# DREXEL UNIVERSITY Cybersecurity Institute

## December 2015 Newsletter

**In this Issue:**

- Anonymous Declares War on ISIS
- White House to Update Cybersecurity Practices
- White House Reports on 'Big Data' Discrimination
- Experts Sound Off on Why Companies Are Still Being Hacked
- Spotlight Profile
- Seeking Cyber Students
- Minorities in Computer Science/Information Tech
- Cyber Risk Alerts/Training

---

## SPOTLIGHT

### Professor Naga Kandasamy
*Associate Professor, and Associate Department Head for Graduate Affairs, College of Engineering*

Professor Naga Kandasamy is an Associate Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Drexel University where he teaches and conducts research in the area of computer engineering, with specific interests in embedded systems, self-managing systems, reliable and fault-tolerant computing, distributed systems, computer architecture, and testing and verification of digital systems. He received his Ph.D in 2003 from the University of Michigan under the supervision of Professor John Hayes. Prior to joining Drexel, he was a research scientist at the Institute for Software Integrated Systems, Vanderbilt University, from 2003-2004.

**Contact Info**

**Office:** Bossone 603
**Phone:** 215-895-1996
**Email:** kandasamy@drexel.edu

Click this link to view Naga Kandasamy's profile and affiliations

---

## SEEKING CYBER STUDENTS

**acm Association for Computing Machinery**
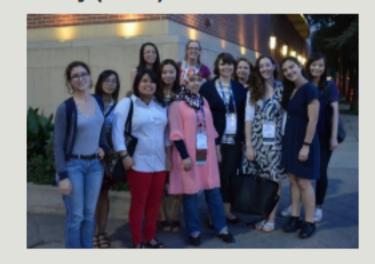
**Why should students join ACM?**

- Valuable Career Resources
- Timely Computing Information
- The ACM Digital Library
- Beyond-the-Classroom Resources

Click here to view Membership Benefits

*Student membership starts at $19

Join ACM Online Today

### Drexel Women in Computing Society (WiCS)

Drexel's Women in Computing Society's (WiCS) purpose is to support, recruit, and retain women pursuing a degree in the broad field of computing. As a recognized student organization at Drexel University, WiCS is open to current undergraduate and graduate students of all genders, majors, and backgrounds.

Click here to learn more about the Drexel Women in Computing Society (WiCS)

### The Master of Science (MS) Degree in Cybersecurity at Drexel's College of Engineering

The MS in Cybersecurity is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students with both the academic and practical training to be competitive in the ever-changing technical landscape of cybersecurity.

Click here to view required courses and to learn more about the graduate co-op program

---

## CYBERSECURITY NEWS

### Anonymous Vows to Take Down ISIS with Cyber Tactics

International "hacktivist" network Anonymous has released a video statement declaring war on ISIS, a terrorist group that claimed responsibility for Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that left an estimated 130 dead. ISIS claimed these attacks were in response to France's involvement in the Syrian Civil War and the Iraqi Civil War. In a televised address following the attacks, French President François Hollande called these attacks "an act of war."

- Video Statement from Anonymous - YouTube Video 1:05 (In French with English Subtitles)
- NBC News Video 1:54  Anonymous vs. ISIS
- The FBI report on Anonymous Isis Threat (via CBS News)
- Is Anonymous War on ISIS Doing More Harm in the Fight on Terrorism? (via BGR News)

### White House to Update Federal Cybersecurity Methods

The White House is recognizing its out-of-date cybersecurity methods in dealing with cyber hacking and is now looking to modernize its practices. The review is mostly due to the June 2015 data breach of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that targeted the records of as many as four million people. U.S. Chief Information Officer Tony Scott said in his blog: "...each Federal agency is responsible for managing its own IT systems, which, due to varying levels of cybersecurity expertise and capacity, generates inconsistencies in capability across government."

- Read more on nbcnews.com
- The WH Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection on Feb. 13, 2015 at Stanford University

### White House Reports on How Collected 'Big Data' Can Be Used to Discriminate

Big Data Discrimination (Video 9:39)

White House Counselor John Podesta and MSNBC host Alex Wagner discuss the need for regulation of consumers' collected 'big data', the value of consumer privacy and the possible discrimination they may encounter (such as political preference, religion, sexual preference, etc.).

