MSIA Graduate Security Conference a Success

by M. E. Kabay, PhD, CISSP-ISSMP
CTO, School of Graduate Studies
Norwich University, Northfield VT

From Sunday the 8th of June to Saturday the 14th 2008, the Norwich University campus <http://www.norwich.edu/about/map/> was packed with graduate students from the MSIA program <http://www.graduate.norwich.edu/infoassurance/>. We were thrilled to welcome Dr Eugene Spafford, director of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security <http://www.cerias.net/> at Purdue University as our keynote speaker for the three-day MSIA Graduate Security Conference< http://www.mekabay.com/msia/conference > on Monday through Wednesday of the week. Other dignitaries included

- Dr Sanford Sherizen, holder of the 2004 ISSA Hall of Fame award and recipient of our invitation as Distinguished Faculty Lecturer;
- Professor Peter Stephenson, the Associate Program Director of the MSIA, who taught an all-day workshop on Digital Investigations Methodology on Tuesday and a Wednesday afternoon workshop on “Introduction to Cyber Conflict;”
- MSIA alumnus Graydon McKee, who presented a workshop on risk management;
- Professor Don Holden, who taught a workshop on “Establishing Security Metrics: What Gets Measured Gets Done” on both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons;
- Professor Rebecca Herold, who organized a Wednesday morning workshop on “Anatomy of a Privacy Breach;”
- Professor Clark Cummings, who spoke on “Addressing Information Security Impact Before Project Implementation;”
- Professor David Lease, who discussed biometric security technologies.

As for me, I gave a one-day workshop on human factors in information assurance on Tuesday and then presented a half-day workshop on intellectual property law on Wednesday afternoon. I have loaded the non-narrated files from my workshops in the MSIA section of my Web site<http://www.mekabay.com/msia/public/index.htm> for anyone to use freely for non-commercial applications.

One of our graduates, Steve Maiorca, MSIA, CISSP, wrote about his experiences as follows: “Overall, I really enjoyed Residency Week, as it gave me a chance to not only connect in person with all the people you've just slogged through 18 grueling months of study with, but to also connect with the university. Pictures of the campus don't really do it the justice it deserves. I enjoyed discussions in the workshops and hearing from the experience of others, which helps to build the group wisdom we'll all need as we embark fully into the future of information assurance. I personally picked up a LOT of new information, but I also was comforted by the fact that the evils and pitfalls I was dealing with were felt and acknowledged in the plight of others. I don't do pity parties. Yet knowing you're not the only one suffering with clueless management, who are determined to spend the least amount of money while asking for the Milky Way to be served on a sterling silver platter, helps to build the camaraderie and friendships that will last in the years to come. I have gained friends who have understood my pain, and with whom I collaborate daily through our alumni discussion group.”

Peter Stephenson’s capture-the-flag exercises on Thursday were also a success and garnered
some nice press coverage through the efforts of Associated Press writer Wilson Ring.<http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/06/13/computer_security_experts_test_systems_in_exercise/> Over 50 MSIA students participated or observed the exercises, which were generously supported by Core Security<http://www.coresecurity.com/> and by the Vermont Army National Guard Information Operations Regional Training Center<http://www.iovernmont.org/iounits/airforce/index.html>, which kindly opened its secure, state-of-the-art facilities to our students and staff. The exercises were ably conducted by Justin Peltier of Peltier Associates for the second year running.<http://www.peltierassociates.com/>*

***

M. E. Kabay, PhD, CISSP-ISSMP is Program Director of the Master of Science in Information Assurance<http://www.graduate.norwich.edu/infoassurance/> and CTO of the School of Graduate Studies at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. Mich can be reached by e-mail at <mailto:mekabay@gmail.com>; Web site at <http://www.mekabay.com/index.htm>.

Copyright © 2008 M. E. Kabay. All rights reserved.

Permission is hereby granted to Network World to distribute this article at will, to post it without limit on any Web site, and to republish it in any way they see fit.