College of Engineering and Computer Science

UCF

NEWS *from* THE DEAN

September 2021

HOSTING A PREMIER INTERNATIONAL EVENT...*VIRTUALLY*

As we move forward in Fall 2021, I remain inspired by many achievements made by faculty, staff and students this year.

Most notably, in August, UCF served as host university of the 2021 ICPC North America Championship and Programming Camp. Bringing this week-long international event to fruition was no small feat. In fact, it was two years in the making, involving our college staff and faculty, UCF administrators, generous sponsors and our ICPC partners. Originally planned to take place in the L3Harris Engineering Center on UCF's main campus, the training camp and competition were held virtually with nearly 150 of the continent's elite computing students, trainers and coaches from the U.S. and Canada attending. Congratulations to all the teams – including UCF's team – who will advance to the 2021 ICPC World Finals. **See the story here**.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to us and explore ways we can work together to make a difference for our students and continue to push our research to the outer limits. Visit our website at cecs.ucf.edu to explore our college, and feel free to join my network on LinkedIn.

Have a great Fall 2021 semester and **Charge On, Knights**.

Michael Georgiopoulos, Ph.D.
Dean

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 30, 2021**
  Fall 2021 Senior Design Virtual Showcase

- **Dec. 3, 2021**
  Fall 2021 Senior Design Live Finals and Networking Reception

- **Feb. 17, 2022**
  UCF Technology Ventures Symposium (virtual)

NEW LEADERSHIP
FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

This summer, Yan Solihin, Ph.D., became interim chair of the Department of Computer Science; and Murat Yuksel, Ph.D., became interim chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. They replaced Gary Leavens, Ph.D., former CS chair; and Zhihua Qu, Ph.D., former ECE chair, who both served as department chairs since 2010 and remain at UCF to teach and pursue research.

Yan Solihin, Ph.D., Interim Chair Department of Computer Science

Dr. Solihin joined UCF in 2018 as a Charles Millican Professor of Computer Science and the director of the Cyber Security and Privacy Cluster. Previously he was a professor of electrical and computer engineering at North Carolina State University and a program director at the National Science Foundation. Since 2018, the UCF Cyber Security and Privacy Cluster has brought in more than $13 million in external funding and has doubled the number of doctoral students advised. Solihin also led efforts to create the new master's degree in Cyber Security and Privacy, which began this fall. The Department of Computer Science has 4,000 students. Its 40+ faculty bring in an average of about $9.8 million in research funding annually. The department has achieved national recognition with student teams that consistently excel in national and international competitions. Dr. Solihin holds a Ph.D. in computer science from the university of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an IEEE Fellow, NSF CAREER awardee and a member of ISCA and HPCA Halls of Fame.

Murat Yuksel, Ph.D. Interim Chair Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Yuksel joined UCF in 2016 from the University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Computer Science and Engineering where he was a graduate director and faculty member. His research focus areas include networked, wireless and computer systems, and he is known for his work in mobile optical wireless communication and networking systems. At UCF, he directs the Networking and Wireless Systems Lab.

As interim chair, he now oversees a nationally-ranked department with more than 2,000 students and 40+ faculty members who bring in an approximate average of $10.4 million in new research funding annually. Dr. Yuksel holds a Ph.D. in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a senior member of IEEE, senior and life member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM).

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