

Computer Science

COMSATS INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAHORE



NEWS LETTER

March 2009

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Head: Dr. Syed Asad Hussain
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A summary of news headlines, research and events of interest.

This e-newsletter is sent out on monthly basis, letting you know about the latest departmental news and events, and sharing profiles of people and research at COMCS.

COMCS Monthly Issue News Series

NEWS

- New HOD of the CS Department
- Accreditation of the CS Program
- New undergraduate programs
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- Student Achievement

VIEWS

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NEWS

NEW HOD OF THE CS DEPARTMENT

Dr. Syed Asad Hussain was recently elevated to the position of head department of computer science COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Lahore on August 07, 2008. Prior to obtaining this respectable position he was working as an associate professor in the same dept.

Dr Asad completed his schooling from Divisional Public School Model Town Lahore in 1984. He did his intermediate in pre engineering and further education in Pakistan from Government College Lahore and Punjab University in 1992. Driven by unquenchable thirst to learn more this time about computer science and ambitious urging of his father who himself had been Professor and dean at Government College Lahore he wasted no time to proceed UK to do MS from University of Wales, Cardiff UK in 1993, and then PhD in computer networks from Queens University Belfast UK of PhD. His PhD was funded by Nortel Networks UK. Dr. Asad Hussain has worked at Paktel, LUMS, Queen's University Belfast UK, Nortel Networks, Punjab University.

He has been active reviewer of International Journals and conferences including IEEE. He has published a book "Active and Programmable Networks for Adaptive Architectures and Services. This book has been published in USA. Around 40 publications are also to his credit.

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ACCREDITATION OF THE CS PROGRAM

Sometime back CS department of Lahore CIIT went through a difficult exercise of accreditation of its undergraduate program of BCS by the NCEAC (National Computer Education Accreditation Council). The job was undoubtedly hectic, laborious and staid. A number of able-bodied and professionally strong faculty members were chosen by the HOD who virtually incessantly chased the faculty members to fill up the forms and ready the documents in the form of a dossier in time. Thanks to the faculty who supported the effort.

Following things were assembled about all the courses that are offered in the undergraduate program.

- Written Notes of the courses
- Sessional exams question papers and three samples of their marking
- Final exam question papers and three samples of their marking
- Assignments and three samples of their marking
- Quizzes and three samples of their marking
- Interviews with the students
- Interviews with the faculty members.

- And a host of queasy things which you would abhor to undertake.

Anyway the inspection went well. The fruits of the efforts are awaited. Hopefully they will be sweet.

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NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

At the incessant urging of the director coupled with HOD's own enthusiasm to start new undergraduate programs, the department has decided to start following two new undergraduate programs from the Fall 2009 subject to the approval of the higher authorities of the mother seat at CIIT Islamabad

It will be injustice if the following names are not mentioned who put in hard labor in its preparation of courses:

Dr Asad Hussain HOD
Mr. Faisal Tehseen Shah
Mr. Imran Raza
Dr J S Mirza

The sequential order of the above names does not reflect the proportion of the hard labor. All of them burnt mid-night oil equally. A panel from Islamabad under the auspices of Prof Yasin Mahboob, the Chairman of the CS gathered in Lahore in Dec. 2009 to listen to the comments of the panel members. That was the first phase, program successfully passed. The following phases in due course of time will hopefully pass successfully.

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CISCO ACADEMY

The department of CS has been running successfully CISCO academy courses for the last two years under the able supervision of Mr. Naeem Akhtar who is also the in charge of Network Operation Centre (NOC) of CIIT Lahore. He has passed the test to become CISCO Academy teacher.

A second track of CISCO academy also be started from the spring / fall semester of 2009 at the Electrical Department of CIIT. This track carries changes which will be

more suitable to EE students. The director took acute interest in understanding the difference between two tracks and gave his go-ahead

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The CS dept of CIIT Lahore as well as the library of the CIIT Lahore have spruced up their web sites recently. The library has following two sites on two web servers which can easily be navigated.

