Welcome Class of 2010!

This fall the INI welcomes the twentieth class of students to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the seventh class in Athens, Greece; the fourth class in Kobe, Japan; the second classes at the Portugal locations and the first class of the INI Pittsburgh–Silicon Valley MSIT programs.

U.S. Programs

More than 100 students enter one of the following programs in the United States:

- M.S. in Information Networking
- M.S. in Information Security Technology Management
- INI Pittsburgh–Silicon Valley M.S. in Information Technology–Mobility
- Information Technology–Information Security
- Information Technology–Software Management

Countries represented:
China • Great Britain • India • Japan • Lebanon • Mexico • Palestinian Territory • Rwanda • Saudi Arabia • Taiwan • United States

International Programs

Over 30 students enter one of the following international programs:

- M.S. in Information Networking in Athens, Greece
- M.S. in Information Technology–Information Security in Kobe, Japan
- M.S. in Information Networking in Aveiro, Portugal
- M.S. in Information Technology–Information Security in Lisbon, Portugal

Countries represented:
Armenia • China • Greece • India • Japan • Macedonia • Philippines • Portugal • Taiwan • United States

Message from the Director

In 2008, the Carnegie Mellon community extends well beyond the 140-acre plot along Forbes Avenue. No longer defined by the edges of campus, the university, along with the INI, is made up of people across the United States, Asia, Europe and Australia who are teaching or taking classes far from Pittsburgh. Can the Carnegie Mellon community carry a strong identity across great distance and diversity? That is our challenge.

This fall, the INI brings students together from all international locations to Pittsburgh for the “Destination 2008” orientation. It is my hope that this event enhances the sense of community that is already nurtured globally at the INI.

Our faculty and students use advanced technologies at the INI’s two distributed education classrooms to share knowledge internationally, convening through video-conferencing equipment from their seats in Pittsburgh, Athens, Kobe, Aveiro and Lisbon. Online, they hold after-class discussions and collaborate on projects.

Outside of the classroom, INI students, staff and faculty work to promote the MySecureCyberspace cyber safety outreach initiative. Women@INI (WINI) engage our students at gatherings and events in the Pittsburgh area. This year, the INI is taking steps to form GO INI, a new student-run organization, which I look forward to watching grow.

I am happy to share the news that we continue to expand our reach, namely with the INI’s newest professional graduate programs, the INI Pittsburgh–Silicon Valley M.S. in Information Technology (MSIT) degrees to launch in the fall of 2008. With options to specialize in Mobility, Information Security or Software Management, the MSIT students will start and end their programs in Pittsburgh but will spend their spring and summer sessions in Silicon Valley at the heart of the IT industry.

Many thanks go to our alumni and industry partners, who share leads to internships and jobs, give lectures at seminars and bring real-world issues into our classrooms. I also applaud the INI faculty and staff who support the INI at every turn to build bridges across international borders. Together, we will continue to make this global Carnegie Mellon community something great.

Dena Haritos Tsamitis
The INI Offers New Silicon Valley Programs

In the fall of 2008, the INI offers three new graduate degree programs with the launch of the INI Pittsburgh–Silicon Valley M.S. in Information Technology (MSIT). Students from around the world, including six from Rwanda, will make up the first class to begin the programs, which offer graduate studies at both Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh and at Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley in the heart of the IT industry.

With access to two locations, students get the ‘best of both worlds’ during the three-semester programs: Pittsburgh’s top-rated colleges and facilities and Silicon Valley’s unmatched business opportunities in technology. During the first fall, students mingle with their INI classmates in the Pittsburgh M.S. in Information Networking (MSIN) and M.S. in Information Security Technology Management (MSISTM) programs and may take classes from the College of Engineering, School of Computer Science, Tepper School of Business and the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management. In the spring, students study in Silicon Valley where they work with Carnegie Mellon faculty on project-based coursework. They remain in Silicon Valley for the summer to complete an internship before returning to Pittsburgh for their final semester.

The three MSIT programs are Mobility (MSIT-MOB), Information Security (MSIT-IS) and Software Management (MSIT-SM). These options stem from the university’s existing strengths and an awareness of industry trends.

