



PennState
College of Information
Sciences and Technology

iConnect

Summer 2024

**A New
Era
Begins**



IMAGINING COLLABORATING INVENTING COLLABORATING IMAGINING COLLABORATING INVENTING COLLABORATING IMAGINING



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Penn State is creating meaningful
impact in Pennsylvania and beyond.
Discover stories of imagination,
collaboration, and invention.

ONE COMMUNITY **IMPACTING MANY**



iConnect, the magazine of the College of Information Sciences and Technology, is published twice a year by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

DIRECTOR
Jordan Ford

EDITOR
Mary Fetzner

ART DIRECTOR
Kelly Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jena Soult

Photography by College of IST
or Penn State unless otherwise
credited.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
iConnect Magazine
E103 Westgate Building
University Park, PA 16802
webmarcom@ist.psu.edu
814-865-8947

Opinions expressed are not
necessarily shared by the University,
college, or editorial staff.

View this issue online at
ist.psu.edu/iconnect.

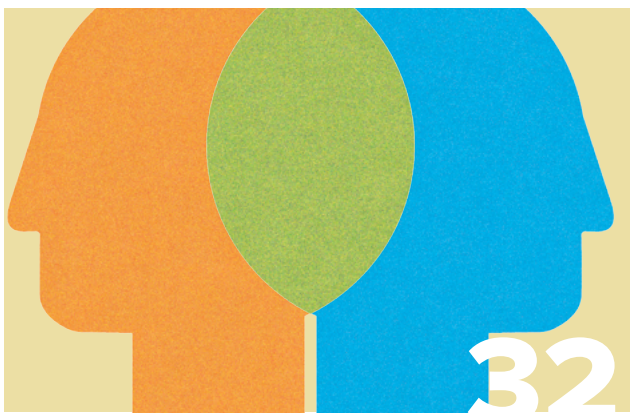
This publication is available in
alternative media on request.

The University is committed to
equal access to programs, facilities,
admission and employment for
all persons. It is the policy of
the University to maintain an
environment free of harassment and
free of discrimination against any
person because of age, race, color,
ancestry, national origin, religion,
creed, service in the uniformed
services (as defined in state and
federal law), veteran status, sex,
sexual orientation, marital or family
status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related
conditions, physical or mental
disability, gender, perceived gender,
gender identity, genetic information
or political ideas. Discriminatory
conduct and harassment, as well as
sexual misconduct and relationship
violence, violates the dignity of
individuals, impedes the realization
of the University's educational
mission, and will not be tolerated.
Direct all inquiries regarding the
nondiscrimination policy to the
Affirmative Action Office, The
Pennsylvania State University, 328
Boucke Building, University Park, PA
16802-5901, Email: aao@psu.edu, Tel
(814) 863-0471.

UBR IST 24-33

Follow us @ISTatPennState





IST Celebrates 25 Years

We're celebrating our 25th birthday with special events, a look back at life in 1999, and lots of Creamery ice cream.

4

Achieving and Succeeding

IST students, staff, and faculty are knocking it out of the park with professorships, awards, showcases, and competition wins.

12

A New Kind of Dean

Andrea Tapia is enthusiastically leading IST into future.

24

Finding Common Ground

Researchers offer different perspectives on data privacy, algorithmic fairness, and technology for good.

32

Leading by Example

Alumni and friends from around the world are inspiring and supporting IST students.

38

Look for



throughout this issue and scan to read more!

25 in '24

Happy Birthday to us!

Since 1999, IST students, alumni, faculty, and staff have innovated, inspired, collaborated, and created within a rapidly changing information environment. Over the last 25 years, we've lived, learned, taught, and researched with some of the leading minds in technology, business, health care, defense, sociology, and every field in between. Most of all, this community has collectively helped the college grow from one of the nation's first iSchools to a leader in education, research, and service where information, technology, and society intersect.

We're spending the year reflecting on where we've been and planning for where we want to go. We invite you to join us.



Anniversary Events

Visit ist.psu.edu/25 to register for anniversary events, lodging information, and more.



Thursday, October 24

IST Open House

3:30–5 p.m. | Westgate Building

Enjoy a fun and informal exploration of the college's past, present, and future. Visit new (and old!) spaces throughout Westgate Building and connect with others across the IST community to learn about the latest in student organization and support initiatives.

IST Celebrates 25 Years Kick-Off Party

5–7 p.m. | Nittany Lion Inn, Boardroom

Take a walk down memory lane with a look at IST from years past, learn where the college is headed, and connect with alumni and friends to reminisce about all things IST. Enjoy drinks and hearty appetizers—including IST Celebrates 25 Years Death By Chocolate ice cream!—music, a photobooth, caricatures, and more.

Friday, October 25

Alumni Symposium and Alumni Awards

8 a.m.–1 p.m. | 603 Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub

Attend keynote presentations and breakout sessions with IST alumni and faculty focused on generative AI and other tech trends and hear from IST leadership about the future of the college. The event concludes with a light lunch and presentation of alumni awards.

Closing Celebration

1:30–2:30 p.m. | 603 Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub

Engage with alumni and current students while enjoying Berkey Creamery ice cream. And don't forget to join us for the IST Celebrates 25 group photo!

Celebrate Wherever You Are

A Sweet Treat Tribute


We're marking this milestone with "IST Celebrates 25 Years Death By Chocolate"—a sponsored ice cream flavor at Berkey Creamery. Purchase yours in store or online at ist.psu.edu/creamery by December 31.



A New Way to Give Back

The Cub Pantry in Westgate Building provides free necessities to students in need. The drawers are stocked with grab-and-go snacks, microwavable meals, and personal hygiene items like shampoo and deodorant. Learn how you can contribute to the Westgate Building Cub Pantry at ist.psu.edu/cub-pantry.





ARE

1966

MEM

IST A TO Z

A

The **IST Alumni Society** supports current students and connects graduates.

Be You in Tech programs help students understand the role of diversity and inclusion in their lives and careers.



Founded by IST in 2012, Penn State Startup Week powered by PNC is a weeklong showcase that connects students with **entrepreneurs**.



IST launched with just **five faculty**:
Guoray Cai, Chao-Hsien Chu, Frank Ritter, Steven Sawyer, and Amanda Spink.

F

H

By signing the **IST Honor Code**, students show their commitment to academic integrity.

All IST undergraduates complete at least one **internship** before graduating, and 84% receive a job offer from one of their internship providers.

IST founding dean, **Jim Thomas**, led the college until 2006.

J



With 155 seats, the **Cybertorium** is the college's largest classroom.

G

Students can attend the annual **Grace Hopper Celebration**, the world's largest gathering of women and non-binary technologists.



K

More than 80 full-time faculty impart **knowledge** in the classroom and through research.

IST, Engineering, and Science jointly offer the **Data Sciences** major, where students gain foundational knowledge before selecting a college-specific option.

D

L

The College of IST was born when industry heads told Penn State they needed **leaders**, not programmers, to close the technology gap.

Named for a founder of the college, the **George J. McMurtry Award** recognizes faculty for innovative teaching and a commitment to learning.



M

The college is designated as a **National Center for Academic Excellence** by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.



More than 20 student **organizations** connect students socially and professionally.

P

Problem-based learning—working in groups to solve open-ended problems—is foundational to IST's educational approach.

Communication, respect, and **quality of service** are among the college's core values.

Q



R

Reese's Café is a popular social and study spot for students.

IST's recent **special topics courses** include blockchain, data ethics, and generative AI.

S

The **Teaching, Learning, and Assessment** team supports faculty and engages students to enrich the educational experience.

T

Now home to more than 2,000 **undergraduates**, enrollment has increased more than 40% since 2016.

U



Raphael Viñoly Architects designed Westgate Building to literally and symbolically bridge technology with sciences and humanities.

V

With 14 degree and certificate programs through Penn State **World Campus**, IST is educating students across the globe.

W

Explainable AI, or **XAI**, is quickly becoming a focus of IST researchers.

X

Y



Starting with an average **yearly salary of \$77,000**, IST undergraduate alumni are among Penn State's highest earners.

Academic advisers help students **zero in** on a degree program that connects their skills and interests to a potential career.

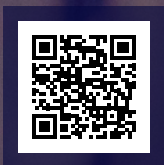
Z



IST FTK

Six IST students—including **Austin Whitson '24**, pictured here—were among the 700 dancers at THON 2024, held February 16-18 at the Bryce Jordan Center. The event raised a record-breaking \$16.9 million to fund pediatric cancer research and support children and families fighting childhood cancer.

IST students were also busy behind the scenes, serving as members of the THON Technology Committee. Led by technology director **Andrew Maier '24**—the College of IST's student marshal for spring 2024 commencement—the committee managed all the technology that enables THON to spread its mission, raise funds, track donations, and host events to scale.



BIG DATA



Tailored for Success

A major gift will create a new student success center in IST

Thanks to the generosity of Penn State benefactors **Gene** and **Roz Chaiken**, the College of IST is gaining a new student success center.

The Chaikens have made a landmark contribution to the University that makes them the second-largest donors in Penn State history. A previous gift from the couple resulted in the naming of the Susan Welch Liberal Arts Building and the creation of the Roz and Gene Chaiken Center for Student Success in the College of the Liberal Arts.

Their new gift will establish Chaiken Centers for Student Success in IST and

“The Chaiken Center will enhance and extend the exceptional support our staff provide to our students and create new opportunities for resources, programming, and engagement.”

Dean Tapia

three other areas across the University.

“Roz and I felt that we could extend our impact and help even more students by establishing additional Chaiken centers,” Gene Chaiken said, noting that the four new centers were chosen because of their potential to succeed and reach new populations of students.

“We are sincerely grateful to Gene and Roz for their profound generosity to Penn State and now, to the College of IST,” said Dean **Andrea Tapia**. “The Chaiken Center will enhance and extend the exceptional support our staff provide to our students and create new opportunities for resources, programming, and engagement.”

Modeled after the first Chaiken Center and tailored for the needs of IST students, the new center will build upon existing academic support offerings to create and enhance services, programs, and spaces that promote academic, personal, and professional success through peer mentoring, community building, and partnerships—within and beyond the college.

“The creation of the Chaiken Center in the College of IST demonstrates a profound belief in our students’ potential, and I’m excited to collaborate with the IST community to strengthen the many ways we strive to support student success,” said

Amy Stever, who will serve as an interim director of the center while continuing her role as IST’s assistant dean for academic services.

Jocelyn Bennett Garraway, assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the College of IST, agrees.

“Enhancing student success is a key pillar in President **Neeli Bendapudi**’s vision for the University, and this gift will further enable and expand the work we do to support the whole student” she said. “Without a doubt, the center will have a transformative impact on our students and the college.”

Donors like Gene and Roz Chaiken advance the University’s historic land-grant mission to serve and lead. Through philanthropy, alumni and friends are helping students to join the Penn State family and prepare for lifelong success; driving research, outreach, and economic development that grow our shared strength and readiness for the future; and increasing the University’s impact for families and communities across the commonwealth and around the world.

Read more about the Chaiken’s landmark contribution



Leading Faculty

Cindy Brewer was named associate dean for faculty affairs, effective August 1. She comes to IST from the Department of Geography in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS), and her position includes a joint appointment as professor of geography and information sciences and technology.

Brewer has served as a faculty member of EMS since 1994, earning the rank of professor in 2007. There, she held various administrative and leadership roles, including serving as department head from 2014 to 2021. She was the director of the Peter R. Gould Center for Geography Education and Outreach; the E. Willard Miller and Ruby S. Miller Professor of Geography; and an administrative fellow in Penn State's Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Now, as associate dean, she advises IST leaders and faculty on a broad range of issues; supports faculty career advancement and new faculty mentoring; and promotes faculty accomplishment in all areas of education, research, and service. Her comprehensive knowledge of University policies and best practices for faculty engagement, combined with her unique perspective and commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, will better position faculty to enhance their own impact and strengthen the college's standing.



Leading Undergrads

Lisa Lenze was named IST's new associate dean for undergraduate studies, effective August 1. The leadership position was created in 2023 to enrich and expand the college's undergraduate programs and offerings.

In this role, Lenze is focused on advancing three priorities: building courses and programs that attract students to the interdisciplinary work of IST, ensuring a clearly articulated curriculum that prepares students for careers within four years, and supporting inclusive and engaging pedagogy that welcomes and encourages all students.

Prior to becoming an associate dean, Lenze was the director of IST's Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, a role she held since 2019. She also served as director of Learning Initiatives, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, and Graduate and Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

Since joining IST in 2004, Lenze has assisted with the creation of the college's Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations bachelor's degree program and two integrated undergraduate-graduate programs, assessed learning outcomes for IST's curricular programs, provided oversight of honors advising, developed learning support programs, and promoted student-centered pedagogy.



