



# Information Technology Research Institute

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## **ITRI Spring Board Meeting**

The ITRI Spring Board meeting was held Tuesday, March 31, 2015. The board members met to discuss current ITRI involvement and how to move the center forward. It was a productive meeting and we are looking forward to working with our board members to continue to fulfill the ITRI mission. [Read more.](#)

## **Research Presented to the Board**

During the board meeting Dr. Pankaj Setia, who recently earned tenure, presented research on how healthcare organizations realize superior service outcomes. PhD student, Taha Havakhor, also presented his research on big data and its organizational impacts.



## **Information Systems Department News**

The ISYS Department has added a core course that should continue to grow the program. There will be an undergraduate minor in Business Analytics and an ISYS major concentration in Business Analytics offered beginning in fall 2015. [Read more.](#)

Accomplishments and Recognition of our wonderful ISYS staff. We are very proud of all they do.

- Dr. Susan Bristow
  - Excellence in Service Award (2014-15)
  - Fellow of the Teaching Academy (elected 2014)

- Dr. David Douglas
  - Co-Director, Institute for Advanced Data Analytics
- Dr. Pankaj Setia
  - Tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- Dr. Tracy Sykes
  - Highest number of publications\* by 2013 among IS assistant professors graduating since 2000 in: a) ISR/MISQ; b) Financial Times list of 45 journals; or c) University of Texas Dallas list of 24 journals.
  - Successful 3rd year review (completed in Spring 2014)
- Department of Information Systems
  - STEM Certification for ISYS programs
  - Innovation Award by WCOB presented Fall 2014



### **TAP Planning**

Rising high school juniors and seniors will participate in Walton's Technology Awareness Program (TAP) this summer, June 24-27. The camp promotes technology careers to underrepresented students. [Read more.](#)



### **Lab Tour**

In February, the ITRI arranged for the Association of Information Systems (AIS) students to tour the LAB 415-C, formally known as the Walmart Innovations Lab. It was an amazing hands on experience which is all we can tell you. What happens at Lab 415-C, stay at Lab 415-C.



### **Aspiration Awards**

The ITRI awarded ten young women the National Center for Women in Technology (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing Award. Two of the winners, Sabrina Shepherd and Kaitlin McKenzie, won for the second time and Ms. McKenzie was named at National Runner-up. [Read more.](#)



## **Women in IT Conference Planning**

The 11th Women in Technology Conference was held on April 15, 2015. The theme this year was “Securing the Future for Women in IT” and there were some impressive keynote speakers on board. [Read more.](#)



## **ITRI Walton Involvement**

The ITRI and various ITRI board members took part in two career fairs. The first was on March 3 in [Bud Walton Arena](#). The second was March 16 in [Dallas, Texas](#) at the Westin Galleria. The next one will be held Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

### Other participation

- Met with our Academic Steering committee to gain input and advice on advancing the ITRI.
- Assisted with the execution of the 2015 Business Forecast Luncheon hosted by the Center for Business and Economic Research.
- Held short meetings with other outreach centers here at Walton to gather their best practices and perspectives on ways to take the ITRI to the next level.
- Attended the Cyber Security Summit for Small Business held by the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center.
- Went to an informational session with Jennifer Taylor, the new Assistant Vice Provost for Research and Sponsored Programs to learn about grant submissions and management.

## **News from Around Walton and the ISYS Department**



Three Walton College students have been elected as Associated Student Government officials for the 2015-16 academic year. Among them, Meera Patel of El Dorado was elected secretary. Patel is a junior majoring in accounting with a minor in information systems. [Read more.](#)

Hua Wang has experienced much in his five years in the United States. Now, as a Master of Information Systems student at the Walton College, Hua is working to make the university's student population more diverse. [Read more.](#)

### **Welcome to new ISYS Faculty:**

- Dr. Xiao Ma, Assistant Professor (Fall 2014), Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin
- Dr. Suresh Malladi, Assistant Professor (Fall 2014), Ph.D. from University of Michigan
- Dr. Ronald Freeze, Clinical Associate Professor (Fall 2015), Ph.D. from Arizona State University

### **Congratulations to graduating ISYS Students:**

- Dr. Mary Dunaway, Quinnipiac University, Summer 2014
- Dr. Zach Steelman, Oklahoma State University, Summer 2014
- Vishal Shah (Central Michigan University), Expected to graduate Summer 2015
- Amr Soror (California State University Fullerton), Expected to graduate Summer 2015

## Coming up in the next quarter

2015 NCWIT Summit on Women in IT, Hilton Head Island, SC – May 18-21

Women in Workforce 2015 Conference – Wednesday, May 20

Lil Miss Coder End of Year Event: Coding is Fun – Saturday, May 30

Technology Awareness Program – June 24-27



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