11th Annual Alumni Symposium

Husna Siddiqui, 2016
Master of Ceremonies

While at the College of Charleston, Husna Siddiqui was a founding member and Vice President of our Women in Computing club. In 2015, she was nominated by the College of Charleston for Who’s Who Among Students. This award selects students based on academic achievement, community service and leadership. During the summer of my sophomore and junior year, Husna interned at Blackbaud, the world’s leading cloud software company that powers social good. Husna graduated in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, and a minor in Data Science. After graduation she began working as a Software Engineer at Blackbaud. Currently, she is pursuing a masters in Computer and Information Sciences with a concentration in Software Engineering.

Arpan Kotecha, 2005

Arpan graduated College of Charleston in 2005 with BS in Computer Science, Computer Information Systems and a minor in Math. During his senior year, he joined a local trading company called Automated Trading Desk as a Software Developer Intern in their Predictive Technologies Team. The PT team was responsible to research and publish short term - 30 seconds - price prediction signals for all US equities. After graduating, Arpan joined them as a full time Software Developer. Being surrounded by exceptionally talented developers, traders and managers inspired him to work hard, which led him to become the Team Lead of the Predictive Technologies Team in 2007. ATD got acquired by Citigroup in 2008 which opened doors to collaborate with talent from all over the world. In 2014, after spending 10 years at ATD/Citi, along with a two other team members, they founded a financial consulting company based in Charleston called KOS Analytics.
David Johnson, 2013

David Johnson is a Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, working under the supervision of George Tzanetakis. Before moving to Victoria, David graduated from the College of Charleston with a Masters in Computer & Information Sciences. During his time at the college, he worked with Dr. Bill Manaris developing tools and interfaces for musicians and artists. At the University of Victoria, David performs research in the field of Human Computer Interaction through the research of developing Virtual and Augmented Reality interfaces for musical expression and learning. He also continues to work on tools for artists using computer vision, machine learning, and music information retrieval techniques. While living in Charleston, David worked at local software companies, Blackbaud and SPARC. When not working or performing research, he enjoys exploring the outdoor offerings of Vancouver Island.

Chad Hobbs, 2014

Chad Hobbs did not delay in utilizing his BS in Computer Science from College of Charleston, starting for CACI Federal before graduation occurred in May of 2014. His career started him off as a Junior Application Security Analyst, which required him to deconstruct a large government J2EE application and strengthen all aspects of its security. After designing and building two novel Python applications to automate vulnerability discovery and reporting, Chad received several promotions, eventually coming to expand and command the team he had started on. As the VBMS IA Application Security Lead, he is now in charge of a team of 7 security researchers that work to discover new ways to exploit Java web applications in order to enhance cybersecurity for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He lives with his wife Jill and two daughters, Emmy and Nina, in Summerville, South Carolina.

Matt Paul, 2014

Matt R. Paul is a Ph.D. candidate in Genomics and Computational Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a member of the laboratory of Dr. Lewis A. Chodosh, which seeks to identify biological mechanisms underlying breast cancer progression from primary carcinogenesis to recurrence and metastasis. His doctoral work is primarily focused on the genomic analysis of large next-generation sequencing datasets of mouse and human breast cancer tumors. Matt graduated from the College of Charleston in 2014 with degrees in Computer Science (B.S.) and Biology (B.A). Matt started his research career studying plant genetics via the unPAK project with Dr. Allan Strand and Dr. Courtney Murren of CoC. He then joined the Charleston Computational Genomics Group (C2G2) led and created by Dr. Paul Anderson, where he collaborated with both the Medical University of South Carolina and the Hollings Marine Lab.
Laura Barber, 2015

Laura Barber graduated from College of Charleston in 2015, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. During her time at the College she was a member of Women in Computing, pursued an internship at Pokitdok and studied abroad in Estonia. Upon graduating she moved to New York where she currently works as a DevOps Engineer for Tradeworx, a financial services company. They utilize technologies such as: AWS, Ansible, Bash, Python, Linux, and LDAP. Laura works with the MIDAS team to support and develop financial analytics products for multiple clients in both the private and public sectors.

David Moore, 2015

David is currently attending the Institute for Advanced Analytics at NC State University, where he will graduate in May with his Masters of Science in Analytics. While at CofC he studied data science and human physiology, and worked in the Anderson Lab doing data science and genomics research. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, playing music, and reading, as well as working on data science projects of interest on the side.

Katherine Vaughan, 2015

Katherine Vaughan graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Computing in the Arts with a concentration in Studio Art, and minor in dance. While in school she was a founding member of Women In Computing, and a member of the Association for Computing Machinery and the Meira Belly Dance Troupe. During the summer before her Senior year, Katherine worked as a programming intern with Blue Acorn, an e-commerce web development agency. At the time of graduation, she took a position with Blue Acorn as a Front End Developer. After almost a year she was returned to backend programming as an Applications Engineer. Currently she works with the Magento 1 framework, php, and javascript.

The department would like to thank the alumni speakers for dedicating their time to giving back. Their knowledge & experience in academia & industry provide exceptional opportunities for our students.