"Mobility is indeed a new and emerging area that we are very excited about—and one that has become increasingly relevant to industry in Silicon Valley."

Established in 1989, the INI offered one of the first interdisciplinary programs at Carnegie Mellon, the MSIN. Its newest programs promise to carry on this tradition of high quality interdisciplinary education.

Athens MSIN Celebrates Five Years

A June 11 ceremony marked the fifth class to graduate from the ground-breaking M.S. in Information Networking program (MSIN) in Athens. Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Director of the INI, and Angel Jordan, University Professor Emeritus and former Carnegie Mellon provost from the time the INI was established, presided over the ceremony. Athens Information Technology (AIT) hosted the graduates and their families, and Christos Halkias, Dean of AIT, addressed the audience.

An anniversary reception in honor of the program took place on June 12 at the Arion Resort and Spa in Athens. Over 100 people attended the special event, including recent graduates, students and alumni, along with Carnegie Mellon and AIT faculty and staff. Alumni of the first graduating class reunited with most of their classmates and they spoke about their current jobs and activities. Decadent hors d’oeuvres were served and music entertained the crowd, who seemed to enjoy an evening that passed too quickly.

Established in 2002, the Athens MSIN became a model for the INI’s international initiatives that have since led to the establishment of programs in Japan and Portugal. Athens MSIN students were among the first Carnegie Mellon students to take classes via the INI’s distributed education classroom, which connects faculty and students in Pittsburgh with their counterparts across the globe using video-conferencing equipment.
**Programs Budding in Portugal**

The INI has been administering programs at the University of Aveiro and the University of Lisbon in Portugal since the fall of 2007 with the Aveiro M.S. in Information Networking and the Lisbon M.S. in Information Technology–Information Security. The programs combine courses offered through real-time video-conferencing technologies from Pittsburgh and courses offered locally by the partner institutions. Some Portuguese students joined the INI Exchange Program in order to spend a portion of time studying abroad. Four of the exchange students performed research with Professor Hyong Kim at Carnegie Mellon during the summer, and three others will take classes in Pittsburgh during the fall.

“We are pleased with the level of engagement and commitment of the government of Portugal and very impressed with our partner universities in both Aveiro and Lisbon,” said Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Director of the INI. “The local faculty members involved in the collaboration have gone above and beyond in this first year of the program to ensure that everything was in place for the students’ education on day one.”

The INI hopes to attract a greater number of students to the programs. To this end, Tsamitis has travelled to talk with Portuguese companies.

“During our discussions, I was able to articulate to companies how our professional masters programs would equip their employees with the knowledge and skills to address and combat the technology and security issues and challenges that these companies are facing. I also offered them a variety of ways to become involved in the collaboration, from sponsoring students to releasing their employees to either part-time or full-time study. In general, we need to create an awareness of the tremendous opportunity of this collaboration to Portuguese companies.”

Tsamitis, who met with many of the students during her time in Portugal, described them as enthusiastic and is confident they will have an “immediate impact on their companies with their new knowledge and skill sets upon completion of the program.”

**The INI Graduates its Second Class at Carnegie Mellon CyLab Japan**

Governor Toshizo Ido of Hyogo Prefecture joined Dr. Pradeep K. Khosla, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Director of the INI, to preside over a February 5 ceremony in Kobe, Japan, in honor of the second graduating class at Carnegie Mellon CyLab Japan. In May, the INI honored the class again, as six of the eight graduates travelled to attend the INI graduation ceremony in Pittsburgh.

“The experience I got at CyLab Japan enabled me to broaden my creativity, not only in information security but in other fields. The program taught us how to think about the essence of what we study and how to use what we learned,” said Hirokazu Sasamoto, one of the graduates.

CyLab Japan was established in 2005 as a collaboration between Carnegie Mellon and the Hyogo Institute of Information Foundation to offer an M.S. in Information Technology–Information Security (MSIT-IS) program in Kobe.

The 16-month graduate degree program, which prepares students to become leaders in information security, is an initiative of the INI and the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management. The Kobe MSIT-IS program blends information security technology with management and policy.

