

**WE NEED
VOLUNTEERS
FOR OUR
PARTNER
SCHOOL
PROGRAM.**

Please call Les
Barnett at 251-
461-1601 if you
would like to
volunteer.

Quote of the Month

John Thune

U.S. Senator, South Dakota

Whether our children want to become farmers, doctors, teachers, or entrepreneurs, it'll be easier for them to achieve their dreams in the digital age if they have some background in Computer Science. We need our children to learn 21st century skills for a 21st century world, and coding teaches them the creativity and problem solving skills that are necessary for success.

CFITS Lecture Series

Wednesday Lecture and Network Forum

We will not have an August Lecture. Lectures will resume in the Fall. Dates are as follows:

September 20, 2017

October 18, 2017

November 15, 2017

ALUMNI PROFILE

THOMAS WATTS

Thomas Watts took a circuitous route to the University of South Alabama. With a History from UA in 2011, he worked as a journalist covering college athletics for Touchdown Alabama Magazine, and in professional video gaming for Riot Games. The highlight was covering the 2012 BCS National Championship game in New Orleans. Regularly told that he "has a face for radio," he got into the radio business through the internet station BAMSRadio and still does weekly podcasting through the VSporto Network with Murf Baldwin.

Feeling a pull in a new direction, Thomas enrolled in the Master's program at the University of South Alabama and finished that degree in 2016. He then joined the newly formed Doctorate in Computing program, where he recently passed his qualifying exams to be able to claim the All-But-Dissertation title. You can regularly find him working with virtual infrastructure in both a forensic context, as well as melding visual analytics into various types of bleeding edge infrastructure.

Though primary advisor Dr. Ryan Benton rarely allows Thomas out of the lab, he does enjoy anything that involves competition such as trivia on Tuesday nights at Island Wing Company. Thomas also finds time in his schedule to use his history degree as a volunteer game tester of WarGaming's *World of Warships*, and engages in frequent debates about the efficacy of things such as the *Iowa* class battleships' 16-inch Mark 7 guns versus the *Yamato* class battleships' monstrous 18.1 inch batteries. Hint: It is all about fire control.

DAYZERO TEAM COMPETED IN NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CYBER COMPETITION



Recently, members of the DayZero cyber competition club emerged victorious at the Southeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (SECCDC), which was held at Kennesaw State University on April 5th and 6th. The team earned the top spot among 8 teams from the Southeast region, which were selected from 33 universities covering Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. USA's DayZero team scored above several well-known teams in a very tight competition, including the University of Central Florida which has been the national champion several times. The team also won the Best in Business award among the other teams. The competition itself pits students who are managing real computer systems and networks in a corporate business environment against a red team of attackers that is trained to infiltrate those systems.

The team headed to the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition which was held in San Antonio, TX on 13-15 April. As winners of the regional competition, each team member received a plaque, a Raspberry Pi model 3, and an all-expenses paid invitation to the national competition. As a result of the win, USA and the DayZero club also received a team trophy, a \$500 check from Palo Alto, and \$19,200 in training courses from EC-Council (partnered with Simeio Solutions). The DayZero advisors, Dr. Todd McDonald and Dr. Todd Anandel, are extremely proud of the team's accomplishments and believe it represents the outstanding skill of our students as well as the growing maturity of the cyber security training and education opportunities offered by the School of Computing.

DayZero is a USA student organization dedicated to furthering cybersecurity knowledge and skills through participation in regional and international cyber competitions and capture the flag events. For more information about the club, see <http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/soc/dayzero.html>.