

HCII Website Redesign

<http://hcii.cmu.edu>

Design Rationale

February 15th, 2012

Brian Groudan

Christian Reyes

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
REDESIGN OVERVIEW	5
HCII WEBSITE GOALS	5
OUR VISION.....	6
MOCKUPS.....	8
Home Page.....	8
People – Faculty – HCII	10
Programs & Admissions – Master’s Admissions	12
Research – Labs - DevLab	14
INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE	16
DESIGN PROCESS	17
Information Organizing	17
Analytic Data Support.....	17
Brainstorming and Sketching	21
Mockup, Draft, Homepage	22
Mockup, Draft, People Page.....	24
Mockup, Draft, Programs & Admissions Page.....	26
Usability Testing	28
Final Mockup Design.....	28
COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS.....	29
CURRENT HCII WEBSITE.....	29
STANFORD D.SCHOOL.....	32
STANFORD HCI GROUP.....	33
MIT MEDIA LAB	34
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF INFORMATION	35
GEORGIA TECH SCHOOL OF INTERACTIVE COMPUTING	36
ANALYSIS SUMMARY	37
INTERVIEWS	38
FACULTY	38
Professor, Human-Computer Interaction Institute	38
ALUMNI	39
MHCI and BHCI Alumnus, Product Designer, Huge Inc.	39
CURRENT STUDENTS	40
PhD, Human-Computer Interaction	40
PhD, Human-Computer Interaction	41
Junior, Information Systems and BHCI	42
Junior, Computer Science and BHCI	42

Junior, Decision Science and BHCI	43
PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS	45
Junior, Information Systems, Prospective BHCI	45
NON-HCI STUDENTS	45
Junior, Information Systems and Computer Science.....	45
Junior, Communication Design.....	46
Sophomore, Communication Design	47
Sophomore, Economics and Mathematical Sciences.....	48
CONCLUSION / NEXT STEPS.....	49

Executive Summary

HCII Website Goals

The HCII website exists to provide current information about the HCII and those involved with it to the rest of the world. Its primary audience is **current students, faculty, and prospective students**.

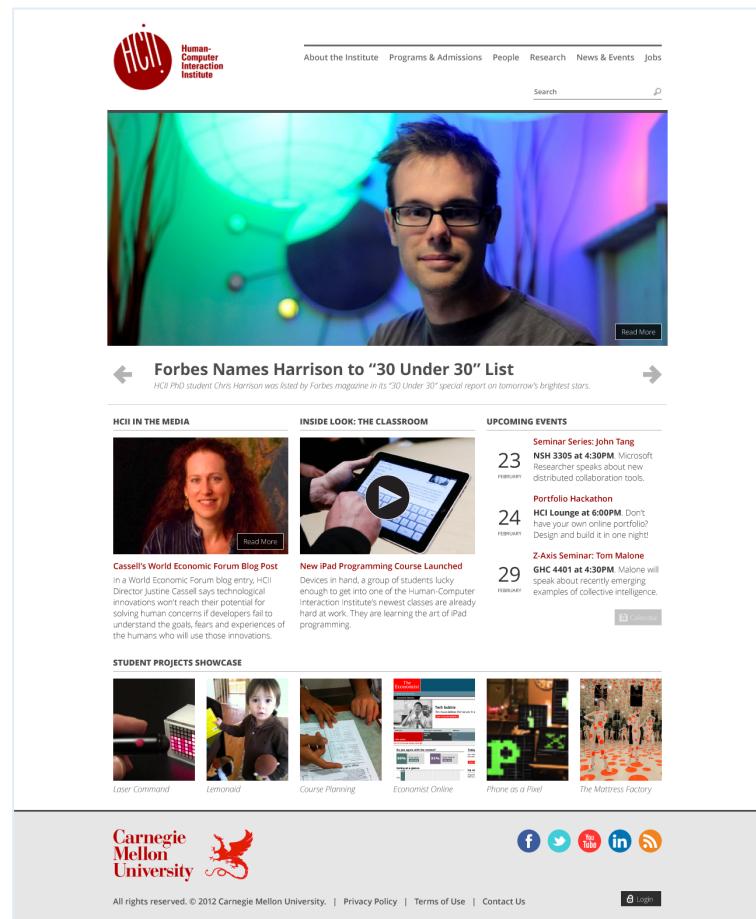
The HCII website should reflect the **values** of human-centered design and simplicity, the **goals** of making people's lives easier and allowing them to focus on what matters, and the **innovative culture** which defines us and our work in the HCII.

Our Vision

Our redesign is focused on informing visitors of the latest HCII news, upcoming events, and showcasing student projects. The homepage will be constantly updated in order to avoid the page becoming stale. We consolidated the entire site into six categories: **About the Institute**, **Programs & Admissions**, **People**, **Research**, **News & Events**, and **Jobs**.

Usability Testing

We made high fidelity mockups and interviewed a total of twelve users (Faculty, Alumni, Current and Prospective Students). We received excellent feedback and iterated on our initial mockups. We believe this design will be very successful because the users we interviewed found the redesign to be very intuitive.



The redesigned homepage.

Redesign Overview

HCII Website Goals

The HCII website exists to provide current information about the HCII and those involved with it to the rest of the world. Its primary audience is **current students, faculty, and prospective students**:

- **Current students** should be able to easily: find program and curriculum information, explore research and job opportunities, and keep up-to-date with the latest HCII-related news and events.
- **Faculty** should be able to easily: advertise research / job opportunities, seek out specific talent with the CMU HCII community, keep up-to-date with the latest HCII-related news and events, and see what other research is in progress within the HCII.
- **Prospective students** should be able to easily: get a feel for what the HCII is and what it strives to achieve, find out about the programs and their respective admissions requirements within the HCII, get in contact with faculty who are conducting research in the focus area they are interested in, and see the latest news and achievements related to the HCII.

The HCII website should reflect the **values** of human-centered design and simplicity, the **goals** of making people's lives easier and allowing them to focus on what matters, and the **innovative culture** which defines the HCII; these very values, goals and culture guide our work in the HCII.

The website should achieve these values and goals by: providing information and functionality in an **intuitive** and **easy-to-use** manner, be **attractive** to prospective students, and be **up-to-date** with the latest information and news.

Our Vision

Our redesign is focused on guiding visitors to the desired information in an unobtrusive and pleasing flow. We consolidated the entire site into six categories:

1. **About the Institute:** Information about the HCII, its values and mission, along with information on how the HCII stands in the field of Human-Computer Interaction. Visitors should get a feel of the innovative culture of the HCII.
2. **Programs & Admissions:** Course information, along with PhD, Masters, and Undergraduate programs and admission information. Current students and prospective students will be heavily accessing information in this category.
3. **People:** Faculty, Students, and Alumni and their respective sub-divisions can be easily explored. Current students, faculty, and prospective students can all easily find out who is currently participating in research projects, along with their focus areas. Visitors outside of the HCII can also browse and get a feel for the HCII by seeing who the HCII is composed of and by viewing samples of their work. All visitors can use the search feature to find people based on research interests, skills, and affiliation.
4. **Research:** Current research will be emphasized in order to encourage current students to get involved with research projects in the HCII. Prospective students and other outside visitors can see what is currently being researched and get in contact with those involved. Faculty can easily view what research is going on with fellow faculty and students. Outside companies can get information on how they can partner and sponsor research at our world-class institution getting help from the brightest minds.
5. **News & Events:** Internal HCII news and events, along with external HCII news will be presented in such a way that is easy for visitors to get updated on the latest news and get information on upcoming events so they can be part of history. Information on the required graduate seminar series is also available on this site.
6. **Jobs:** Current students and alumni can easily find internal and external research, job, and internship opportunities in an easy to use portal. Visitors will be able to search based on skills desired and focus area. Outside recruiters can post jobs and information session details. The goal is for current students and alumni to get jobs and connect with one another, faculty members, internal Carnegie Mellon

departments, and outside companies to get bright and skilled research assistants, and for prospective students and outsiders to see the opportunities available by affiliation with the HCII.

The **homepage** has three main functions:

1. **Spreading HCII news** with a rotating current news and photo. Visitors will see the latest achievements and HCII spotlights in the media. This functionality serves all visitors by both passively informing them but also inviting them to read more.
2. **Directing visitors** to their desired information. Visitors who have a destination in mind can easily get there by clicking the category that the information would naturally fall into. The ease of this experience is critical to the success of the website. All visitors, not just current students, faculty, and prospective students, should be able to find their desired destination as effortlessly as possible.
3. **Encouraging** visitors to explore the site. The interesting photos on the homepage showcasing HCII news and student projects beg for the visitor to click them to see the full details. Once they are there, they can explore the rest of the site.

Mockups

Home Page

The redesigned HCII has a warm, welcoming feeling. The homepage (along with most of the other pages) have pictures of people, not machines. The homepage has just the right amount of information for visitors to see. It has a rotating news story and photo as the 'hero' on the top. There are two other news elements right under the hero which should be updated often. The calendar on the right lets people know what events are upcoming so that they can be informed and get involved.

The major innovation that is present on the homepage is the **Student Project Showcase** section. In this section, select student projects (BHCI, MHCI, PhD) will be displayed and exhibited for the world to see. The projects would be updated often, perhaps automatically or manually, but the point is to constantly have new content and to not let the page become stale. There is an enormous amount of talent present in the student body of the HCII and there are more than enough projects that can be showcased. The idea of the Student Project Showcase was bounced off people in the interviews, and the consensus was that it is a win-win situation for everyone. Students get publicity, the HCII gets its reputation built as having real world projects, and outside people or companies can get a feel for who we are and what we do, by seeing our work.

As said before, the homepage must be kept up-to-date and not become stale. Once the page becomes stale (no new content), visitors will stop visiting the site. The faculty and students who were interviewed raised this issue.

In our interviews, people really felt that the homepage embodies what the HCII believes in - the intersection people, design, and technology in order to better our lives and the world. All the interviews felt that this page had been designed. Someone took care to make it look good. That is an important impression to get when visiting the website of an academic institution.

When any of the navigation links are linked throughout the entire HCII site, the site should not refresh, it should dynamically load the content. The search functionality would bring the user to a search results page. The page would know where you came from and reorganize / differentiate the results based on that.

(Mockup present on next page.)



← Forbes Names Harrison to “30 Under 30” List →

HCII PhD student Chris Harrison was listed by Forbes magazine in its “30 Under 30” special report on tomorrow’s brightest stars.

HCII IN THE MEDIA



[Read More](#)

Cassell's World Economic Forum Blog Post

In a World Economic Forum blog entry, HCII Director Justine Cassell says technological innovations won't reach their potential for solving human concerns if developers fail to understand the goals, fears and experiences of the humans who will use those innovations.

INSIDE LOOK: THE CLASSROOM



New iPad Programming Course Launched

Devices in hand, a group of students lucky enough to get into one of the Human-Computer Interaction Institute's newest classes are already hard at work. They are learning the art of iPad programming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminar Series: John Tang

23
FEBRUARY
NSH 3305 at 4:30PM. Microsoft Researcher speaks about new distributed collaboration tools.

Portfolio Hackathon

24
FEBRUARY
HCI Lounge at 6:00PM. Don't have your own online portfolio? Design and build it in one night!

Z-Axis Seminar: Tom Malone

29
FEBRUARY
GHC 4401 at 4:30PM. Malone will speak about recently emerging examples of collective intelligence.



STUDENT PROJECTS SHOWCASE



Laser Command



Lemonaid



Course Planning



Economist Online



Phone as a Pixel



The Mattress Factory



People – Faculty – HCII

Through our user research, we found that the task of finding people is the number one reason for PhD students and Faculty to use the HCII website. Our redesign helps make this task easier while also being fun.