New Dean's Advisory Board Members

This summer, IST welcomed four professionals with diverse expertise and perspectives to the Dean's Advisory Board, now 16 members strong. Serving as an ambassador for the college, the board advises the dean on matters critical to the growth and success of IST and provides strategic guidance and counsel to help shape its future.



David Brannon '91
Vice President (Ret.)
Leidos



Greg Dracon '94
General Partner
.406 Ventures



Karen Presley
Deputy Director
National Security Agency



Greg Roszyk '89
Partner
EMF Industries

*View all members
of the board*



Capping Off the Semester

The College of IST held its first capstone showcase on April 26 in Westgate Building. The event, co-sponsored by the IST Alumni Society Board, gave students an opportunity to present the projects they completed during their capstone courses.

Board members **John Esteves '18**, **Nikita Page '17**, and **Melanie Treff '19** judged the projects and selected first-, second-, and third-place winners. Each member of the winning teams received a certificate and monetary prize.

First place went to Unitalks, a centralized communication platform that aids students with the job recruiting and interview process to enhance their employability. The project was presented by **Ethan Cegelka**, **Changhong Ding**, **Carlos Jaquez**, **Anish Nangare**, **Jobair Rahat**, and **Wenbo Zhang**—students from the enterprise technology integration capstone class led by Associate Teaching Professor **Johnson Kinyua**.

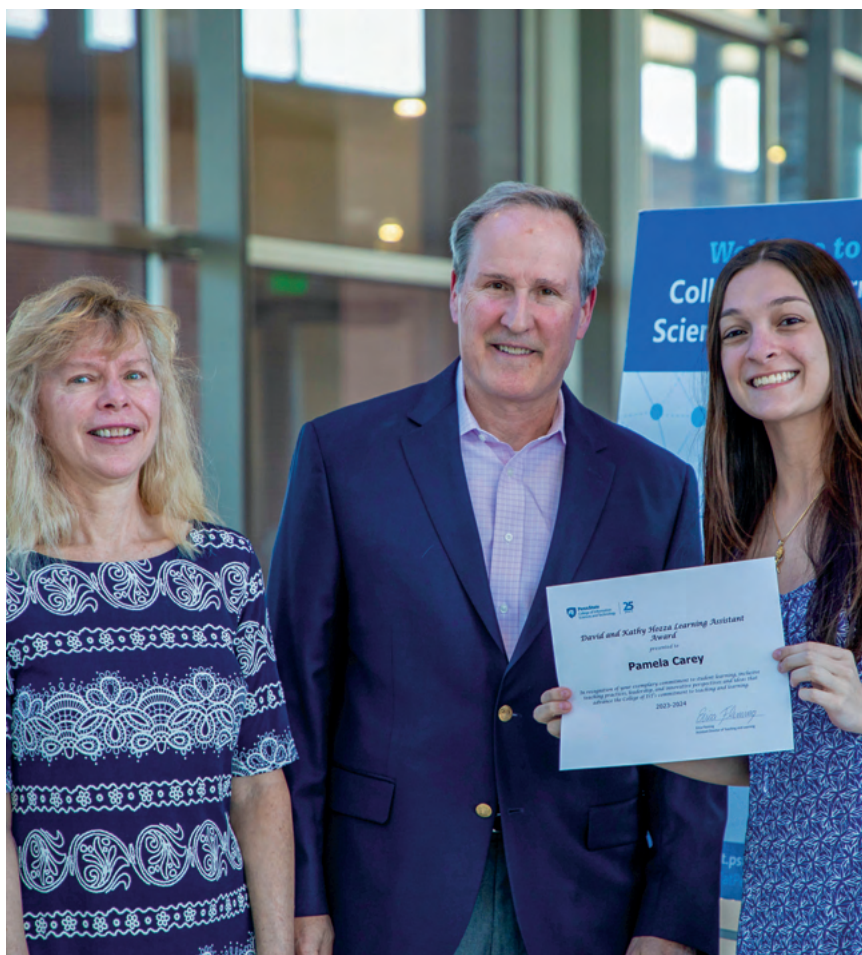


Hooray for LAs!

Learning assistants (LAs) are talented undergraduate students who serve as learning mentors to students while supporting instructors with teaching-related tasks. Assigned to a particular course, they work closely with instructors to provide challenging and meaningful learning experiences for students enrolled in the course.

Now, their efforts are being recognized with the newly established David and Kathy Hozza Learning Assistant Awards. The awards—generously funded by Assistant Teaching Professor **David Hozza** and his wife, Kathy—were presented for the first time on April 15 at Reese's Café in Westgate Building.

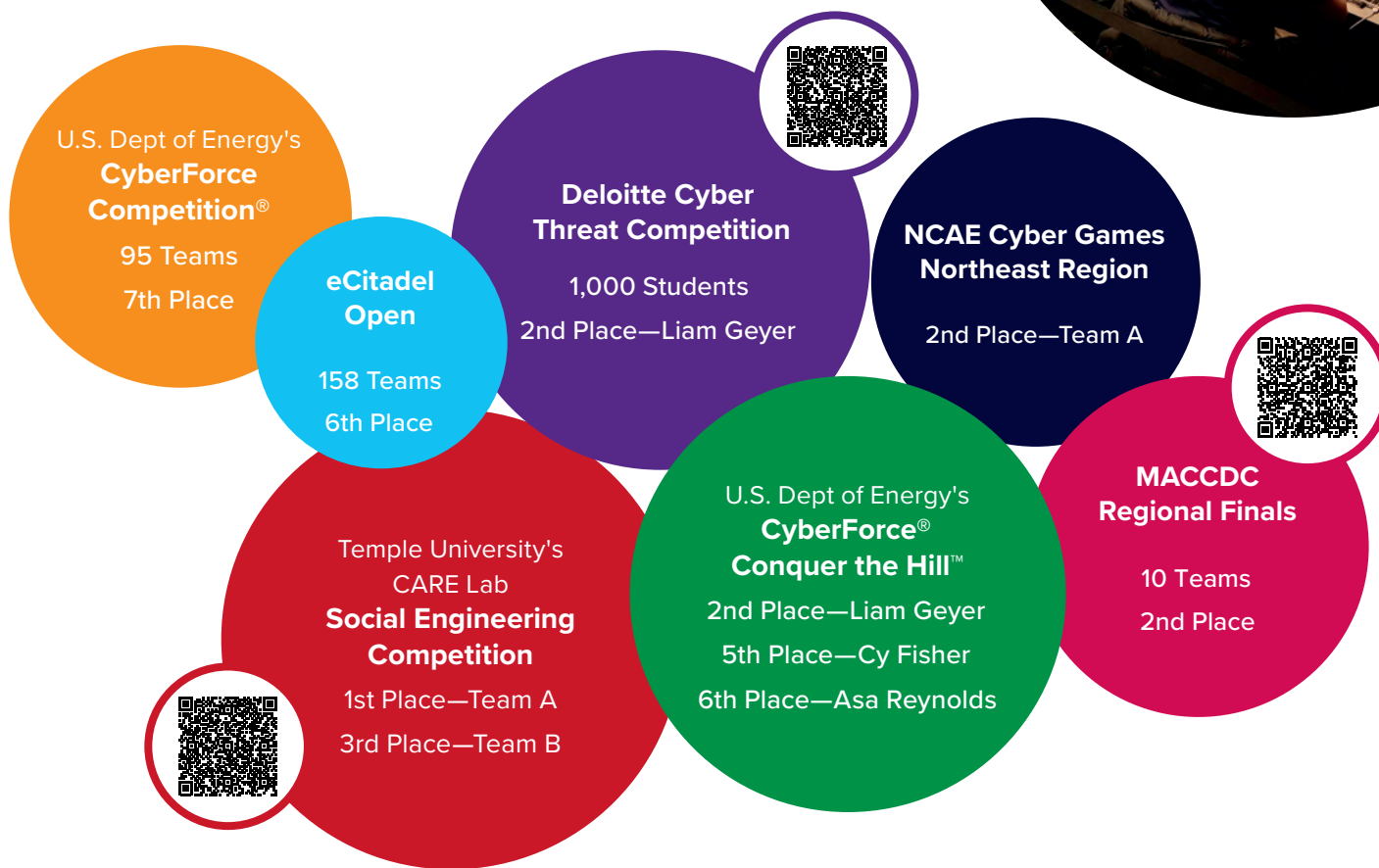
Winners **Pamela Carey** (pictured here with the Hozzas), **Jenna Fox**, **Laiya Mathew**, and **Will Ulmer** each received \$200. Four honorable mentions—**Haley Kaplan**, **Aishwarya Oltika**, **Meerav Shah**, and **Ryan Wells**—each received \$50.



Fiercely Competitive

The Competitive Cyber Security Organization (CCSO) provides students with an academic outlet to pursue and refine their defense and security skills and apply those skills at cyber security competitions.

"This season has been our best ever," said **Nick Giacobe**, associate teaching professor and CCSO faculty adviser. "We continue to build on our past successes and have fostered a tradition of constant improvement. I am incredibly proud of our team's achievements this season."



Pitch Perfect

First-year IST students **Felicia Vijayarangam**, **Christina Fontaine**, and **Kendall Reed** (pictured here with **Bob** and **Susan Bardusch**) won first place and \$3,000 in the 2024 Bardusch Family IdeaMakers Challenge, an early-stage pitch competition where IT is key to the business model. The trio—all Millennium Scholars—pitched Into-Int, an interactive app designed to teach online safety habits to young children. Special thanks to Assistant Teaching Professor **Marc Friedenberg '06** for organizing the event and to **Paul Horn '04** and **Matt Christianson '24** for serving as final-round judges.



Ready, Aim, Hire!

Last year, more than 60 organizations recruited students during the biannual IST Career Fair. The fair, held each fall and spring, connects students with employers looking to hire their unique talents for internships and full-time jobs. Last fall's event also featured a separate day exclusive to IST Recruiting Partners, which showcased organizations that have invested in the college and are committed to its success.

The career fairs are crucial for students looking to secure a full-time position or an opportunity that fulfills the college's internship requirement. Since 2017, IST students have completed more than 4,400 internships, and more than 84% received a full-time job offer from one of their internship providers. Launched in 2005 as Pro Expo and Future Forum, the event recently relocated from the Nittany Lion Inn to the HUB-Robeson Center to accommodate growing participation among students and employers.

The IST Career Fair is one of many events organized by the Office of Career Solutions and Corporate Engagement to help students make a good impression on employers. The office also reviews resumes, conducts mock interviews, hosts professional headshot events, and delivers guidance on post-fair follow-up, all of which add up to give students the best chance for success in their job hunt.



62

unique employers



1,843

total attendees





Who's Hiring?

These organizations—ranging from local small businesses to Fortune 100 companies—recruited students during the 2023–24 IST Career Fairs. We thank them for providing opportunities to College of IST students.

To learn how your organization can recruit IST students, visit ist.psu.edu/employers.

American Eagle Outfitters

Appian

Baker Tilly US, LLP

Bayer U.S.

BD

Blue Mountain

BNY Mellon

Booz Allen Hamilton

Broadcom Software

Broadridge

CAI

CGI

Chevron*

Clark Associates Inc.

Coalfire

Commonwealth of PA

CrowdStrike

Deloitte*

Duquesne Light Holdings

Eigen X LLC

Erie Insurance

EY*

FirstEnergy

Freddie Mac

GEICO*

Govt. Accountability Off.

Grant Thornton*

Groundswell

ICONS Project at START

Johnson & Johnson

KoreLogic

KPMG*

Lockheed Martin*

Lutron Electronics

Merck & Co., Inc.*

NAVSUP

NSA*

New Pig Corporation

NUWC Division Keyport

PA Turnpike Commission

PACCAR

Penn State ARL

PepsiCo

PGT Trucking, Inc.

PNC

PPG*

PwC*

RSM US LLP*

Schneider Downs & Co.,

Security Risk Advisors

Select Medical

Software Engineering Inst.

Sycor

Synchrony Financial

Textron*

The Vanguard Group

U.S. Army Recruiting

U.S. Naval Research Lab.

UPS

Verizon

Verkada

Wabtec

* Indicates an IST Recruiting Partner

IST Recruiting Partners invest in the college's future and receive additional access to students, provide professional development opportunities, and contribute to the growth of IST's programs.

For more information and a full list of IST Recruiting Partners, visit ist.psu.edu/recruiting-partners.



Aloha, CHI!

