

# Letters of Support



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HQ 754th ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS GROUP (AFMG)  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, GUNTER ANNEX, ALABAMA

15 May 2009

Mr. Gregory L. Garcia  
Director, 754th Electronic Systems Group  
409 East Moore Drive  
Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex AL 36114-3004

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write this letter of support for the much needed proposed Master of Science Degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. The need for this program is long overdue and will be the first in this area. However, a program of this caliber will reap huge benefits for Montgomery's area businesses, the surrounding areas, and especially the government's employees/service members seeking advance degrees in the security arena.

Today's cyber threats pose great security risks to our nation and its valued missions. Cyberspace and its associated technologies offer unprecedented opportunities to the United States and are vital to our nations security and, by extension, to all aspects of military operations. Yet, our increasing dependency on cyberspace, alongside a growing array of cyber threats and vulnerabilities adds a new element of risk to our national security. Consequently, these threats have driven our nation to become smarter and more security focused when dealing with data and we must start today by educating our future leaders of tomorrow.

Newspapers and other media publish daily the need to defend against a pervasive culture of cyber attacks in the private and public sectors. Therefore, by establishing this degree program, students entering and completing the proposed program will have the necessary skills and knowledge to manage secure information networks and quickly recognize/combat the threats to our computer systems.

Sincerely

GREGORY L. GARCIA, SES  
Director



12 May 2009

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

I am excited to write this letter of support for the proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. Alabama has long been in need of such a program, and the structure you're proposing is comprehensive, exceptionally well crafted, and aligns well with current and future workforce needs. Montgomery and the River Region are home to many businesses and military functions that are in great need of the graduates you will be developing.

As the CEO of an information security consulting firm based in Alabama, I have firsthand knowledge of the scope and severity of the information security problems we face. As a nation, we are simply not developing the requisite talent to defend our critical information infrastructure. I am excited at the prospect of central Alabama becoming a thought leader for our nation.

I am equally energized that we will have ready access to students with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to meet a critical knowledge worker shortage in this state. As the global economy continues to evolve from consumer/manufacturing to knowledge work, it is accepted that we must shift our economic development focus away from "concrete slabs and smokestacks" and move more quickly to embrace and lead the information economy. The economic impact of the Institute will undoubtedly be significant.

I applaud you for having the courage and completeness of vision to begin this journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is anything I can do to support the Institute.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Goldsby, CEO  
Integrated Computer Solutions, Inc.

# Carnegie Mellon

**Dena Haritos Tsamitis**  
Director, Information Networking Institute  
Director of Education, Training and Outreach, CyLab

**Information Networking Institute**  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4616 Henry Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-3890

Phone: 412-268-3297  
Fax: 412-268-7196  
Email: dena@cmu.edu

May 13, 2009

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

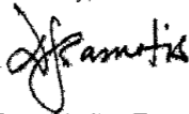
With this letter, I offer my sincere support for the proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security at Auburn University at Montgomery. New programs in information assurance are a welcome asset in higher education, as they address a growing need for professionals in the field that is nationwide.

As recent media coverage has reported, the President has reviewed the federal government's cybersecurity initiatives and increased funding to the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications. The demand is critical for professionals in information assurance as our country becomes increasingly dependent on communication networks. The proposed program in Cybersystems and Information Security would be a benefit to students who seek meaningful employment after graduation, as well as to the growing number of businesses who require employees with this expertise.

At Carnegie Mellon's Information Networking Institute, our graduating class in information networking and information security has repeatedly earned a 100% post-graduation placement rate, which is reflective of the high demand for professionals in the field. Furthermore, the federal government has supported our educational efforts. Carnegie Mellon receives federal funds to administer programs that aim to build capacity in information assurance, specifically the Scholarship for Service and the Information Assurance Capacity Building Program. By offering the proposed program, Auburn University at Montgomery would join the company of other forward-thinking institutions who are answering the call for information assurance education.

Threats to cyber security are on the rise and constantly changing. The proposed Cybersystems and Information Security program would equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage secure information networks and respond to these threats. I wholeheartedly support the development of such a program at Auburn University.

