TITLE:

Paths and Perspectives Through Graduate School

DESCRIPTION:

The leaders of this session are current graduate students and former students who have completed their graduate work within the last year. Some of us are married and some of us have children. Some of us attended graduate school immediately after finishing our undergraduate years, and some of us delayed graduate school. Some of us work in traditional research groups, and some of us have worked outside of our department. All of us have all made graduate school work for us.

The purpose of this session is to facilitate a discussion about the concerns and challenges people face when considering graduate school and some ways to consider addressing these. Possible questions to be considered are:

- Should I work before going to graduate school?
- How can I have a family while attending graduate school?
- How do I know if I want a Master's degree or a Ph.D.?
- I need to work full-time while attending graduate school. Can I do that?
- I have interdisciplinary interests. Is computer science right for me?

AUDIENCE:

This session will be targeted to undergraduate students, people in industry considering graduate school, and beginning graduate students.

SESSION LEADERS:

Jay Aikat: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jay is a Ph.D. student in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research and teaching interests are in networking and distributed systems. Her recent publications include "The Effects of Active Queue Management on Web Performance", and "Variability in TCP Roundtrip Times". Jay has an undergraduate degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and a Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering. She led corporate and academic Information Technology (IT) teams for six years before starting her Ph.D. program. She enjoys the challenge of juggling her academic pursuits with caring for her two children, ages 6 and 1.

Shannon Pollard: Elon University

Shannon Pollard is a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University, specializing in Artificial Intelligence. She is currently an assistant professor at Elon University, where she is finishing her first year teaching. Her research interests include Natural Language Processing, complexity of Dialogue Systems, and Computer Science Education.

Kelly Van Busum: DePauw University

Kelly is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include assistive technology, educational technology, medical image analysis, and women in science issues. Kelly's undergraduate degree is in computer science and elementary education. She has several years of teaching experience at four-year universities, and has recently accepted a tenure-track position in Computer Science at DePauw University.

Angie Van Osdol: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Angie is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After finishing her undergraduate work at Purdue University, she worked for several years at Lucent Technologies. Her research interests include networking, operating systems, and embedded systems. After finishing her Master's degree, she plans to return to work at Lucent.

Michele Weigle: Clemson University

Michele is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Clemson University. Her research interests include TCP congestion control, Internet traffic measurement, and sensor networks. Michele received her B.S. in computer science from Northeast Louisiana University. After graduation, she entered graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she completed her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. While in school, Michele interned with several research labs, where she gained valuable industry experience.