In May, IST sent five faculty members and more than 20 graduate students and recent alumni to the Association of Computing Machinery Conference on Human Factors in Computer Systems (CHI) in Hawaii. The top human-computer interaction conference accepted 15 full papers and seven late-breaking works, the most ever for the college.

“In the 21 years I have been a member of IST, this is the strongest CHI review outcome we’ve had,” said **Jack Carroll**, distinguished professor. “Both the full papers and the late-breaking works are peer-reviewed and presented in the main conference program. The two rounds of review are quite thorough and exacting, and nearly 80% of submissions are rejected. That’s where CHI gets its black belt reputation.”

“Third-Party Developers and Tool Development for Community Management on Live-Streaming Platform Twitch” received a Best Paper Honorable Mention. **Jie Cai**, assistant research

professor, was first author on the paper. Contributors included Professor Carroll and doctoral students **Ya-Fang Lin** and **He “Albert” Zhang**.

IST’s human-computer interaction research area focuses on creating and evaluating interactive systems, advocating for users first and technology second. This includes studying the social, cognitive, and affective aspects of the user experience and consequences for communities, organizations, and society.

CHI, established in 1982, attracts researchers and practitioners from around the world to discuss and advance interactive digital technologies. The 2024 conference theme—Surfing the World—reflected the focus on pushing forth the wave of cutting-edge technology and riding the tide of new developments in human-computer interaction research. This year, the conference accepted 1,060 submissions with an overall acceptance rate of 26.4%.

Wall Street meets Reddit

A decent quarterly report may not nudge a company’s stock price far, but a meme posted to Reddit’s WallStreetBets subreddit may. The online community shot to fame in early 2021 for having contributed to the skyrocketing rise of videogame retailer GameStop’s stock price.

Doctoral student **Sam Moradzadeh**, along with assistant professors **Xinning Gui** and **Yubo Kou**, examined the WallStreetBets social investing phenomenon, where average people with brokerage accounts—called retail investors—meet online to discuss stock trading strategies. And they

concluded that this high-risk and aggressive trading style is a form of gambling: investors are basically betting it all on whether a particular stock will go up or down in price.

“Retail investors are willing to put all their money, all their savings, in one position, hoping to gain a huge amount of profit in a very short amount of time by taking a huge risk,” Moradzadeh said. “When you compare WallStreetBets-style stock trading to more traditional investing literacy, you find that social media investors, especially on WallStreetBets, do not look at their money and savings in the traditional way of understanding what money is. They look at money as a means of play, as tokens like what you find in a gambling environment.”

The researchers found that this behavior, which includes its own language, is particularly appealing to millennials, who are facing a much harder financial situation than previous generations of Americans.

Check out this Q&A with the researchers



A Legend Retires

C. Lee Giles, David Reese Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, retired from teaching on June 30.

Giles came to IST less than a year after it opened its doors, joining with tenure and the named professorship. A self-described physicist-turned-computer scientist, he is a pioneer in data sciences and neural networks.

As an “information retrieval person,” he has been involved in the creation and development of an array of search engines and digital libraries. In 1997, he co-created Cite-Seer—the first automated citation indexing system and a predecessor of Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic Search.

“CiteSeer has been my greatest career accomplishment,” Giles said. “I began that work at Princeton with Steve Lawrence, who later helped to get Google up and running, and Kurt Bollacker, who created Freebase. We worked to put computer science papers on the web, rather than keep them hidden in journals with no open access. We indexed them. Made them searchable. It was the start of great things.”

In 2003, he moved the CiteSeer equipment via sneaker net from Princeton to Penn State, where he has since built

a second version—CiteSeerX—and co-developed other specialty search engines.

“Thanks to Lee, we can easily do forward literature search, something that was impossible before CiteSeer,” said **John Yen**, professor. “And thanks to Lee, we have recurrent neural networks, a precursor to deep neural networks, transformers, large language models, and generative pre-trained transformers.”

Yen credited Giles for helping him find his way to the “exhilarating start-up College of IST” in 2000. **Dongwon Lee**, professor was also inspired by Giles to come to Penn State.

“When I was searching for my first academic job, I was hesitant about joining a young new college that wasn’t the pure computer science I was trained in,” he said. “The presence of Lee and his group convinced me to join IST. I have never regretted that decision and have since become an enthusiastic advocate for the interdisciplinary and social impacting type of research that Lee has been doing for decades. He has been a wonderful mentor and colleague.”

Giles holds a Ph.D. in optical sciences from the University of Arizona and has taught at Princeton University, the



University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, the University of Pisa, the University of Trento, and Clarkson University.

He served as a program manager at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, a research scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory, a senior research scientist at the NEC Research Institute, and a research engineer at Ford Motor Company’s Scientific Research Laboratory.

“Lee’s contributions to the field are legendary—he is a visionary and a great human being,” said **Prasenjit Mitra**, former professor.

While Giles has retired from teaching, he will continue to pursue his research and advise graduate students at University Park. We can’t wait to see what he does next!

Auf Nach Deutschland

After a fantastic, 21-year career at Penn State—his first and only academic job—**Prasenjit Mitra** has moved to Germany to explore new professional and leisure activities.

Mitra, who holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford, was hired as an assistant professor in 2003, promoted to associate professor in 2010, and became a full professor in 2014. He served as associate dean for research from 2018 to 2021 and supervised more than 15 doctoral students. His research has included a broad range of topics ranging from AI and machine learning to data mining and information extraction.

“I’ve always been very passionate about the things I want to do, and academia has been the right career fit for me,” Mitra said. “It’s a good mix of research, teaching, and mentoring. Leading young people to understand how to do research, expand on ideas, and share the knowledge we generate. And IST has been a great place to do that.”

Prasenjit co-authored more than 150 conference papers and journal articles. He was the principal investigator of the DOES

project—funded by his 2009 NSF CAREER Award—and co-principal investigator of the CiteSeerX, ChemXSeer, and ArchSeer digital library projects, as well as the Regional Visualization and Analytics Center and GeoCam visual analytics projects.

Prasenjit enjoys a full life beyond his work. In State College, he was involved in local politics and community theater. He has found ways to apply his informatics skills to personal interests like poetry and wildlife. He has already climbed Mount Kenya and hopes to tackle Mount Kilimanjaro next!

“Prasenjit has contributed greatly to the foundation of our college,” said Dean **Andrea Tapia**. “While we are sad to see him go, we are thrilled for him and excited to see where life takes him.”



IST Faculty & Staff Awards

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the college's annual faculty and staff awards.

Awardees were nominated by their colleagues and selected by a review committee for excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Staff Awards

Customer Service Award

Jeannette Macaluso, human resources consultant

Dean's Circle of Excellence Award

Jordan Ford, director, Marketing and Communications

Rising Star Award

Logan Harvey, instructional designer

Nathan Mellace, IT support specialist

Team Award

Office of Undergraduate Academic Advising:

Susan Agee, Elise Fiorante, Heidi Lewis, Meggan MacDonald, Kali McKeehen, Mary Morrow, Kristy Romaine, Laurie Shirey, Rebecca Thurman-Irons, Melissa Williams

Faculty Awards

Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Prasenjit Mitra, professor

George J. McMurtry Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award

James Wang, distinguished professor

George J. McMurtry Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award

Qingyun Wu, assistant professor

Junior Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Fenglong Ma, assistant professor

Faculty & Staff Awards

Community and Morale Award

Tyler Estright, student engagement coordinator

Dean's Honor Award

Erica Fleming, assistant director of teaching and learning

Service and Sustainability Award

Jony Rommel, events manager

Susan B. Lucas Diversity and Equity Award

Lauren DiPerna, undergraduate recruiting coordinator

Congrats!

Seven IST faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure, the most ever for the college. The new academic ranks were effective July 1.

Congratulations to **Amulya Yadav, Saeed Abdullah, Ting-Hao (Kenneth) Huang, Aiping Xiong, Shomir Wilson, Suhang Wang, and Hadi Hosseni** (not pictured)!



David Reese Professorship

Sharon Huang is the new holder of the David Reese Professorship of Information Sciences and Technology, effective August 1.

The professorship was established in 1999, thanks to a generous gift from **David Reese**—a Penn State alumnus and original member of the Dean's Advisory Board. It was previously held for 24 years by **C. Lee Giles**, who retired on June 30. *Read more on page 19.*

Huang joined the college as a tenured associate professor in July 2018 and was promoted to full professor in 2022. Most recently—from July 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024—she served as IST's first associate dean for undergraduate studies. She is also a member of the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences at Penn State.

The professorship will enable Huang to expand her research program in artificial intelligence, particularly in exploring the emotional intelligence of AI, privacy and security of data use in AI, and translating her previous work in biomedical AI into practice. Further, it will allow her to support graduate assistants in exploring these areas and generate preliminary results to help secure external grants for further research.

Huang's most impactful works are on the topics of image



and video generation, image and video segmentation, saliency detection, and multimodal AI in the medical domain. She serves as an associate editor for Medical Image Analysis and Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics. She earned her bachelor of engineering degree in computer science from Tsinghua University and her master's and doctoral degrees in computer science from Rutgers University.

Early Career Professorships

Two assistant professors have been awarded IST early career professorships that will enable them to continue making significant research contributions to the college, Penn State, and the world. The endowed positions began July 1, 2024, and will run through June 30, 2027.

Yubo Kou, who joined the college in 2019, received the Haile Family Early Career Professorship in Information Sciences and Technology, which was created in 2012 by **Don Haile**, an emeritus member of the IST Advisory Board.

Kou's research is in human-computer interaction, computer-supported cooperative work, social computing, and video games. Through his research, he seeks to understand fun, learning, risk, and safety in video games, leveraging a human-centered design approach to enhance user safety and community well-being. His most current work explores the intersection of governance and play in contexts such as video games, content moderation, and metaverse, with a focus on children's safety and well-being in their online play.



Priya Kumar, who joined IST in 2021, received the college's PNC Technologies Career Development Professorship, which recognizes early-career faculty members with discretionary funding that can be used to support research, instruction, educational activities, and associated travel.

Kumar plans to use the funds to expand her research on children's privacy education. Her work examines how we as a society think, talk, study, and learn about data privacy, especially in relation to children. Her research aims to shift digital technology discourse, design, and literacy efforts away from a focus on individual control and toward more networked understandings of privacy and agency.

Read more about Kumar's work on page 33.



A Graceful Welcome

E103 Westgate Building is at the center of the College of IST. All who enter—students, visitors, alumni, and friends—are graciously welcomed by the smiling **Grace Hakizimana**, an administrative support assistant on IST's Academic Services Operations team.

iConnect sat down with Grace to learn more about her . . . on and off the job.

Tell us about your life before you joined the College of IST.

I was born and raised in Rwanda in Central East Africa but left the country when I was in my 20s and the circumstances of my life changed. With the help and encouragement of Diane Umutohi, my high school best friend, I came to the United States to seek asylum and a better life for myself.

I arrived in Waco, Texas, and eventually came to State College, where my godparents lived. I had a two-year-old son and didn't speak English when I enrolled in Penn State's Division of Undergraduate Studies in fall 2007, but my advisers and professors saw me, recognized my struggles, and provided resources and support to keep me going. They ensured my smooth transition to the College of Health and Human Development, where I received the same level of guidance.

All the Penn Staters who helped me along my Penn State journey have since retired, but we remain in touch, enjoying dinners and holidays together. My first adviser has a wall of photos featur-

ing generations of her family, and among them is a photo of me and my son. We have become part of each other's extended family. Another adviser had helped me to send my son—who was just a toddler then—to summer camp. When I asked her how I could pay her back, she told me to “pay it forward.” At the time, I didn't really understand what that meant, but now I do: it means supporting our students in the same way my Penn State family supported me.

Tell us about your job in IST.

After graduating from the College of Health and Human Development in 2012, I worked for two different professors in the College of Agricultural Sciences. I joined the College of IST in August 2021. At my interview, I explained that I love the U.S. and the opportunities this country has given me, but I'm also proud of my African heritage. I made sure that I'd be allowed to express myself by wearing my traditional clothing to work if I chose to. My mother always told me, “You can't know where you're going unless you know where you're from.”

All my experiences have happened for a reason and led me to where I am today. My front-desk position doesn't feel like a job—it feels like a calling, a way to give back. I love working with people and make a point to be fully present with every person I interact with. I remember what it was like to be a student and understand how important it is to be seen.

There have been many occasions when

I've been at my desk, and a student personally connects with me in some way. One student said that the turban I was wearing that day reminded her of her mom; another said that the Arabic music I was playing was so familiar to her. This sort of thing happens a lot, and it makes me happy to think that these encounters make students feel a little less homesick.

I like not knowing exactly what each day may bring. Even on stressful days, I feel good about being able to help at least one person.