The people pages consist of a grid of thumbnails of pictures in the respective group. Seeing all of these faces makes the HCII seem more human than most institutions. When a user hovers over a thumbnail, the thumbnail will react by slightly expanding or having a border around it, giving feedforward that the element can be clicked. When the user clicks on a different thumbnail, the person's profile will load into the side content area. The whole page would not refresh. If the visitor just wanted to see the person's profile on its own page, they can click the person's name in the side content area to open a new page with just the person's profile.

The top navigation bar reflects the user's current location at the People page. The color matches the color on the left side nav, indicating the page category as well. The side navigation has all the subcategories listed, so the user can easily know what options are available. The selected page is also indicated on the side navigation.

If a user wants to search for a particular person or research area, they can type it into the search bar at the top right of the page. This search bar is present on every page. The search would redirect to a search results page which would have the results split into the six categories of the site. It would know where the user came from and appropriately differentiate / navigate the user to that part of the search results. The footer would be present at the very end.

(Mockup present on next page.)



PEOPLE

FACULTY

HCII

AFFILIATED

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

TECHNICAL

STUDENTS

PHD

MASTER'S

UNDERGRADUATE

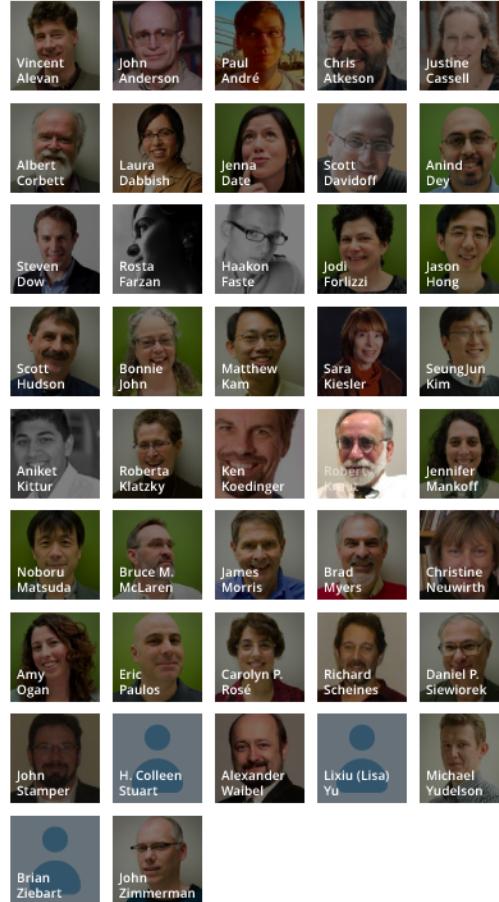
ALUMNI

PHD

MASTER'S

UNDERGRADUATE

HCII FACULTY



ROBERT KRAUT

Herbert A. Simon Professor

robert.kraut@cmu.edu

NSH 3515 | (412) 268-7694

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~kraut>



About

I started my career as a traditional social psychologist, but working in the telecommunications industry for twelve years shifted my focus from disciplines to problems. As a researcher, I have broad interests in the design and social impact of information technologies in small groups, in the home, and in organizations.

I conduct research in four major areas:

- Online communities
- Everyday use of the Internet
- Technology and conversation
- Collaboration in small work groups.
- Computers in organizations

My research in a specific area first examines in detail the challenges individuals, groups, and organizations face in performing social tasks. This empirical research can inform the design of new technology to meet some of these challenges. Here I collaborate with computer scientists and engineers. The research comes full circle when we evaluate the usefulness of the new technology.

I teach courses in these topics, including undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. level courses in communication, computer supported cooperative work, and organizational computing.

Research Areas

- Social Computing

Programs & Admissions – Master's Admissions

The Master's Admissions and Overview page were the 2nd and 4th top viewed sites out of the entire website. It is important for prospective students to get the information they need, but also for them to understand the HCII and to get a feel for what we do. We also feel this page is representative of how pages in the "Programs & Admissions" category would look.

The redesigned Master's Admissions page has a strong emphasis on communicating information in a pleasing, easy to use manner. The picture on the top communicates what we do. The application process calendar on the right clearly displays the important dates for the program. The "Start Your Application Today!" button is also present where it is relevant – next to the deadlines.

The top navigation reflects the current page that is selected and the side navigation also reflects the current page that is selected. We also worked to reduce the amount of confusion the old navigation had by consolidating the pages. The footer would be present at the very end.

(Mockup on next page.)



PROGRAMS & ADMISSIONS

COURSES

PHD

ADMISSIONS

CURRICULUM

MASTER'S

ADMISSIONS

MADEIRA PROGRAM

CURRICULUM

UNDERGRADUATE

ADMISSIONS

ACCELERATED MASTER'S

CURRICULUM

MASTER'S ADMISSIONS

Requirements

All applicants must have a baccalaureate degree in a related field, with a strong record of academic achievement, from an accredited educational institution and be highly recommended by three references. Applicants must submit a photocopy of the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores along with the completed application (the subject test is not required). Applicants must also request that ETS send an official score report to us at institution code 2074, department code 0402. If your native language is not English, you must submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Your application will NOT be considered COMPLETE without the TOEFL test. You must also request that ETS send an official score report to us at institution code 4256, department code 78. The application deadline for our next academic year is January 31.

Tuition

Tuition is determined by the Carnegie Mellon Board of Trustees. Please visit the [Student Service Website](#) and refer to the per semester tuition rates and fees for graduate degree students in the School of Computer Science (SCS). Full-time study is defined as taking at least 36 units or four courses per semester. Most courses are 9 or 12 units. Part-time tuition is charged at a per unit basis.

Financial Information

The Master of Human-Computer Interaction Program does not provide students with financial support. An excellent source for general information on financial aid can be found at [FinAid](#). The Carnegie Mellon [Financial Aid website](#) and the Carnegie Mellon [Fellowships and Scholarships Office](#) are also available for assistance and advice on obtaining loans and/or fellowships. Many students have been able to obtain funding or financial assistance from their current employers. Employees of Carnegie Mellon University often receive tuition benefits as part of the benefit package. For current Research Assistant positions and other employment opportunities on campus, please see the Human Resources [Staff Job Postings](#). A small number of Teaching Assistant positions occasionally becomes available for enrolled students who have a computer science background. Please note: if you are employed while

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline

31

JANUARY

MHCI must receive your submitted application and \$75 application fee.

Admissions Decisions

20

MARCH

Admissions decisions will be sent out to you in March via email.

Applicants Response

30

APRIL

You will need to let us know your decision by April.

Start Your Application Today!

Research – Labs - DevLab

The last page we made a mockup for is the DevLab. We felt that it was a representative of how the research page would generally look and feel. Research is the third most viewed category as a whole (for a time span of a year). The photo on the top shows the visitor that there is cool research going on at the HCII. The DevLab is one of the labs in the HCII, and its layout matches the layout of the pages that would be in the “Research” category. The pictures in the right correspond to a project in the content page. Selected admins / faculty / students would be able to edit the content of the page to update everyone on the status of the projects in the lab.

(Mockup on the next page.)



RESEARCH

CURRENT

LABS

HOME LAB

D. STABLE LAB

USER STUDIES

DEVLAB

PUBLICATIONS

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSORS

DEVLAB

About the DevLab

The DevLab is an interdisciplinary research laboratory within the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. Research is focused on novel uses and developments within the fields of sensing, context-aware computing, input devices, display technologies, and other devices that assist in making interactions with computers more fluid, intuitive, and powerful.

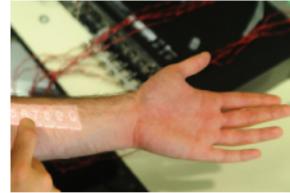
Projects

TeslaTouch: Electrovibration for Touch Surfaces

TeslaTouch infuses finger-driven interfaces with physical feedback. The technology is based on the electrovibration principle, which can programmatically vary the electrostatic friction between fingers and a touch panel. Importantly, there are no moving parts, unlike most tactile feedback technologies, which typically use mechanical actuators. This allows for different fingers to feel different sensations. When combined with an interactive graphical display, TeslaTouch enables the design of a wide variety of interfaces that allow the user to feel virtual elements through touch. Selected Press: [CNN](#), [Technology Review](#).



TeslaTouch



Skinput

Skinput: Appropriating the Body as an Input Surface

Skinput is a technology that appropriates the human body for acoustic transmission, allowing the skin to be used as a finger input surface. In particular, we resolve the location of finger taps on the arm and hand by analyzing mechanical vibrations that propagate through the body. We collect these signals using a novel array of sensors worn as an armband. This approach provides an always-available, naturally-portable, and on-body interactive surface. To illustrate the potential of our approach, we developed several proof-of-concept applications on top of our sensing and classification system. Selected Press: [CNN](#), [Popular Science](#), [CNET](#), [Engadget](#), [Gizmodo](#), [New Scientist](#).

Information Architecture

About the Institute

- What is HCI?
- Our Manifesto
- Achievements
- Facilities
- Student Projects Showcase
 - BHCI Capstone
 - MHCI Capstone
 - PhD Thesis

Programs & Admissions

- Courses
- PhD
 - Admissions
 - Curriculum
 - Emphasis Areas
- Master's
 - Admissions
 - Madeira Program
 - Curriculum
 - Capstone Project
- Undergraduate
 - Admissions
 - Curriculum
 - Electives
 - Independent Study
 - Accelerated Masters

People

- Faculty
 - HCII Faculty
 - Affiliated Faculty
- Staff
 - Administrative Staff
 - Technical Staff
- Students
 - PhD
 - Master's
 - Undergraduate
- Alumni
 - PhD
 - Master's
 - Undergraduate

Research

- Current
- Labs
 - Home Lab
 - D. Stable Lab
 - User Studies Lab
 - DevLab
- Publications
- Partner with Us
- Sponsors

News & Events

- HCII News
- #HCII in the Media
- Events
- Seminar Series
 - Z-axis Seminar Series

Jobs

- Postings
- HCII Research
- Faculty & Staff Openings
- CMU Network
- Recruiter Portal