**International Conference Accepts Paper**

CHI 2008, a globally renowned human-computer interaction conference, accepted a research paper by an INI team at Carnegie Mellon CyLab Japan. The paper titled “Undercover: Authentication Usable in Front of Prying Eyes” was submitted by Kobe MSIT-IS recent graduates Hirokazu Sasamoto and Eiji Hayashi and INI Associate Director Dr. Nicolas Christin.

The paper presents a technique that relies on human factors to improve cybersecurity.

“Both in terms of scale and prestige, CHI is the premier forum for research at the boundary of psychology and computer science,” said Dr. Christin. “It is a highly competitive forum where people vie to present their work in front of about 2,000 attendees.”

The conference took place in Florence, Italy in April.
Far-Sighted: Kari Gazdich Leads the Global Search for Talent

An interview with the new Director of Admissions

The INI’s expansion in recent years has been no small task. While it imbues students with a valuable global perspective, the new programs and locations present new challenges for the INI staff who must now find quality students worldwide. To tackle this problem, the INI recently added Kari Gazdich as Director of Admissions.

From her desk on the second floor of the INI building, Kari Gazdich has a global view. She oversees the INI admissions and recruitment process, which includes formulating and implementing a plan for all the current INI programs in Pittsburgh, Silicon Valley, Athens, Kobe, Aveiro and Lisbon. Her work entails attracting prospective students and following up with inquiries, as well as getting students admitted, accepted and matriculated into the program—all with the goal of building a diverse, talented student body.

With eight years in the international education field, Gazdich has rich experience in recruiting and advising foreign students. Most recently, she held a project management position with the federal government in conjunction with the Vietnam Education Foundation. She administered an exchange program to select the best students in Vietnam to come study science and technology in the U.S. The Vietnamese students referred to Gazdich as their advisor for numerous complex issues, from admissions and stipends, to employment and tax issues.

“Because I have done such diverse work in international education, I am prepared to do the many jobs that need to be done at the INI,” said Gazdich, who leverages her experiences with students abroad with her ability to manage projects to meet the INI’s global admissions goals.

Since joining the INI in April 2008, Gazdich’s biggest challenge has been “learning all that is the INI,” as she delved into the nuances of five graduate degree programs and multiple locations in the U.S., Greece, Japan and Portugal. In the coming months, she will deepen her admissions expertise when she visits the INI’s partner institutions and travels abroad for recruitment purposes, as she pursues an international search for the next class of INI students.

“The economy demands that students be able to do business across borders and work with people from differing backgrounds,” said Gazdich. “Companies are generally multinational, whether they are located in Japan, Europe, the U.S or elsewhere. The exceptional students who are admitted into the INI programs will be prepared to compete on this global level.”
Interdisciplinary Studies Find a Fit on Wall Street

INI grad takes his degree to Citigroup

Interdisciplinary coursework at the INI is a big draw for many incoming students who may wish to dabble broadly in outside interests or deepen their knowledge on a particular topic. At times, the elective course options may profoundly change a student’s career path. For Preston Mesick, Class of 2008, the electives he took steered him to a job offer in New York’s financial district upon graduation.

When looking into graduate programs, Mesick veered away from places that focused solely on engineering. He sought out an interdisciplinary curriculum and then decided on Carnegie Mellon because the faculty in computer security was “second to none.”

Mesick, a computer engineering major from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, joined the INI’s MSISTM program immediately after college with the support of a Homeland Security Fellowship. As he completed the program’s core courses, he made plans to shape his degree based on an interest in business.

“I decided to build a curriculum for myself that allowed me to go into an area of business in some depth—not just take a single class on a topic,” said Mesick. “The INI’s elective and restricted elective course options allowed me to put several consecutive courses together in order to learn the breadth of a topic, but also enough depth that I could take to an interview and really know what I was talking about.”

He sought electives from the Tepper School of Business and Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, including Tepper’s Stochastic Calculus for Finance course, which was taught by a professor at the top of his field. Natalie Strintzis in Enrollment and Jennifer Burkett at the INI Career Center gave him support by helping him enroll in the electives he wanted and prepare him for job searches and interviews.

