USF Computer Science
New Grad Student Orientation
Fall 2011
Terence Parr
Professor and graduate director
USF CS/WS Professors

- Jeff Buckwalter
- Greg Benson
- Sophie Engle
- David Galles
- EJ Jung
- Patricia Francis-Lyon
- Terence Parr (grad director)
- Peter Pacheco (current chair)
- Sami Rollins
- Dave Wolber
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 <username>@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 <username>@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 Colin Bean / Kevin Moran / Alex Fedosov
Access

- **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
  - Research lab (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
  - 100 (IBT)/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/
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.
All graduate students are advised by Terence Parr

parrt@cs.usfca.edu

Harney 531

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?