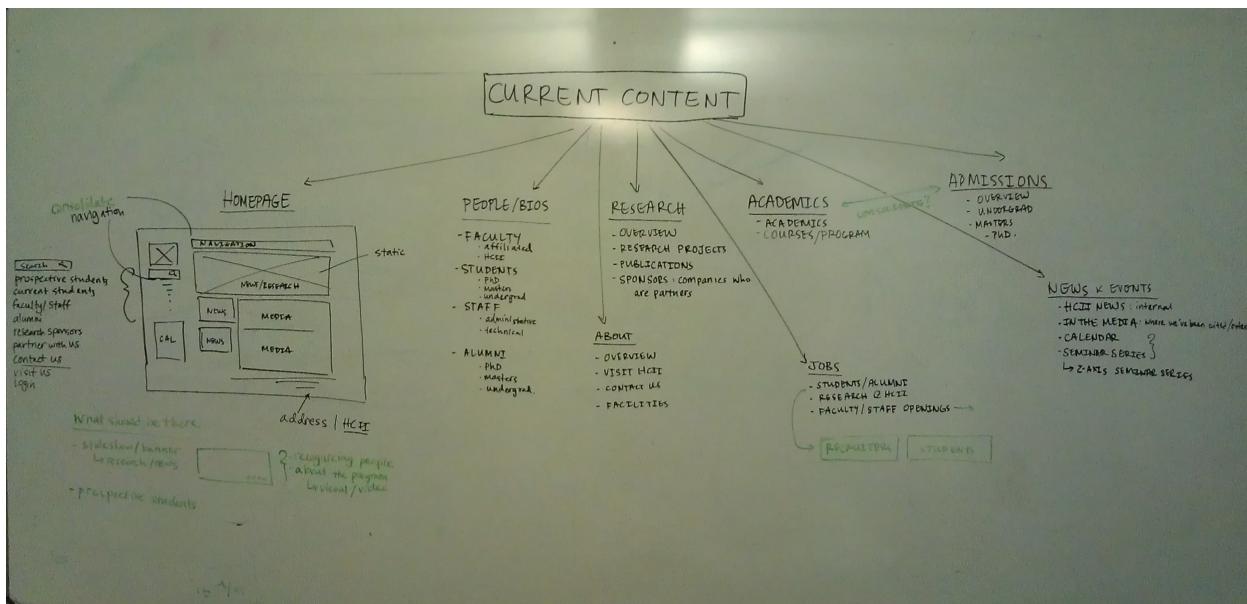
Footer

- Address
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Contact
- Login

Design Process

Information Organizing

We started out by analyzing what content the current website provides and how it is provided. Six categories naturally came out of the data: **About the HCII**, **Programs & Admissions**, **People**, **Research**, **News & Events**, and **Jobs**. We also analyzed the homepage and took note that it was almost entirely composed of HCII news related information. There were many navigation related issues with the current site, mainly that there were too many navigation elements and that there were many different paths to get to the same destinations.



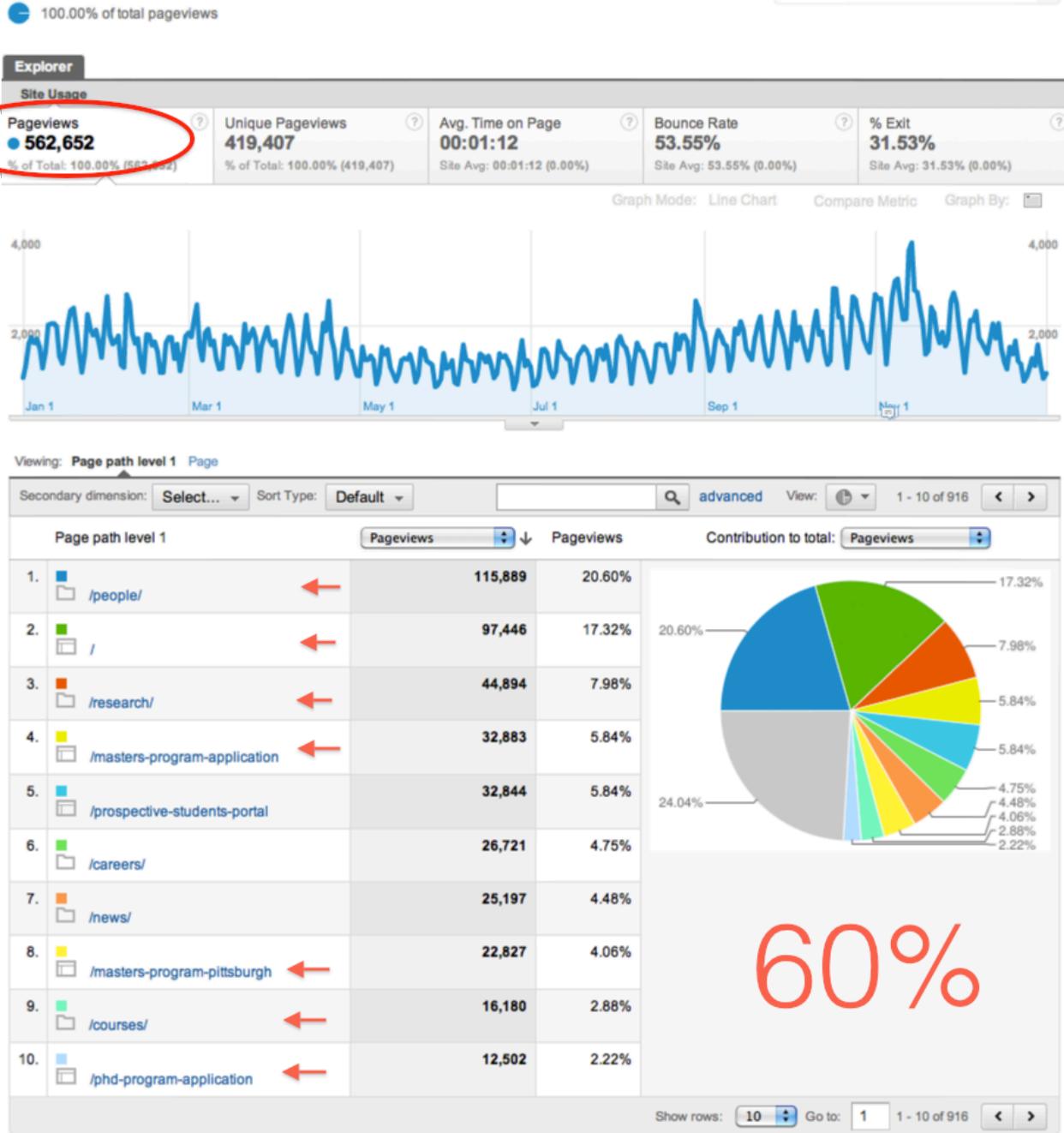
Pictured above is the current sitemap of the HCII website. We boiled it down to its essentials and started identifying which pages could possibly be combined, thrown out, or reorganized.

Analytic Data Support

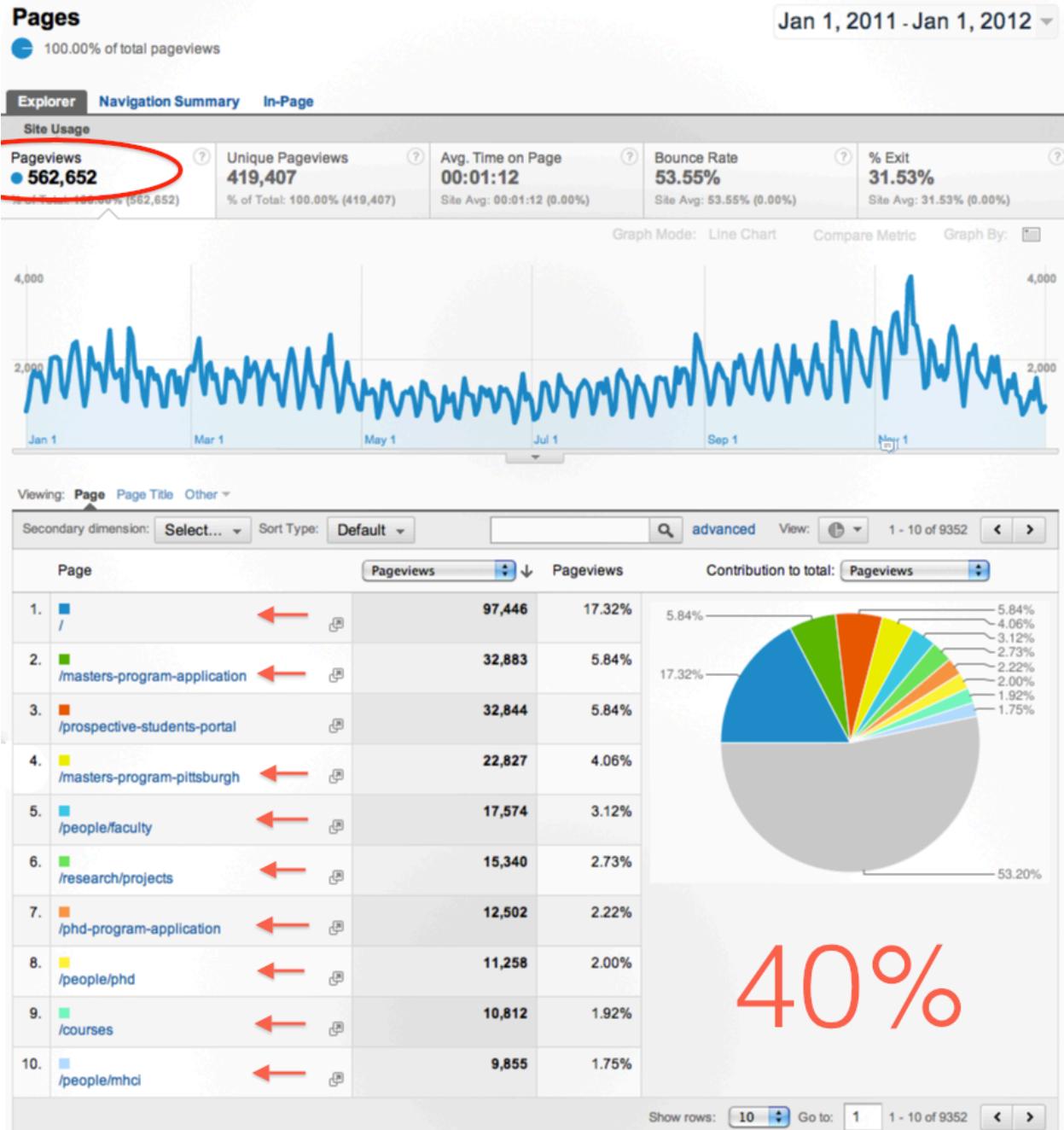
We had identified the six categories for all the data on the page as **About the HCII**, **Programs & Admissions**, **People**, **Research**, **News & Events**, and **Jobs**, but we wanted to verify if these categories were appropriate before continuing in the design process. We used the Google Analytics account that was provided to us for the competition to get the statistics about the content drill down and page views.

Content Drilldown

Jan 1, 2011 - Jan 1, 2012 ▾



With the content drilldown, we see the general structure for the pages as a hierarchy and the information for those groups. For instance, all the individual profile views are represented as "/people/". Out of the top ten url categories, the **four** categories that we choose to mockup cover roughly **60%** of the **half a million** pageviews for one year.

