

CIS and CS JobSpark Report, Fall, 2021

The Romain College of Business (RCOB) CIS and CS programs were invited by Ms. Debbie Garrison, CIS of Berry Global and sponsor, to participate in this year's technology part of Junior Achievement's virtual JobSpark (<https://swindiana.ja.org/events/ja-jobspark>) event, Nov. 16-17, 2021. JobSpark is a hands-on career exploration program for students in grades 8-12 that exposes them to different career paths. Students from the region learned about RCOB Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Computer Science (CS) programs. The four colleagues who participated, including Dr. Xue Han, Ms. Jiaying Liu, Mr. Josh McWilliams, and Mr. Kasra Pourang, were able to connect with the students individually. In addition to learning what they might study if interested in CS and CIS, students learned about real-world experiential client projects taken in the capstone course. Highlights of past projects included game development, web presences for small businesses and non-profits, as well as embedded development on microcontrollers. These presentations made CIS and CS career paths tangible to prospective students. These topics generated a great deal of interest in the students, and they actively participated in the Q & A.

Dr. Xue Han, Assistant Professor of CS

The HelloWorld project is a series of small programs.

It is used to inspire and encourage students to make a simple project more interesting and exciting.

The "Hello World" program is often the first program you write when learning a programming language.

This program prints "Hello World" on the computer screen. The HelloWorld Project shows a few variations of the "Hello World" program.

Feel free to contribute to this project: <https://github.com/xha225/HelloWorld>.

Ms. Jiaying Liu, Instructor of CIS

Data visualization is becoming increasingly important because it enables knowledge compression, allowing an enormous amount of information to be packed into a small space. The video shows how information design can help us get through the information glut, and how simple charts can show patterns by using examples including Moneyball, NBA, and Pokémon.

Mr. Josh McWilliams, Instructor of CIS

Josh McWilliams, Instructor of Computer Information Systems, presented about both the USI Computer Science (CS) and Computer Information Systems (CIS) degrees, and walked them through some examples of projects completed as part of the senior capstone course. This course represents the culminating event in the undergraduate career of a CS or CIS student, in which both disciplines come together to work in teams on projects for real-world clients or to further their own ideas. Examples of past projects are many but include video game development, mobile application development, web presence for startups or non-profit businesses, and many others.

Mr. Kasra Pourang, Instructor of CIS

Mr. Pourang presented about artificial intelligence (AI). To begin, he briefly introduced the general field of artificial intelligence and mentioned how it is used in everyday activities. Next, he discussed tools that are used to teach machines (i.e., robots) how to think and become intelligent. This sparked the question of whether machines would awaken one day and take over the world. In response to that question, he demonstrated how machines are rewarded when they do a good job and punish them when they do a bad one. His presentation ended with a discussion of how AI examples are used in the USI's business analytics courses.