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Executive Summary

The ISA Mission

The Information Systems Association is an organization at the University of Colorado Denver dedicated to promoting interest in the information systems field of study. The organization strives to bring unique information systems events, networking opportunity, and tours of top organizations for students of any major. It is at these events that students have the chance to hear the perspectives of those experienced in their future industries. It is the goal of the ISA to provide students with the opportunity to gain competitive edge in their fields through participation in the ISA events. The organization works closely with the faculty of the university to insure high quality events and activities for our members and participants to partake.

Goals

❖ Creating continuity between officers and members
❖ Coordinate with I.S. faculty, alumni and professionals
❖ Engage students through events, tours, and projects

Overview

The Information Systems Student Association is UCD’s organization for students interested in information systems and careers in the tech industry. The Association works closely with UCD’s Information Systems faculty and the Business Career Connections at the UCD business school. We strive to provide a variety of opportunities to enable ISA members to pursue both academic success and career opportunities within the Information Systems field.

Upholding the ISA’s mission to provide a variety of opportunities to enable its members to pursue both academic success and career opportunities within the Information Systems field, the ISA officers and members continue to dedicate their efforts in promoting the professional development of the members and the university student body.

The ISA is a self-supporting student group, which receives approximately $1500 from the University of Colorado Denver Student Organizations, which goes towards catering expenses for our large annual ‘Become a Business Leader with an EDGE’ event. Other funding is provided by the CITI board who we work with directly, with Dr. Jahangir Karimi as our liaison for all communication.

Dr. Jiban Khuntia has provided great counsel as the faculty advisor for the ISA in the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. He has worked closely with the organization as an advisor and has become a mentor to many Information Systems students who are not officially officers. The ISA continues to work closely with Program Director, Linda Theuss-Lee, to assist with all aspects of
event planning and implementation. Linda is always a crucial piece of the success behind our ‘Become a Leader with an EDGE’ panel event along with Dr. Jahangir Karimi (head of the Information Systems department at CU Denver).

The ISA’s ultimate goal is to provide members with the opportunity to gain networking and opportunities to jump start their career in the Information Systems field. The ISA officers and members actively promote the club in a professional environment. The ISA focuses on providing events and tours in the Greater Denver area for members to provide a platform to network with industrial professionals. Also, the ISA embraces the ideas of providing its members the ability to take charge and get involved for pursuing and organizing career-related activities they hold interests in. Many of the companies who we brought in for discussions were chosen based on requests from students to network with them and ultimately get a connection within the company. We as leaders of the Information Systems seek to empower students to pursue their goals and passions. The ISA officers and faculty advisor are proud of our collaborative work and will continue striving to make a sizeable impact that we can show others what the club is about.

Sincerely,

Varun Khurana
President, Information Systems Association (Spring 2018)
The University of Colorado Denver

Officers: Nikhil Prasanna (Chief Finance Officer, 2017-2018), Rajendra Karikalan (Marketing Head, 2017), Tejas Jhadav (Communications Head, 2017)
Professional Development

At the core of ISA is the mission to support the professional development of our members. The association continuously strives to provide a variety of opportunities to enable its members to pursue both academic success and career opportunities within the information systems field. The ISA performs this duty by exposing the members to a variety of career opportunities through the use of speakers, company tours, and other related events. Furthermore, the ISA welcomes professionals from the public and private sectors, as well as those in government to come and share their knowledge and expertise within the field of their given careers and industries.

During the 2017-2018 school year the ISA upheld our mission to support our members professional development needs by conducting speaker and panel events, providing opportunities for internships and employment, conducting career workshops and industry collaborated events. During the events members engaged with industry professionals, exploring the expert knowledge and perspectives of the speakers towards various technology and business topics. Moreover, the members were given an opportunity to network with the speakers and build professional relationships that may help the members in their continued career endeavors.

Community Service

Community service continues to be a growing effort for the ISA. As in the past, we are focused on raising awareness to build character within our student body and surrounding educational institutes. In the following year, the ISA will go beyond educating and food donations and look for opportunities to provide expanded information systems management services to those in need.