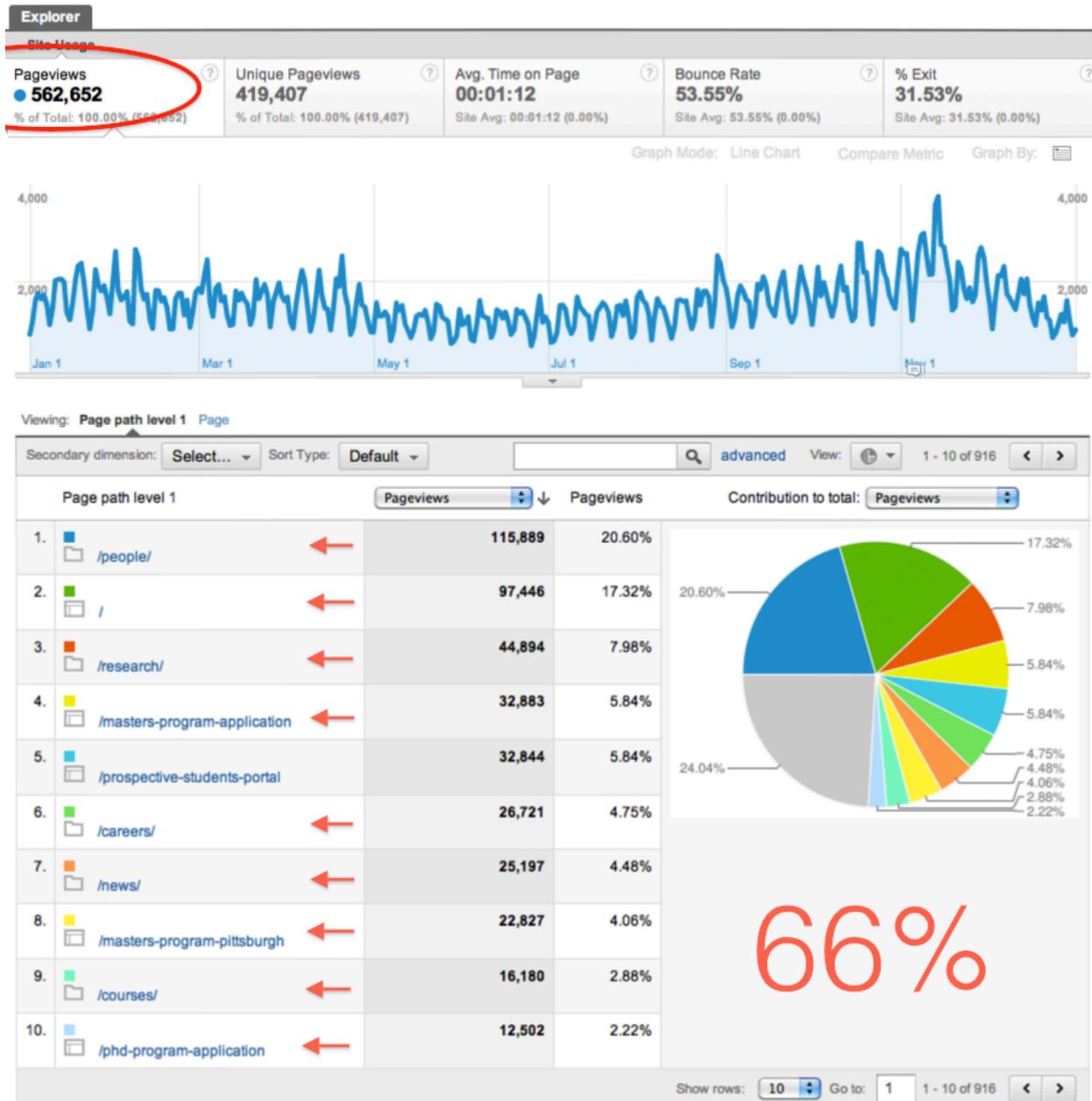


With the page view data, we see the views for each page. When it comes down to individual page views, out of the top ten pages that are viewed on the site, nine of them fit into the **four page categories** that we choose to mockup. Those nine pages received roughly **40%** of the **half a million pageviews** for one year.

Content Drilldown

Jan 1, 2011 - Jan 1, 2012 ▾

100.00% of total pageviews



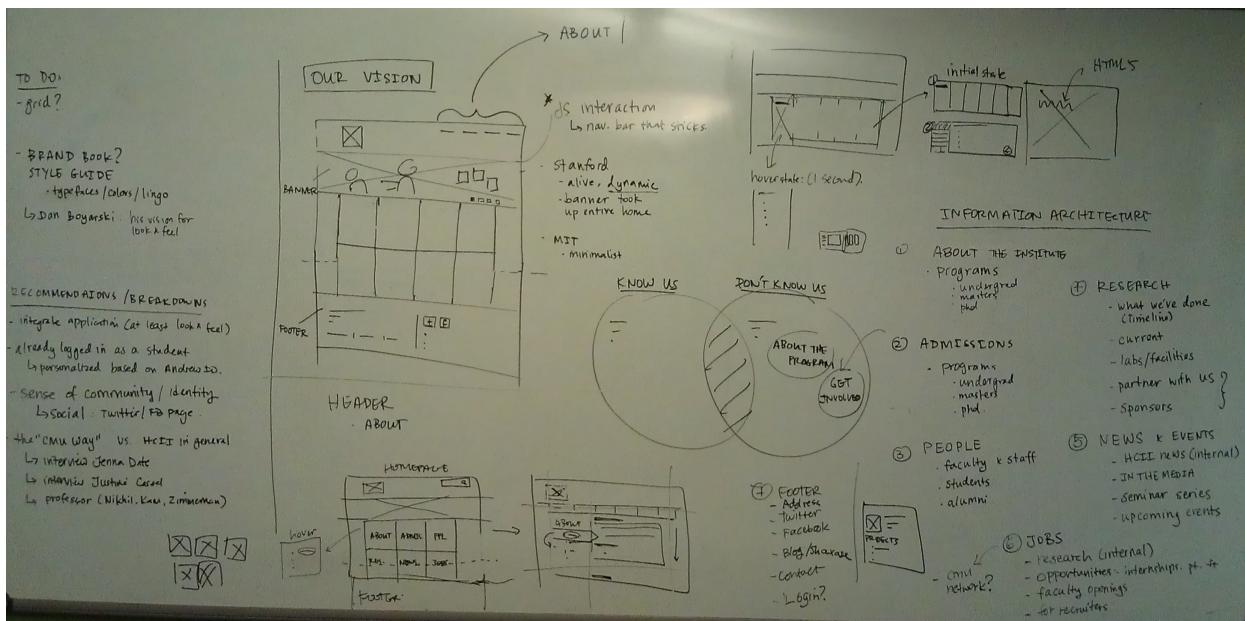
Lastly, the analytic data results confirm that the six categories: **About the HCII**, **Programs & Admissions**, **People**, **Research**, **News & Events**, and **Jobs** are excellent categories for organizing the data. Out of the top ten url categories in the drilldown, the pages captured in our categories received roughly **66%** of the **half a million pageviews** for one year.

Brainstorming and Sketching

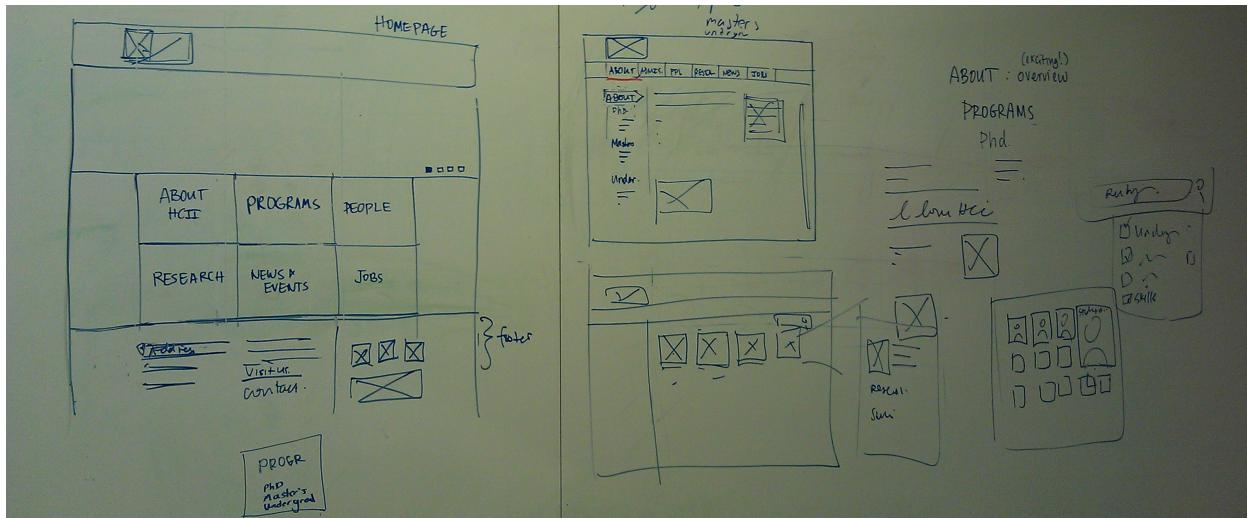
We then took the six categories: **About the HCII**, **Programs & Admissions**, **People**, **Research**, **News & Events**, and **Jobs** and brainstormed different ways of providing easy access to the information categories while also providing the latest news stories.

We explored different variations of a tiled grid of the categories on the homepage because we felt that the homepage needed to help guide the visitor to their desired destination. The homepage also needed to be welcoming and invite visitors to explore.

We ended up picking a 2x3 grid comprised of the categories. The tiles would have pictures relevant to the information content in order to help make the site seem more alive and personal. Hovering over the tile would cause the subcategories for the category to appear on the tile, giving feedforward to the visitor about what the result of clicking the tile will be, but also allowing the visitor to access the subcategories directly.



After we came up with home page, we brainstormed and sketched the layout for the information-heavy **Programs & Admissions** page. A simple and consistent side navigation scheme was devised. The lack of extra elements on the page draws the focus to the content of the page, which is what is desired programs.



Overall, our design was guided mainly by the structure of the data itself, along with the goals of the HCII website. In order to present the information in an easy to understand fashion, we simplified navigation, in order to invite visitors to explore, we made the home page welcoming. The website should serve as a tool for finding information. The design is also appropriate for the target audience of current students, faculty, and prospective students by providing easy access to the features they need and desire.

Mockup, Draft, Homepage

Pictured below was our **first** version of the **homepage**. It served to promote **HCII news** to all, invite visitors to **explore** the HCII website and highlighted the information categories so that visitors can find their intended destinations. When **hovered** over, the tiles display the subcategories (one level down) in order to give feedforward to the user as to where they will be headed if they click the tile. It also provides quick access to the subcategories without having to navigate to the category-landing page.

(Mockup on the next page.)



Human-
Computer
Interaction
Institute

[About the HCII](#) [Programs & Admissions](#) [People](#) [Research](#) [News & Events](#) [Jobs](#)

SEARCH



Carnegie Mellon University, School of Computer Science
5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213 / [Contact Us](#)
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Mockup, Draft, People Page

Pictured below is the **first** version **People** page. It allows students, faculty, prospective students, and all other visitors to find individuals based on their name, affiliation, skills, or research interests. The page is intended to be **fun** and **interactive**, letting the user enjoy exploring the bios and information. Clicking the thumbnails of the individuals will load the bios on the right without reloading the page. The HCII should try to ensure that all affiliated individuals have a relevant photo for their profile in order to make the people page more useful and alive. Having the thumbnails makes the HCII more approachable, human, and community-oriented.

(Mockup pictured on the next page.)

