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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Information Technology News" (2019). *Information Technology News*. 55. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/information-tech-news-online/55>

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[Record-Breaking: IT Graduates in 2018-19](#)

August 27, 2019

The B.S. in Information Technology program hit a record-high graduation rate in 2018-19, graduating a total of 201 students, almost doubling the previous year. “In general, all departments in the College of Engineering and Computing saw increases of graduates from last year; our IT program is especially honored to have made the greatest contribution by graduating the most across all departments,” said Dr. Ji, Professor and Chair of the IT department.

Similarly, our Master’s program also produced significantly more graduates, increasing from 7 (in 2017-18) to 12 (in 2018-19). Many of our recent graduates are with Fortune 500 companies, such as Intel and Cisco, with starting salaries ranging from \$80K in Atlanta to over \$110K in Oregon. “We are receiving a significantly increased number of applications and giving significantly more admissions this year. The projection is quite promising despite the program transition and university consolidation processes,” said Dr. Chen, the MSIT Graduate Program Director, “We expect to receive more applications for Spring 2020.”

Technology is creating massive and radical transformations to our lives, and more importantly, the way consumers and businesses interact. Skilled computer and information technology professionals are highly sought in every job sector, including sciences, engineering, social sciences, and business. Education in IT is becoming even more critical for career success in the future. In fact, thanks to the new and emerging applications of cybersecurity, data science, and the Internet of Things, jobs in computer and information technology fields are projected to grow at a much higher rate than the average among all other occupations. Interested students are welcome to visit our IT homepage and contact us for enrollment and participation.

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[IT Professors Ready to Offer New Cybersecurity Courses](#)

August 27, 2019

Congratulations to Professors Frank Katz and Elizabeth Rasnick for completing the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Configuration (CIC) training. They are now authorized to teach any or all of the content associated with the CIC courses as well as courses in a) Cybersecurity Foundation, b) Cybersecurity Gateway, and c) Cybersecurity Essentials.

“We are thrilled to complete the entire CIC training during the summer; we are even happier to be able to offer one or some of the Foundation, Gateway, and Essentials courses to our Georgia Southern Students.” Said Mr. Katz. “Our cyber education is uniquely suited for economic development and community outreach for the entire coastal region of Georgia and beyond. We, therefore, welcome every student with a diverse educational background to join our program and become a future leader in the cybersecurity workforce.” Dr. Rasnick further addressed, “Our cybersecurity program also offers scholarships and internships to qualified students.”

The IT Department, as a part of the Center for Applied Cyber Education, offers three nationally recognized cybersecurity programs to interested students from all three campus sites, including Armstrong, Liberty, and Statesboro. The three cybersecurity programs include a) Bachelor of Information Technology, Cybersecurity Specialization, b) IT Cybersecurity Minor, and c) IT Cybersecurity undergraduate certificate. All three cybersecurity programs are accredited by the National Security Agency as an NSA Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (NSA-CAE/CDE).

As a former US Army Combat Engineer Officer, Mr. Katz also had twenty-one years of IT experience in the industry before joining the university in 2002. He has been a major leader in cybersecurity education since then; in fact, he is a life member of the Military Cyber Professionals Association, which is an organization dedicated to developing military cyber professionals through STEM education initiatives at West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy, and civilian universities throughout the United States.

Dr. Rasnick received her Ph.D. in 2016 from the Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to her Ph.D, she had several years of experience as a programmer analyst in industry. She has taught a variety of IT courses since she joined the IT Department at Georgia Southern. Dr. Rasnick’s research focuses on the impact of information disruptions on supply chain systems, educational methodologies of minority students in STEM fields and cyber security education. Dr. Rasnick also serves as the faculty advisor for the Chapter of Women in Technology (WIT) at Georgia Southern. She is also an i2STEMe faculty affiliate.

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