

# Final Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual CSL Student Conference

## Conference Summary

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual CSL student conference has been successfully held at the Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) on January 27-28, 2011. The main goal of the conference was to enable CSL students to present their work and interact with faculty, invited speakers, and one another. To achieve this goal, the conference has invited 4 exceptional academic/industrial speakers outside of UIUC and 29 students to give oral/poster presentations. A well-attended reception on the first day promoted further interactions. The conference concluded with a panel discussion that focused on career paths for graduate students. There were about 90 registered student participants, spanning 6 departments: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, Mechanical Science & Engineering, and Neuroscience. The event was organized by a group of graduate students affiliated with CSL. CSL hosted the event by providing its facilities and administrative support.

## Program

The program consisted of 4 one-hour invited talks, 19 twenty-minute student talks, an interactive poster session and a panel discussion session. The invited talks were given by

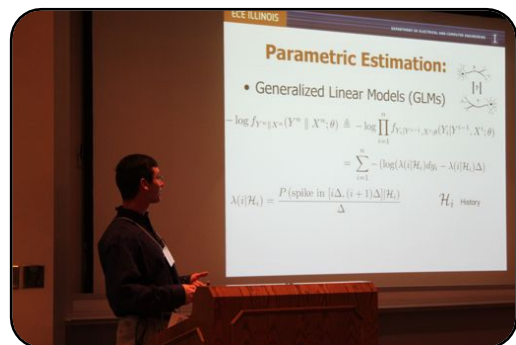
- Dr. Don Shaver, Texas Instruments on *power line communications*,
- Dr. Sanjay Lall, Stanford University on a *state-space approach to stochastic decentralized control*,
- Dr. Sheila Hemami, Cornell University on a *signal-processing approach to modeling vision*, and
- Dr. Guri Sohi, UW-Madison on *parallel execution for multicore processors*.

The student talks were organized into 5 sessions: Communications and Information Theory, Decision and Control (two sessions), Signal Processing, and Systems and Hardware Design.

A student poster session showcasing research by 10 graduate students was held on the first day of the conference, together with a reception. This event was well attended. The topics covered included sensing, control, and devices.



Picture 1: Invited speaker Dr. Sanjay Lall presenting.



Picture 2: Student speaker Christopher Quinn presenting.

The 29 students who presented their work through talks and posters were from various departments at UIUC, including Electrical and Computer Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, Industrial Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.



**Picture 3: Neera Jain interacting with students during the poster session.**



**Picture 4: Navid Aghasadehi presenting his poster.**

The conference concluded with a one-hour panel discussion session. The panel consisted of 3 invited speakers and 3 CSL faculty: Sheila Hemami, Rakesh Kumar, Sanjay Lall, Prashant Mehta, Andrew Singer and Guri Sohi. Lively discussions were held focusing on three main topics, which are of interest to graduate students:

- Exploring the Academic Career Path
- Exploring the Industry Career Path
- Entrepreneurship

Carefully prepared lists of questions pertaining to these topics, together with ad hoc questions from the audience were posed to the panelists. Over 80 students attended this session.

### **Sponsorship and Appreciation**

The conference was sponsored by the following agencies

- IEEE Control System Society (CSS) Outreach Fund,
- College of Engineering, UIUC
- Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL), UIUC
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), UIUC
- Department of Computer Science (CS), UIUC
- Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering (MechSE), UIUC, and
- Student Organization Resource Fee (SORF), UIUC

The organizing committee would like to thank Barbara Horner, Dan Jordan, Jayne Cook, Jana Lenz, Becky Lonberger, Amy Liles, and Kim Gudeman of CSL for their administrative support. The organizing committee consisted of the following CSL students: Rami Abdallah, Gayathri Mohan, Dayu Huang, Kun Deng, Darshan Shirodkar, Vikas Chandan, Neera Jain, Ghazale Hosseinabadi, Yunwen Xu, and Peter Kairouz.

## APPENDIX: Final Expenditure

The total expenditure of the conference was \$6597.51. Detailed information is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Conference Expenditure**

Category	Description	Cost	Details
<b>Travel and Lodging</b>	Invited speakers	<b>\$2611.38</b>	Lodging <sup>1</sup> : \$603.16 Travel <sup>2</sup> : \$2008.22
<b>Materials</b>	Student Posters <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$365.90</b>	Poster printing: \$365.90
	Other Supplies	<b>\$242.27</b>	Flyers, nametags, etc.: \$242.27
<b>Catering and Meals</b>	Reception, breakfasts, lunches and refreshments.	<b>\$3377.96</b>	Breakfasts: \$292.7; Lunches: \$720.79; Refreshments: \$755.72; Reception: \$1608.75.
<b>Conference Room</b>	Provided free of cost by CSL	-	CSL B02 and CSL 301
<b>Video Recording</b>	Provided free of cost by CSL	-	CSL staff provided the service
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>\$6597.51</b>	

1. These are hotel expenditures only for three invited speakers. The remaining one speaker stayed with his friends at UIUC.
2. Travel expenditure for two invited speakers. The other two speakers did not require reimbursement.
3. The conference paid for the printing cost of the student posters presented during the interactive session.

More information (including photos and videos) of the 6<sup>th</sup> CSL student conference can be found in the following permanent link:

<http://www.csl.uiuc.edu/csl-student-conference>