



Computer Science



Dear alumni, colleagues, and friends,

Greetings from computer science at Missouri S&T!

Seventeen years ago, I started my career at Missouri S&T as the first computational geophysicist in the history of the university. This academic year, I am honored to serve as interim chair of computer science (CS) alongside our outstanding students, faculty and staff. I would like to thank Dr. Samuel Frimpong, who stepped down after two years as interim chair on Aug. 31, for his great contributions to the department.

Last fall, CS saw a groundbreaking 26% increase in enrollment, with 92 new non-thesis master's students enrolled. With approximately 850 students (including about 300 CS-bound students in the freshmen engineering program), CS continues to have the second-highest enrollment among all S&T programs.

As exciting as this is, 2022 was met with many challenges due to the pandemic and departures of several faculty who contributed greatly to our department. These departures resulted in heavy teaching and service loads on the remaining faculty members, who are all dedicated and hardworking citizens of the department and university.

Our primary focus this year is to increase the number of our teaching and research faculty. Thanks to strong support from the College of Engineering and Computing and Missouri S&T, CS is the university's only hiring emphasis this year. We are conducting multiple searches to fill six faculty and permanent department chair positions, including two fully

endowed positions – the Kummer Endowed Department Chair and the Cynthia Tang Missouri Distinguished Professorship in Cybersecurity. The endowments total more than \$4 million and are funded primarily by alumni donations.

As we dive into 2023, I'm certain the CS department will continue to thrive. Thank you for your continuous support to retain and recruit outstanding faculty and staff to the department. Please keep in touch and work with us to elevate CS to the next level!

Warm regards,



Stephen S. Gao, Ph.D.

Interim Chair, [Computer Science](#)



Computer Science has new interim chair

On Sept. 1, **Stephen Gao** became interim computer science chair. He brings a strong record of teaching, research and service to the role.

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Student organizations provide hands-on learning opportunities

Our local chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) includes several active and enthusiastic student organizations. We've outlined their competitions, workshops and other activities to let you know what they've accomplished this year.

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New Curators' Distinguished Professor

Sajal Das, professor of computer science and the Daniel St. Clair Endowed Chair at Missouri S&T, has been named a Curators' Distinguished Professor by the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

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Got talent?

We're looking for outstanding faculty to help us grow and continue to provide excellent education for our students. Here are the current positions we're looking to fill.

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McMillin named honorary academy member

Bruce McMillin, former chair and professor emeritus of computer science, was named an honorary member of the Academy of Computer Science. Read on for news of all the honorees.

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Students calling soon

The annual support that we receive from our alumni and friends truly enhances our student's experience at Missouri S&T. In the coming weeks, a student will call you. We hope that you take this chance to hear more about campus happenings and to [give](#) in support of our educational mission in computer science. We appreciate your sustained interest and support and look forward to building a bright future!

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