PEOPLE

Faculty

HCII Faculty

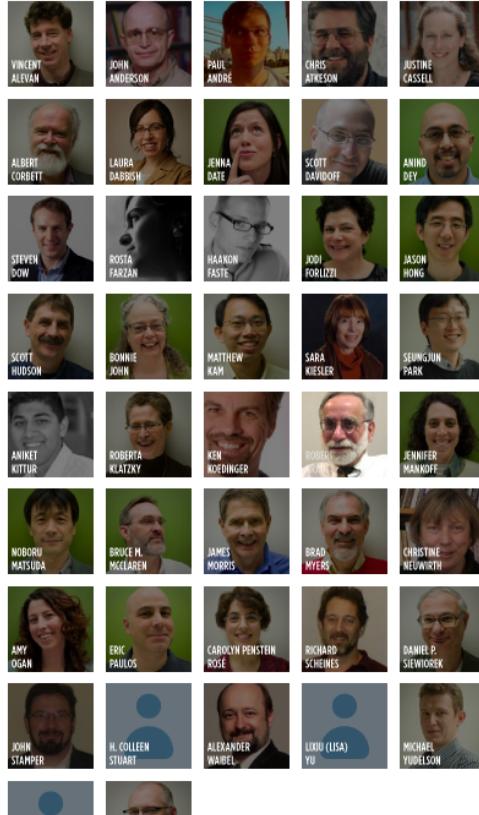
Affiliated Faculty

Staff

Students

Alumni

HCII Faculty



Robert Kraut

Herbert A. Simon Professor

Contact: [Email](#)
Phone: (412) 268-7694
Office: NSH 3515
Website: [Homepage](#)



About:

I started my career as a traditional social psychologist, but working in the telecommunications industry for twelve years shifted my focus from disciplines to problems. As a researcher, I have broad interests in the design and social impact of information technologies in small groups, in the home, and in organizations.

I conduct research in four major areas:

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- Everyday use of the Internet
- Technology and conversation
- Collaboration in small work groups
- Computers in organizations

My research in a specific area first examines in detail the challenges individuals, groups, and organizations face in performing social tasks. This empirical research can inform the design of new technology to meet some of these challenges. Here I collaborate with computer scientists and engineers. The research comes full circle when we evaluate the usefulness of the new technology.

I teach courses in these topics, including undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. level courses in communication, computer supported cooperative work, and organizational computing.

Research Areas:

- Social Computing

Research Interests:

Computer mediated communication. Social impact of technology. Online communities.

Projects:

- [Adapting to disaster](#)
- [Coordinating Attention and Communication](#)

Mockup, Draft, Programs & Admissions Page

Pictured below is our first version of the **Programs & Admissions** page. It is information-heavy, but the **simple navigation** on the side allows for visitors to quickly find the information they seek. This is common between all of the pages other than the homepage. Clicking one of the programs on the left will bring the visitor to the overview page for that program. The subcategories will then slide down underneath the program. The page will not refresh – the elements and content will be dynamically loaded, giving the user a smooth experience. The slight animations and lack of refreshing makes the page seem alive and modern. The content of the page is the most important element on the page and is the main visual focus. **Hierarchy** is used for both its form and function.

(The mockup is on the next page.)

PROGRAMS & ADMISSIONS

Courses

PhD

Masters

Undergraduate

The Human-Computer Interaction Institute (HCII) at Carnegie Mellon University is pleased to offer multidisciplinary undergraduate and graduate educational programs that emphasize technology for the benefit of people and society.

Interdisciplinary Learning

With membership from Carnegie Mellon's [School of Computer Science](#), the [College of Fine Arts](#), the [Tepper School of Business](#), the [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#), the [Robotics Institute](#), and the [Software Engineering Institute](#), the HCII is one of the few institutions in the country with the breadth of expertise to offer such programs. Since HCI encompasses aspects of people and technology, the Institute takes a strongly interdisciplinary approach.



The Pausch Bridge at Carnegie Mellon connects drama and computer science buildings, symbolizing an interdisciplinary link between art and technology.

Program Admissions

Students accepted to the [PhD program](#) will participate in the wide-ranging and innovative research programs of the Institute. The [Masters program](#) is known by the software and technical industries for its interdisciplinary nature, rigor and deep knowledge in Computer Science, Psychology and Design. The [undergraduate program](#) in HCI is available only as a second major.

Usability Testing

We interviewed HCI Faculty, HCI PhD Student, MHCI & BHCI Alumni, BHCI peers and some prospective BHCI students to get some informal feedback on our mockups. We also asked them if they had any comments (positive / negative) about the current HCII website.

Note: the interviews were conducted using the first version of the mockups (find them in the 'Design Process' section), NOT using the final mockups. The feedback on the mockups from the interviews was incorporated into the final redesigned mockups.

We found that nearly everyone likes our redesign. Our peers liked the color scheme and the information hierarchy. However, some issues were brought up:

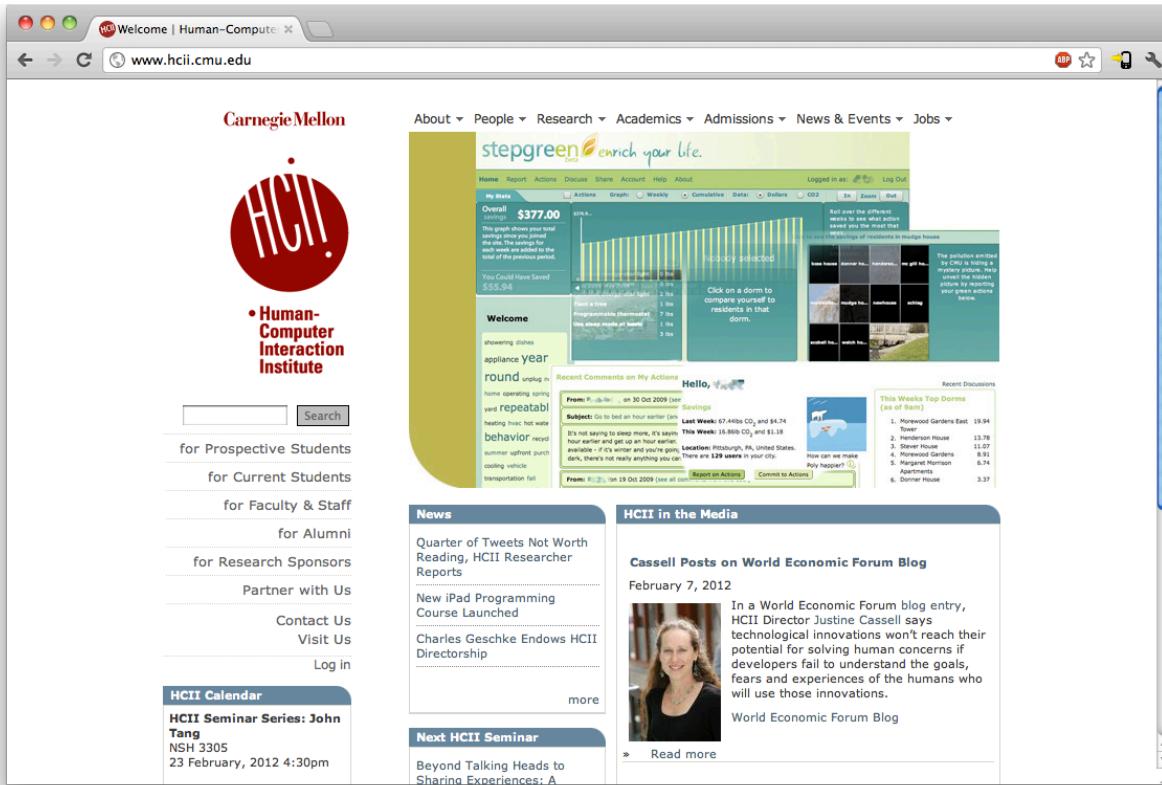
- The homepage should have more information / it appears to be a portal right now.
- The news slideshow on the homepage is not intuitive. People were confused if it was static and how they could read the article.
- Having "sliding" or "dropdown" navigation makes it hard to know what options are available.
- Too many different fonts on all the pages.
- People's names are hard to read in the thumbnails as it is in the people page right now
- People didn't notice the top nav bar
- Tile grid might be hard to understand
- People didn't know the top nav bar and the side nav bar were connected
- More text should be on the home page
- The site looks incomplete, doesn't feel done
- Students should have a place to post projects
- Current students and faculty only use website to find people, occasionally check for requirements, and to check course information.

Final Mockup Design

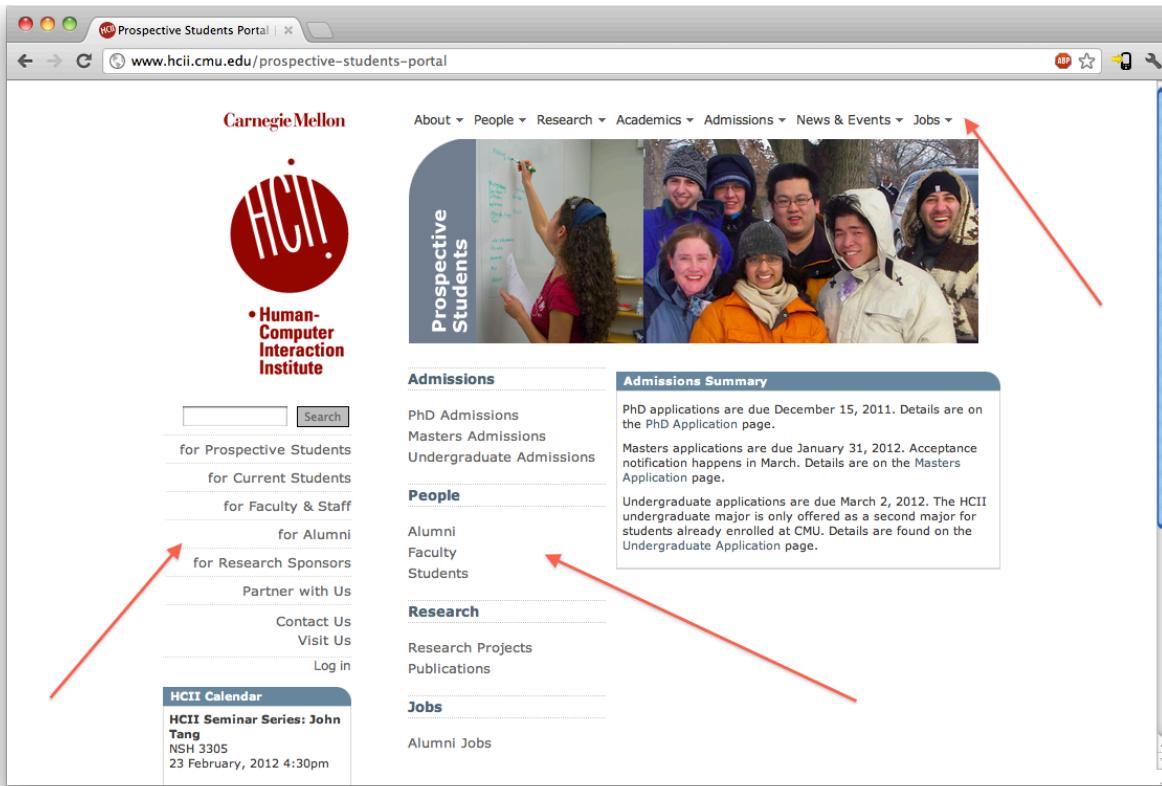
We took all the valuable feedback from our real users and went back to the drawing board. We brainstormed how we could best fix the problems in our site /came up with a brand new design. This redesign is the final design for this proposal. We wanted the homepage to act as a real homepage instead of a "portal page". The final mockups are located in the first couple pages.

Competitive Analysis

Current HCII Website



The homepage of the current site is pictured above. There is a heavy emphasis on news, calendar, and seminars. The side navigation calls out to specific groups such as prospective students and current students. In our user research, we found that users get confused by the portal page that the side navigation leads to (pictured below) because there are too many links.