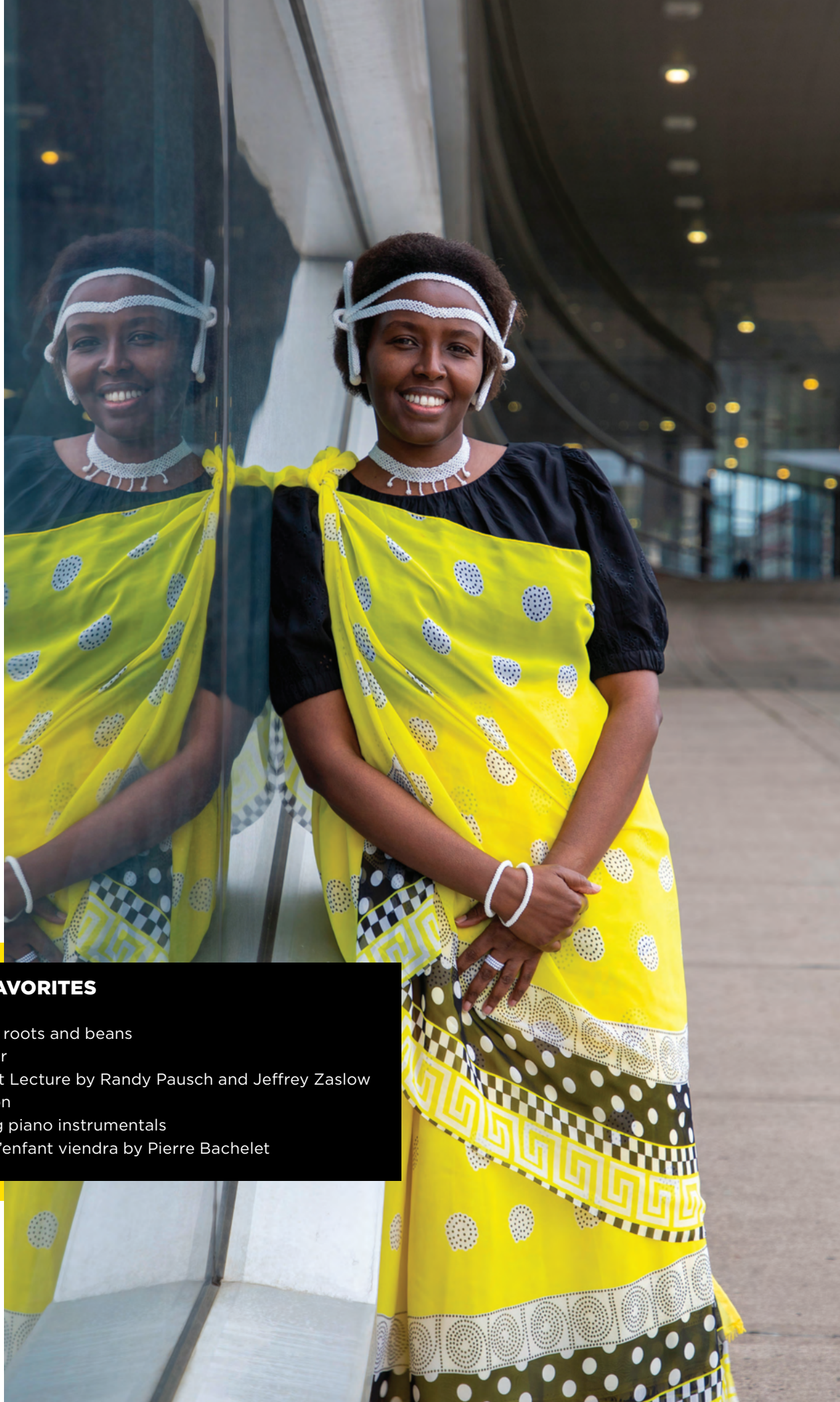
Tell us what you do when you're not working.

I spend time with my 18-year-old son, Yannick, or with my friends. I enjoy listening to music, watching Hallmark movies, and taking walks. But let's be honest, I'm from Africa, so I only like to walk when the weather is beautiful, which isn't always the case in Pennsylvania!

What would you like us to know about you?

I love children. I've always wanted to have my own orphanage, so I can give care and love to children who do not have anyone to take care of them. Maybe someday it will happen.

Until then, I am grateful for the IST students who see me as a “mother figure”—someone they can come to for advice or to confide in. Students stop in to tell me about their day, whether good or bad, and I'm glad that I'm here for them.



GRACE'S FAVORITES

Food: cassava roots and beans

Color: lavender

Book: The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow

Movie: The Lion

Music: relaxing piano instrumentals

Song: Quand l'enfant viendra by Pierre Bachelet

A Caretaker of Enthusiasm

Andrea Tapia has been with the College of IST for 22 years, but as dean, she's just getting started. Here, she talks about leading IST into the AI frontier, being a sociologist in technology, and why she's bald.

By Mary Fetzer



Andrea Tapia was named permanent dean of the College of IST effective May 1, following a nine-month appointment as interim dean. She oversees all aspects of the college, including the pursuit of excellence and innovation in education and research; initiatives to attract and support students, faculty, and staff; an ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; and stewardship of the college's financial resources.

An international scholar in crisis informatics, Tapia joined IST in 1999, was awarded tenure in 2010, and became a full professor in 2019. She has held numerous leadership roles in the college, including director of graduate programs, professor in charge of the social and organizational informatics research area, and associate dean for research.

What it means to be dean

Being dean means I am a caretaker of the enthusiasm of others. There are more than 3,000 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students, and 150 faculty and staff all questing after something: a degree, a research grant, a paycheck. They want to change the world, and it's my job to knock down the blockages, grease the wheels, and open the doors so they can get it done.

Finding a place in IST

In 1999, our young, scrappy college created something new—something truly interdisciplinary—in response to unmet needs in the emerging field of information sciences and technology. And we've done it very well.

In most colleges or departments, you get like people working next to each other. Take sociologists, for example, where one is looking at race and ethnicity, another at socioeconomic status, a third at school systems—all often using the same set of sociological tools to solve different problems.

IST flipped that completely. We had one messy problem in the middle and brought in different people—each with their own tools—to attack that problem. Researchers from computer science, medicine, law, business, and the social sciences came together, contributing their unique skills and expertise to solve questions like, “How do we move medical records from paper to electronics?”

I brought sociology to that mix. There are thousands of sociologists out there, but very few of us are part of the sociology of technology. IST had a place for me. I joined others who were at the edge of their disciplines and, together, we created something new.

Growing the college through innovation and AI

IST is innovative in how we teach as well as what we teach. Our faculty members are sharing novel pedagogical approaches with other universities. Our amazing learning design team can fill a classroom with 500 students and keep them all deeply engaged. Strengths like these will help propel us into the next frontier: artificial intelligence.

Our college is leading Penn State in AI, developing programs and degrees that will generate an explosion of interest across the University. To maximize these efforts, we need managed growth, which takes on a new meaning within the University's new budget environment. We can't go wild, but we can't stop growing.

Becoming IST's first female dean

I didn't have female role models in computing. Now, I am one, and it is awesome. I want to continue to show students from all walks of life that they belong, that they can succeed.

Being a woman and a sociologist in computing has been really tough. I faced barriers to promotion and difficulties getting people to take me seriously. I've been told that I don't fit and that my research doesn't fit (“What's the value of all that ‘people’ stuff anyway?”). The dynamic continues to be frustrating and I alone will not be the person to change it,

but it has changed enough that I am now here. I'm honored to be in a role that may help to clear the path for future women leaders in the field

Acting as gamemaster

I play a lot of games and always have. It's a culture. Dozens of people will convene at my house and play for three days straight. Tabletop games, role playing, dice, cards and more—all happening simultaneously.

In many ways, being in academia is like being a game master. It's ludology. It's designing an immersive experience for someone else. Providing some but not all the information so that the other person has to make a decision based on limited information, live with the consequences of that decision, and adapt. The perfect balance is designing a challenge that is not too hard but is challenging enough to be engaging. That's writing a syllabus. Teaching a class.

And just as the gamers at my house can move from one thing to another, so can the people in IST. Our college is not made of immutable siloes. If a faculty member in the data sciences research area wants to try out human-computer interaction, they can! We are completely flexible in our structure, which says something about the way we think about ourselves.

Being bald

I have alopecia areata universalis, an autoimmune condition that caused me to lose all of the hair on my body. (You don't realize how useful eyelashes are until you don't have any.) After years of covering my baldness with wigs or headwraps, I tattooed my head. The decision was driven by people asking me how chemo was going or wanting to share their own cancer story. I didn't want to minimize their concern or stories, but I also didn't want to feign illness or feel like a fraud.

I'm not sick. I'm bald. I don't need to hide that. I've gotten comfortable with being a hairless person and will walk around in the world as I am.

“Our college is leading Penn State in AI, developing programs and degrees that will generate an explosion of interest across the University.”



A vibrant figure in and beyond IST, Dean Tapia combines infectious enthusiasm and a collaborative spirit with academic expertise to drive progress and manage change.

1. "I hope students see me and realize that, in our college, everyone is welcome," she said as she greeted new students at IST's 2023 Fall Academic Welcome.
2. The Nittany Lion mascot joined Dean Tapia for fun and refreshments at the 2024 Senior Celebration.
3. "Five years ago, I started looking for a place to live. Then COVID happened, and I needed both a place and a project. I found a church, built in 1903, about 35 miles from Penn State. It was so rundown that it could have been condemned and demolished. But I bought it and found an adventurous contractor who helped me re-envision the space as a home."
4. Leading a college is an enormous responsibility, but Dean Tapia doesn't take herself too seriously, relying on humor and self-awareness to build and strengthen relationships.
5. Dean Tapia asked faculty and staff to wear their ugliest sweaters to the college's holiday party. Instructional designers **Jonathon Hughes** and **Logan Harvey** rose to the challenge!





6. Dean Tapia wore her own suit of armor to the installation of the Order of the Sword & Shield National Honor Society Penn State Chapter. For more than 30 years, she has been a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism—a living history group that studies and recreates medieval cultures and their history.
7. IST was a proud sponsor of the State College Pride Parade in June. Dean Tapia marched alongside faculty, staff, students, and friends—all donning Be You In Tech shirts that represent the college's commitment to equity and inclusion.
8. In regalia from the University of New Mexico, where she earned her doctoral degree, Dean Tapia offers words of wisdom at commencement.
9. Dean Tapia took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Penn State Berkey Creamery to check out production of "IST Celebrates 25 Years Death By Chocolate," a flavor sponsored by the college to recognize its quarter-century of success.
10. Events like the Student Organization Roundtable provide unique opportunities for students to engage with Dean Tapia.

“I hope students see me and realize that, in our college, everyone is welcome.”

(Mis)Informed Voters

Robocalls that sound just like the president but aren't. Videos of political figures doing or saying things they've never done. Social media posts created by ChatGPT, not humans. Artificial intelligence is playing a big role in how political—and misinformation—campaigns are run, and its influence could impact the outcomes of 2024 elections around the world.

Generative AI is being used to create misrepresentative political photos, videos, audio, and text—deepfakes that seem more and more real as technology advances. Now, even people with limited tech knowledge can use AI generators to create content that promotes a false narrative.

"Deepfakes can come from a wide variety of sources, as the technology has become easy for individuals to obtain and use," said **Shomir Wilson**, associate professor. "Some deepfakes are likely to come from large, sophisticated organizations and others may come from people acting alone."

Regardless of who's creating them, deepfakes can be used to sway public opinion around political issues, deceive voters, and undermine trust in the electoral process. And in a concerning twist, public figures who do have something to hide can receive a "liar's dividend" by falsely claiming that real scandals or other damaging truths were generated by AI.

Perhaps the most difficult deepfakes to identify are in the form of text. **Dongwon Lee**, professor, is researching the integrity of AI-generated text on the internet. As generative AI tools become increasingly more powerful, they're creating outputs that are nearly indistinguishable from human-made content.

"The rise of fake news and disinformation in recent years makes it important to know where the content we see on the web is coming from, particularly if we are making decisions based upon that information, and whether such AI-generated content is truthful and fact-grounded or not," he said.



Only about a third of U.S. states have passed laws regulating AI in politics, while Congress continues to evaluate how to best balance AI investment and innovation with guardrails to ensure responsible development of the technology. Until interventions like new legislation and voter education efforts are in place to preserve information integrity, the responsibility to recognize digital fakes lies with the people.

