October 28, 2016

Dear alumni:

It is with great pleasure that I share this news with you! Just this morning, the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees approved the creation of a new school, the **School of Computing and Information (SCI)**. SCI will include the Department of Computer Science and the School of Information Sciences. We will be leaving the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences as we create this new school, but this is an amazing opportunity for our department, the University, and the entire computer science community. We are the foundation of a new academic and research unit created to harness the power of both computing and information to help Pitt address some of today’s (and tomorrow’s) biggest challenges.

The new school, which will be formally introduced to the general public on July 1, 2017, will be home to degree programs that will produce graduates ready for next-generation computing. We will continue to offer our nationally-recognized degree programs: the BS Computer Science, MS Computer Science, and PhD programs, which have produced an outstanding workforce and countless thought leaders in the industry. We anticipate expanding our academic and hands-on learning opportunities in the future.

Pitt’s institutional strength and international reputation in data and computing research will be significantly enhanced by integrating our research programs. We will be unique in that our research will go beyond computer science or information science individually, to explore the contexts and domains in which they can have the most impact when combined. Our faculty and researchers at Pitt will transform the ways in which research and collaborations are conducted, and will undertake groundbreaking research in areas such as biomedical and health sciences, learning sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and digital humanities.

The Department of Computer Science hosts one of the oldest computer science departments in the world with its founding in 1966. This academic year, we will celebrate our Department’s 50th Anniversary, and we hope that you will join us as we honor our past and look forward to our future as part of the School of Computing and Information. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the department, its faculty and students, and our alumni and partners to build an intellectual hub for all things related to computing and information.

Today is just the first step and we will keep you updated as we move towards the formal launch of the school in July. More information can be found in the University’s official press release. I thank you for your support in the past and hope that we can continue to count on your generosity and enthusiasm in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Taieb Znati
Professor and Chair
Department of Computer Science