USF Computer Science
New Grad Student Orientation
Fall 2009

Terence Parr
Professor and graduate director
USF Professors

- Jeff Buckwalter
- Chris Brooks (current chair)
- Greg Benson
- David Galles
- Terence Parr (grad director)
- Peter Pacheco
- Sami Rollins
- Dave Wolber
- Pete Wells
Icebreaker

• **Introduce yourself!**
  – What’s your name?
  – Where are you from?
  – What’s one fun thing you did this summer?
  – How did you find out about USF and why did you come to USF?
ITS Accounts

• This is your <name>@usfca.edu account

• Your username and password/PIN was mailed to your home address. Or, visit Help Desk on Lone Mountain

• USFconnect site: can obtain grades, degree audits, financial records, and other personal records online: http://usfconnect.usfca.edu
CS Accounts

- This is your <name>@cs.usfca.edu account
- Your username is the same as your USFConnect username; password: last six digits of student ID
- Use this account to log into the CS machines (HRN 235, 5th floor labs)
- Problems? Talk to: support@cs.usfca.edu or Cody Nivens / Alex Fedosov
Access

• Mail
  – Can be accessed via the web-based interface at
    https://nexus.cs.usfca.edu/webmail
  – Can be accessed remotely using secure (SSL) POP or IMAP
    to nexus.cs.usfca.edu

• Remote login
  – SSH to stargate.cs.usfca.edu, then ssh to a lab machine
    (hrnxxxxyy.cs.usfca.edu); xxx is room like 535 and yy is
    machine number
  – Do not use stargate for programming or compute-intensive
    programs

• Web
  – Web pages may be placed in /home/web/username
  – URL: http://www.cs.usfca.edu/~username
Available Resources

- HRN 235 (aka “Starship Kudlick”)
  - 30 dual-boot Linux/Windows boxes
  - Classes during day, lab at night
- 5th floor labs (HRN 530, 535, 536)
  - dual-boot Linux/Windows boxes
  - Mac G5s (OS X, Linux)
- Wireless access is available throughout the 5th floor as “cslabs” password “1kudlick”
Available Resources

- Other labs (campus-wide ITS accounts)
  - University Center
  - Cowell
  - Gleeson Library
    - Also wireless here
- CS hosts 4 supercomputers used for parallel programming classes and research
Academic Honesty

- All students are expected to do their own work
- Cheating is taken very seriously
  - We have expelled students for cheating in the past.
- Plagiarism: properly reference material written by others; you must never pass off others’ work as your own. Ever!
- If you are unsure whether something is permitted, please ask!
Academic Honesty Examples

• OK
  – Discussing general concepts of an assignment
  – Cutting/pasting little code blocks from web and changing to suit your application

• NOT OK
  – Copying someone else’s assignment
  – Looking at and directly using someone else’s code
  – Downloading code from the Web and claiming it as your own
  – Unauthorized “collaboration” on an exam or project
  – Copying web page text and putting unattributed into report, project, or exam

• Your goal is not to repeat what someone else has done, but to generate unique content! Always.
English Proficiency

- **TOEFL scores**
  - 600(paper)/250(CBT)/100(IBT): ok
  - Below this, you might be asked to get evaluated by the ESL group at USF.

- **ESL classes** [http://www.usfca.edu/esl/](http://www.usfca.edu/esl/)
English Proficiency

- You will be expected to write and speak in English as part of your classes.
  - Giving presentations, writing technical documents.
  - Communication of results and ideas is an essential part of this profession.

- If you are not confident in your speaking or writing, there are resources available to help you.
  - Additional ESL classes
  - USF Learning and Writing Center
Workload

- We expect students to put in at least 3 hours outside of class for every hour in class.
- Most classes will require a project every week or two.
  - The way to learn is by doing.
- You will almost always have at least one project to work on.
- The keys to success:
  - Budget your time effectively.
  - Start early on projects
Educational Philosophy

• Graduate school is very different from undergrad.
• More open-ended, less “connect the dots”
  – You may be given projects that are not completely specified, or have multiple solutions.
  – We want to teach you how to teach yourself.
• “Teachers open the door. Students must walk through on their own.”
Advice for success

• “90% of life is showing up” - Woody Allen
  – Come to class on time, do your homework on time, and follow through on things.

• Ask questions! Don’t be shy!

• Be curious. Pursue topics that interest you, even if it’s not for a class.
  – Learning how to learn on your own is an invaluable skill.

• Budget your time carefully.
  – Everything takes longer than you think it will.
Financial Aid

- Merit Scholarships
- Available jobs
  - Visa issues
    - 20 hours/week max work study
    - no outside work - on campus is OK, though.
  - ITS
  - Research and TA positions
    - Hard to get your first semester - most professors will want to know you first.
- Practicum option available to excellent students
  - available after 2 semesters
Summer Work

• Often, students want to do an internship during the summer.

• International students can do this by using OPT, or by using CPT.
  – Requires you to register for CS695 Practicum.

• Students are responsible for finding their own internships.
  – Watch your email, talk to other students, use craigslist, go to job fairs. Start in Jan. to find job!
Finding a job after graduation

- We don’t do any formal placement of students after graduation.
- Informally, students often take advantage of relationships built through projects or internships.
- Professors help when they can.
- All of last year’s graduating class are working in the industry.
Advising

• All graduate students are advised by Terence Parr
  - parrt@cs.usfca.edu
  - Harney 532
  - Office hours:
    • Any time door is open, or by appointment
    - If you have a pressing need, please schedule an appointment rather than just “dropping in.”
Personal Hygiene

- Americans are very sensitive to body odor
- Please be sure to keep yourself and your clothes clean, particularly during warm weather (deodorant is a good idea) ;)
- This is important not only for your studies here but getting a job and keeping a job
Questions?