When the job hunt began, Mesick was interviewing alongside graduate students in business and finance, but he shone above the competition by offering a unique skill set in both programming and finance. He accepted a position at Citigroup in as an Analyst in the Quantitative Trade and Analysis Program, where he will build systems for the pricing of financial instruments.

Looking back on his time at the INI, Mesick advises incoming students to lose any fears about taking classes on new topics. “I had no idea what math finance was about and how it related to computer science. I happened to take one class and thought, ‘Oh, my goodness, this stuff is fascinating.’”

During his foray into business courses, Mesick never lost focus on his career path. He considered how he would present himself to potential employers and saw danger in being perceived as unfocused if his electives varied too widely.

“It’s important to take time to really figure out how you want to portray yourself to companies. I positioned myself as a hybrid of two focus areas because I had strong programming skills and several courses in math finance,” said Mesick, whose positioning was well received at Citigroup. “In the job hunt, I think students should be eclectic. And be different.”
Scholarship for Service

Program gives a full scholarship and opens doors to jobs with the U.S. government

After graduating in May, Mike Glazer became an engineer working on ground data control systems at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the country’s center for robotic space exploration. A dream job? Perhaps. For Mike, his tour of duty at JPL will fulfill the commitment he made to the federal government through the Scholarship for Service (SFS) program, in exchange for the full scholarship and monthly stipend he received to pursue the MSISTM program. Other recent SFS scholars at the INI have been recruited by such places as the Sandia National Laboratory and the Department of Defense.

Eligible students must be U.S. citizens who would like to pursue the MSISTM program and must meet criteria for federal employment, including obtaining security clearance. Scholars are obligated to complete the degree successfully and on time, do a government internship, and commit to working for the nation for two years after graduation.

Mike, a computer engineering major from the University of Calgary, enjoyed some of the added benefits of the SFS program, such as seminars and additional training he received during his summer internship. However, he cautioned students who would have difficulty receiving security clearance: “The jobs are there, but if you can’t get security clearance, you can’t get a job. Otherwise, it’s a really good opportunity and a great way to work for the U.S. government.”

The INI conducts entrance interviews with students who have an interest in the SFS program. With a full scholarship available and a broad range of fascinating jobs awaiting after graduation, who wouldn’t be interested? It’s an option that many students in information security should consider. For more information about the scholarship, visit www.ini.cmu.edu.

Official Launch: The MySecureCyberspace Game

Carnegie Mellon CyLab and the INI began distributing cyber safety game to elementary schools

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the INI and Carnegie Mellon CyLab brought elementary school students a fun, interactive game that teaches Internet safety and computer security. The game, Carnegie Cadets: The MySecureCyberspace Game, was officially launched on October 26, 2007 at J.H. Brooks Elementary School in the Moon Area School District outside Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett endorsed the game during a kickoff event.

Enriched with content and classroom material that complies with the National Educational Technology Standards, The MySecureCyberspace Game arms upper elementary school children with knowledge about malicious computer programs and cyber criminals. To play, children enlist in the Carnegie Cyber Academy, where they complete cyber safety missions and earn points to use towards decorating their own dorm room at the academy. While having fun, children may not notice they’re learning cyber safety.

“Our high level goal is for children to learn to be skeptical of things they see on the Web and to have effective judgment on things that they encounter—to know when they should go talk to an adult about something, when they should just ignore it or when they should avoid it completely,” said Amanda Kraemer, Creative Lead, an INI staff member and a graduate of Carnegie Mellon’s Entertainment Technology Center.

The game is a free download from www.carnegiecyberacademy.com, a Web site that continues the game’s storyline through blogs and other interactive learning activities. Lesson plans and activities for teachers are also available. Helpful cyber safety articles for the general public are available at the MySecureCyberspace Web portal at www.mysecurecyberspace.com.
Core Course Spotlight: Fundamentals of Embedded Systems

For MSIN students, the Fundamentals of Embedded Systems course is a required part of their graduate school career. Dr. Rajeev Gandhi, ECE Systems Scientist and INI Faculty Advisor, recently explained the importance of this core course that he teaches to students in Pittsburgh and globally from the distributed education centers.

