



Science of Information Summer School 2011

June 14, 2011. Written by Brent Ladd, Director of Education



The Center's inaugural summer school brought together students and faculty from ten universities and achieved the primary goals for the school. Students gained a broad understanding of the emerging field of science of information, while establishing connections with one another and the Center's faculty.

The four day intensive included ten surveys and tutorials spanning the breadth of the Center's research thrusts. Students learned new tools and applications in daily laboratory offerings.

"I learned what information really is, as it was a vague concept I took for granted before the summer school. Specifically, I learned about how information science should be studied from a multi-disciplinary approach. I learned new things in disciplines I had not studied before. I also learned about graduate schools and different programs/departments that might be of interest to me in the future from talking to professors and students." ~ Student participant

Students gave high ratings for their experiences at the school, with lectures receiving an overall 4.57, and laboratories a 4.0 on a scale of 5. Extra-curricular activities helped students to get to know one another through a tour of the Envision Center for Data Perceptualization, and a bowling-pizza party one evening.

One of our goals was to involve underrepresented and minority students. The school included twelve female and twelve male students, five minority students, as well as three minority faculty.

One area most students would like us to improve on is how individual faculty research topics are connected to science of information as a whole. Related to this, and an important outcome from the school is that students met one another, shared ideas, and learned about Center faculty research. They now are looking for opportunities to collaborate. A long term outcome will be to bring together focused teams of students (and faculty advisors) to work on interdisciplinary problems related to the Center research areas. Stay tuned!

Additional comments from students participants included:

"This is one of the best organized summer schools that I have been to."

"Great Summer School! I am very glad I was able to attend."

"Thank you for all the efforts put into this fantastic week!"

"Great job! Thanks for the opportunity to participate."

All lectures and labs are available to view on our summer school page:
<http://soihub.org/summerschool>

