

USF Computer Science New Grad Student Orientation Fall 2010

Terence Parr

Professor and graduate director

Jeff Buckwalter

Professor and graduate advisor Fall 2010

Sami Rollins, EJ Jung

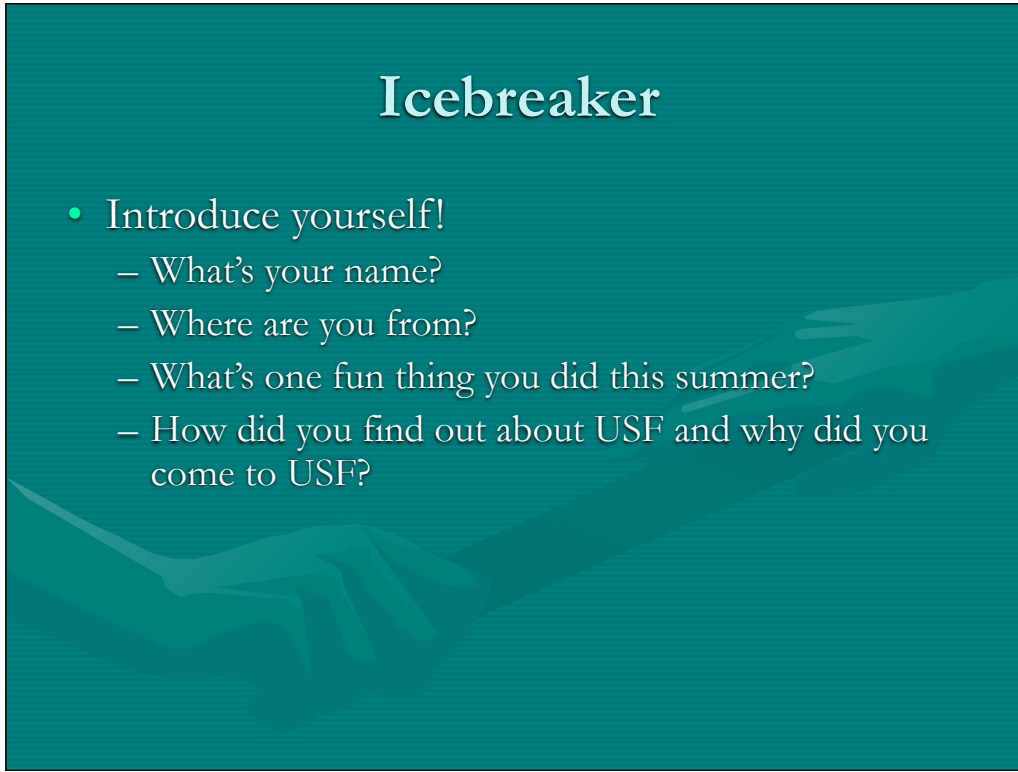
Professors

USF Professors

- Jeff Buckwalter
- Chris Brooks (current chair)
- Greg Benson
- Sophie Engle
- David Galles
- EJ Jung
- Patricia Francis-Lyon
- 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 <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>

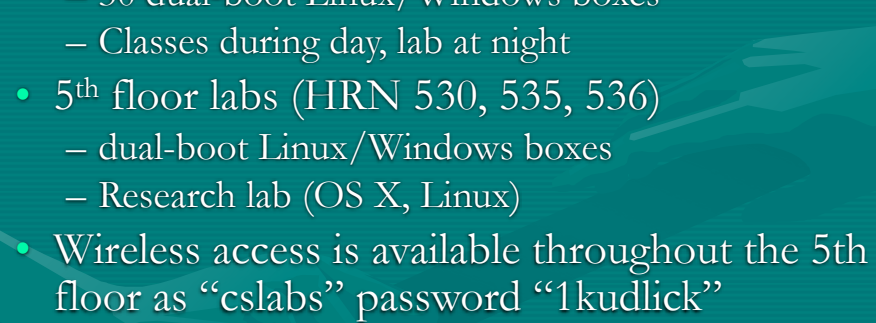
CS Accounts

- 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 / 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
 - 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.

Advising

- All graduate students are advised by Jeff Buckwalter for Fall 2010
 - buckwalter@usfca.edu
 - Harney 526
 - 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?