“The basic concepts taught in the course are typically assumed of all engineers and that is why they are important. When working, you end up using them so often you just do not even think about it. You need to have those fundamentals correct before you do anything further in embedded systems,” said Dr. Gandhi, who structured the course to have equally strong portions of lecture and lab time. The labs reinforce the topics of the lectures to give students hands-on experience essential to the study of embedded systems. Dr. Gandhi admits that students often find the course difficult initially.

“The first part of the course is mostly about assembly language programming and that tends to be a little bit tedious for the students. Towards the end of the course, they build device drivers, and they write embedded operating systems. Students really enjoy that part of the course,” he said. “They need to do some hard work first in order to enjoy things.”

New Student Organization Forms

When Women@INI (WINI) promotes one of its many social, academic and outreach events during the school year, one question always surfaces: Are INI men allowed? While men often join in the fun, it is true that some WINI events have a girls-only appeal. So, in 2008, when the INI separated from EGO, the ECE graduate student organization, INI students voiced a need for a new outlet for socializing and community building at the Institute. Both WINI and the new organization, to be called GO INI, will meet regularly and facilitate activities for INI students throughout the 2008-2009 academic year.

Grace Hopper Conference Pays Off for Students

When INI Director Dena Haritos Tsamitis began working for the Institute seven years ago, there were only two women students among a class of 37. Last May, women made up two-thirds of the graduating class. Men have dominated science and technology fields in the past, but with the help of programs that promote these fields to women and girls and nurture their participation in academic activities, the female presence is growing.

Recognizing the importance of women in its graduate programs, the INI sponsors a handful of women students to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. This annual conference highlights the work of leading researchers, while providing networking opportunities in the areas of industry, government and academia.

INI students who attended the 2007 conference credited it as an invaluable experience, largely due to the connections they made with individuals who became sources of career advice and job leads. Aditi Suhas Pendharkar, Class of 2009, met a Google employee at the conference who later encouraged her to apply for the Google Anita Borg Scholarship. Pendharkar achieved finalist status for the scholarship program and was invited to an exclusive retreat held at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California.

The 2008 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing will take place October 1-4 in Keystone Resort, Colorado. The INI holds an essay contest at the beginning of the fall semester for students interested in attending.
The 2008 INI Graduation Ceremony

On May 17, 2008, as 57 INI graduates walked into the auditorium at Rodef Shalom Temple to the sound of the traditional Carnegie Mellon bagpipes, each of them carried the potential to change the world in their own way, as so many INI graduates have done before them.

For the first time, students from the Japan MSIT-IS program joined those from the Pittsburgh MSIN and MSISTM programs at the commencement ceremony. “Together we celebrate the Class of 2008 today, because they will advance the economics, policies and technology of our world tomorrow,” said Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Director of the INI.

The Pittsburgh class was made up of students from six different countries, including China, India, the Philippines, South Korea, Venezuela and the United States. These graduates were joined by exchange students from the Athens program, as well as six graduates from Japan, representing China, India, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dr. Pradeep K. Khosla, Dean of the College of Engineering, also spoke to the graduating class, and, together with Tsamitis, presented diplomas to the new graduates. Dr. Khosla also introduced the keynote speaker, Sunil Wadhwani, CEO and founder of iGATE Corporation, who shared some insights that he wished he had known before setting out to start his own information technology and business-process services company.

However, the successful entrepreneur did point out that "experience is the comb that life gives you after you lose your hair."

Summing up his thoughts, Sunil said: “Aim high, leverage your unique backgrounds and create your own opportunities. And remember this: never underestimate the power of a few people to change the world. In fact, that’s the only thing that ever has.”
Student Awards Presented

Outstanding Student Services Award. The winners of this service award receive an engraved award and $500.

for Teaching Assistant:
Ramu Panayappan

for Research Assistant:
Christopher K. Nguyen

Pradeep K. Khosla Leadership Award. A student who most noticeably demonstrates leadership qualities, the winner receives an engraved award and $1,000.

Aakash Shah

Frank J. Marshall Graduate Fellowship. Granted to one outstanding MSISTM student, this fellowship is an award of $14,500.

