

CROSS CONNECTIONS

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES (iSCHOOL)

The School of Information Studies (iSchool) recognizes the pervasiveness of information technologies in all areas of society—from business and communication to entertainment and medicine. The very nature of the information field requires multiple perspectives and must incorporate theory and research as well as practical applications.

Through interdisciplinary programs, academic initiatives, and world-class research centers, our students gain hands-on experience working through problems faced by businesses, organizations, and communities across the globe. Our faculty members investigate the ways individuals interact with information and communication technologies and find innovative solutions to improve those processes. Some examples include:

- **Center for Digital Literacy:** dedicated to understanding the impact of information, technology, and media literacies on children and adults
- **Center for Natural Language Processing:** advances the development of human-like language understanding software capabilities for government, commercial, and consumer applications
- **Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (Cotelco):** explores the socio-technical infrastructure required to support collaboration and knowledge work across geographical distances, particularly between developed and developing countries
- **Convergence Center:** examines the phenomenon of “digital convergence”—the profound changes in the structure of media caused by the emergence of digital technologies for representing, storing, and communicating information, as well as its impact on society and policies governing communications
- **Information Institute of Syracuse:** focuses on the intersection of education, technology, and librarianship and is dedicated to promoting easy access to high quality educational information to a diverse user population
- **Community and Information Technology Institute:** provides information technology and networking systems to portions of the community to create expanded opportunities for improved or new services
- **Syracuse Information Systems Evaluation Project:** applies the theories and research of social and information sciences to improve information security practices and information technology usage in organizations



Creating Significant Impact

Collaborative efforts reaching across academic boundaries to professional realms expose our students to a wider breadth of knowledge that better prepares them to be imaginative and productive leaders in the information field. Whether it's undergraduate students helping not-for-profit organizations through the service learning component of their capstone course, or the school's attempt to bridge the "digital divide" through the work of the Center for Digital Literacy, the iSchool is fully engaged in using the fruits of the information field to change lives for the better.

It takes more than bold ideas, however, to have a positive impact on the world. It requires significant financial resources that will enable the iSchool to seize collaborative opportunities when and where they arise. As part of The Campaign for Syracuse

University, the school seeks to raise \$3 million to create interdisciplinary programs, academic initiatives, and undergraduate research projects that will have a significant impact on our ability to educate information professionals who will push the boundaries of innovative thinking to make a real difference in the world.

To Learn More...

For more information on how you can support interdisciplinary teaching and research initiatives through a gift to the School of Information Studies, call **315.443.6139** or e-mail **pbrenner@syr.edu**.

To learn more about The Campaign for Syracuse University, visit **campaign.syr.edu**.

SCHOLARSHIP IN ACTION® ISCHOOL INCITES THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

iSchool students often have access to new technology and software before it is launched publicly. For example, in March 2008, Professor Lee McKnight and students in his Wireless Grids Lab launched a trial of a new software system that McKnight's young company, Wireless Grids Corp., developed. SU students living in Boland Hall played with the new software—Innovaticus—which allowed them to collaborate and share files and hardware with themselves or other people using a variety of devices across many different networks: Bluetooth, Wimax, Wi-Fi, etc.

McKnight's company was named to *Network World's* "Nine Wireless Companies to Watch in 2008," and received a \$75,000 Grant for Growth award from the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York Inc. to support the development of Innovaticus. The beta version of the software was shown at the 2008 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and received positive reactions from hopeful customers.



Lee McKnight (second from left) and Craig Watters, assistant professor of entrepreneurial practice at SU's Whitman School (fourth from left), discuss the new software system with students on the Innovaticus team.