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## the ITS News

J Warren McClure School of Information and Telecommunication Systems  
Scripps College of Communication - Ohio University

### In This Issue

Matt Raider '03 Receives Award

Student Field Trips

T SMA Speakers

Congratulations to Recent Graduates

Accenture Challenge

Moves, Adds, and Changes

Technapalooza

2010 Advisory Board Lonsbury  
Scholarship Golf Classic

Thanks!



### Quick Links

[McClure School of Information and  
Telecommunication Systems](#)

[Ohio University](#)

[T SMA](#)

### From the Director



It's always a bittersweet occasion when a colleague retires. Of course, I'm alluding to **Herb Thompson's** recent retirement. The sweet side is pretty easy: we're all happy for him. His weekly meeting count, number of committee assignments, and mean time before golf will all plummet. To make it even better for Herb, he got married. We're all very fond of **Gloria**, who went to high school with Herb, and wish them the very, very best. Congratulations, Herb - we're all at least a little jealous.

The down side is that we'll miss Herb. He has a sense of humor, which, like all economists, he has kept pretty well hidden from the students. He brought a world of regulatory experience to the classroom.

There is a further down side: for budgetary reasons, Herb will not be replaced. ITS enrollment is steady, but the university's budget is not. It's very, very difficult for an academic department or school to justify a faculty hire. In principle, increasing enrollment, accreditation requirements, and multiple departures in a critical sub-field of a department are acceptable reasons. In practice, though, exceptions to the hiring freeze are not being granted. We will have some opportunity to hire temporary adjuncts, but adjunct instructors who could teach, say, ITS 405 are not common in Athens. The inevitable result is that ITS will offer fewer classes in the regulatory/policy part of the curriculum.

The Quarters-to-Semesters process continues. In the fall, we'll be advising students about the process and will finalize individual conversion plans for each student in the winter quarter.

Let me express my personal gratitude to **Phyllis Bernt**, who is stepping down from the position of Grad Director, having held that position for the past four years. She has served with considerable aplomb, being very effective and efficient. She'll have no explicit administrative job, but I can't bring myself to say that she'll be an "ordinary professor." **Andy Snow** will take over as the graduate chair.

See you at ITS Day 2012!

*Phil Campbell*

## Matt Raider '03 Receives Award



Matt Raider '03 receives the Charles J. and Clair O Ping Recent Graduate Award.

**Matthew Raider '03** was awarded the Charles J. and Claire O. Ping Recent Graduate Award during Homecoming 2010, October 14-16.

Matt has been a very involved ITS alum since he graduated, serving on the School's Advisory Board and frequently coming back to campus as a speaker during ITS Day.

While a consultant at Accenture, he was instrumental in coordinating the Accenture Challenge, a competition for students enrolled in the ITS graduate-level course Strategic Issues and the undergraduate-level course Management Communication Resources.

He is currently President of The Raider Group, LLC. Congratulations, Matt!

## Student Field Trips



A group of McClure School graduate and undergraduate students and faculty toured the Cleveland facilities of Progressive Insurance and MCPc September 24, 2010, during the fall quarter field trip. Hosted by the Telecommunication Systems Management Association (TSMa), organized by Professor **John Hoag** and assisted by Advisory Board member **Tom Cunningham** and alumni **Zachary Craig '07**, **Nidhi Luthra '05**, **Jayson Saul '00** and **Barry Spurlock '03** of Progressive Insurance and **Wrienne Mitchell '05** of MCPc the trip was invaluable to students who will soon be searching for a job.

Students went to Cincinnati for the winter field trip. Thanks to Advisory Board member **Sean Davidson** and alumni **Jacob Muff '08** and **Mike Herrmann '93** for their support of the February 25th TSMA field trip to the Verizon Business Switching Center and Fifth Third Bank's new data center.

The spring field trip to Cardinal Health and Time Warner Cable in April concluded the year's travel. Thanks to **Jed Bistline '02**, Cardinal Health, for his assistance with this trip.

## TSMA Speakers

**Matt Christian**, New Infrastructure Technology Development with Nationwide Insurance and 1999 ITS alum, spoke to TSMA students about: non-satellite wireless installed on the Nationwide Corporate Planes; Telepresence - roadmap and integration with WebEx and Tanberg; and Industry Trends that Nationwide is seeing - Mobility. A social at Broney's followed the meeting.

With over 23 years of financial experience as a Private Wealth Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, TSMA students benefited from a presentation by **Jeff Chaddock '88**, "Cents and Sensibility" - how to manage your finances in college and beyond.

