

A Glimpse at the Department of Computer Science: Staying ahead

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Unlike some of the more theoretical fields, in technology and especially in computer science staying ahead is nothing like climbing to the highest point of a hill; it is much rather staying ahead in a race. The difference is that, while once on the top of the hill all you have to do is simply stay put, in computer science, no matter how far ahead you are from the rest, if you stand still for long enough for sure you will be caught up and passed by.

In the end, the struggle is not about always doing the right thing or making the perfect choice. All it comes down to is **being alert, constantly setting new goals, trying different things, learning from mistakes and carrying on.**

Staying ahead in programs

In November 2006 the MS^c in Computer Science program, the very first Master of Science for the University of Indianapolis, both home and Athens Campus, became a reality. With the addition of this new graduate program, we can now proudly stand among and compete against the best public and private peers in Greece and internationally.

Staying ahead in growth

Due to the addition of the new graduate program, but also in order to best respond to the ever changing field of computing, new faculty members are constantly being recruited. The department now comprises 10 teaching members, 3 of which have been added during the current academic year, while two new appointments are expected to be completed before the end of 2007.

Staying ahead in curriculum

Starting from academic year 2004-2005 all students majoring in computer science or computer information systems are required to prepare a thesis prior to graduation. The thesis serves as a capstone to the undergraduate programs, allowing students to demonstrate their ability to work at graduate level and thus to enhance their chances in eliciting admission to leading graduate programs throughout the world.

Staying ahead in research

Work completed by an undergraduate student of the department as part of major requirements has been accepted, after review, for presentation at the 4th IFIP Conference on Artificial Intelligence Applications & Innovations (AIAI) and inclusion in the conference proceedings.

Staying ahead in experiences

The department's philosophy is to strive to expose students to as many educational, academic, social and industrial experiences as possible. In this direction, we actively participate in the organization of conferences at UIA (SMAP 2006, PETRA-E 2008), in the broader area of Athens (AIAI 2006, AIAI 2007) and internationally (SMAP 2007 in London, SMAP 2008 in Prague). In addition to attending the events, students are also actively involved in all stages of their preparation.

Staying ahead in participation

In November 2006 the IEEE Computer Society endorsed the "University of Indianapolis Athens Computer Society Student Club". This is a union of students with a common interest in computing; through the union students work towards enhancing all computer related aspects of their academic and social lives.

Staying ahead in motivation

All theses prepared from May 21st of each year until May 20th of the next are examined by a committee comprising members from various universities. An annual award has been established and is presented to the student that has prepared the best thesis; the competition for the award has been proven to drive students to work to their limits and excel in their thesis.

Staying ahead in flexibility

The department is responsible for computer literacy courses, which constitute a requirement for the general education for all students. While this may be a very useful experience for many, others, who are already adequately familiar with computers, don't find this to be equally fruitful. As a response to this, a procedure has been established based on which experienced users of computers can demonstrate their proficiency through a practical test, and replace computer literacy credits with other courses that are more suitable for their individual skills and interests.

Staying ahead in involvement

There is a wealth of paths computer science students may follow during their studies. In order to assist students in selecting and enjoying ideally personalized learning experiences, the department is now actively involved in academic career planning and course selection for all computer science and computer information systems students.

Staying ahead in procedures

In order to ensure that maximum value is offered to our students through our courses, a departmental faculty evaluation system, complementary to the one already in place by the university, has been established, contributing to further enhancing the learning services offered.

Staying ahead in co-operations

Through the various activities in which the department is involved, during the last couple of years alone we have cooperated with the National Technical University of Athens, the University of the Aegean, Temple University, Brunel University, Athens Information Technology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and others.

Staying ahead in social awareness

Before and above everything else, being a scientist is about contributing to your society. While our commitment to this end is evident in all aspects of our lives, the Alan Turing Blood Bank blood donation event organized for the fall of 2007 is probably one of the milestones that will be best remembered by others.



M. Gianoulatos receiving the 2006-2007 thesis of the year award