Sac State professor specializes in keeping secrets

Ted Krovetz is on the cutting edge of cryptography-security research.

The Sacramento State computer science professor’s cryptography classes are full, in part because computer security is an especially compelling field; as threats to electronic communications grow in scope, a market emerges for jobs the work of which is to protect against them.

Four years ago, Sacramento State received a $1.1 million grant to prepare 15 students to become information security specialists. Co-sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, the Scholarship for Service Program provides up to two years of financial assistance to students in return for their commitment to serve a federal, state, local, or tribal government organization in an information assurance position for the length of the scholarship or one year, whichever is longer. Krovetz teaches one of the three classes that are required for this scholarship.

“The scholarship program is beneficial for our students because it covers, fees room, board and provides a stipend,” he says.

The key is to remain ahead of the curve on cryptography, network security, computer forensics, and computer security and privacy that meet the National Security Agency’s standards for security concepts and knowledge. Sacramento State is in select company among institutions of higher learning nationwide that participate in this program.

Krovetz, with three colleagues from other universities, also received a second research grant from the National Science Foundation to help build a new generation of authenticated encryption that is secure as well as efficient.

The professor’s impressive credentials include degrees from Stanford and Oxford. Coming to Sacramento State in 2002, he thrives at a teaching university and believes his research makes him more effective in the classroom.

“I teach introductory classes because it’s important to have solid instruction there”, he says. His student evaluations reflect a tough but caring professor whose classes are consistently challenging.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller

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