

Statement of Teaching

Having taken many classes, and taught recitation sections, I have seen that different teaching styles are effective. In the rest of this statement, I describe the aspects that I feel are important and part of my teaching style.

Motivating and Intriguing Projects.

I believe that in computer science one of the best methods of teaching is interesting and challenging projects. I have often found that projects in upper division undergraduate classes and graduate classes can spark interesting research issues. I encourage students to share ideas when working on projects. Of course, their work should be individual. This allows the students to see alternatives and promotes open discussion of problems.

I apply motivating projects whenever possible. One example is the introductory project I designed for the Software Engineering class. The intent of the project is to introduce the students to Tcl/Tk. I asked the students to create a web browser using only standard Tcl/Tk commands. I supplied the students with information about Tcl/Tk as well as library routines that performed all of the network tasks necessary for the web browser. The students goal was to create the GUI aspects of a web browser for text pages. At first there was disbelief that the project was feasible. However, most students enjoyed the project and the sense of accomplishment they gained creating a working program. Motivating projects can often lead beyond the stated goals of the project. In this example, some students added the ability to include images with the text of their browser.

Well-prepared and Open Lectures.

I strive for well-prepared lectures and an open class environment. I believe that notes for lectures should be given to the students, or scribes elected from the class. Reducing the emphasis on note-taking can open up discussions and allows me to determine how well the class grasps a given subject.

Student Advising.

I have participated in the Women's Engineering Link program, which matches undergraduates with graduate mentors as they work on an independent project. I have enjoyed working with these students and introducing them to the challenges posed by research. I feel that advising students is an important role and look forward to doing my utmost to help students reach their intended goals.

Research in Teaching.

Research is a good complement to teaching because it keeps the subject fresh and often contributes ideas for interesting and challenging projects. Teaching is the first step in motivating students towards research. In closing, I feel that without teaching, there would not be any research. Without research, there would not be a reason to teach.

I look forward to teaching a variety of classes. At the undergraduate level, I would like to teach programming languages, compilers, operating systems, software engineering, graphics and networks classes. At the graduate level I am interested in teaching advanced operating systems, distributed computing, performance analysis and design of systems, issues in electronic commerce and specialized courses and seminars in my current research areas.