Tom Palarz
Hemant Bhanoo, Class of 2002: Launching a Startup

In the fall of 2006, Hemant Bhanoo, Class of 2002, was a satisfied employee at Amazon, but a year later he would find himself engrossed in a new kind of work—but loving it—as co-founder of the startup reporterist.

Hemant describes reporterist as an online exchange for news, envisioned as an alternative to wire services in which publishers could connect with content creators and acquire exclusive rights to high quality content. Seeing big changes in the news industry, such as a shift towards online publications and an increased reliance on wire service stories, Hemant perceived an opportunity, which he detailed in the following interview.

**How did you come about your idea for the startup?** In 2006, my wife, Sindya had just made a career switch to journalism and was at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism. We would chat about the changes in the news industry and the implications they might have on the business models, and even the future of journalism—especially the kind of journalism that informs a healthy democracy.

…There is a niche for differentiated, well-reported content without the fixed costs associated with having a reporting staff. reporterist fills that niche by connecting news publishers and reporters and enabling them to transact. We’re starting by providing both a ‘push’ and ‘pull’ model. In the ‘push’ model (ala eBay), we allow journalists to put up stories and story ideas for publishers to browse. In the ‘pull’ model, we allow editors and publishers to request the coverage of specific events and manage the workflow all the way until the final story, along with multimedia, is delivered to the publisher.

**When did you start?** We incorporated in April 2007. By August, we had a running Web site. In the fall of 2007, we ran a limited beta and helped our publisher partners source about one story a week from a small set of users. In 2008, we have focused on iterating on our product in preparation for a public launch in the fall of 2008.

**What goals do you have?** Since we are in a two-sided market, we have to grow our user base, both in terms of publishers or content-buyers, as well as journalists or content-creators. First, we are looking to form strategic partnerships with publishers (both online, as well as in more traditional media). Along those lines, we’re working on making it easier for publishers to work with us to source content. Second, we’re working hard to create ever-more value for journalists, so we’re relentlessly focused on building tools that help them do their jobs better.

**Share a little bit about working at Amazon?** I had an absolutely amazing time working at Amazon—and was really lucky to work with stellar teams and managers. Briefly, I spent my first two and a half years working on the core distributed platform (Web server, service invocation framework, metrics), the next 18 months helping bootstrap engineering in a new Bangalore, India office (and working on the payments Web service), and the last year I was there working on distributed caching for CTO Werner Vogels.

…It was a tough decision to leave Amazon, but the ‘fire in my belly’ told me that reporterist was a solid opportunity that could also have a social impact—namely by helping reward accurate, original reporting in a world where the incentives for doing so are becoming increasingly extinct. It was a no-brainer for me to jump at the opportunity.

**What did you gain from the INI that has been important to you?** The INI... affords students the latitude to take away what they want. I have always been interested in the ‘business-side of things’ but went into the program with my mind set on filling many holes in my computer science education (ECE, 2000). At the INI, I was able to take all of the great computer science classes that I hadn’t had time to take, while also going slightly deeper than my undergraduate business minor by taking MBA classes…. I felt tremendously more prepared to enter industry after the INI than I did my undergraduate education.

Visit www.reporterist.com to learn more about Bhanoo’s startup and follow its progress.

**Alumni: Log on...**

Use these tools to keep informed about the university community and bond with fellow alumni.

[www.ini.cmu.edu/alumni](www.ini.cmu.edu/alumni)
- Read INI alumni news and updates
- Connect to professional resources
- Recruit INI students
- Invest in the future of the INI
- Submit news

[alumni.cmu.edu](alumni.cmu.edu)
- Create an updated profile
- Search the alumni directory
- Recruit INI students
- Become involved in alumni activities

**Update Your Info...**

Jennifer Burkett, Director of Career Services and External Relations, will update your contact information and current activities for the INI alumni network. Just send her an email at: ini-alumni@cmu.edu

...and Join Us on Facebook!