"Sometimes there are telltale signs that something was made by generative AI—like distorted speech in audio—but the technology to create deepfakes keeps improving," Wilson

said. "To evaluate content, it's important to use critical thinking. Consider whether a news article or a video seems intended to inform or to provoke a reaction, and whether it's consistent with other things you know about a topic."

Voters can also use fact-checking platforms with some degree of confidence. IST doctoral students **Sian Lee** and **Haeseung Seo**, along with Professor Lee and Associate Professor **Aiping Xiong**, found that fact checkers such as Snopes and PolitiFact generally agree in their assessments of whether news claims on social media are true or false.

Advancing Discovery

Research in IST cuts across traditional boundaries to drive interdisciplinary discovery and innovation. With funding from a variety of national and international agencies, IST researchers are collaborating with diverse groups of scholars within and beyond Penn State to create a safer, smarter, and more connected world.

Here are just a few of the projects IST researchers are taking on.

A Knowledge Graph Warehouse for Neighborhood Information

U.S. National Science Foundation

Fenglong Ma, assistant professor

Drawing on local records, censuses, and other sources, Ma's collaborative project aims to integrate data from separate neighborhood-level information sources. The project will construct a unified database to capture crucial connections among these information sources and integrate software for constructing and operating a knowledge graph warehouse, which ultimately can assist and inform local stakeholders.

An Innovative Suite of Physics-Informed Learning Tools for Real-Time DER System Data Analytics (AI-PhyX)

U.S. Department of Energy

Peng Liu, Raymond G. Tronzo, MD Professor of Cybersecurity

Liu is partnering with academic and corporate researchers to ensure the cybersecurity of smaller consumer-side generation units, like solar panels and electric vehicles, that are critical to the nation's clean energy and climate goals. The project is one of nine made possible through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Cultivating Academic Inclusion and Career Engagement to Increase the Persistence of Minoritized Students in Computing

U.S. National Science Foundation

Lynette Yarger, professor

Yarger is leading this demonstration project that aims to create first-year learning experiences reflective of the knowledge and skills of minoritized students. Her team is piloting a novel approach for overlaying inclusive teaching practices by engaging faculty in workshops, developing a digital badging credential, and redesigning first-year courses that welcome and support diverse learners, strengthen student-teacher interactions, and incentivize and reward students' exploration of technology career resources and opportunities.

Understanding the Ethics, Development, Design, and Integration of Artificial Intelligence Teammates in Future Mental Health Work

U.S. National Science Foundation

Saeed Abdullah, associate professor

Abdullah is part of a larger team seeking to understand how recent innovations in artificial intelligence can effectively and ethically address unmet demands for mental health treatment. They're working to develop an interactive AI system that can quickly evaluate a mental health worker's performance with a patient and provide actionable feedback that is based on what that individual worker needs to learn.

65

Research faculty

76

Active funded
research projects

\$10.1M

New research funding
awarded to IST faculty

54

New research awards
administered by IST

\$70.3M

Research funding awarded to
IST faculty (since 2013)

447

New research awards
administered by IST
(since 2013)

\$700K

Seed grants and matching
funds awarded by IST

55%

Grants proposed that receive
funding (since 2013)

*All stats for
July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024,
unless otherwise indicated.*



Finding Middle Ground

By Mary Fetzer

IST researchers bring unique perspectives to some of the most important tech topics of the Information Age.



Sarah Rajtmajer

Privacy/Sharing Tradeoffs



Priya Kumar

When you're online—shopping, paying bills, posting on social media—you're leaving a digital trail that may have privacy implications.

Sarah Rajtmajer and Priya Kumar, assistant professors and researchers in the College of IST, are examining online privacy in very different ways. But despite their opposing methodologies, they agree that what's needed is a nonjudgemental understanding of privacy/sharing tradeoffs.

Rajtmajer's Quantitative Approach

With a background in math and data science, Rajtmajer has primarily used quantitative methodologies to study privacy: The more people share, the more data there is to work with.

"I began modeling online behavior when there was an explosion of social networks that furnished an unprecedented amount of data," she said. "I had done my Ph.D. work in graph theory, so I immediately tried to understand social networks as graphs."

But Rajtmajer soon discovered that she couldn't model peer influence as molecular diffusion, or users' decisions to share personal information as optimization of a simple objective function.

"I tried to model user sharing in social networks using graphs and algorithms; then I'd collect 'real' data and my predictions never lined up with human behavior," Rajtmajer said.

She began to dive into game theory, another mathematical language that describes strategic interactions among agents. The nodes in the network graph were no longer just abstract and homogeneous objects—now they had goals and strategies. More recently, she's begun to explore nuanced differences among individuals in privacy attitudes and behaviors.

"I kept being confronted by the fact that social contexts are really important," she said. "My goal now is to leverage natural language processing and other computa-

tional methods while also being respectful of context, particularly heterogeneous attitudes about privacy in different populations."

Kumar's Qualitative Approach

Kumar conducts theory-driven qualitative research to study how we—society, researchers, educators—think about privacy and digital technology.

"I'm interested in the ways that privacy—an inherently social value—gets framed as an individual preference or ability, like having control over your information," she said. "The individual dimension is certainly important, but privacy issues are baked into the way our digital ecosystem works, and that's what needs to change."

Kumar expressed frustration around literature and broader public discourse presuming that sharing less equals more privacy.

"It's more complicated than that," she said, "Oftentimes, disclosing personal information makes sense because of the context. For example, you usually wouldn't share detailed medical information with your boss. But if you have a condition that's affecting your ability to work, then it might make sense to tell them. It comes down to determining what is the appropriate flow of information, and that changes based on context."

For over a decade, Kumar has embraced contextual integrity (CI), a theory that defines privacy as the appropriate flows of information. The theory includes a framework to identify the different components of an information flow and determine whether the flow is appropriate.

"CI has become a popular way to study privacy, though most researchers are only engaging the first half of the framework—identifying components of an information flow," she said. "This is valuable because it more precisely describes what privacy concerns are, but if we want to actually protect privacy, then we need more research to engage with the second half of the framework and explain how to make information

flows appropriate to their context."

One way researchers can do this is by embracing more qualitative methods when using the CI framework.

"Most empirical research using CI employs quantitative methods, for example, to measure people's privacy preferences or a system's information flow," Kumar said. "But people interpret information differently based on the nuances of a situation, and qualitative methods offer robust techniques for making sense of those differences."

Kumar encourages collaboration among people from different disciplines to address thorny questions of privacy.

"The second half of the CI framework asks us to examine what are the moral and ethical values at play and how those values shape what we, as society, consider appropriate," she said. "These questions are inherently subjective, and they are best addressed by teams of people who know how to think critically about technology, human behavior, and social implications."

Meeting in the Middle

Rajtmajer and Kumar have a shared understanding of what privacy means, and they both want accountability for the people and platforms that touch personal information. Each is working her way to meeting in the middle among so many moving pieces.

"I'm fascinated by the way we study privacy," Kumar said. "Our different theories and methods shape our work, but we share the goal of creating a world where technology supports people more than it harms them."

Rajtmajer agrees.

"Tidy mathematical models don't do well modeling real-world social networks. I've tried it!" she said. "Rather, we need to embrace the richness and diversity inherent in human behavior, appreciating that the data traces we observe tell only a part of the story."



Hadi Hosseini

Algorithmic Fairness



Kelley Cotter

Artificial intelligence (AI) uses algorithms to find solutions to problems like who should get a mortgage or what kind of punishment a criminal should receive. The algorithms are informed by data about preferences, constraints, and resources—things that differ from one intelligent entity to another. So, who decides whether these solutions are fair? And if they're not fair, who should be held accountable?

Hadi Hosseini, associate professor, is a researcher who seeks to understand algorithmic fairness in the broadest sense. **Kelley Cotter**, assistant professor, researches algorithmic literacy, which includes fairness. Their work functions symbiotically, informing one another as they approach this issue from different angles.

Hosseini Advocates for Fairness

Earlier this year, Hosseini spoke about the idea of fairness at the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference, which welcomed experts who have worked in AI and developed their vision of how things should happen in the field.

"There are many different ways to think about fairness," Hosseini said. "We consider it when designing algorithms to satisfy some notion of unbiasedness. We think about it when we talk about collective decision making, like how to distribute resources or even responsibilities among people in a way that is fair to all of society's stakeholders."

According to Hosseini, research done by computer scientists or AI researchers, at least to date, has been focused on theoretical and algorithmic aspects—designing solutions that can solve large-scale problems very quickly or based on

an idea of fairness borrowed from the philosophers and economists of long ago.

"From a computational perspective, we are doing great things and have been for decades," he said. "But we have to ask how people perceive these solutions. Theoretical analysis cannot always answer that because in computing and AI, it's impossible to abstract an idea that includes all parameters and thus is fair to all people."

Cotter Advocates for Understanding and Awareness

Cotter agrees that we have to come up with fairness concepts that are more aligned with human values while at the same time educating people about how to understand and interact with algorithms.

"While Hadi is thinking about how to design systems to be more fair, I'm thinking about how people perceive the impact of these systems in their daily lives and how they can cultivate an understanding of these systems in order to navigate them to maximize the benefits that they can derive from them," Cotter said.

The work Cotter does in algorithmic literacy extends beyond focusing on how people understand what an algorithm is and how it functions from a technical perspective. As society increasingly talks about algorithms and AI in the public sphere, she wants to understand how researchers can ensure that people are well-prepared to call out the range of potential issues that are there.

"I want users to tell us about problems so that Hadi and others can then go and come up with abstract computational ways to solve those problems," she said. "And I want to know who is responsible when such solutions aren't fair."

Informing One Another

Hosseini says accountability is a tough problem because researchers are making decisions and developing systems that are imperfect for the very reasons he mentioned above. There is no one size fits all.

"The societal aspects of AI in computer science are far more difficult than the computational aspects," he said. "Who is accountable when systems don't meet stakeholder needs or are perceived as biased or unfair? The researcher? Developer? Company? User?"

Hosseini and Cotter agree that different sectors have different incentives because people care about different things, so determining what's fair is challenging.

"Everyone in the College of IST is interested in solving real-world problems and creating better futures for human civilization and society," Cotter said. "As long as we have people who are interested in the health, welfare, and happiness of humans, we can think about how we can use and create technologies to support those things."

"But that coincides with the very real world we live in where people want to make money or play around with technology just to see what happens. While those drivers often lead to interesting, novel technologies, fairness requires simultaneously keeping aware of potential social risks and consequences."

Hosseini said that societal needs and computational advances must inform one another.

"The market is increasingly cognizant of the importance of fairness and wellness, and technology has to develop in a way that acknowledges human and societal values," he said. "The landscape is changing."



Amulya Yadav

Technology for Good



Cindy Lin

Increasingly, information and digital technologies are becoming embedded in all aspects of the human experience. **Amulya Yadav**, associate professor, and **Cindy Lin**, assistant professor, are on different research career paths, but both are passionate about helping people and have dedicated their technological research to improving lives.

Yadav's AI for Social Good

"I grew up in India and was taught the importance of giving back to society," Yadav said. "I wanted to pursue computer science but did not yet understand how sitting at a computer screen or developing software code would enable me to give back."

When he entered the University of Southern California's computer science Ph.D. program, his "eyes were opened" to the impact computer science could make on a community.

"My adviser was developing computer science algorithms that helped policemen in Los Angeles to do their jobs—technology that made an everyday impact," he said. "Computer science suddenly became a real, tangible thing that actually meant something, and it blew my mind."

Yadav was inspired to develop an algorithm that would raise awareness about HIV and sexually transmitted infections among homeless youth. And that was just the beginning of the social good his research would do.

"I was hooked," he said. "I can indeed be a computer scientist and give back. My career in research and academia has provided me with the knowledge and tools to create good things."

Today, Yadav works to develop AI that addresses specific, real-world issues. He collaborates

with nonprofits around the world to assess and address the needs of marginalized and underserved populations: farmers and pregnant women in East Africa, children in the Philippines who face online sexual abuse, low-income renters in Dallas who are at risk of eviction.

"There is a mismatch between the demand for help and the number of people who have the expertise to provide that help," Yadav said. "My goal is to create algorithms that help nonprofit organizations make more efficient use of limited resources so they can do their jobs better."

Lin's Data and the Science of Seeing Fire

"Computer scientists and social scientists are different, but both can be passionate about helping people," said Lin, who is an information scientist and an ethnographer.

Growing up in Singapore, Lin said she got her work ethic and interest in life from her parents.

"They were curious about their environment and surroundings," she said. "I wanted to expand on that curiosity and explore the biodiverse world beyond my small country."

Lin entered Ph.D. program at the School of Information at the University of Michigan, where she found like-minded people who were interested in the intersection of computing and society—for her, that was data science and ethnography.

