Taking Internet Staffing to the Next Level

The Center for Advanced Human Resource Studies (CAHRS), a world-class partnership between industry and academia, is devoted to global human resource management.

This past spring, CAHRS welcomed company sponsors, including Sony, Shell, and SUN, to its biannual research meeting with Cornell faculty. Internet recruiting and staffing, direction, and innovation in the following areas were discussed:

- Recruitment and selection in an era of layoffs,
- Competition for highly technical people,
- Employment and product branding research,
- Strategies for staffing globally, and international perspectives on Internet branding,
- Development of Internet recruitment and Internet law.

The CAHRS partnership provides opportunities for human resource personnel to work directly with Cornell students, participate in leading research initiatives, engage in unique executive development opportunities, tap into world-class libraries and research, and enhance a company’s visibility at Cornell.

CCMR Welcomes New Industrial Outreach Officer

Henrique Santos has been appointed Industrial Outreach Officer of the Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR). The position, created with funds from the State Office of Governor George Pataki, will connect New York companies with Cornell researchers and facilities in developing, improving, and enlarging technical interchange and partnerships.

Santos earned an M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from Case Western University and an M.B.A. from Case Western Weatherhead School of Management. Formerly employed by Keithley Instruments, Microchemical Systems and Corecomm LTD in Cleveland, Santos brings more than seven years of experience with new business and product development.

Pfeffer Named Associate Director

Max J. Pfeffer has been named Associate Director of the Cornell Center for the Environment (CfE). He will work to identify, initiate, and support linkages between the environmental research and outreach functions of the center. In addition, as a member of the Executive Committee of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, he will play a major role in determining the function, position, and structure of CfE relative to university and college programs.

Pfeffer will continue teaching in the Department of Rural Sociology, where he has been a faculty member since 1993. He will also continue ongoing long-term research projects that explore conflicts of values and interests in environmental management, specifically in the management of the NYC and Susquehanna watersheds and protected areas in Central America.

Esch Serves as Biology Nanofabrication Liaison

The Cornell Nanofabrication Center (CNF) is pleased that Mandy Esch joined the staff this year. Her responsibility is to serve as a liaison between biomedical and biophysics researchers and CNF facilities. She works directly with users in biological research to plan and implement microfabrication processes, advising them on the capabilities of CNF instrumentation.

Esch received her B.S. in Biology and, in 1998, her M.S. in biotechnology and biochemistry from the Julius-Maximilians-Universität, in Würzburg, Germany. Esch is currently completing her Ph.D. and is researching the development of microchip biosensors for optical and electrochemical detection of DNA.

Patrick M. Wright, CAHRS Director
NSF Funds New Center

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced that Cornell will be the home of a Center for Nanoscale Systems (CNS) in Information Technologies. The director of the center, Robert A. Buhrman, the John Edson Sweet Professor of Engineering in the School of Applied and Engineering Physics, will oversee a broad program of research in nanoscale electronics, photonics, and magnetics, with direct impact on future high-performance electronics, information storage, communications, and sensor technologies. Cornell’s grant, the largest of the six awarded by the NSF, totals $11.6 million over five years. Additional matching support is being provided by the New York State Office of Science, Technology, and Academic Research. Strong collaborations with industrial and governmental laboratory scientists are a key aspect of the center’s research and educational outreach strategies.

CTC

Supercomputing Offered to Financial Services Industry

The Cornell Theory Center (CTC) and Microsoft Corporation launched expanded services for the finance industry through CTC’s new role as a Windows Cluster Solutions Provider. The services help the finance industry to take advantage of Windows-based enterprise scale computing solutions, including the option to scale up new applications on servers with up to 32 processors and mainframe-like reliability and to scale out networked applications through component clustering services.

Based at the Microsoft-supported CTC-Manhattan location, the “aim is to provide our clients with innovative solutions in computational finance,” says Thomas F. Coleman, a Cornell computer scientist and director of CTC. Consulting, software development, education and training, and special events for finance industry professionals will also be offered.

James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health

Gene Therapy Restores Vision to Dogs

Researchers at the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health have restored vision to dogs blinded by an inherited retinal degenerative disease by treating them with genes from healthy dogs. This marks the first successful gene therapy for blindness in a large animal. The disease, congenital stationary night blindness, is similar to a childhood disease called Leber congenital amaurosis, which results in early vision loss, degeneration of the retinas, and near-total blindness later in life. Gregory M. Acland, a Cornell research veterinarian, reminds that “many safety and efficacy studies must be performed before we can begin clinical trials,” but holds out hope that gene therapy could correct vision in humans with RPE65 gene defects.

NBTC

NBTC Appoints New Staff, Shares Recent Advances

Barbara A. Baird, a leading researcher of the allergic immune response system at the molecular level and professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, has been appointed director of the Nanobiotechnology Center (NBTC). She succeeds Harold Craighead, the founding director, who has been named interim Dean of Engineering. Other recent changes at the NBTC include the appointment of Graham Kerslick as the Associate Director.

The NBTC recently hosted a well-attended meeting at the Weill Cornell Medical College in NYC. Participants from Rockefeller, Sloan-Kettering, other educational institutions, and industry enjoyed the opportunity to learn of recent advances in the field from researchers at Cornell, the Wadsworth Center, Princeton, Oregon Health Sciences University, and other institutions associated with the center.

For more information: contact individual faculty members using the Cornell Electronic Directory at http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/ or (607) 255-2000; or find directory information for specific centers at http://www.osp.cornell.edu/VPR/CenterDir/CenterDir.html