

Progress Report – July 2005
Presidential Academic Initiative in
Human Computer Interaction

Overview

Building on the strong interdisciplinary research foundation at the Virtual Reality Applications Center (VRAC), the Iowa State University Presidential Academic Initiative in Human Computer Interaction (HCI) was established in July 2002 to enhance ISU's research strength in HCI and develop a program to attract and train talented researchers in this emerging field. Aggressive recruiting during our first two years (2002-2004) yielded five new HCI faculty members that have substantially bolstered our strength. These new faculty, together with over 50 faculty members spanning all of ISU's colleges have worked together to develop and successfully establish an Interdepartmental Graduate Major in HCI. During FY05, the HCI Initiative continued to generate enthusiasm, strong growth, and exciting results.

Highlights

- HCI-focused research contracts administered by VRAC now total more than \$19.0M, with \$29.7M in pending proposals.
- 2005 HCI Graduates to date:

<i>Student</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Status</i>
Melinda Cerney ¹	Ph.D.	Microsoft R&D, Redmond, WA
Chad Austin	M.S.	IMVU, Palo Alto, CA
Qian Chen	M.S.	Offer pending
Brian Mila	M.S.	Founder, FluidScapes, Inc., Ames, IA
Ronald Sidharta	M.S.	Continuing for PhD in HCI at ISU
Jason Schneekloth	M.S.	Microsoft, Product Manager, Redmond, WA
Yifei Wang	M.S.	Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, IA

- Current enrollment: 25 Ph.D. and 24 M.S. candidates with home departments spanning 13 departments in 4 colleges (88 applicants so far this year).
- 2nd Annual *HCI Forum: Designing Interaction Conference*, held in April, featured HCI pioneer Professor Ben Shneiderman as keynote speaker.
- Successful ISU HCI preproposal for NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT). Full proposal (\$3.1M over 5 years) in preparation, due August 5th.
- 2005 HCI Fellowship Awardees:
 - Mandella Connors – M.S., Barry University, 3.9 GPA. Bill and Melinda Gates Millenium Scholar
 - Claver Hatigekimana – M.S., Dakota State University, 4.0 GPA
 - Kimberly Weaver – B.S., Michigan State University, 3.8 GPA

FY05 Expenditures

HCI Fellowships (salary, benefits and tuition)	\$34,465
Support Staff (salary and benefits)	\$20,089
Communications Coordinator (salary, benefits and tuition)	\$18,638
HCI Forum	\$13,515
Recruitment/Retention (tuition, student travel)	\$7,369
Faculty Retreat, Graduate student organization, public relations	\$5,924
TOTAL	\$100,000

FY06 Budget

HCI Fellowships (salary, benefits and tuition)	\$41,000
Support Staff (salary and benefits)	\$27,500
HCI Forum	\$10,000
Recruitment/Retention (tuition, student travel)	\$15,000
Faculty Retreat, Graduate student organization, public relations	\$6,500
TOTAL	\$100,000

¹ ISU Graduate College Research Excellence Award winner