# 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 (hrnxxxyy.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
- 5$^{th}$ 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/

# 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](mailto: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?