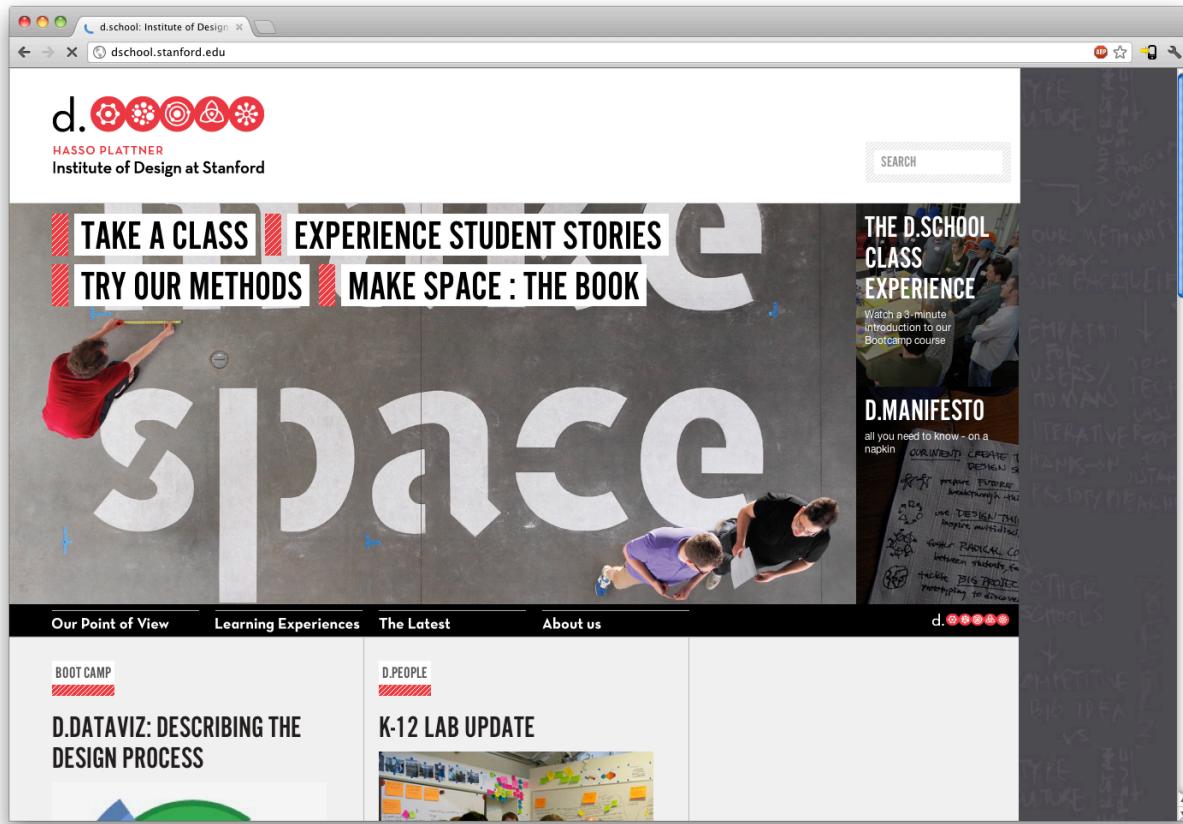
The red arrows point to the **three** navigation elements that are present on the portal pages ("for prospective students", "for current students", "for faculty & staff"). With three navigation elements, many links lead to the same pages, possibly leading the user in circles. One user said in an interview, "I greatly appreciate that you combined the academics and admissions parts of the site. It was REALLY annoying. They both looked the same on the old website. It was always confusing where I was supposed to go to get the information I needed". Our redesign has a simple navigation scheme in order to solve that problem.

The “Faculty” page in the “People” page is a big long list. It is good for visually scanning and seeing a preview of the person’s profile before clicking their name to navigate to their page. However, it is less interactive than the proposed redesign, which the users liked.

Lastly, we have the same triple navigation problem that was mentioned earlier.

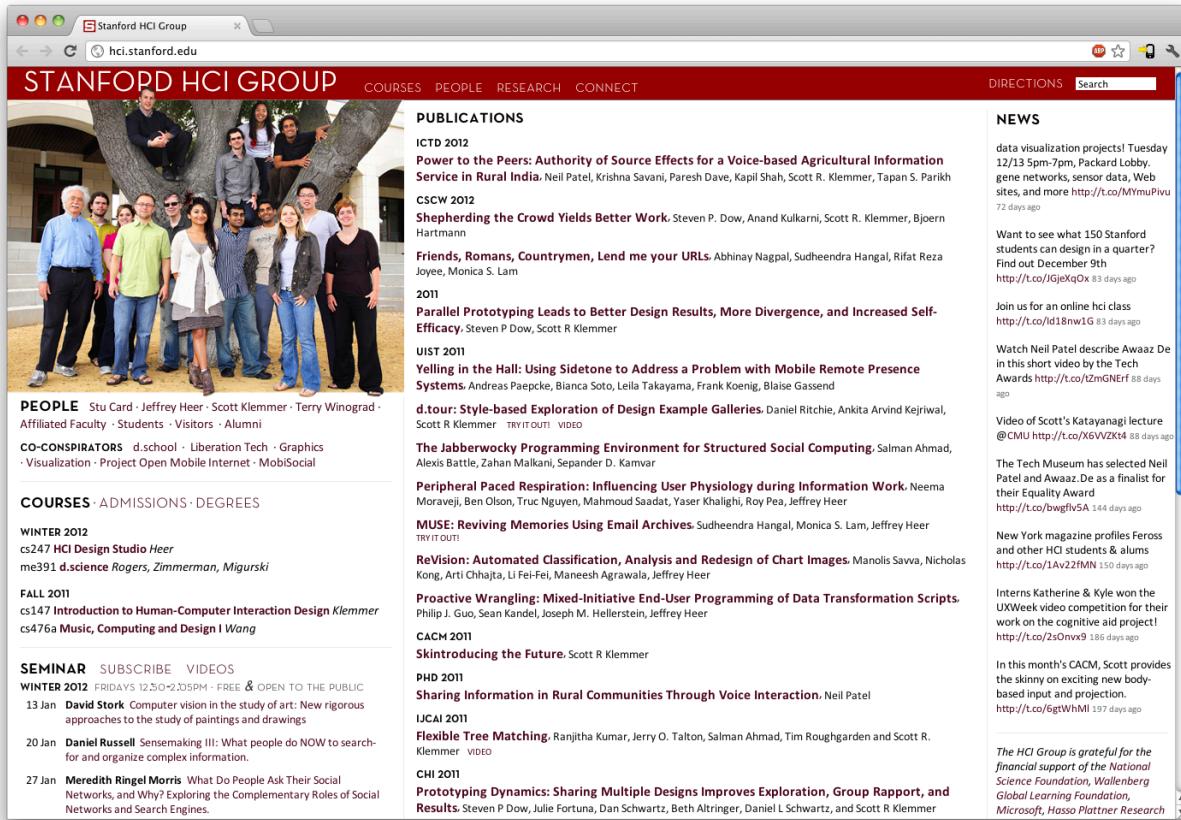
Overall, the current HCII website is much less aesthetically pleasing than our redesign. Users enjoyed how our redesign highlights the fact that Human-Computer Interaction is a blend between design and computer science. The website also has significant navigation problems, which make the site hard to use. User research shows that many current students only visit the website to check curriculum and to find people.

Stanford d.school



The d.school differs from the HCII because, as the d.school's "About us" page explains, "The d.school does not directly admit students nor grant degrees but does offer courses from world-class faculty in design thinking". The HCII at Carnegie Mellon has different target audience than the d.school because of that. The main advantages the d.school's website had over the old HCII website design was a sleek and modern design, a simple navigation scheme, and a brand for the school. The HCII should have its own brand in order to seem more like a community. The d.school website also seems like a blog that is focused on news. This helps the visitor become familiar with their work.

Stanford HCI Group



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Stanford HCI Group. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for COURSES, PEOPLE, RESEARCH, and CONNECT. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a group of people standing in front of a large tree. To the left of the tree, there is a photo of the same group of people standing in front of a building. To the right of the tree, there is a section titled "PUBLICATIONS" which lists several academic papers. To the right of that, there is a "NEWS" section with several news items. At the bottom of the page, there is a "SEMINAR" section with information about a seminar on Fridays at 12:30-2:05PM.

STANFORD HCI GROUP

COURSES PEOPLE RESEARCH CONNECT DIRECTIONS Search

PEOPLE Stu Card · Jeffrey Heer · Scott Klemmer · Terry Winograd · Affiliated Faculty · Students · Visitors · Alumni

CO-CONSPIRATORS d.school · Liberation Tech · Graphics · Visualization · Project Open Mobile Internet · MobiSocial

COURSES · ADMISSIONS · DEGREES

WINTER 2012
cs247 HCI Design Studio Heer
me391 d.science Rogers, Zimmerman, Migurski

FALL 2011
cs147 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction Design Klemmer
cs476a Music, Computing and Design I Wang

SEMINAR SUBSCRIBE VIDEOS

WINTER 2012 FRIDAYS 12:30-2:05PM · FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

13 Jan **David Stork** Computer vision in the study of art: New rigorous approaches to the study of paintings and drawings

20 Jan **Daniel Russell** Sensemaking III: What people do NOW to search for and organize complex information.

27 Jan **Meredith Ringel Morris** What Do People Ask Their Social Networks, and Why? Exploring the Complementary Roles of Social Networks and Search Engines.

PUBLICATIONS

ICTD 2012
Power to the Peers: Authority of Source Effects for a Voice-based Agricultural Information Service in Rural India. Neil Patel, Krishna Savani, Paresh Dave, Kapil Shah, Scott R. Klemmer, Tapan S. Parikh

CSCW 2012
Shepherding the Crowd Yields Better Work. Steven P. Dow, Anand Kulkarni, Scott R. Klemmer, Bjoern Hartmann

Friends, Romans, Countrymen, Lend me your URLs. Abhinav Nagpal, Sudheendra Hangal, Rifaat Reza Joyee, Monica S. Lam

2011

Parallel Prototyping Leads to Better Design Results, More Divergence, and Increased Self-Efficacy. Steven P Dow, Scott R Klemmer

UIST 2011
Yelling in the Hall: Using Sidetone to Address a Problem with Mobile Remote Presence Systems. Andreas Paepcke, Bianca Soto, Leila Takayama, Frank Koenig, Blaise Gassend

d.tour: Style-based Exploration of Design Example Galleries. Daniel Ritchie, Ankita Arvind Kejriwal, Scott R Klemmer TRY IT OUT! VIDEO

The Jabberwocky Programming Environment for Structured Social Computing. Salman Ahmad, Alexis Battle, Zahra Balkani, Sepander D. Kamvar

Peripheral Paced Respiration: Influencing User Physiology during Information Work. Neema Moraveji, Ben Olson, Truc Nguyen, Mahmoud Saadat, Yaser Khalighi, Roy Pea, Jeffrey Heer

MUSE: Reviving Memories Using Email Archives. Sudheendra Hangal, Monica S. Lam, Jeffrey Heer TRY IT OUT!