<http://www.ciitlahore.edu.pk/library/index.html>

<http://172.16.17.22/ciitlahore/library/index.html> (for navigators in campus only)

Many Thanks are due to:

- Director, CIIT **Dr Shaukat Ali Hayat**
- Convener Library affair committee, **Dr Talat Afza**
- Senior Librarian, **Raja Muhammad Ibrahim.**
- HOD CS, **Dr Asad Hussain**
- Senior Manager, **Mr. Faisal Tehseen Shah,** and
- ITC team at software house CIIT (**Mr. Muhammad Irfan, Mr. Mansoor Sheraz and Mr. Jawad Bashir**)



for their insight and advice to the developers

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

The **Mr Fasal Tehseen Shah**, a senior faculty member of the CS dept led his team of Computer Science students for the exhibition of the undergraduate projects at Bourbon, Murree, where an international conference FIT 2008, organized by COMSATRS was held.. Mr Ali Anwar, a student of Computer Science Department of CIIT Lahore, won a second prize for his project:

Vehicle Tracking System

VIEWS

MY REMINISCENCES OF DR ABDUS SALAM



When I read about anniversary of **Dr Abdus Salam** in the NEWS dated Feb 1, 2009, I was inspired to share my own feelings of my engagements with him, however meager they were, when I met him in Singapore. It was sometime in late 1989 or 1990 when he visited Singapore as external examiner in the Department of Physics of National University of Singapore. I was then a faculty member of the department and was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to meet him repeatedly and extensively in the department.. I was the only Pakistani in the department of Physics.

He was a person of prodigious resume and left an unforgettable impression. He bagged 16 prestigious awards to his credit during his research career. He was born on January 29, 1926 and died on November 21, 1996.

I wanted to invite him to a dinner at my home. He politely refused my invitation because of his numerous engagements that day. We met at Mr Afridi's house over a dinner party a day later. Mr Afridi was Pakistan Consular. Prof. Dr Salam showed up late that night and Mr Afridi had to offer explanation to other impatient guests that Prof Salam would be late a little.

Even though he was theoretician and nuclear particle physicist, his advice about research to others had a tack for practical physics, He was asked by the then Head of the Department during a meeting of the faculty which line of research the Physics Department should pursue. He visibly deliberated and then said with unwavering confidence

“solid state Physics”

Interestingly, in his endowment lecture arranged for the public, -- more than 500 people attended and the lecture hall was fully packed, he spoke at length about Lahore of his time, and my feelings (I may be wrong) was, there was an element of detraction in it. I was hundred percent sure this detraction was light-hearted and he did not mean a negative connotation He merely wanted to produce a little laughter among the listeners

I learnt COMSATS which stands for Commission of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development of South Asia was the brainchild of Prof Salam.

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ERP

The NEWS advert of February 1, 2009 has revealed potential pitfall for organizations involved with ERP solutions. The advert has proclaimed a failure rate of 80% of all the ERP implementation. There is however a short qualified statement which many people may fail to notice and that is “**in first attempt**”

No wonder any software developer would know that in a large development the first attempt is bound to fail. SO WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL.

I guess the advertisers are touting their conference and wish bigger catchments of participants.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the same newspaper as said above Research methodology has been defined as

“Searching systematically about solutions of problems which contribute to the knowledge and may be widely applied to social problems. Systematic collection and analysis of data form the basis of any quality research work. It is a procedural frame work derived on the basis of methodology used with specific research questions”

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ANNIVERSARIES

McIntosh has just celebrated its 25th birthday day before yesterday. I distinctly remember when the McIntosh first appeared 25 years ago. I was then in the National University of Singapore. The computer was displayed by the company in the campus and new facilities incorporated in it were elaborated.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Atif Saeed (Lecturer)

1. **Atif Saeed (Lecturer)** "Human detection in Videos" Accepted at 'JATIT', Journal of Theoretical and Applied Information Technology
2. **Atif Saeed (Lecturer)** "Requirements Validation for Web Applications" accepted at International Conference on Computer and Automation Engineering (ICCAE 2009)

Rizwan Jameel Qureshi (Assistant Professor)

1. **Salman Iqbal and M. Rizwan Jameel Qureshi.**, "UML: Reverse Engineering Tools. A Critique Study for Enhanced Reverse Engineering," Pakistan Journal of Scientific Research, January 2009, ISSN: 0552-9050, accepted for publication.
2. **Hafiz Shahzad and M. Rizwan Jameel Qureshi.**, "Success Strategy for e-Governance in Pakistan," Pakistan Journal of Scientific Research, January 2009, ISSN: 0552-9050, accepted for publication.
3. **Nayyar Iqbal and M. Rizwan Jameel Qureshi.**, "Improvement of Key Problems of Software Testing in Quality Assurance," Science International Journal Lahore, January 2009, ISSN: 1013-5316, CODEN: SINTE 8, accepted for publication.

Ms. Sana Rizwan
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NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

- **Ms. Humera Niaz** Recently joined our COMCS, she is transferred from Islamabad Campus, her area of interest is "mobile ad hoc networks and routing protocols"
- **Ms. Ayesha Sadiq** has joined our department after Netsol, her area of interest is "Programming in C++, Java, Struts Framework, Software Engineering and Databases"
- **Mr. Nasir Rauf** joined COMCS as Departmental Coordination Officer (DCO), his area of interest is "administration".

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