

E-Newsletter

Fall 2006 Highlights

Howdy



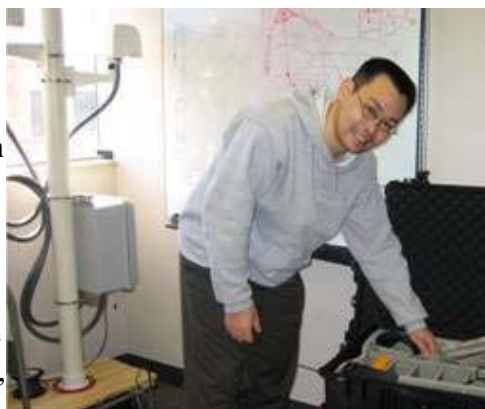
Computer Science is introducing its E-Newsletter with this inaugural issue. The purpose of the newsletter is to highlight a research activity, bring you up-to-date on faculty transitions, and ask you to save the dates of upcoming events. If you want to know more about the department, I encourage you to visit our [website](#) or contact me at the e-mail address below.

Valerie E. Taylor
Department Head and Royce E.
Wisenbaker Professor

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Swamp Robot

Dezhen Song, assistant professor in computer science, packed up ACONe for installation in Bayou DeView, Brinkley, Arkansas (Oct. 2006). ACONe is a collaborative effort among Texas A&M, the University of California, Berkeley, and Cornell University to search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, believed to be extinct but thought to have been sighted in Bayou DeView in 2004.



Dr. Dezhen Song packs up his automated observatory ACONe (Automated Collaborative Observatory for Natural Environments).

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Faculty Transitions

Awards

Nancy Amato — Haliburton Foundation Professorship

Jianer Chen — Association of Former Students College-Level recognition for teaching and research activities

Dezhen Song — NSF Career Award, 5-year grant for his work in tele-operated robotics

Hank Walker — College of Engineering Faculty Fellow, 2006-2007; Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Excellence in Engineering Teaching Award

Promotions

Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna — Associate Professor, tenured

John Keyser — Associate Professor, tenured

Andreas Klappenecker — Associate Professor, tenured

Rabi Mahapatra — Associate Professor, tenured

Lawrence Rauchwerger — Professor

Frank Shipman — Professor

Hank Walker — Professor

Wei Zhao — Dean, School of

ACONE has been photographing campus birds in flight from Dr. Song's office window in the H.R. Bright Building while awaiting installation in Arkansas. During this trial run, solutions were found for interference from lighting conditions and moving clouds, and for filtering large volumes of data. In the Bayou DeView swamp, ACONe will need to function autonomously for months. ACONe takes the place of costly manual searching and observation in nature. Dr. Ron Rohrbaugh, director of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker Research Project in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at Cornell said, "Dr. Song takes autonomous camera monitoring to a new level that could revolutionize the way that wildlife scientists study animal populations." For more information on this exciting project, visit <http://www.c-o-n-e.org/acone>.

Right after ACONe's installation, Dr. Song was notified that he received a **Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award** from the National Science Foundation for his work in tele-operated robotics. The NSF CAREER Award helps top-performing scientists and engineers early in their careers to develop their contributions and commitment to research and education. NSF CAREER Awards are for five years and total a minimum of \$400,000. Well done, Dr. Song!

Save these dates

Mar 6-7: Industrial Affiliates Meeting

Mar 19: Distinguished Lecturer **Dr. Rosalind Picard**, MIT

Apr 19: Spring Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Apr 20: Distinguished Lecturer **Dr. Nancy Lynch**, MIT

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Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

New Faculty

Jinxiang Chai, Carnegie Mellon — Assistant Professor, Graphics

Gabriel Dos Reis, Univ. of Paris VII and École Normale Supérieure de Cachan — Assistant Professor, Software

Tracy Hammond, MIT — Assistant Professor, User Interfaces & AI

Scott Schaefer, Rice — Assistant Professor, Graphics

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