Sincerely,



Dena Haritos Tsamitis  
Director, Information Networking Institute;  
Director of CyLab Education, Training and Outreach

May 12, 2009

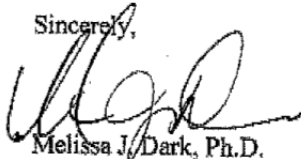
Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
P.O. Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write this letter of support for the much needed proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. The need for this program is long overdue and will be the first in this area. Montgomery and the surrounding areas are home to many business and military bases that will be able to employ the graduates of this program.

Newspapers and other media publish daily the need to defend against a pervasive culture of cyber attacks in the private and public sectors. Students who complete the proposed program will have the necessary skills and knowledge to manage secure information network and respond to newly developed threats.

Sincerely,



Melissa J. Dark, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean  
Professor of Computer and Information Technology



Christopher W. Clifton  
*Associate Professor*

May 12, 2009

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University At Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

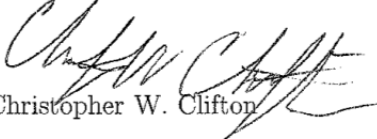
I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security Auburn University At Montgomery. Through CERIAS – the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security – Purdue has offered concentrations in information security in several disciplines. Since 2000, we have offered an interdisciplinary Master’s program in Information Security. This experience has demonstrated the need for such programs – it is surprising how little graduates with a Bachelor’s degree in computer science know of information security. This is a major reason for the information insecurity issues with today’s systems.

A Master’s program in Cybersystems and Information Security at Auburn University at Montgomery would fill a significant need. Several employers will find increasing need for these skills, such as Baptist Health (with recent Federal mandates for Electronic Medical Records), Alfa Insurance, and Gunter AFB (with the Air Force’s new Cyber Command initiative).

While this will demand significant allocation of resources, the rewards make it worthwhile. (The NSA National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education Program (CAE/IAE) program, for example, generally expects a minimum of three full-time faculty or equivalent, including a an education director, devoted to information assurance – a full Master’s program may demand considerably more.) This would be a valuable program for Auburn and Montgomery, and I encourage you to work to make sufficient resources

available to ensure success of the degree program.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher W. Clifton



# University of Pittsburgh

*School of Information Science*

James B D Joshi  
Associate Professor,  
Director, LERSAIS  
School of Information Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
135 North Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Email: [jjoshi@mail.sis.pitt.edu](mailto:jjoshi@mail.sis.pitt.edu)  
Phone : 412-624-9982

May 14, 2009

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University At Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write this letter of support for the much needed proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. The need for this program is long overdue and will be the first in this area. Montgomery and the surrounding areas are home to many business and military bases that will be able to employ the graduates of this program.

Securing the information systems and infrastructures have become a growing concern at both national and global levels as indicated by cyber incidents such as identity theft and cyber attacks on national infrastructures becoming more and more regular features in Newspapers and other media. The need to produce professionals well-trained in information security and assurance who can defend against a pervasive culture of cyber attacks in the private and public sectors has become a very critical need today. The proposed program indicates a very uniquely blended, solid mix of engineering, management and theoretical principles that are critical for developing very high caliber information security professionals. Hence, I strongly believe that students who complete the proposed program will have the necessary skills and a holistic knowledge to design, develop and manage secure information systems and infrastructures and respond to newly developed threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James Joshi'.

James Joshi  
Associated Professor,  
Director, LERSAIS  
University of Pittsburgh





AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
**SAMUEL GINN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

May 11, 2009

Dr. Mehmet Sahinoglu  
Informatics Institute  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
PO Box 244023  
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Dr. Sahinoglu:

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write this letter of support for the much needed proposed Master of Science degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. The need for this program is long overdue and will be the first in this area. Montgomery and the surrounding areas are home to many business and military bases that will be able to employ the graduates of this program.

Newspapers and other media publish daily the need to defend against a pervasive culture of cyber attacks in the private and public sectors. Students who complete the proposed program will have the necessary skills and knowledge to manage secure information network and respond to newly developed threats.

Sincerely,

Kai H. Chang  
Alumni Professor and Chair  
334-844-6310  
changka@auburn.edu