"It was there that I became interested in technology," she said. "I was working with others who were using computing to solve societal issues. We respected each other's disciplinary interests and the motivations behind them. We brought our various methodologies together to attack similar problems—that is the power of an iSchool."

Today, her work centers on the data prac-

tices, exchanges, and expertise of climate change and their relationship to race and environmental governance in Indonesia and the United States. Applying data science to land mapping and fire prediction, she has helped open new frames of reference for observing and preventing fires.

"These shifts have shattered public and professional expectations of how environmental disasters can be handled," she said. "Environmental scientists and computer engineers in government and industry are turning to data science to broaden their range of emergency responses to fires they can no longer control."

Finding a Purpose for Technology

Yadav and Lin have found distinctly different ways to use technology to better the world. They want future generations to explore their own paths for giving back, and that begins by instilling values in the classroom.

"Students may enter a field for one reason but stay for another," Yadav said. "We need to ensure that all students receive the foundational knowledge they need to become information and technology professionals while also providing opportunities for them to create courses they believe can make an impact, like AI for humanities."

Lin agrees and believes classes like data ethics help students understand that it's difficult to make impactful changes alone.

"Technology itself cannot solve an issue—it requires careful consideration from an array of disciplines to address issues like privacy, discrimination, and other limitations around computations to solve social issues," she said. "Change is not overnight, which is a concept that can be humbling for eager students. We have the expertise but need the patience and perseverance that comes with seeking change."

ICYMI

In case you missed it, 2024's been a most engaging year of events and activities!



THON



Cookies & Community



IST Connections



Black Men in Tech



Senior Celebration



Professional Headshots



State College Pride Parade



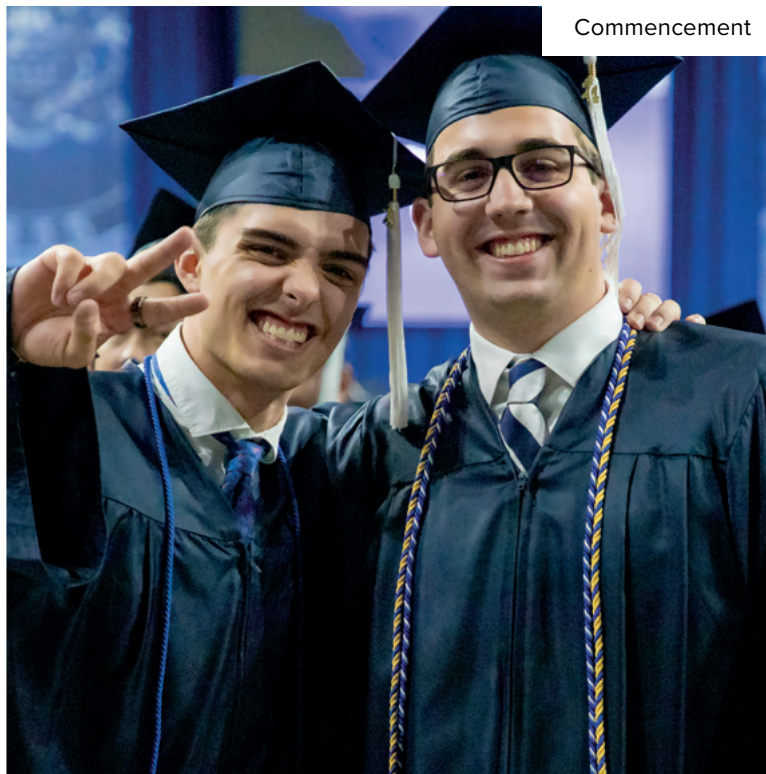
WIRED IN Gala



IdeaMakers Challenge



WiCyS Conference

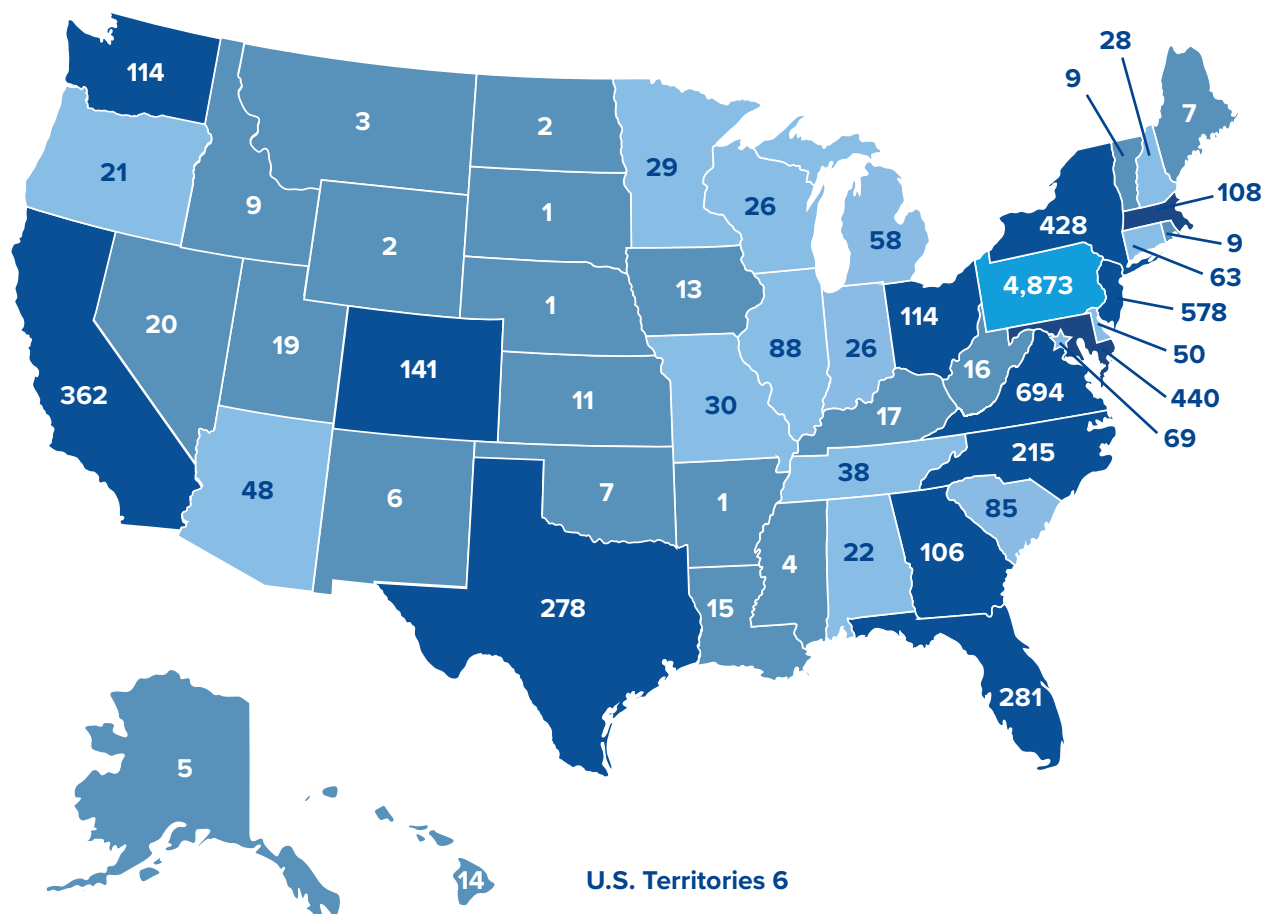


Commencement



Hello, World!

IST alumni are making a difference in their careers and in their communities all around the world. Here's where you can find them.



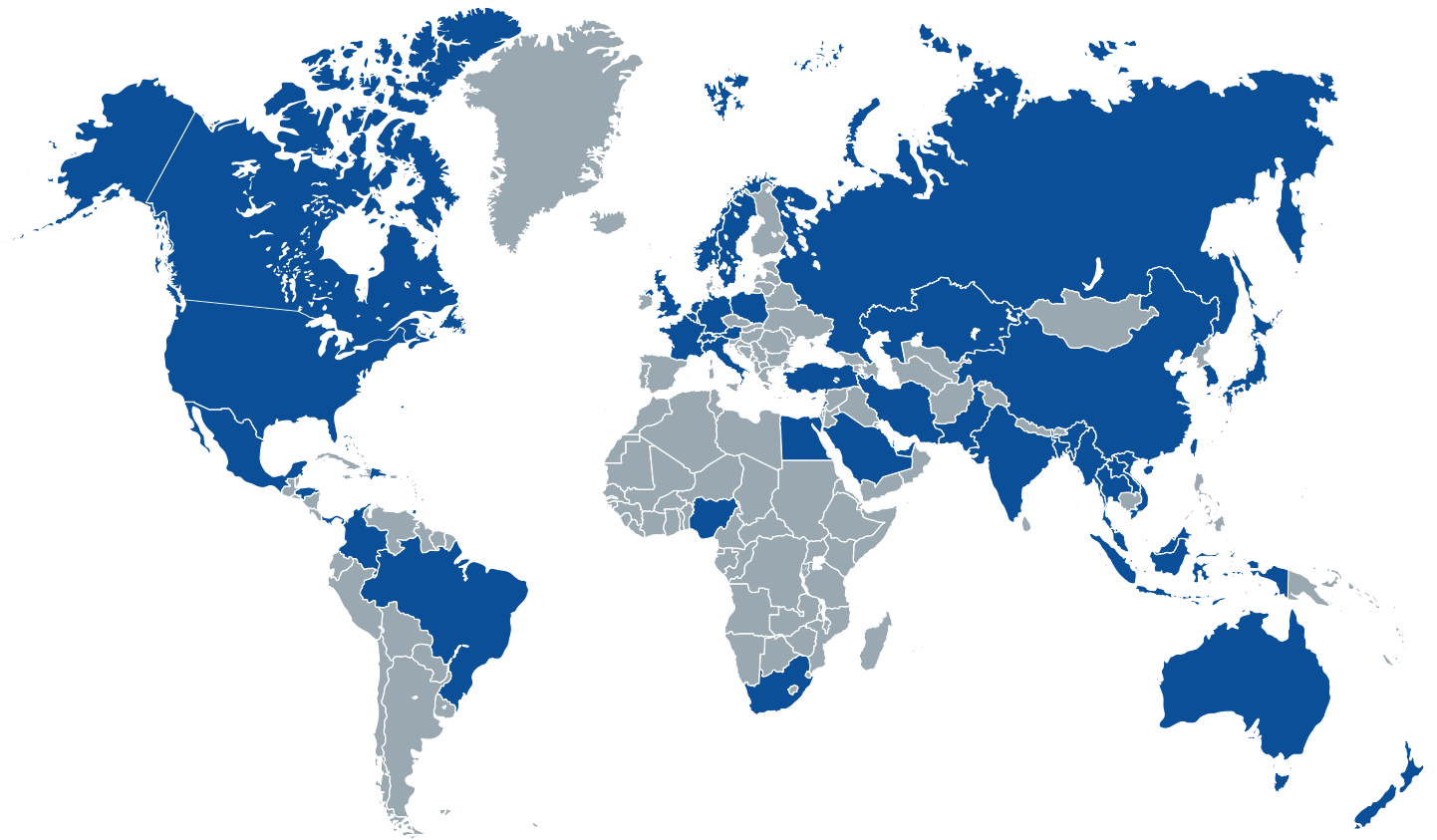
Stay Connected. Stay Informed.

Have you recently moved or gotten a new job or promotion? Do you want to find fellow Penn Staters in your area?

Let the Penn State Alumni Association know so you can make sure your connection to the University and the College of IST stays strong no matter where you are.

Update your information at ist.psu.edu/update.





Anguilla 1	Egypt 1	Myanmar 1	South Korea 73
Australia 3	France 1	Netherlands 3	Sweden 1
Austria 2	Germany 4	New Zealand 1	Switzerland 2
Bahamas 1	Honduras 1	Nigeria 1	Taiwan 28
Bahrain 1	Hong Kong 2	Norway 1	Thailand 5
Bangladesh 2	India 57	Pakistan 2	Trinidad And Tobago 1
Barbados 1	Indonesia 1	Palau 1	Turkey 1
Belgium 1	Iran 1	Panama 1	United Arab Emirates 10
Bermuda 1	Italy 1	Poland 1	United Kingdom 6
Brazil 3	Japan 4	Qatar 3	United States of America 9,611
Canada 18	Kazakhstan 3	Russia 3	
China 201	Lebanon 1	Saudi Arabia 5	Military Abroad 30
Colombia 1	Malaysia 4	Singapore 2	
Dominican Republic 1	Mexico 1	South Africa 1	



Dave Costlow, Diana Long, Mathew Lamb, Luke Simonetti, Scott Lyons, Peter Herr, Melanie Treff, Nikita Page, and Heather Myers

#istalum

The IST Alumni Society is the official group for graduates of the College of Information Sciences and Technology within the Penn State Alumni Association. Members share their IST pride worldwide and play a critical role in the college's success.