ReVision: Automated Classification, Analysis and Redesign of Chart Images. Manolis Savva, Nicholas Kong, Arti Chhajta, Li Fei-Fei, Maneesh Agrawala, Jeffrey Heer

Proactive Wrangling: Mixed-Initiative End-User Programming of Data Transformation Scripts. Philip J. Guo, Sean Kandel, Joseph M. Hellerstein, Jeffrey Heer

CACM 2011
Skintroducing the Future. Scott R Klemmer

PHD 2011
Sharing Information in Rural Communities Through Voice Interaction. Neil Patel

IJCAI 2011
Flexible Tree Matching. Ranjitha Kumar, Jerry O. Talton, Salman Ahmad, Tim Roughgarden and Scott R. Klemmer VIDEO

CHI 2011
Prototyping Dynamics: Sharing Multiple Designs Improves Exploration, Group Rapport, and Results. Steven P Dow, Julie Fortuna, Dan Schwartz, Beth Altringer, Daniel L Schwartz, and Scott R Klemmer

NEWS

data visualization projects! Tuesday 12/13 5pm-7pm; Packard Lobby, gene networks, sensor data, Web sites, and more <http://t.co/MymuPvu> 72 days ago

Want to see what 150 Stanford students can design in a quarter? Find out December 9th <http://t.co/JgjeEqOx> 83 days ago

Join us for an online hci class! <http://t.co/d18nw1G> 83 days ago

Watch Neil Patel describe AwaaZ De in this short video by the Tech Awards <http://t.co/2zmGNErF> 88 days ago

Video of Scott's Katayangi lecture @CMU <http://t.co/X6VV2Kt4> 88 days ago

The Tech Museum has selected Neil Patel and AwaaZ De as a finalist for their Equality Award <http://t.co/bwgfU5A> 144 days ago

New York magazine profiles Feross and other HCI students & alums <http://t.co/1av22fM1> 150 days ago

Interns Katherine & Kyle won the UXWeek video competition for their work on the cognitive aid project! <http://t.co/2s0nvx9> 186 days ago

In this month's CACM, Scott provides the skinny on exciting new body-based input and projection. <http://t.co/ggtWhM1> 197 days ago

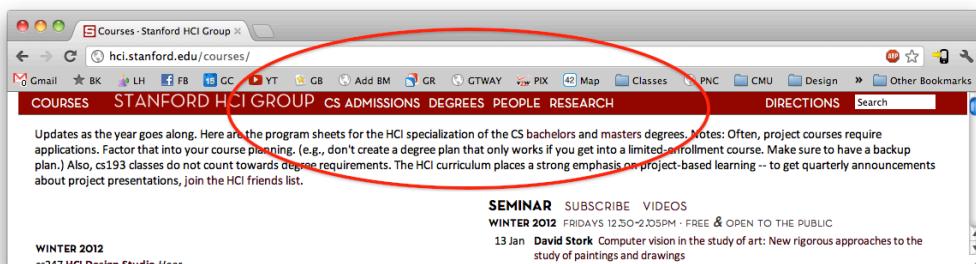
The HCI Group is grateful for the financial support of the National Science Foundation, Wallenberg Global Learning Foundation, Microsoft, Hasso Plattner Research

SEMINAR SUBSCRIBE VIDEOS

WINTER 2012 FRIDAYS 12:30-2:05PM · FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

13 Jan **David Stork** Computer vision in the study of art: New rigorous approaches to the study of paintings and drawings

The Stanford HCI Group's website has a large focus on publications followed by news. They take up almost the entire page. It is important to note that the Stanford HCI Group is a department and does not offer degrees nor directly admit students. Their target audience, like the d.school, is different than the HCII in that respect. Visually, the site is very cluttered because it is full with text. There is no whitespace and the user feels boxed in. Almost all of their content is squeezed into the homepage. Lastly, the navigation on the site is not consistent. Navigating to a page changes the top nav to have other options, which confuses the user.



The screenshot shows the 'Courses' page of the Stanford HCI Group. The top navigation bar has links for COURSES, STANFORD HCI GROUP, CS ADMISSIONS, DEGREES, PEOPLE, and RESEARCH. A red circle highlights the 'COURSES' link. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for the 'SEMINAR' with information about a seminar on Fridays at 12:30-2:05PM. There is also a section for 'WINTER 2012' with information about a course called 'cs247 HCI Design Studio Heer'. The page also includes a 'NEWS' section with several news items.

COURSES STANFORD HCI GROUP CS ADMISSIONS DEGREES PEOPLE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS Search

SEMINAR SUBSCRIBE VIDEOS

WINTER 2012 FRIDAYS 12:30-2:05PM · FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

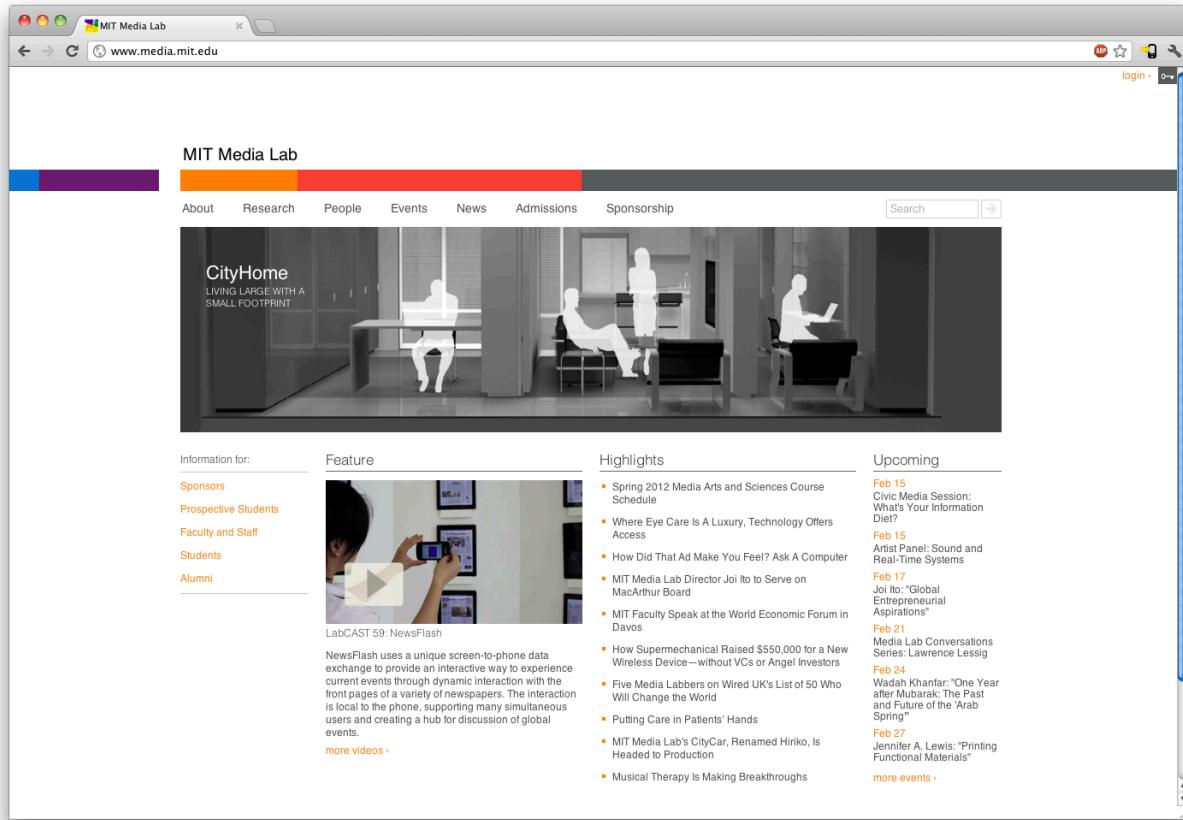
13 Jan **David Stork** Computer vision in the study of art: New rigorous approaches to the study of paintings and drawings

WINTER 2012
cs247 HCI Design Studio Heer

NEWS

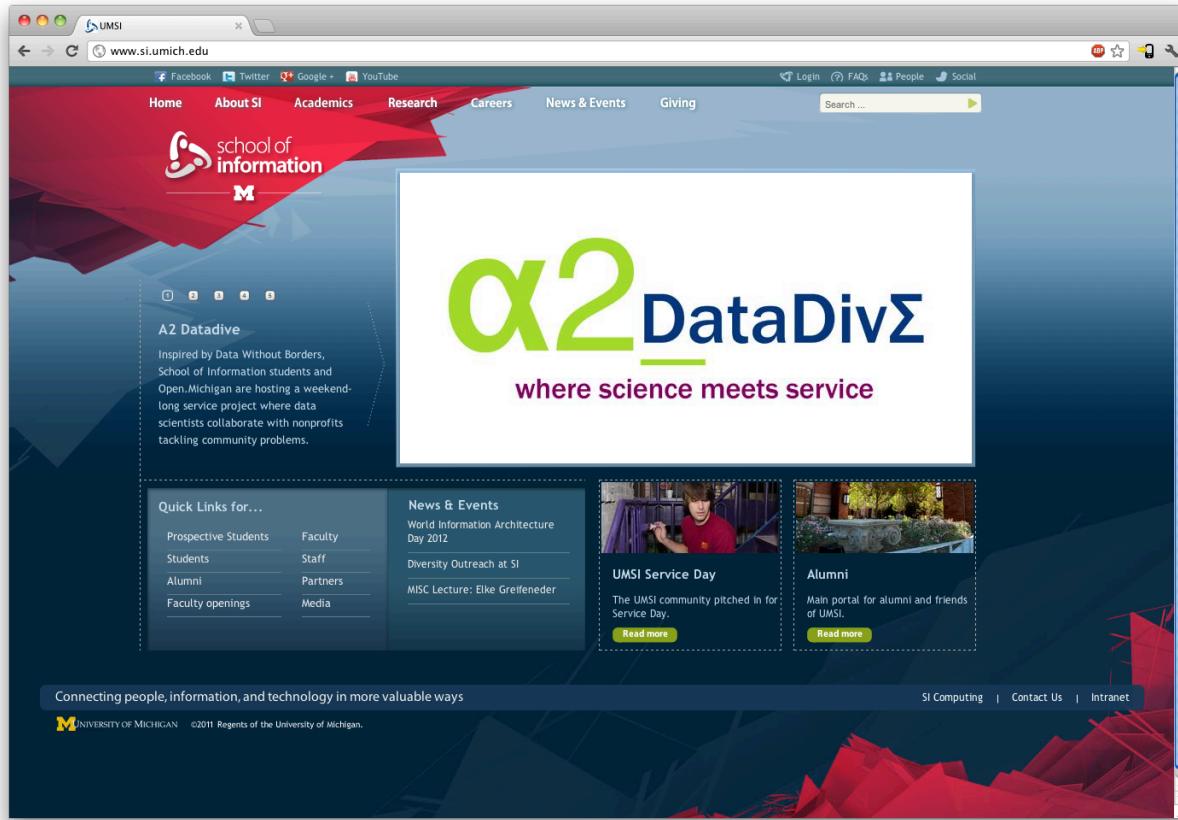
Updates as the year goes along. Here are the program sheets for the HCI specialization of the CS bachelors and masters degrees. Notes: Often, project courses require applications. Factor that into your course planning. (e.g., don't create a degree plan that only works if you get into a limited-enrollment course. Make sure to have a backup plan.) Also, cs193 classes do not count towards degree requirements. The HCI curriculum places a strong emphasis on project-based learning -- to get quarterly announcements about project presentations, join the HCI friends list.

