

USF Computer Science  
New Grad Student Orientation  
Fall 2011

Terence Parr  
Professor and graduate director

# USF CS/WS Professors

- ③ Jeff Buckwalter
- ③ Greg Benson
- ③ Sophie Engle
- ③ David Galles
- ③ EJ Jung
- ③ Patricia Francis-Lyon
- ③ Terence Parr (grad director)
- ③ Peter Pacheco (current chair)
- ③ Sami Rollins
- ③ 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 (hrnxxxxy.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

- ④ HRN 235 (aka "Starship Kudlick")
  - ④ 30 dual-boot Linux/Windows boxes
  - ④ Classes during day, lab at night
- ④ 5<sup>th</sup> floor labs (HRN 530, 535, 536)
  - ④ dual-boot Linux/Windows boxes
  - ④ Research lab (OS X, Linux)
- ④ 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

- ④ Graduate school is very different from undergrad.
- ④ More open-ended, less “connect the dots”
  - ④ You may be given projects that are not completely specified, or have multiple solutions.
  - ④ We want to teach you how to teach yourself.
- ④ “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

- ④ Merit Scholarships
- ④ Available jobs
  - ④ Visa issues
    - ④ 20 hours/week max work study
    - ④ no outside work - on campus is OK, though.
  - ④ ITS
  - ④ Research and TA positions
    - ④ Hard to get your first semester - most professors will want to know you first.
- ④ Practicum option available to excellent students
  - ④ available after 2 semesters



# Summer Work

- ④ Often, students want to do an internship during the summer.
- ④ International students can do this by using OPT, or by using CPT.
  - ④ Requires you to register for *CS695 Practicum*.
- ④ Students are responsible for finding their own internships.
  - ④ 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

- ④ All graduate students are advised by Terence Parr
  - ④ [parrt@cs.usfca.edu](mailto:parrt@cs.usfca.edu)
  - ④ Harney 531
  - ④ Office hours:
    - ④ Any time door is open, or by appointment
  - ④ 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?