Create a profile on Facebook and link up with former classmates, faculty and staff. You will stay in touch with the INI while maintaining valuable alumni connections.
Adrienne White, Class of 2008: Applying Her New Degree in Ghana

In May, just weeks after graduating in Pittsburgh, Adrienne White, MSISTM, crossed the Atlantic to the West African country of Ghana where she would spend the summer working at Ashesi University. Aside from adventure, Adrienne sought to pursue a project in connection with Carnegie Mellon’s TechBridgeWorld, whose mission is to use technology to help developing nations find sustainable solutions to their problems. Her project: to recommend a student records management system.

By July, Adrienne reported to the INI that the project was a success. She and her colleague, Kathryn Dickens (Heinz School), learned much about Ashesi University through an initial interview phase. After meeting with university staff, faculty, deans and the president, the team uncovered the problems of the previous Excel-based student records management system and the needs of a new Web-based system. As the summer passed by, Adrienne and Kathryn were anything but unproductive, as they progressed from meeting to exceeding their goals.

“We were tasked with recommending a student records management system. Not only have we recommended one, but the university has accepted the recommendation, and we have moved forward with a software pilot,” reported Adrienne. “Also, we have supervised the writing of a user manual, which we will leave behind as training material for the software. And lastly, we have been in constant communication with the software's developer, and he is slated to travel to Ashesi and conduct on-site training.”

In addition to having satisfaction in her work, Adrienne has greatly enjoyed her experience in Ghana, from sampling the spicy food, to developing professionally as a university’s consulting partner, to delving into her heritage. “As an African-American, this has been an emotional and humbling experience. Many African-Americans in the U.S. don’t have ties to Africa, but coming here has recreated a link for me,” she said. She shared details of her travels online at http://tcinc.org, a blog for her TechBridgeWorld program, Technology Consulting in the Global Community.

When Adrienne returns to the U.S. in the late summer, she will begin work for the Department of Defense. For current and prospective INI students, she wanted to pass along some advice: “I encourage you to live your life beyond the walls of the INI. There are so many good things going on at Carnegie Mellon, right under your noses. If you don’t get out, you will never know.” For details on TechBridgeWorld, visit www.techbridgeworld.org/.

You Can Help! Contribute to the INI Scholarship Fund

Investments made by alumni go towards advancing our programs and facilities, as well as funding for deserving students, an investment that reinforces the reputation and capabilities of the INI in the future. There are two ways to invest:

• Donating to the INI Scholarship Fund, Carnegie Institute of Technology or Carnegie Mellon

• Sponsoring an INI fellowship

You can make a gift online using the secure form at www.cmu.edu/giving; by phone at (412) 268-2021; or by printing and mailing the form available online, along with a check or money order made payable to Carnegie Mellon, to:

Carnegie Mellon University
Office of Annual Giving
6 PPG Place, 11th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-5409

Jennifer Burkett, Director of Career Services and External Relations, is available at the INI to answer your questions at (412) 268-9292. Or, you can contact the Office of Annual Giving by calling (412) 268-2021, emailing annual-giving@andrew.cmu.edu, or visiting http://annualgiving.ua.cmu.edu/.

Get the Latest INI News on the Web at:

www.ini.cmu.edu
New Additions to Our Staff

Nicolas Christin relocated from Kobe, Japan and assumed new responsibilities as Associate Director of the INI.

Kari Gazdich, Director of Admissions, has worked for eight years in the international education field.

Jamie L. Lehneke, Manager of Enrollment Services for Pittsburgh Programs, came to the INI from the Tepper School of Business.

Nicholas K. Tsamitis joined the INI as Distributed Education Assistant.

About Our Organization

The Information Networking Institute (INI) was established by Carnegie Mellon in 1989 as the nation’s first research and education center devoted to information networking. As an integral department of the College of Engineering and a collaboration of the School of Computer Science, the Tepper School of Business and the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, the INI’s professional graduate degree programs represent an exceptional fusion of technologies, economics and policies of secure communication networks.

The INI is the educational partner of Carnegie Mellon CyLab, for which it extends educational and training programs to the broad audience of people using information networking as part of their daily lives.

The INI has over 700 alumni who occupy leadership positions at companies in various sectors. Please send contact information, updates or professional accomplishments to ini-alumni@cmu.edu.

Send us news!
ini-alumni@cmu.edu