Fundraising

The ISA continues to seek fundraising activities in an effort to support the club’s financial needs. Our newly appointed chief financial officer is in-charge of fundraising, so we can get more money for the club. The fundraised money is used to support and fulfil ISA’s mission. The money from Student Government Association also supports other UCD student bodies as an educational experience. Its goal is to provide more funds to the club to support our mission and its constructive efforts. As our officers get more experience in this area, our fundraising efforts should prove more productive in the near future.
Membership

The members of ISA share the following values and beliefs:

❖ That professional and academic integrity are essential components of quality education, research, and practice
❖ That free and open discourse and interaction among students, faculty, and professionals are essential to the development and evaluation of new ideas, and the improvement of professional practice in the field.
❖ That respect, understanding and tolerance with respect to the diverse beliefs and interests of others are necessary to achieve beneficial interactions among students, faculty, and professionals
❖ That open governance, broad-based participation, and continuous improvement in the quality of association services are critical to achieving the mission of ISA

We continually promote our organization amongst various international and domestic students. We have the one of the highest number of International students enrolled on campus to our organizations. We increased our recruiting efforts this year through increased attendance at University sponsored tabling events etc. As in past years one of our most successful recruiting methods has been directly visiting IS classrooms, and with the permission of the professors, giving our pitch and an informational brochure to students.

Communications and Marketing

The ISA continues to provide social media outlets and a newly revamped club blog for members and the public to stay current with news, events, online training and other career related opportunities.

MyLynx

MyLynx is a platform provided by the Office of Student Life, which is the main oversight organization within the University of Colorado Denver for student organization activities, funding etc. Orgsync has been replaced by MyLynx that allows us to have students on an email list and join as members to keep up to date on job postings and events that we are holding. MyLynx in conjunction with Facebook and our WordPress blog are our primary sources of member communication.

WordPress Blog

We use the University allotted WordPress blog to act as our website. It is the origin of most of our public communications and promotion of events. Today’s members demand multiplatform communication standards; consequently, the ISA provides a page on all the major social media platforms and WordPress allows virtually seamless integration with our plethora of social media platforms. The blog provides internship and job postings, events, and information about the ISA. Posting here automatically posts on Facebook and Twitter to share with our followers.
**Facebook Page**
Our Facebook page is the primary social media outlet that we use to promote our events. The association uses Facebook to push announcements and reminders to members via news feeds. In addition, the ISA Facebook account is linked to the RSS feed from the association’s website, automatically updating the Facebook page.

**Twitter Page**
Twitter offers the ISA a unique path for electronically broadcasting the associations’ announcements to the greater university community. As with Facebook, the ISA Twitter account is linked to the RSS feed for the ISA website. Research has found that the ISA tweets are regularly re-tweeted by the associations’ members and the universities’ greater Twitter community.

**LinkedIn Group**
Similar to Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+ pages also work as communication and reaching media.

**Google +**
ISA has realized that a strong benefit of being present in different platforms makes its goals and activities to reach to the community irrespective of their platform presence. For example, Google pages reach to the Google savvy users.

**Careers in “IS”**
The ISA has a fundamental belief in helping our members make vital connections within the IT area of expertise, while the members and students complete their business degrees. The ISA continues to open doors for students that will lead to future careers within our local business community. We have won the award for our outstanding efforts in the category of “Careers in IS” for the last few years because of our commitment to facilitate the connection between employers who are seeking Information Systems students, and the students who don’t know where to look for those opportunities!

Our networking and speaker events including several workshops have benefitted students in grabbing -

- 3 Full Time Positions in Fortune 500 Companies
- 5 Summer Internships for Summer 2018
- Over 200+ students networking with 10 or so potential employers interested in IS skillsets
Events

Event 1: Fall Semester Networking Social & Tabling

Our Fall welcome social was held to attract new members and strengthen the social bonds between current members. We found that increasing the number of social events, where there wasn’t a strict agenda besides having fun and getting to know other members of the organization, helped to boost overall morale and event attendance.

We hope to continue this practice and our president has made it his personal mission to stress this to the president-elect. The only way to strengthen the student community is by giving people a place where they can not only advance their career but make friends and potentially future colleagues in the process!

Event 2: ISA - Business Career Connections “Career Essential” Workshop

The CU Denver ISA and BCC (Business Career Connections) co-hosted “Career Essential” Workshop to learn In-Demand industry skill sets, minimize potential gaps and improve the “elevator pitch” to be ready for future opportunities and other similar networking events.

