If it is different from what you expect,