

## Community - CS : Inspirations

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This page last changed on Feb 27, 2007 by [cweider2](#).

### Goal and Scope

This new event is aimed at **undergraduate** students (juniors) who are seriously contemplating going to **graduate** school and will provide them with a "taste of graduate school". The event will consist of interactive sessions with a panel of faculty and graduate students in the department, who will share their passion for the problems they are tackling and talk about their personal motivation for being a researcher. Students have the opportunity to seek advice on all aspects of the M.S./Ph.D. process. Students participating in the Inspirations event will interact with the panel through a question and answer session, and have dinner at Dos Reales restaurant where they can further ask questions in a non-formal environment.

### Organization

**Invitation:** Students will be selected to attend Inspirations based on showing strong potential for graduate school or recommendation from a faculty. If they decide to join the event, students will need to list their name below so that we can organize the dinner.

**Time and Place:** Inspirations will take place Tuesday, Feb 27th. The event will start with a panel discussion at 3PM in [Transportation Building](#) (walking from Siebel Center south on Mathews, pass Springfield Ave, pass the parking lot, Transportation Building is first one on your left), **Room 101** (as you come from the main entrance, first classroom on your right). Inspirations will continue more informally with a dinner at [Dos Reales in Urbana](#).

**Organizers:**

Danny Dig  
Prof Sam Kamin  
Prof Steve LaValle

**Panel:**

Prof Sam Kamin - Topic: The life of a professor  
Prof Steve LaValle - Topic: Admissions: What are they looking for?  
Prof Karrie Karahalios - Topic: From Undergrad to Grad and Beyond  
Danny Dig  
Mark Hills  
Tanya Crenshaw  
Deepak Ramachandran  
Ryan White

**Topics:**

- an overall view of the application process (Steve, ...)
- why should somebody go to grad school (Danny, Mark, ...)
- what can students do now to increase their chance of success (Mark, ...)

- what are the qualities/abilities that admission committees are looking for (Steve, ...)
- at what institutions to apply (Mark, ...)
- how does a typical day in the life of a graduate student look like (Danny, ....)
- (proposed by students) funding during grad life (e.g., differences between TA and RA, duties of each job) (Steve, ...)
- (proposed by students) relationship advisor-student (how to choose an advisor whose style fits yours) (Mark, ...)

## Participants:

Students: please write your name and netid below (go in edit, write your info, then save the page). Please keep the list sorted alphabetically by the last name.

First and Last Name (netid)

Miguel Alemán (maleman2)  
 Dave Alongi(dalongi2)  
 Mike Barker (mbarker2)  
 Todd Becicka (becicka2) [will not be attending dinner]  
 Stephen Bezek (sbezek2)  
 Ian Endres (iendres2)  
 Tom Felker (tfelker2)  
 Kyle Fox (kylefox2)  
 Dennis Griffith (dgriffi3)  
 Micah Hodosh (mhodosh2)  
 Seon Kim (skim22)  
 Jesse Luehrs (jluehrs2) [I'll also be a little late - ~3:30]  
 Douglas Moy (dmoy2) [Will not be attending dinner]  
 Cyrus Omar (comar2)  
 Dan Schreiber (dschrei2) [Going to be a little late-- ~3:20]  
 Sebastian Seith (sseith2) [Will not be at dinner]  
 Kathy Shannon (kshanno2)  
 Lee Souza (msouza2)  
 Matt Sparks (jsparks2) [Also will be a little late; will not be attending dinner]  
 J. Scott Stephens (jstephen)  
 Andres Tack (atack2)  
 Chad Weider (cweider2) [Will not be at dinner]

## Questions and Answers

Q: At what restaurant will we go for dinner?

A: (Danny Dig) I will post the name of the restaurant once I have confirmed the reservation. I've got it: it is [Dos Reales in Urbana](#), just north of the engineering campus on University Avenue.

Q: What is the dress code for students?

A: (Danny Dig) You should dress appropriately for winter conditions. In other words, there is no dress code.

Q: I already graduated last December. Why did I receive the invitation to join Inspirations?

A: Faculty and TAs recommended some of the students they thought are good candidates. It could be that their database of students did not contain information about the graduation dates. If this is your

case, you can discard the invitation, unless you are in the area and consider seriously going to grad school in CS.

Q: Is it alright if we just attend the panel discussion and not the dinner? And if so, should we still place our name on the list above?

A: (Danny Dig) Yes, it's fine if you attend just the panel discussion. You should still list your name and write in paranthesis that you won't come for dinner.

Q: Do we have to pay for the dinner?

A: (Danny Dig) The department has been gracious to sponsor the dinner (thanks to Sam Kamin).