Presented By:
- Stephanie A. Sindt,
  Career Advisor,
  Business Career Connections, CU Denver Business School
Event 3: 12th Annual 'Become a Business Leader with an EDGE'

The annual ‘Become a Business Leader with an EDGE’ panel event is our “success, pride and joy”. It is an opportunity for us to showcase speakers from various career paths in the field of Information Systems and IT and a great networking opportunity to spike students interest in the Information Systems Association and the Information Systems program through the Business School. We consistently get positive feedback on the quality of the discussions that ensue between panelists and the overall information provided at this event. Our Graduate and Undergraduate students get direct benefits of Summer Internships and full-time opportunities by embracing and following up with the panelists. We also get lots of compliments on delicious food!
This year’s panelists included:

❖ Alan Cullop, CIO and SVP at DaVita Inc.
❖ Judy Batenburg, SVP of IT Services, Starz
❖ Yvette Connor, CRO, Focal Point Data Risk
❖ Gail Coury, VP of Risk Management, Oracle
❖ Albert Kendrick, CIO, FirstBank
❖ Sam Kumar, President, Newcloud Networks

Presenter:
❖ Randy Guthrie, Microsoft Technical Evangelist

Moderator:
❖ Ted Hellmuth, Founder and General Manager of IQ Clarity.

Here is a blurb from the official write-up from the event which was published through the CU Denver Newspaper and on the school’s main website:

“*The night began with a special presentation by Randy Guthrie, Microsoft Technical Evangelist, on what makes a career great and the current IT job market.* Guthrie stated:

❖ *The jobs in the most demand are telecommunications engineers, computer application developers, and computer/software engineers.* – Bureau of Labor Statistics
❖ *There are currently 27,498 unfilled positions at Microsoft due to underqualified people in the job market.*

Our officer team spearheaded the note taking efforts and took exquisite photos of the event, so that the write-up would highlight the event for the magical experience that it was! Some of the photos of the event can be seen below.
Photos from the Event:

Special Presentation by Randy Guthrie, Microsoft Technical Evangelist, on what makes a career great and the current IT job market

Jahangir Karimi (Head of the Information Systems dept.) welcomes the audience and introducing our moderator Ted Hellmuth
Panelists of 12th Annual “Become a Business Leader with An Edge”
The event was hosted at St. Cajetan’s.
It was full packed!

Great shot of the Officers, Faculty Advisers, IS Faculty, Student Volunteers and Panelists!

Read the official CU Denver Write-Up about our 2017 EDGE Event Here!
For more information on the ongoing success of our Annual Panel Event you can read more here!
Event 4: How to Land a Career at VMWare Working in the Cloud

Event Description:
❖ VMWare, one of Fortune's best places to work, is coming to CU Denver give students the inside scoop on what they are looking for in prospective employees.

VMWare Representative says: “We are hosting the Technical Support Manager for Cloud Management in Global Support Services at VMware”

“It’s always so good to see young, enthusiastic and passionate IS folks!”

Event 5: Spring Semester Welcome Social

Event Description:
❖ A social gathering of 50+ IS members including new and existing students (members).
❖ Such team building exercises increase morale of the whole team and attracts new students to join ISA.
Event 6: Blockchain Technology – World’s Leading Digital Asset

Event Description:
- Learn about the emerging technology of blockchain from subject matter expert Julie Tracy Lockwood of IBM.

Here's a great video to get you started: https://laughingsquid.com/blockchain-expert-explains-the-concept/

Event 7: Cyber Security: A Business Risk, not an IT problem

Event Description:
❖ Learn the important points of cyber security and international business from Robb Reck CISSP, CISO of Ping Identity
Event 8: CEO, Solix Technologies says “AI is the future”

Event Description:

❖ With rapid advancement of technology, a great disruption is caused. It’s time to embrace this and stay competitive in market.
❖ It’s important to understand importance of artificial intelligence for business.

“It is time to partner with machines and build the future.”
– Sai Gundavelli, CEO, Solix Technologies

Event 9: Spring Member Meeting – Data Mining and its application

❖ This event/workshop was hosted to invite new ISA members and spread awareness about its existence. The workshop was joined by 25 graduate and 10 undergraduate students. An interesting discussion on Data Mining and its application areas was discussed.
❖ More than 70% of feedbacks received were satisfied with content shared and points discussed.