**Matt Curtin** gave a presentation on "Cracking the Data Encryption Standard" to discuss the importance of data encryption and the evolution of U.S. policy on its use for personal privacy.

"Mr. Curtin provided TSMA a very informative and thought provoking presentation. Without encryption none of our activities over the internet can be secure and it's easier than you think to play the role of 'Big Brother,'" said TSMA president **Matt Bange** after the event.

Other members of TSMA echoed the thoughts of Bange. Member **Josh Offenberger** offered, "It's inspiring to see someone who is passionate about what they do as 'work.' Matt Curtin spoke about the topic of encryption with enthusiasm and excitement, and he reminded me that you should enjoy and take pride in what you do in life."

Curtin is a Columbus-based technologist, writer and entrepreneur. His work has helped shape the public's understanding of connected world. Curtin was involved in the DES Challenge of 1997, a competition started by RSA Security to see who could break a message encrypted by the U.S. Government's Data Encryption Standard for the first time in open research. Curtin's team won the competition by linking thousands of computers from all over the nation together in what still remains one of the largest computations ever performed.

Curtin founded Interhack Corporation in 1997 as a research group that looked at the side-effects of using the Internet as a large-scale computing and communication platform. Besides running Interhack, Curtin is also a Lecturer at The Ohio State University's Department of Computer Science and Engineering.



**Matt Christian '99**  
Nationwide Insurance

## Congratulations to Recent Graduates Who Found Employment

**Kishan Ahuja** - AT&T Chicago  
**Temitope Ajimati** - The Paragon Group

**Cameron Blache** - 5th Third Bank  
**Greg Campbell** - NASA  
**Gary Clark** - American Health Holdings  
**Samantha DeVille** - Public Safety Management Group  
**Mike Driscoll** - Cerner Corporation  
**Brandon Fude** - Terix  
**Sutapa Ghosh** - Nationwide Insurance  
**Lori Huber** - Qwest  
**Burzin Khajotia** - KPMG, LLP  
**William Kutasky, Jr.** - Tekmark Global Solutions  
**Jonah Likover** - Parker Hannifin  
**Connor Nolan** - Vail  
**Emmanuel Odarno** - OPNET Technology  
**Cullen Rea** - Cranel, Inc.  
**Ben Rawson** - Boeing  
**Charles Rogers** - Intralot  
**Pete Sedello** - National Enterprise Systems  
**Justin Shields** - Specialty Books  
**Shawn Tignor** - Ball State Graduate Program  
**Han Wang** - Queclink Wireless Solutions

### Accenture Challenge - Tony Sylvester



**Mohamad Al-Issa**, part of the winning graduate team, passes out information prior to presenting as part of the Accenture Challenge on May 10, 2011. Also pictured is **Paa Kwesi Nyarko-Krampah** and **Jacob Odame**.  
 - Photo by Christina Baird

ITS students were once again challenged during the annual Accenture Challenge, a two-week competition sponsored by the consulting firm Accenture.

ITS alumni working at Accenture, a technology-consulting firm, created the challenge in 2008. The challenge gives students the chance to solve real-world problems using the skills they've learned in their studies at Ohio University.

Students involved in this year's competition included undergraduates enrolled in a capstone course taught by **Greg Kaple** and graduate students enrolled in Strategic Issues, taught by Graduate Studies Director **Phyllis Bernt**.

"This year's challenge involves a request for proposal, or RFP," said Dr. Bernt. "[It's] issued by a fictional medical organization." Bernt said students were asked to provide an analysis that simulates a real experience "in developing a pharmacy inventory control system."

The challenge began with the release of the RFP and a conference call on May 3 with Accenture employee **Juan Echeverry '05**. Graduate student **Nate Marcinonis** said the mock organization gives an executive summary and presentation to the project groups, or collectively referred to as "bidders." During this nine-day competition, positive stress levels motivated individuals to focus on time management. "The toughest aspect of the challenge was the sheer amount of material that needed to be analyzed and broken down into smaller more manageable steps," said senior **Shawn Tignor**.

Winners of the challenge were announced May 12. The graduate winning team of Pyramid Consulting was comprised of **Mohamad K. Al-Issa, Nate Marcinonis, Paa Kwesi Nyarko-Krampah** and **Jacob Odame**, while the undergraduate student winners, of Sapiens Consulting, were **John Cantrell, Patrick Gottermeyer, Joshua Offenberger** and **Eric Pettit**.

**Neil Okonak BSC '02**, previously employed at Accenture and now with US Cellular, had high praise for the two winning teams. "[Pyramid] really focused on what can be provided for the analysis phase," said Okonak. "[And the Sapiens] had a creative approach in coming up with three different options for their client, which is a good reading into our business needs."