### Experts Sound Off on Why Companies Are Still Being Hacked

Cybersecurity experts state that the reason that so many companies are being hacked is because they are using an old method of protecting their infrastructure. With the increased use of advanced technology, and with employees conducting their business utilizing devices -- such as tablets, smartphones and laptops -- hackers are able to gain easier access to company's critical data and information. Some cybersecurity experts believe in implementing a multi-layered approach that focuses on a methodology that offers protection for both the network and data, which will result in protection "from both outsider and insider threats."

Read more on cnbc.com

---

## MINORITIES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE/INFORMATION TECH

### Latino Leaders Pushing for More Minorities to Fill Future Computer Science Positions

Virginia-based nonprofit advocacy agency The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is urging minority students to pursue computing careers, in light of the 1.4 million job gap in the computing field within the next five years. The Hispanic Heritage Foundation also created a program called Code as a Second Language to raise awareness about computer programming and coding among Latino communities. President and CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, Antonio Tijerino (pictured), recently spoke on the subject during a Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center panel discussion.

Read more on edscoop.com

Click link to view the top 20 most influential Latinos in tech

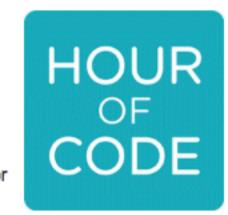### Kimberly Bryant Making Way for Young Black Girls to Pursue Coding

Kimberly Bryant (pictured), founder of Black Girls Code, was inspired to create this organization after her daughter Kia's experience at a computer science summer camp. Bryant noticed that her daughter was the only black girl enrolled at the camp. In addition, her daughter felt that she and the other girls at the camp were not given the same amount of attention in the classroom as the boys had received. Bryant, who began her career in a diverse biotechnology field, wanted girls like her 12-year-old daughter to have the same experiences as anyone else. "That's when the issues came together personally and professionally," Bryant said. "I didn't want [Kia] to be unmotivated and [...] feel like she couldn't learn these skills or thrive because of the attention she got in class."

Read more on techrepublic.com

---

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Computer Science Education Pushes "Hour of Code" in Month of December with Online Coding Tutorials

**HOUR OF CODE**

The move toward integrating computer science into school curricula is gaining momentum, and Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-13) is aiming to energize this trend with the Hour of Code. Last year, this global movement reached more than 100 million students in 180 countries. The concept behind Hour of Code is simple: try learning to code for just one hour. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event, and anyone from ages 4 to 104 can try the one-hour tutorials, which are available in 40 languages. This year the Hour of Code set a goal of 100,000 events worldwide, with new tutorials and prizes.

ACM (a partner of Code.org, a coalition of organizations dedicated to expanding participation in computer science) invites you to host an Hour of Code in your community and give students an opportunity to gain the skills needed for creating technology that's changing the world. Please post activities you are hosting/participating in, pass along this information, and encourage others to post their activities. Tweet about it at #HourOfCode.

Click for online tutorial

### Facebook App Notifies Safety to Loved Ones in Human Crises

After the devastating Nov. 13 Paris terrorist attacks, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced an update to the Facebook Safety Check app, which will now be activated for natural disasters and other serious incidents. This app feature allows Facebook users that their loved ones are safe as they "check in" on Facebook during disasters or crises. Zuckerberg stated: "Many people have rightfully asked why we turned on Safety Check for Paris but not for bombings in Beirut and other places. Until yesterday, our policy was only to activate Safety Check for natural disasters. We just changed this and now plan to activate Safety Check for more human disasters going forward as well." Read more on telegraph.co.uk

### Technology Being Created to Help with the 'Wandering Mind' For Better Focus

According to recent research at the University of Notre Dame, the human mind wanders 20 percent to 40 percent most of the time. Sidney D'Mello, an assistant professor of both psychology and computer science and engineering is collaborating with two of his colleagues, psychology professor James Brockmole and director of the Notre Dame Center for STEM Education, Matthew Kloser to work on a software system to detect when the mind wanders and how to get the mind to refocus. Their project is titled "Attention-Aware Cyberlearning to Detect and Combat Inattentiveness During Learning." Read more on news.nd.edu

---

## CYBER RISK ALERTS AND TRAINING

- SANS NewsBites : Vol. XVII - Issue #92 - November 24, 2015
- NetDiligence: Vol. 174 - November 3, 2015
- Homeland Security News Wire: Cybersecurity
- DHS Careers
- Department of Defense Website

---