bcs news

COMPUTER SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

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FALL 2018

At Farmingdale State College, we celebrate the successes of our students and faculty while supporting their continuing endeavours. Please join us in congratulating each of the highlighted individuals included in this edition of BCS News.

Welcome New Faculty

We welcome **Dr. Grace Zhao** as a full-time Assistant Professor. Dr. Zhao received her PhD in Computer Science from the Graduate Center, City University of New York in spring 2018. Before and while she was in her doctoral program, Dr. Zhao has been working in industry, mainly the financial sector, as an IT professional in NYC. Her research interests include Artificial Intelligence, Information Retrieval, and Knowledge Processing and Management. She is teaching Foundations of Programming I and II in fall 2018, and Data Structures and Foundations of Programming II in spring 2019.

We welcome Professor **Shahid Zaheer** as a full-time Instructor. Professor Zaheer is pursuing his Doctor of Professional Studies at Pace University. Professor Zaheer has an MBA with an MIS concentration from Farleigh Dickinson University and a Bachelor of Science from Manhattan College. Professor Zaheer has taught at Farleigh Dickinson University, Bergen Community College and William Paterson University, all in NJ. Professor Zaheer is teaching Computers, Society & Technology, Foundations of Programming I, Management Information Systems and Systems I this fall 2018, and Computer Concepts & Applications, Computers, Society & Technology and Management Information Systems in the spring 2019.

Student Sayem Shahrier Wins Best Paper and Presentation

Sayem Shahrier recently jointly presented with Dr. Jill O'Sullivan at the **EISTA International Conference** in Orlando. He spoke about his role as the *Intern for the CSI Project* that took place last academic year in Dr. O'Sullivan's ERP class. Sayem said: "The experience attending the conference was remarkable. To be with the many international academics sharing what they were doing to align teaching, learning, and industry demands for students' skills was incredible." Sayem and Dr. O'Sullivan were awarded **Best Paper and Presentation**, which was an honor and added to the experience.

A month prior, Sayem presented with Dr. O'Sullivan at the **Marist ECC Conference** about his experience as the Infor CSI Intern, using the newest cloud-based product, CSI, as a result of the endowment. This was a successful presentation and enlightening experience. Sayem said: "I learned about the need for additional tools students should have access to before graduating."

Internship, Training to Full Time Position at VAI

A lot has been happening for FSC student **Preethi Gaayathri**. After graduation in December 2017, the VAI University, located in Ronkonkoma, NY, recruited her as a software-programming intern. After completing intensive 8-week training, she took a placement test and was hired by VAI, Inc. VAI has an ERP Systems package for Distribution, Pharmaceuticals and Food Distributors called S2K. Part of the training introduced Preethi to various departments in the company such as Mobile, Data Analytics (Cognos), R&D, and Q/A. Preethi works on various programming enhancements and new software development in all the modules of the S2K platform. Her title is Junior Programmer Analyst of Research and Development in the Food Division.

According to Preethi: "I majored in Computer Programming and Information Systems focusing on database. My first year in college was a little overwhelming, but I was able to get through all my obstacles with the help of the BCS faculty. They always assisted and directed me helping me reach my goals. The BCS department excellently prepared me with the coding and analytical skills needed in today's development environment. They also prepared me with deadline-oriented projects, which strengthened my professional skill set."

Shafiq Uddin Lands Position at Network Operations Center

Shafiq Uddin recently obtained a position as a Network Operations Center (NOC) technician for the pharmaceutical giant, Henry Schein, located in Melville, NY. Shafiq is in charge of monitoring critical jobs (such as batches, updates, resets, and the power cycle server) on an IBM i Power System. Shafiq also monitors network systems and troubleshoots the daily tasks for a network of systems programmers. He monitors the software and data center. The NOC center is monitored 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The NOC technicians are eyes and ears for the administrators.

According to Shafiq: "Well, the computer programming and systems information program at FSC helped me a lot. In my current position, I received three weeks training and then I was on my own. It takes months to train one person. Since the BCS program covers every part of IT, my manager is very happy with me. UNIX class helped with the experience of using a command line. At Henry Schein they currently use LINUX and PowerShell for the data center. The CISCO 208 helped with understanding how a network works. I have been telling my co-workers about the FSC Computer Programming & Information Systems program. They want to advance their careers, too. I plan on taking Network+ then Security+ certification to further advance my career in Cyber Security."

Internship Leads to Dream Job Offer

"You must tell yourself, no matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets, I'm going to make it."
- Les Brown

Farmingdale has given me so many amazing opportunities throughout my college life. I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Security Systems; concentration in Networking. It has been very rewarding to take on leadership roles in multiple clubs and organizations on campus, as it has helped me with networking, communicating and technical skills.

On June 4, 2018 I had the opportunity to intern with one of the top global multidisciplinary engineering and consulting firms – Arup, located in Manhattan's Wall Street. I was working closely with the ITC (Information Technology and Communications) team during my 10 weeks.

I worked on various projects like developing security infrastructure for the White Plains station, where I used ITC designs consisting of structured cabling and designed Wi-Fi/CCTV cabinets, interacted with versatile teams of clients to accomplish coordinated designs while meeting stakeholders expectations and provided Network and Infrastructure support.

I gained numerous technical skills from my internship experience, and the journey was as if a dream had come true. Great mentors, welcoming environment and getting to learn something new every day was something that I enjoyed the most.

Recently, I got a call in which they offered me a full-time position as an ITC consultant right after graduation, starting in March 2019. Who would have thought?

Hence, I appreciate all the amazing people that have supported me throughout my journey, including my FSC family. I wouldn't have been able to gain the amount of technical skills I have learned in such a short time without the help of my beloved teachers: Professor Maxine Greenidge, Dr. Qinghai Gao, Dr. Brian Kelly, Professor James Perrotta, and Professor Kenneth Kassinger.

Thank you for making me what I am today. I wouldn't have been able to do it without all your help. I truly believe in putting effort in everything you do, as nothing is accomplished without your own passion, belief and determination.

- Noma Nayyar

Student Certifications

Congratulations to **Dr. Moaath Alrajab** and his two students who received successful certifications in Java SE I Programmer 1 in Oracle Certification Program.

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