## Moves, Adds, and Changes

**Ken Greer BS '89** is a Software Engineer Lead with Progressive Insurance. **Thomas Martinko BS '89** is a National Account Manager with XO Communications.

**Irene Kehayas Drakopoulos BS '90**, medical device sales representative for Johnson & Johnson, and her husband George had a baby boy Petros George April 2010. She and her husband are enjoying him to the fullest. She says hi to all her fellow classmates from the Class of 1990.

**Lynnette Baughman Lowmiller BS '91** is a Data Engineer III with Windstream Communications. **Jon Petz BS '94** is the Chief Engagement Office with Bore No More! Motivational Entertainer, Event Host & Author. **Kristin Lowery Bowers BS '95**, Associate VP with Nationwide Insurance, was recently promoted and will be working in the Information Risk Management area. She also received her Master IT Architect Certification from Open Group.

*"I think starting at OU helped get me here so I am thankful for the education I received."*  
- **Kristin Lowery**

**Scott Archer BS '97** is a Sr. Manager, Marketing, for Qualcomm Inc. **Mike Farley BS '97** just started a company called Yottaflow. "Our software makes our day a lot easier by streamlining the way you assign, complete, and manage your work." **Damon Dormody BS '98** is a Senior Solutions Engineer with Easton Telecom Services, LLC. **William Hitchcock BS '98** is a Portfolio Director for Ericsson.

**David Blum BS '99** is the CIO of the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. **Robert Smith BS '99** recently left PAETEC Communications after 10 years of being a Sales Engineer and took a position doing the same thing with DCT Telecom, a privately held telecom consulting company, as a Network Design Engineer.

*"I was going through the alumni list and it is so great to see the quality positions and jobs we receive after going through the COMT (ITS) major! What a great program OU offers!"* - **Bob Smith**

**Rick Steele BS '99** is an Alliance Manager Service Provider and Vertical Solutions with VCE, working in the Cloud computing and virtualization technologies market. **Jason Hersey BS '00** is a Business Account Executive with AT&T. **Steve Wylie BS '00** recently started working for Cisco Systems as a Systems Engineer with the Great Lakes Enterprise Operation. **Michael Ashton BS '01** is a Systems Engineer with The MITRE Corporation. **Scott Greer BS '01** is a Consultant, Infrastructure Engineering with Nationwide Insurance. **Benjamin Sartor BS '01**, Sr. Network Specialist with the Ohio State Medical Center, and his wife have 2 beautiful girls and recently moved to Upper Arlington. He transitioned to OSU a few months ago. He has returned to Cisco VOIP after spending the last several years doing route/switch/wireless. **Patrick Sullivan BS '01** is a

Project Manager with Cardinal Health.

**Zach Hails BS '02 and MCTP '07** selected the Signal Corps for his branch of service after completing the Army Officer Candidate School. **Neil Okonak BS '02** is an IS Business Planning Manager with U.S. Cellular. **Kimberly McDonald Rometo BS '04** is a Technology Sales & Service Manager with AMC, Inc. **Amanda Dudding BS '06** is a Project Analyst with JP Morgan Chase. **Brian Folan BS '06** is a Manager, Enterprise Service Delivery with Comcast Business Services. **Mark Jaques BS '06** recently started a job with CACI doing security engineering and auditing for the Department of Defense. **Joseph Volker BS '06** is a Coordinator of Renovation Projects with the University of Cincinnati.

**Brad Dombos BS '07** is a Network Voice Engineer with CDW. **Tyler Fisher BS '07** was promoted to IT Operations Analyst Senior with Progressive Insurance after transitioning from Network and Telecom to a Server Administrator role. He relocated to Colorado Springs last year. His girlfriend, **Alison Bratt '07**, and dog will be joining him soon when Alison starts her first teaching position as a 7th/8th grade language arts teacher. **Adam Luck BS '08** is a supervisor, IT Infrastructure, with American Health Holding. **Kislay Mukherjee MCTP '08** is a Unix Systems Administrator with Pacific Lutheran University. **Tyler Paugh BS '08** is an Implementation Delivery Engineer with the EMC Corporation.

**Thomas Clark BS '09** is an IT Service Desk Associate with Progressive Insurance. **Tyler Claudepierre BS '09** is an Analyst in IT Operations with Nationwide Insurance. **Joel Jordan BS '09** is a Sr. Analyst in the IT Development Program with Cardinal Health. **Andre Rall MCTP '09** is an Account Manager with Rackspace Hosting. **Pat Sandker BS '09** is a Communications Technician with Total Quality Logistics. **Jeremy Shoup BS '09** has been a Network Technician with SuperNet of Ohio for 4 months and is loving it. **Bryan Wildasinn BS '09** is an IT Trainee with Parker Hannifin.