Their personal stories...

...help to recruit new students and inspire current students.

Their professional experiences...

...promote internship, career, and networking opportunities.

Their mentorship...

...enhances the educational journey of IST students.

Their generosity...

...creates and sustains scholarships and financial awards.

Supporting IST in 2024

- » The Be You In Tech Summit—"Changing Your Narrative: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome"—featured **Korey Wallace '09** as the keynote speaker and **John Esteves '18** as a panelist.
- » Members of IST's Living Learning Community enjoyed a trip to Washington, D.C., thanks to funding from the IST Alumni Society Endowment.
- » **John Esteves '18**, **Nikita Page '17**, and **Melanie Treff '19** served as judges for the college's first capstone showcase. *See page 14 for the winning projects.*
- » The IST Alumni Society co-hosted the Senior Celebration, attended by more than 100 students.
- » The Society held spring networking events in Philadelphia and New York City.
- » During its spring meeting, the IST Alumni Society Board listened to presentations by the college's student organizations, including Women in Cybersecurity, Nittany Data Labs, and Women in IST.

Turning Over the Reins

Scott Lyons '05 served as the IST Alumni Society Board president since 2022, succeeding **Luke Simonetti '07**. New president **Colin Murphy '03** will serve until July 2026. **Melanie Treff '19** is president-elect.

IST Alumni Society Board

Dave Costlow '03, '04g MBA

COO/Chief Product Officer—Pledge It

Denise Dagadu '14

GTM Strategy Manager—Google

Jordan Dunbar '16

Manager, Federal Technology Enablement—KPMG US

John Esteves '18

Manager, Strategic Integration and Execution—FreeWheel

Peter Herr '08

Engagement Director—Salesforce

Mathew Lamb '19

Manager, Pre-Sales Solutions Architects—Palo Alto Networks

Tao Lin '18g

Software Engineer—Google

Diana Long '04, '08g

Senior Director, IT Project Portfolio Management—General Atlantic

Scott Lyons '05

CEO—Red Lion, LLC; CIO—Vannadium

Colin Murphy '03 (President)

Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer—BMC Software

Heather Myers '14, '17g

Data and Analytics Senior Consultant, Lighthouse—KPMG US

Madison Oliver '16

Senior Manager, Advisory Database Curation—GitHub

Nikita Page '17

Technology Risk Professional—Microsoft

Ankur Sheth '04

Senior Managing Director—Ankura

Mike Silvis '11

Software Engineer—Block

Sean Stanton '09

Manager, Governance Risk and Compliance—Meta

Ka'Lee Strawbridge-Moten '18

Manager, Cybersecurity—KPMG US

Melanie Treff '19 (President-Elect)

Principal Specialist, Cyber Defense—Raytheon Technologies

Korey Wallace '09

OT Security Program Manager—DuPont

Connect with the IST Alumni Society and see how you can get involved at ist.psu.edu/alumni-society.

Sold!

Congratulations to **Nick Ascoli '17**, a decorated cybersecurity innovator known for his work involving data leaks, attack surface management, and reconnaissance. His company Foretrace, founded in 2021, was recently acquired by Flare, a Canadian threat exposure management company. Ascoli credits IST for helping him establish the technical foundation and networking skills he needed to become a successful entrepreneur.

A fully engaged student, Ascoli was “super active in all things networking.” He attended every career fair, joined the Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity, and collaborated with Penn State’s Small Business Development Center.

“Every internship I got was from these networking experiences,” he said. “I also took a part-time job with the University’s Incident Response team, where I made connections that I’ve used throughout my career.”

Following graduation, he began working for Security Risk Advisors (SRA), a consultancy based in Philadelphia that hires a lot of IST graduates.

“SRA is keen on pulling in fresh talent who have an independent drive,” he said. “They hire people who are passionate, curious, and eager to learn. It was an amazing place to work.”

Ascoli’s SRA experience reignited his entrepreneurial spirit, and he found himself wanting to be a lot more involved in building tools that would help organizations assess risk and be accurate about it.

“I set out to start Foretrace to give a more adversarial lens to the external view of a company’s network than was available at the time,” he said. “Companies need to know: What data of theirs is showing up on the internet, where is it showing up, is it considered a data leak or breach, has someone stolen it and listed it for sale? That was the mission. That’s what we built.”

Ascoli left SRA in February 2021, equipped with the knowledge, experience, and determination to come up with satisfactory solutions for difficult problems. And Foretrace was born.

“Foretrace was accepted into the first cohort of Tampa Bay Wave’s CyberTech X Accelerator,” he said. “It’s where we got a lot of our first users for the platform and met investors, potential customers, and other founders who would become friends.”

Slowly, more and more people were onboarded thanks to lots of evangelizing and “tons and tons” of talks at cybersecurity conferences and on podcasts.

“We gave away a lot of knowledge for free, which is a big part of our industry,”



Ascoli said. “Sharing actually valuable insights with practitioners at no cost is important in building trust and giving back.”

In February 2023, Foretrace received its first funding from TEDCO, an entrepreneur funding and investments firm in Maryland.

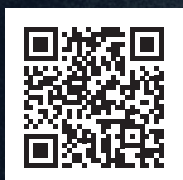
“That was our first money in, and one year later we were acquired by Flare,” Ascoli said.

Ascoli plans to stay with Flare—which he describes as “Foretrace’s Canadian big brother”—for the long haul.

“Flare is at an inflection point of growth, which is part of this strategic acquisition,” he said. “We had a similar mission that was compelled by how our intellectual property could be employed in their model. I’m excited to see where we go.”

GET INVOLVED

Share your expertise, experiences, and story to inspire future generations of IST students.



Korey Wallace '09

Lifting as He Climbs



Trevor Jean Baptiste graduated from the College of IST in May 2022 with a bachelor of science degree in information sciences and technology. Today, he works as a product security engineer at Boeing in St. Louis, Missouri.

Baptiste talked about why Penn State was right for him and how his experience inspired ways to give back to the community.

"After moving from Haiti to Philadelphia at age 7, I had my eye on Penn State," he said. "I fell in love with it even more when I visited the University Park campus during my senior year of high school."

Baptiste's decision to attend Penn State was solidified when he was selected as a Bunton Waller Fellow, which rewarded him with a full academic scholarship. He began his academic journey with a few options in mind before deciding that IST with a focus in security risk and analysis was the best fit for him. From 2018 to 2021, he lived on campus—Ritner Hall, Hoyt Hall, and White Course Apartments—before moving to an off-campus apartment for his fourth year.

Baptiste was an active undergraduate student. He was treasurer and then president of WIRED IN, which unites IST students from underrepresented backgrounds. He mentored students for the Division of Undergraduate Studies and the Multicultural Engineering Program, and he was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Baptiste completed two internships with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Those experiences enhanced his coursework to prepare

him both technically and professionally for his career with Boeing. His IST journey also influenced his desire to give back.

"I participated in many events within the IST community that helped me become more knowledgeable in my field," he said. "As I gained knowledge and developed confidence, I decided to become involved with organizations that could inspire others to follow a similar path."

One of those organizations is the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. The program promotes aerospace, aviation, and STEM-related education to shape the experiences and aspirations of youth.

"As a senior member of the Civil Air Patrol, I provide aerospace education to cadets ages 12-19," Baptiste said. "CAP also offers fun and educational orientation rides to introduce cadets to the wonders of flight."

Baptiste is currently working to become certified as a mission pilot for the Civil Air Patrol.

"A mission pilot conducts search and rescue and disaster relief," he said. "And we work closely with other government organizations like local law enforcements and the Federal Emergency Management Agency."



“A great mentor of mine told me to ‘lift as I climb.’ Those are words I live by to this day.”



Earlier this year, CAP selected Baptiste to chaperone 15 underrepresented cadets at the National Society of Black Engineers Conference in Atlanta. Cadets networked with companies like Boeing and Northrop Grumman, explored research opportunities, and met with key admission administrators at the U.S. Air Force Academy and dozens of colleges and universities.

It was CAP's first appearance at the conference, but Baptiste had been there before—as a Penn Stater.

“Attending the conference in 2022 as a student and now as chaperone and mentor was an unforgettable experience for me.”

When Baptiste isn't working or volunteering, he's building his flight experience for his “next role” as a corporate or airline pilot. According to the Civil Air Patrol, many of the nation's pilots first explored their careers through CAP.

Baptiste credits his “amazing” college experience for his professional and personal successes.

“I honestly would not be where I am in life without the challenges and experiences Penn State provided,” he said. “I am grateful to all the mentors who have personally made an impact on my life thus far.

“I love giving back, mentoring, and uplifting my community. During my first year, Gary A. Abdullah, assistant dean of diversity and inclusion in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State and a great mentor of mine, told me to ‘lift as I climb.’ Those are words I live by to this day.”



In March, CAP selected Baptiste to chaperone 15 underrepresented cadets at the National Society of Black Engineers Conference in Atlanta.

A rising star in IT



IST Alumni Society Board member **Madison Oliver '16** won the Rising Star Award at the 2024 CIO of the Year Awards from the Pittsburgh Technology Council. The awards “recognize and honor the accomplishments of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s most hardworking chief information officers (CIOs), chief information security officers (CISOs), and IT rising stars.”

Oliver is a vulnerability transparency advocate and senior security manager at GitHub, where she leads the advisory database curation team. In January, she became a member of the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) Board to provide the board with an open-source community perspective and help enhance collaboration between the CVE program and that community.

Oliver earned a bachelor's degree in security and risk analysis from the College of IST and a master's degree in information security policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University, both in 2016.

Congratulations, Madison!

Impacting the welfare of humankind



Scott Michael Robertson, a 2013 graduate of IST's doctoral program, was among the four Penn State alumni recognized at the 2024 Graduate School Alumni Society Awards in March. He was awarded the Humanitarian Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have made a positive societal impact on the welfare of humankind beyond the responsibilities of one's profession.

As a senior policy advisor with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, Robertson works to foster neurodiversity in the workplace and advance national autism policy. He represents his office at the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Autism and serves as a key subject matter expert for the office's project on Research Support Services for Employment of Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum. He also directs the Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship to improve access for career seekers with disabilities across demographic groups in high-growth, high-demand fields.

Congratulations, Scott!



‘Do well by doing good’

Alumnus **C. Frank Igwe '08 PhD** guides his business with a simple philosophy: Do well by doing good. As the president of Moravia Health, which he founded in 2012, Igwe is “committed to serving those with the greatest need by providing the highest quality of care possible to the elderly and the disabled who wish to maintain independence, dignity, and quality of life by remaining in their homes.”

This philosophy also inspired Igwe to make a \$250,000 gift to the College of IST. The Igwe Family Matching Scholarship Program provides a 1:1 permanent matching commitment for first-time gifts of at least \$25,000 from College of IST alumni. The program scholarship addresses financial, academic, and personal challenges by directly supporting students who contribute to the diversity of the student body, first-generation college students, and/or students who have demonstrated financial needs for funds to meet their necessary college expenses.

“Scholarships become a lifeline for talented students who need significant financial assistance to complete their education,” Igwe said. “I believe we should do whatever we can to keep IST students on track for career success and leadership opportunities that could ultimately revolutionize our digital world.”

The Igwe Matching Scholarship Program provides an excellent opportunity for IST alumni to take the next step in their commitment to the college.

“This wonderful program enables alumni who create their first endowed scholarship to double the impact of their gifts,” said **Andrea Tapia**, dean of the College of IST. “We are truly grateful to Dr. Igwe for his generosity to help our students in need to thrive.”

Thank you, Frank!

Read more about The Igwe Family Matching Scholarship.





‘A great return on our investment’

Penn State alumni **Angela Liberto '04** and **Josh Rex '05** have made a commitment to establish the Liberto Rex Dean's Advisory Board Matching Scholarship in the College of Information Sciences and Technology, where they both earned their undergraduate degrees. The endowment, valued at \$50,000, was built on the couple's generosity and a matching commitment from the IST Dean's Advisory Board Matching Scholarship Program, a fund financially supported by members of the board that enables donors to double the impact of their gifts.

“We are truly grateful to Angela and Josh for this generous gift,” said **Andrea Tapia**, dean of the College of IST. “And we thank the board members whose matching contribution expands the financial impact to help more students.”

The couple saw a “great return on our investment” from their experience at the University and, especially, in the College of IST.

