Dear Computer Science Students:

It is with great pleasure that I am letting you know that the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees officially approved the creation of the new School of Computing and Information (SCI) at this morning’s Trustees’ meeting. The School of Information Sciences and the Department of Computer Science are the first to join this new academic and research unit, which is further described in the University’s official press release.

The School of Computing and Information will provide an environment to foster enhanced, larger-scale computing and information related research, leading to new scientific discovery, deeper and broader education of undergraduate and graduate students, and a more significant impact on society. This is an amazing opportunity for 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.

SCI will continue to offer our nationally-recognized undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Computer Science and Information Science, which have produced an outstanding workforce and academic leaders around the world. We anticipate that SCI will enable us to enhance your education through expanded experiential learning opportunities, new collaborations and partnerships with Pitt departments, as well as other institutions and corporations, and extended career networks.

The new school will be home to incredibly rich, multidisciplinary research programs that will go beyond the traditional CS and IS fields of inquiry to explore the ways in which computing and information can advance every discipline. Our faculty and student researchers can change the ways in which research is conducted in other fields such as biomedical and health sciences, learning sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and the humanities. Our research will make it possible for experts in other domains to fight epidemics and chronic diseases, discover new planets or solar systems, build more energy efficient buildings, and protect people and even cities from digital disruption.

Today’s unanimous approval by the Board of Trustees represents the culmination of two years of planning and university review of the proposed school. The School will officially open on July 1, 2017, and the first class of students will be matriculated in Fall 2017.

The potential of the School of Computing and Information is limitless, as are the benefits to our faculty, staff, and students. This new school will represent the future of computing, the future of education, and the future of research at Pitt. Our university has established its excellence in the medical and engineering arenas: now, it will become internationally renowned for its signature strengths in computing and information.
We are thrilled to share this news with you, as well as to point you to a Web site that will provide more information. If you have any questions, please contact ug-office@cs.pitt.edu (for undergraduate students) or grad-office@cs.pitt.edu (for graduate students).

I look forward to seeing the School of Computing and Information come to life and to experiencing this exciting process with our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Taieb Znati
Professor and Chair
Department of Computer Science (soon to be School of Computing and Information)