**William Kutasy BS '10** works for Tekmark Global Solutions doing IT consulting and sales. **Gary Clark BS '10** is a Technical Support Analyst with American Health Holding, Inc. **Michael Driscoll BS '10** is a Delivery Consultant with Cerner Corporation involving 50% client facing and 50% technical. **Jonah Likover BS '10** found a job with Sogeti as an IT Consultant. **Emmanuel Odarno MCTP '10** is currently working with OPNET Technologies as a Network Applications Performance Engineer in the professional service department.

*"I am very thankful for all the support from the entire ITS faculty and I am really grateful for the knowledge I acquired while there."* - **Emmanuel Odarno**

**Jason Presutti BS '10** is working for Cerner Corporation for their Remote Hosted Services @CernerWorks as a System Engineer for a Production Management team. **Charles Rogers BS '10** is a System Operator with Intralot. **Sutapa Ghosh MCTP '11** recently started work at Nationwide Insurance as a Sr. Analyst in the IT Analysis section of their Data Warehouse.

*"I would like to thank the entire department for their huge support and involvement in helping their students find a job."* - **Sutapa Ghosh**

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Send us your updated information. Click on "update your information" in the alumni section of [www.ohio.edu/mcclure](http://www.ohio.edu/mcclure). Want to keep in touch with other alums, let other alums know about a position available with your company, or looking for a job? Instructions for

how to subscribe to the alumni listserve are also in the alumni section of the School's website.

The School has a presence on LinkedIn and Facebook (ITS at Ohio U). You are encouraged to link to the School's pages.

## Technapalooza - Ali Myers

I.T.S. Day 2011  
**Technapalooza**  
"The Future is Coming"

9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. • **Tech Fair & Vendors** • Baker Theater Lounge  
9:00 a.m. • **Continental Breakfast** • Baker 240  
10:00 a.m. • **Ben Curry, AT&T Mobile Broadband** • Baker 240  
10:45 a.m. • **Ray Bonini, Verizon • Mobile Broadband Initiatives** • Baker 240  
11:30 a.m. • **Alumni Panel • Career Progression** • Baker 240  
1:20 p.m. • **Bob Rice, Sprint • Mobile Broadband** • Baker 240  
2:05 p.m. • **Tom Fritz • Connect Ohio • Ohio's Broadband Landscape** • Baker 240  
2:50 p.m. • **John O'Malley • Cisco Systems • Video over IP** • Baker 240  
3:35 p.m. • **Awards Ceremony • Accenture Challenge** • Baker 240

Sessions open to all  
Tech Fair Vendors: AT&T, Verizon Wireless,  
Cisco Systems, Attevo and Sprint

Check us out online  
Facebook Event: Technapalooza  
Twitter: @OUMcClureSchool #Technapalooza

**May 12, 2011**

The McClure School of Information and Telecommunication Systems held its annual [ITS Day](#) Thursday, May 12, in Baker University Center.

This year's event, named "Technapalooza," featured many speakers from the ITS profession who presented on a wide array of topics, including issues about the broadband landscape in Ohio. An alumni panel was also in attendance to speak on the topic of career progression.

New to the event this year was a technology fair which featured vendors from AT&T, Sprint, Verizon Wireless, Attevo and Cisco Systems who showcased their latest technology.

"We were focused on delivering a hands- on technology experience while encouraging students to learn more by attending our speaker series," said **Garon Gentzel**, National Account Manager at Sprint and member of the ITS Advisory Board.

"We were promoting new products and offering discounts to students and faculty. We featured some products such as the new Android Open Source that can aid people who want to build apps, and ITS majors can do that," said AT&T Sales Representative **Aaron Seitz**.

A student awards banquet at the Ohio University Inn wrapped up the day's events. **Shawn Tignor** was presented with the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award.

The following students were awarded scholarships:

**Ruth and Otto Kruse**

Germaine Dobney  
Ryan Haas  
Kevin Matteson  
Bryan Rambow

**McClure School Advisory Board**

Anthony Wakim

**John F. Smith Memorial**

Brian Hone

**Scripps College of Communication**

Trevor Tomlinson  
Germaine Dobney

The McClure School extends a big thank you to: ITS day committee faculty advisor, **Herbert Thompson**, and the student committee chair, **Trevor Tomlinson**; Advisory Board Member **Garon Gentzel** for all his assistance; and alumni panelists **Jason Carlton '06**, **Gary Clark '10**, **Tyler Claudepierre '09**, **Juan Echeverry '05**, **Samantha Ray '07**, and **Adam Tiffany '03**.

