The Center for Cyberspace Research (CCR), established in March 2002, conducts defense-focused research at the Master’s and PhD levels. The CCR is forward-looking and responsive to the changing educational and research needs of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the federal government. The CCR faculty teaches and performs research to understand and develop advanced cyber-related theories and technologies. These theory and technology advancements include efforts in network intrusion detection and avoidance, insider threat mitigation, and anti-tamper technologies development. On June 19, 2008 AFIT was designated by the SECAF and CSAF as the Air Force Cyberspace Technical Center of Excellence.

AFIT’s Center for Cyberspace Research (CCR) Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 Professional Continuing Education (PCE) team received the ISC² 2011 U.S. Government Information Security Leadership Award (GISLA) and Air University’s 2011 General Muir S. Fairchild Educational Achievement Award.

The GISLA team award was presented at the ISC² Inc. awards gala on October 18, 2011 in Washington, DC for demonstrated leadership in advancing and improving the information security workforce. The Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 PCE Team, led by Dr. Harold Arata III, CCR Associate Director, was recognized for delivering cybersecurity senior and master professional rating courses for the Air Force Space Command that enable a new cyber career force. They met the Herculean task of planning, establishing, and implementing these first-ever Air Force intermediate and advanced cyber security courses at a historic pace and graduated over 600 cyber operations professionals in the first fiscal year.

General Kehler, current USSTRATCOM Commander said it best as he addressed the graduates and all attendees at the inaugural Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 graduation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 2010.

“[The Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 courses] are a new cyber career force. They met the Herculean task of planning, establishing, and implementing these first-ever Air Force intermediate and advanced cyber security courses at a historic pace and graduated over 600 cyber operations professionals in the first fiscal year.”

The hosts for the GISLA awards gala, ISC² Inc., is a global, not-for-profit leader in educating and certifying information security professionals throughout their careers with a membership network of nearly 75,000 certified industry professionals worldwide. ISC² Inc. launched the GISLA program in 2004 to raise awareness of IT security executives who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the federal information security workforce.

This hallmark of quality continues with the PCE team also recently winning Air University’s 2011 General Muir S. Fairchild Educational Achievement Award. The Fairchild Award is given each year for the most significant contribution to Air University education or to Air Force education in general. The Fairchild Award was established in 1964 by the Order of Daedalians and was established to reward creative and outstanding achievement in military education.

“I could not be prouder or more impressed with the hard work, dedication to duty, and the professionalism that our Cyber 200/300 instructor cadre delivers day in and day out. CCR is truly keeping America strong, safe and free as it develops our Nations next generation of Cyber Operators.” Dr. Harold J. Arata III, Associate Director, Air Force Cyberspace Technical Center of Excellence.
Lt Commander Fomby is currently stationed at US Strategic Command. Cyber 200/300 Professional Continuing Education are senior and master cyber professional rating courses designed for all Department of Defense (DOD) cyberspace professionals, providing an understanding of the integration and application of cyberspace capabilities, as well as the design, development, and acquisition of cyberspace systems.

Dr. Richard Raines, Director, Center for Cybersecurity Research observed, “As the Air Force and DoD continue to grow its cyber workforce, courses like Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 allow for rapid assimilation to the cyber operational domain. Lt Commander Fomby’s completion of both Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 is a great example of opportunities to successfully grow and mature this workforce.”

Commander Fomby’s completion of Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 provided the understanding of where these issues fit into the greater joint fight. These classes have given me the background and understanding necessary to go into a joint position dealing with network operations, of any variety, with the confidence that I can meet the challenges and move forward providing the best support necessary to both my current future commanders.”

Dr. Michael L. Stamat is presently the Lead Cyberspace Strategist for the 624th Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, along with other industry leaders of cyberspace systems. was selected to participate in a Presidentially-directed cybersecurity asset vulnerability assurance (VIPER) research to the Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 courses. His efforts and direct contributions to technical, academic and research excellence in applied information security, his mission assurance and security education contributions within the US Department of Defense, and his contributions on editorial advisory board of the ISSA Journal since 2002.

Dr. Michael L. Grimalia was named as a Fellow of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) at the ISSA International Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on October 20, 2011. Dr. Grimalia was recognized for his lifetime contributions to technical, academic and research excellence in applied information security, his mission assurance and security education contributions within the US Department of Defense, and his contributions on editorial advisory board of the ISSA Journal since 2002.

Dr. Grimalia stated, “It is an honor to be recognized for my contributions in the information security discipline. So much of our personal lives, our economy, our infrastructure, and our national defense are dependent upon information and communications technologies; perhaps no time before in history has information security been more important to the safety and security of our way of life. It is my goal to educate and enable the next generation of security professionals to succeed in assuring their organizational mission.”

Dr. Grimalia joins a distinguished group of academic, industry, and government professionals recognized as Fellows by the ISSA. These distinguished individuals include Dorothy Denning, Alan Paller, Howard Schmidt, Bruce Schneier, and Eugene Spafford.

Other congratulations for the November 2012 CCR newsletter include

Cyrus Sohrabi, Visual Information Scientist, received the Top Performer Award from the ISSA Journal since 2002.

Dr. Michael R. Grimaila was named as a Fellow of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) at the ISSA International Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on October 20, 2011. Dr. Grimalia was recognized for his lifetime contributions to technical, academic and research excellence in applied information security, his mission assurance and security education contributions within the US Department of Defense, and his contributions on editorial advisory board of the ISSA Journal since 2002.

While at AFIT, Lt Stamat developed a novel cyber research testbed, known as VIPER, and ignited a joint service research effort focused on the Cyber Operations Center's Public-Key Infrastructure. His accomplishments garnered attention from the highest levels of national command and by the time he graduated, had delivered an innovative capability to the DOD. CCR routinely briefs his VIPER research to the Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 classes.

Lt Michael L. Stamat is presently the Lead Cyberspace Strategist for the 624th Operations Center located at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. His superior efforts culminated in his selection as 24th Air Force Company Grade Officer of the Year 2011 presented by Major General Suzanne M. Vautrinot. Lt Stamat was recently selected for a highly competitive three-year development program within the DOD.

Dr. Michael R. Grimalia was named as a Fellow of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) at the ISSA International Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on October 20, 2011. Dr. Grimalia was recognized for his lifetime contributions to technical, academic and research excellence in applied information security, his mission assurance and security education contributions within the US Department of Defense, and his contributions on editorial advisory board of the ISSA Journal since 2002.

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Dr. Grimalia, PhD, CISM, CISSP is an Associate Professor of Systems Engineering and a member of the Cyberspace Center for Research at AFIT.

Cyberspace Research Excellence Award Winner

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In addition to her academic program, Lt McMinn was selected to participate in a high visibility tasking for the Air Force. Based on her demonstrated expertise, she was chosen by her research advisor, Maj Jonathan Butts, to join him in participating in a Presidentially-directed cybersecurity asset vulnerability assurance (VIPER) research to the Cyber 200 and Cyber 300 courses. His efforts and direct contributions to technical, academic and research excellence in applied information security, his mission assurance and security education contributions within the US Department of Defense, and his contributions on editorial advisory board of the ISSA Journal since 2002.

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