“Penn State prepared us well for career success,” Liberto said. “We wanted to provide support to current and future students who could hopefully enjoy similar lifelong benefits.”

Liberto earned her bachelor's degree in

information sciences and technology with a focus on integration and application, along with a Smeal College of Business minor in business logistics, as a member of IST's second graduating class in 2004. She also holds a juris doctorate from Duquesne University School of Law and now serves as vice president and associate general counsel at Dick's Sporting Goods.

Rex earned his bachelor's degree in information sciences and technology with a focus on integration and application from the College of IST in 2005 and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business in 2012. Almost 20 years later, he continues to work in the software space, now as a customer adoption strategist at Workday, focusing on the higher education, government, and health care industries.

The couple married in 2010 and have two children. Alexandra, age 4, has already attended two Penn State football games, including one Penn State White Out. And last September, 2-year-old Jacqueline practiced her skills as a new walker among

the RVs at a Beaver Stadium tailgate. The family lives in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where they enjoy cycling, golf, fishing, and other outdoor activities.



Hanna Olivares
Class of 2025

First recipient of the
Liberto Rex Dean's
Advisory Board
Matching Scholarship

Hanna Olivares, a cybersecurity and analytics and operations student, is the first recipient of the Liberto Rex Dean's Advisory Board Matching Scholarship.

“As a first-generation college student, I'm excited to be a role model to my extended family,” Olivares said. “Financial aid has been a big concern for me, and this scholarship has given me the flexibility to focus on my academics and co-curricular activities and not worry about the cost of being here. IST is such a welcoming community, and the opportunities are endless.”

2023 Donor Honor Roll

The College of IST would not be what it is today without the ongoing generosity of alumni, friends, and organizations. Gifts of every size support student scholarships, create learning opportunities, advance research agendas, and ensure the future of our college.

Here, we recognize donors who invested in the College of IST in 2023. We sincerely appreciate this support and remain grateful for the many ways it strengthens and enhances all we do.

Adobe Inc.

Anthony M. Agnone '58 ENG
and Jeanette A. Agnone

Nicholas E. Alico '21 IST

Troy T. Anderson '07 IST

Joseph C. Atkinson '92 BUS
and Laura J. Atkinson '92 LIB

David P. Baker '85 SCI
and Ella L. Baker

Douglas M. Balog '83 SCI
and Susan Nitschke-Balog

John V. Barlett '92 EDU and
Jennifer L. Barlett '95 EDU

Darrell L. Barr '77 LIB

Chanitra D. Bell '15 IST

David J. Bennett and
Deborah A. Bennett

Nicholas J. Berardi '03 IST
and Melinda J. Berardi

Steven Black

The Boeing Company

Robert C. Bowers '19 IST
and Aimee C. Bowers '01
BRANDY

William C. Bracken Jr. '63
BUS and Binnie Horowitz
Bracken

John C. Bratiotis '95 BUS

James H. Broidrick III
'03 IST and Traci L. Broidrick
'03 NUR

Tricia Brown '90 EDU and
Edward W. Brown

Richard R. Buehler '93 BUS
and Bonnie Buehler

CAF America

Robert M. Calabrese '75 SCI
and Marianne M. Calabrese

Vincent Cannady '22 IST
and Ruth Cannady

Ann F. Catalano '83 SCI
and John Catalano

Christopher Catalano '04 IST

Matthew T. Cavalcante '10 IST

Gary R. Cesnik '74 BUS
and Anna Kozorosky Cesnik
'75 EDU

Brett J. Channell '14 IST

Chevron Products Company

Lauren P. Chiles '20 IST

Robert H. Clark

Nicholas L. Collins '19 IST

Heidi E. Cornwall

David C. Costlow '03 IST
and Annamarie Costlow

Mary L. Daniels '70 SCI

Mark S. Danison '72 LIB and
Sandra Lombardo Danison
'72 A&A

Tara L. deHaan '91 BUS and
Robert T. deHaan '93 SCI

Deloitte

Donald L. DeVore '83 SCI
and Linda M. DeVore

Beverly Dickerson

James P. Doud '83 SCI
and Tracey Doud

Elliot A. Dowling '95 BUS

Allison Hurst Drobnick
'85 SCI and Rudolph A.
Drobnick Jr. '86 ENG

John A. Esteves '18 IST

Ethereum Foundation

Reid F. Exley '06 IST

EY

Caitlin M. Ferro '10 IST

Alison A. Flanigan '05 IST
and Eric A. Flanigan '05 IST

Diane F. Flowers '06 IST

Mark R. Foster '00 HBG

Russell S. Gartner '69 SCI
and Janet Gartner

Michelle Gasperine '06 IST

Ann Maturro Gault '85 COM
and William J. Gault '94 LIB

GEICO

Nicholas A. Gephart '16 IST

C. Lee Giles and Elizabeth
Saxon-Giles '20 GRTVLY

Lorie A. Goins '91 SCI and
Donnie Goins

Huibert Gramberg '74 LIB
and Lynne Neri Gramberg
'86 H&HD

Gursahaney Family
Foundation

Kayla K. Gursahaney '16 IST

Gail E. Guseman '88 SCI

James G. Hanko '77 SCI
and Lois Bray Hanko '79 SCI

Peter F. Harrington Jr. '00 LIB

Edgar W. Hartmann '68 SCI
and Mary L. Hartmann

Keith G. Hegner '03 IST and
Lisa Soto Hegner '03 COM

Christian A. Heise '20 IST

Mark F. Henrickson '86 ENG
and Terrie Henrickson '03 LIB

Peter J. Herr '08 IST

Philip G. Hughes '88 BUS

Joann Dudash Jankoviak
'78 SCI and Joseph A.
Jankoviak '78 ENG

Natalie Jaworski '98 BUS and
Scott A. Jaworski '98 BUS

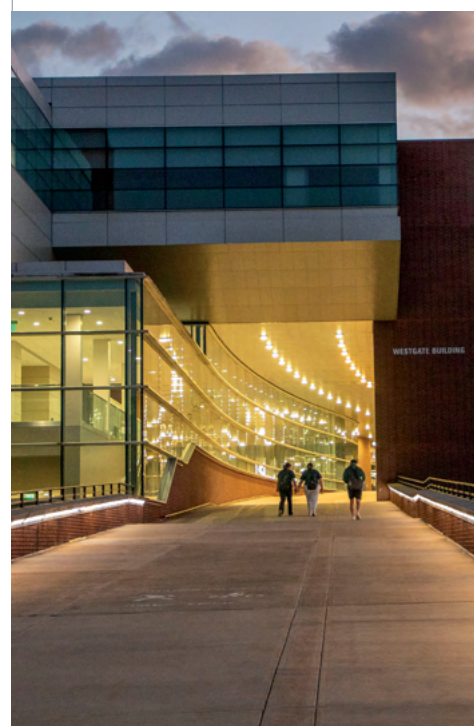
Beth E. Jones '75 HBG

Carly Jones

Tiffani L. Justice '18 IST

Kelsey Karpinski '16 ALT

Mindelle Steyer Katz '62 LIB



Douglas P. Kawtoski '05 ALT

Gwen H. Keiser '83 SCI

Richard N. Kellerman '68
EDU and Patricia Leighton
Kellerman '74 LIB

Cove R. Klaas-Bentley '22
EMS and Jiameng Klaas-
Bentley '21 H&HD

KPMG LLP

Pamela C. Kruljac '97 BUS

Tracy L. Langkilde

Corey J. Lee '12 IST and
Leteace L. Lee '12 H&HD

Leidos

Xiaotian Li

Angela Liberto '04 IST
and Joshua D. Rex '05 IST

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Judy Louie '80 SCI

Yan Lu

Ira M. Lubert '73 H&HD
and Pamela J. Estadt

Diane Kemp Ludwig
'60 H&HD and Ronald M.
Ludwig '61 ENG

Gerald D. Mangan '79 SCI
and Mary Mangan

Armen A. Manoogian '64 BUS
and Claudia Manoogian

Bonnie L. Manousos and
George A. Manousos

L. Douglas Martin

Lori L. Martin '83 SCI

Joseph M. Matyaz '92 A&A

Caroline A. McKenna '12 IST

Joseph V. McKenna '71 SCI
and Linda Monisera McKenna
'71 A&A

Djante M. McLaughlin '23 IST

Chandra B. McMahon '01 ENG
and John E. McMahon Jr.

George J. McMurtry Sr.
and Margaret McMurtry

Donald B. Melman '67 SCI
and Elizabeth H. Margosches

Merck & Company Inc.

Scott S. Metro '85 LIB
and Diana L. Metro

Anastasia A. Mikropoulos
'22 IST

Susan Minnig

Deborah L. Minor

Isaac L. Moore '12 HBG

James H. Moser '81 SCI

Roderick Murchison Jr.
'91 ENG and Jane E.
Murchison '91 LIB

Colin P. Murphy '03 IST

Heather C. Myers '14 IST

NEC Laboratories America,
Inc.

Steven M. Ney '10 IST

Douglas D. Noakes '98 COM

Rosalie Ocker

Walter Okpych '03 BUS and
Christine M. Okpych '03 BUS

Brooke Overly

Andrew Pacheco '22 IST

Nikita Page '17 IST

Joseph T. Palladino '04 BUS
and Lauren Palladino

Babubhai C. Patel
and Kalpana B. Patel

Raj B. Patel '21 IST

John Pater

Antonio F. Pensa '67 ENG
and Carol Pensa

Matthew T. Ping '04 IST

Stephen A. Pipino '03 IST

Mark A. Poblete '07 IST
and Carol E. Poblete '08 A&A

Brian R. Poppenwimer '94 LIB

PPG Industries, Inc.

PwC

Timothy J. Quimbo '18 BUS

Jennifer L. Robert '06 IST

Jason A. Robinson '21 IST

Jennifer A. Romano '05 IST

Gregory M. Roszyk '89 SCI
and Marnie R. Salisbury

RSM US Foundation

RSM US LLP

John A. Ruiz '03 IST

Talia J. Rushton '18 IST

Mark P. Ruzomberka '03 IST
and Megan C. Ruzomberka
'04 COM

Larry Sampson LTC, USAF
(ret.) '79 SCI

Henry B. Schacht
and Nancy Schacht

Nathaniel J. Scott '11 IST

Andrew Sears and Mary
Sears

Bonnie J. Seaton '88 SCI

Stephen A. Shala '92 AGR
and Lynne D. Shala

Shell Oil Company

Ankur R. Sheth '04 IST

Raymond M. Shimko '08 IST
and Shannon M. Shimko

Stephen D. Shively '77 SCI
and Anne E. Shively

Peter Sides

Lucas S. Simonetti '07 IST and
Michelle L. Simonetti '07 AGR

Michael K. Spiers '93 AGR

James M. Stephens '96 ENG
and Joyce Leahy Stephens
'96 ENG

Amy Lynne Stever '88 LIB
and Revel W. Kemp

Jason B. Streeter '07 IST and
Amanda C. Brown '08 SCI

William H. Stump '72 SCI

Textron Systems

Ronald M. Tirpak '63 ENG
and Martha M. Tirpak

Noah P. Unger '17 IST

Friedrich Unterberger Jr. '88 SCI
and Judith A. Unterberger

Jennifer L. Vanderhoof '85
SCI and George Vanderhoof

Thiruvannamalai S. Venkatesh
and Shanthi Venkatesh

Tara M. Verity '06 IST

John A. Viglione '84 BUS
and Marion M. Piccolomini
'84 H&HD

Christopher J. Voss '21 IST

Korey L. Wallace '09 IST

Yanming Wang

Web3 Foundation

Andrew J. Weinert '09 IST
and Stephanie M. Weinert
'12 H&HD

Timothy A. West and
Lori A. West

Michael J. Weyandt '95 H&HD
and Megan E. Weyandt
'14 NUR

Nickolas Wingeron '82 SCI
and Amber Xiaoqun Wang

Kimberly M. Woodward
and Jeff S. Woodward

Xingjian Zhao '21 ENG

Tanner D. Ziacik '19 COM

You can make
a difference.



+

Office of the Dean
College of Information Sciences and Technology
The Pennsylvania State University
411J Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub
State College, PA 16801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PennState
College of Information
Sciences and Technology

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 1

Scan to update your contact information
ist.psu.edu/update-info



IN THIS ISSUE:

IST A to Z • Election misinformation • Giles, Mitra retire •
Cyber competition success • New student success center



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

On October 24-25, we will celebrate the past, present, and future of the College of IST with a variety of events.

Check out what we have planned and how you can join the celebration at

ist.psu.edu/25.

alumni@ist.psu.edu

@ISTatPennState