## 2010 Annual Advisory Board Lonsbury Scholarship Golf Classic

Telecommunication professionals, friends, faculty and alumni of the McClure School gathered in Athens on Thursday, September 30, to support the annual scholarship fund benefiting students in the program.

The Thomas Lonsbury Scholarship Golf Classic, named after event organizer, school advisory board member and honorary alumnus **Tom Lonsbury '06**, has raised a total of more than \$100,000 and awarded eight scholarships. The 2010 scholarship recipient was **Matt Bange**.

Special thanks to volunteers **Matt Bange**, **Tim Dobertin**, **Garon Gentzel**, **Cory Harrington**, **Don Huber**, **Lori Huber**, **Barb Moran**, **Ben Rawson BS '09** and **MCTP '11**, **Trevor Tomlinson**, **Annie Wiebell** and all the [sponsors](#).

The 10th annual Thomas Lonsbury Scholarship Golf Classic is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2011, at the Ohio University Golf Course. A reception will follow at the OU Inn on Richland Avenue. For information, please contact Barbara Moran at [moran@ohio.edu](mailto:moran@ohio.edu) or Tom Lonsbury at [tlonsbury@windstream.net](mailto:tlonsbury@windstream.net).



ITS 2007 alumni **Dustin Ratliff**, **Zach Craig**, and **Brett Dirr**, and OU alum **Brian Clem** enjoy the golf classic.





Participants in the 2010 Lonsbury Scholarship Golf Classic

## Thanks!

It's amazing how many COMT/ITS alums stay in touch with the School, participating in various events and sharing information on jobs and internships. We'd like to thank the following:

**Jeff Chaddock BS '88, Tom Martinko BS '89, Bryan Ireton BS '90, Tracy Tikos-Wiese BS '91, Joe Watson BS '92, Mike Herrmann BS '93, Brian Chylik BS '94, Ron Minto BS '98, Matt Christian BS '99, Dave Heimbach BS '99, Mike Johnson BS '99, Leah Beltz BS '00, David Blum BS '00, Mike Mukavetz BS '00, Jason Saul BS '00, Steve Wylie BS '00, Michael Pistone-Kiikka BS '01, Jed Bistline BS '02, Zach Hails BS '02 and MCTP '07, Jason Ice BS '02, Neil Okonak BS '02, Ryan Burnett BS '03, Steve Fisher BS '03, Steve McCullough BS '03, Matt Raider BS '03, Barry Spurlock BS '03, Adam Tiffany BS '03, Chris Crosbie BS '04, Katie Gabric BS '04, Jeremy Hansford BS '04, Kim McDonald-Romero '04, Dan Medary BS '04, Andrew Norton BS '04, Juan Echeverry BS '05, Wrienne Mitchell BS '05, Jason Carlton BS '06, Andrew Chen MCTP '06, Ben Fuller BS '06, Matt Hyclak MCTP '06, Matt Kusek BS '06, Travis Ollom BS '06, Max Putas BS '06, Brad Tunstall BS '06, Matt Brainard BS '07, Alicia Carr BS '07, Zach Craig BS '07, Brett Dirr BS '07, Brad Dombos BS '07, Bob Lehane BS '07, Dustin Ratliff BS '07, Samantha Ray BS '07, Andrew Simmons BS '07, Steve Allen BS '08, Dylan Conrad BS '08, Richard Lee BS '08 and MCTP '09, Adam Luck BS '08, Jacob Muff BS '08, Kishan Ahuja MCTP '09, Tyler Claudepierre BS '09, Jared Fliegel BS '09, Joel Jordan BS '09, Ben Rawson BS '09 and MCTP '11, William Rayess MCTP '09, Brad Shumate BS '09, Kathryn Wargo BS '09, Bryan Wildasin BS '09, Gary Clark BS '10, Mike Driscoll BS '10, William Kutasy, Jr. BS '10, Kit Phan MCTP '10, and Cullen Rea '11.**



ITS Faculty and Staff: Front Row from left, **Hans Kruse**, **Julio Arauz**, **Barbara Moran** and **Phyllis Bernt**. Second Row **John Hoag**, **Phil Campbell**, **Herb Thompson** and **Andy Snow** (not pictured: **Doug Bowie**).

Keep in touch!

The McClure School