Event 10: ISA - Mendix Collaboration

❖ Mendix is a no-code application development platform available free for use of professors and students. The platform and its underlying components can be used to enhance students learning of core coding concepts while providing them with platform to develop/build real working applications.
❖ ISA is looking forward to host Mendix workshop to teach IS students on “How To Build Applications” without much coding background!
# Calendar of Events

## Events – 2017-2018

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event / Activity</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 25, 2018</td>
<td>Mendix – ISA Collaboration</td>
<td>Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28, 2018</td>
<td>Cyber Security: A Business Risk, not an IT problem</td>
<td>Speaker Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14, 2018</td>
<td>Blockchain Technology – World’s Leading Digital Asset</td>
<td>Speaker Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3, 2018</td>
<td>Spring Semester Member Meeting - Data Mining and its application area</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
<td>CEO, Solix Technologies says “AI is the future”</td>
<td>Networking, Speaker Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 2018</td>
<td>Spring Welcome Social</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2, 2017</td>
<td>How to Land a Career at VMWare Working in the Cloud</td>
<td>Networking, Speaker Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17, 2017</td>
<td>12th Annual 'Become a Business Leader with an EDGE'</td>
<td>Networking, Speaker Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12, 2017</td>
<td>Business Career Connections – ISA</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27, 2017</td>
<td>Fall Welcome Social</td>
<td>Team Building</td>
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## Budget/Financial Statement

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<tr>
<td>University Student Funding Grants</td>
<td>$1,350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations from CITI Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost for Fall Panel Event (Catering):</td>
<td>$1,350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catering for Spring 2018 Networking Event:</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association For Information Systems Membership Fees</td>
<td>$495.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
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This statement does not include a number of in-kind and sponsored events, lunches and gifts from our stakeholders. We would like to thank the AIS, all our sponsors, and especially the board members of Center for Information Technology and Innovation at the University of Colorado Denver Business School. They have been our ardent supporters. Further, we want to thank to the volunteers, office bearers and faculty who have spent unaccounted hours to make ISA events and other activities successful. A monetary evaluation of these supports are out of scope of this annual report; except our due gratitude to all of them.
Chapter Operations

Meetings

1. General meetings shall be held bi-weekly, or more frequently if required, at the call of any Executive Committee member. All ISA members are welcome to attend and attendance of all Executive Officers is required.
2. During general meetings, all seats will be filled of the Executive Committee. Proxy votes are not allowed.
3. If, at any time, no member of the Executive Committee is able or willing to call a general meeting at the request of the membership, any member may do so providing proper notice.

Executive Officers

Each officer holds accountability for their role and there are expectations and responsibilities. Each position was designed to help the organization function together as a whole. Officers team up with one another and other departments to work together on projects. Members are also expected to actively participate in assisting the clubs at related club functions. While officer responsibilities vary depending on the activities the club engages in, the officer positions are currently are: President, Vice President, C.F.O, Event Coordinator, Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Communications Officer. An IS faculty advised the officers and the chapter as a liaison between the discipline and the student body.

President and Vice President: The president prepares agendas, chair meetings, and coordinates activities of the association. The President is responsible for delegating and making sure all of the officers are staying current with their obligations to the association. The President also represents the association in the campus student activities board. The vice president helps the president in all the above activities.

C.F.O and Treasurer: The C.F.O and treasurer maintain all financial records of the association, including an accounting of all funds received and spent; as well as attending campus funding meetings and preparing campus association grant requests.
Chief Communications Officer: The VP Communications maintains the Twitter feed and Facebook group posts. The Chief Communications Officer assists with Designing fliers, managing the ISA website, and creating event posts, this officer advertises the club to students.

Project Manager(s): Event coordinator establishes and coordinates events sponsorships, communication with CITI, public organizations, or entities.

Executive Officer Transitions and Training

New ISA officers are chosen at the beginning of the fall semester at the first association meeting. In most cases the new officers volunteer for their positions at the end of the prior year. This allows new officers to get ready and be trained by the outgoing officer as needed. However, we feel it is important to wait for the start of the new academic year before electing the new officers so that the students voting on the officers are the ones that will be in the club during the officers' tenure. Any member of the ISA is eligible to vote for VP's and President. Moreover, members who have attended at least two general meetings during the prior semester are eligible to run for officer positions. On occasion we will have more than one person interested in a particular officer position and both people interested in the position are allowed to share the duties of that position. In those cases, the ISA will allow two individuals to hold a single position. Note: This is not allowed for either the President or Vice President position.

Event Planning

Based on the number of events we hold, we are constantly making iterations to our event planning processes to ensure to have a consistent protocol and making sure that every aspect of event planning is done in a uniform fashion across all events. Throughout the Spring 2018 semester we were able to hone on the process of event planning and this process will be well documented in our “transition-binder” that we’ve sustained since last year. All event planning and implementation was conducted by President Varun Khurana and other officers. We are improving our delegation process so that we can spread out the amount of work among Officers to ensure that cover all necessary aspects of event planning according to our newly created protocols!