MIT Media Lab



The MIT Media Lab has a very clean design. It is the most minimalist out of all the competitors. Our redesign is similar in that it is minimalist as well, but it is different because it doesn't have as much text as MIT's site. Our site also has the student project showcases on the homepage. MIT's minimalist design make the user aware that the Media Lab greatly values design, but the combination of not having many pictures of people and the content following such a strict grid makes the page seem machine-like and not human. Our site contrasts greatly to that – most of the users we interviewed directly expressed that our redesign makes the HCII feel alive and not robotic. The MIT Media Lab site is a bit too minimal in its design. Their side nav also has specific links for specific audiences, but the navigation gets confusing when the user visits the portal. The site also feels informational and not engaging.

University of Michigan School of Information



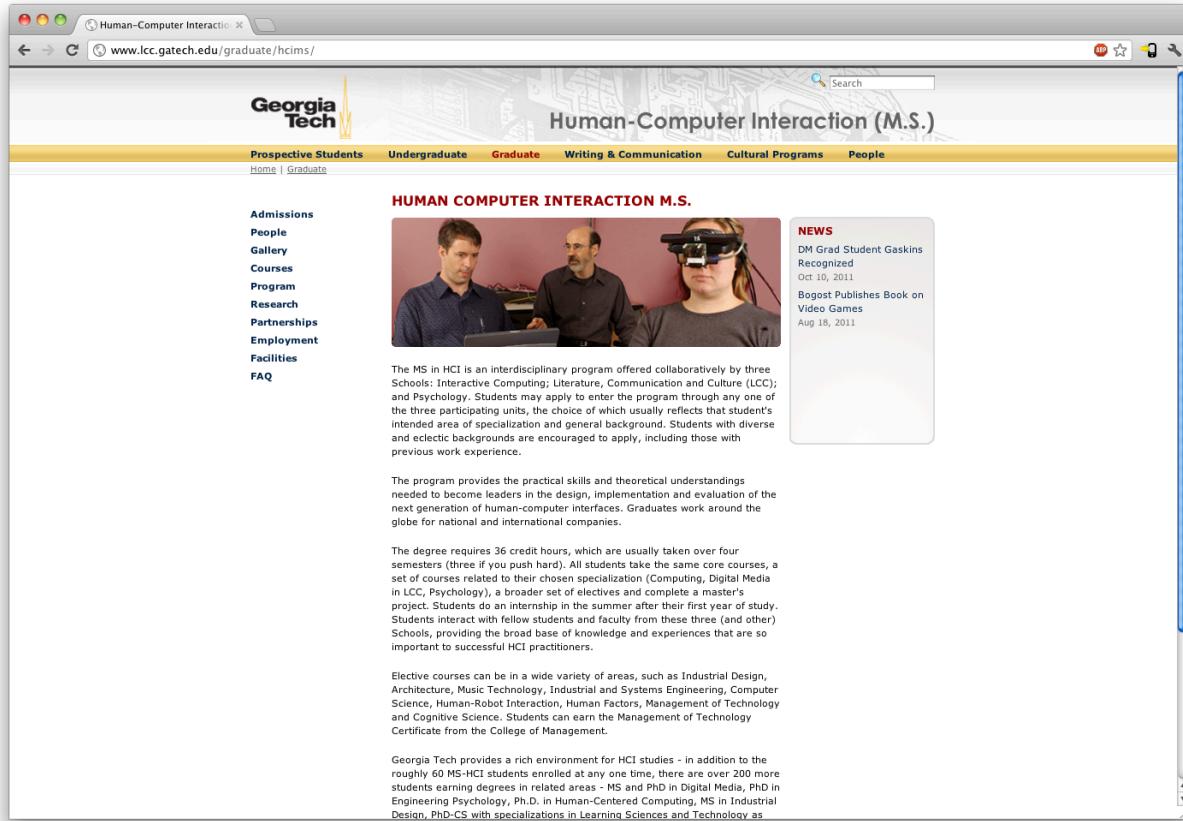
The School of Information page has too much design going on. The large background image distracts from the main content. A background image should not distract the user from the main content. It serves to compliment, not substitute or distract the main content. There is also a “quick links for” section, which has links for certain groups, such as prospective students. Once again, while it is convenient to target certain groups, it can lead to a mess in navigation.

Georgia Tech School of Interactive Computing



The color scheme of the website seems like a default theme. The homepage is dedicated to solely news and talks and events. The site also feels very static, other than the slideshow news photos at the top. It seems more informational in a passive sense than engaging. The user does not have any reason to click and follow through with the text-only news articles.

Georgia Tech Human-Computer Interaction



The MHCI program at Georgia Tech is completely dominated by information about the program. That is good for their target audience, but the HCII at CMU has a large audience composed of current students, prospective students, and faculty. The news widget on the right looks as if it has not been updated in a very long time – our site should constantly be updated in order to provide a reason for users to come back and visit.

Analysis Summary

The HCII's main competitors are the d.school and the MIT Media Lab. The d.school succeeds by having the user identify and understand the d.school method of thinking while the MIT Media Lab communicates by having a minimalist design. The minimalist design allows for the user to easily navigate the site, but the downside is that it seems machine-like. Our redesign includes the best of both worlds, minimalist design and brand communication by having a minimalist design with pictures of people and what we do.

Interviews

Note: the interviews were conducted using the first version of the mockups (find them in the 'Design Process' section), NOT using the final mockups. The feedback on the mockups from the interviews was incorporated into the final redesigned mockups.

Faculty

Professor, Human-Computer Interaction Institute

Homepage

"It looks a lot better than what we have now (pointed to the people tile) I would make that real HCII people. You want to communicate what's recent and exciting on the front page. Need a little bit more text for the news. For instance, how would the Chris Harrison being on the Forbes 30 under 30 list be communicated on the page as is? I think that it can't be only visual. I like that you have gone minimal with the text, but maybe too much. Can't have news without text."

People

"This is really great. It reduces scrolling a lot. It is unusual and it is practice. It is visually interesting. Maybe get a real portrait photographer. But then again, having a diversity in the picture is good too."

Programs & Admissions

"It looks fine. It seems nice. Not offensive. Pleasing enough. Looks better than what we have. Not particularly spectacular. The picture is interesting but I don't really associate this bridge with our department. If it was a rotating picture it could work. Font size might be too small."

Current HCII Homepage

"This looks like a wiki to me. Maybe not quite. There is something not nice about it. I'm not sure I can nail it down. I don't use it much at all to be honest. Information about people. That's mostly it. I look at the information for my own courses to see how it is presented and if it is up-to-date. I use the Google Calendar and not the website. I actually don't have much reason to go to the website. Every once in a while I go there. It is usually driven by a specific question. I don't usually go there to see what's going on with the department."

Alumni

MHCI and BHCI Alumnus, Product Designer, Huge Inc.

Homepage

"I like the homepage a lot. It really catches your eye, it is super flashy. After thinking about it though, I think you should tone it down a little bit. The six thumbnails kind of bother me because it doesn't stretch the entire width. It looks an awkward size. I would also make it smaller maybe. I think you should have text on the homepage. I almost guarantee that an organization like HCII would want text on the page and not lose a homepage to navigation. I would recommend maybe putting the thumbnails on one side and having text content in the main area. I guess it would be nice if the banner on top (the news) had some text on it. Similar to how the cmu.edu website. They have a big picture and like a picture and some text on the side. It all looks nice visually; it needs content for it to sell. You should definitely use a Hero. That's something I learned at Huge. It's really effective."

People

"The biggest issue I had with this was with the nav design. I didn't realize that the top nav is correlated with the people. A solution might be making the top nav more prominent. Visually, you might want to put it horizontally near the side nav. I don't know how you would solve this right now, but I didn't know the top was a top nav. The header is kind of big, you have a huge logo and then you have this huge whitespace. Make the header smaller. The top nav was so subtle; I thought the side nav was the main one"

"I like the people page a lot. I like this grid system you have going on. I like when you click on the person that it highlights them. What would happen if you didn't have someone clicked? I would maybe not have anyone, see how it looks without anyone. If it looks fine, I would keep it like that. Maybe you could put some general text about the page. I wouldn't choose one at random."

Programs & Admissions

"As an accelerated master's student, I didn't really check the curriculum a lot. I might have checked admissions. Admissions is kind of awful. It's just question and answers. It is really

poorly done. Maybe you should redesign that one. The emphasized text definitely popped a lot. I don't know if you want that."

Current Students

PhD, Human-Computer Interaction

Homepage

"Using those photos as a menu is good. It is giving me the impression that HCI is a combination of CS and design. I like the height, I believe the website can fit on one screen. I'm wondering what this big image is. If it rotates, you might want to put some arrows to indicate that it rotates. I don't know about this menu (points to top nave) if it is too small, people might not notice it. It may be good to have some contact. I don't know who to contact. Might want to use the space at the top. Leaving space is good in terms of design, but I don't know if we want to leave that much space. I don't think that 'Job' is the right word. It is a little ambiguous. I'm thinking that it would be a position for inside that institution. Publications should be added to research. I would want to add my papers. There is no easy way to do that right now. 'Talks' should also be added. PhD students could post that information. They would be really glad. It would be advertising for them. There should be a place to showcase student projects. Capstone projects. Research. That is really attractive for prospective students too. A picture and description and links would be nice."

People

"Oh that is good. I can imagine that if you hover, it will become bigger. It will react. If I am looking for someone who is working on 'Mobile System' how can I find that?

Programs & Admissions

"I expect to see admissions in a menu when I go to this page. Students will be looking for that. Might want to make it its own menu category."

Current HCII Homepage

"I currently do not use the website. The only case is when I want to find email address for a specific guy. I search for their name and get the information. For current students, there is almost no relevant information. Students usually come here to find course information, but we go to the CMU website for that. As a PhD student, I would like to see some way to collaborate with other students. HCII is really big, and there is a lot of research going on, it

would be nice to be able to see that. There may be confidentiality with this, maybe that part would be password protected. I don't like the 3-column design. Some elements are not aligned"

PhD, Human-Computer Interaction

Homepage

"I don't understand the colors. They have no meaning. They don't seem quite necessary. It doesn't have any news. Fine by me. I do like the lay (grid). I don't like the font that is being used. It seems too narrow and crushed. I don't understand how the pictures will be updated. Might want better templates or matching pictures. I don't see the need for the top bar. I guess that is because only on the main page you would have the grid. The header generally seems a little weird to me. It seems like you could almost cut it out. You could move the elements around. The font for the footer isn't used anywhere else. It seems a little weird. Student showcase page would be nice. Would have to make sure that it is up-to-date and consistent. Lots of PhD and Masters students and undergrads have cool side projects."

People

"I would say that it looks very cool. I like that look. It might be a little bit of work to get it into this format. Need more consistency in general. The header for the left nave, people, looks like a menu element. Differentiate it more. I would do something to improve it. People other than faculty might not fit the content on the right. Overall, I like the grid. It might be hard to perform a textual search. I like the overall idea"

Programs & Admissions

"Now that I think about it, the header might be better as a tab. If you had the tab colored and the other grayed out, that would be nice. There's not that much you can do with this page, it looks good. You can do specialized design for some but not all. I would maybe go with justified text so it is a little more block-like. I think I like the link color. Small chance it may stand out too much. I don't see why it isn't the same red as the logo.

Current HCII Homepage

"The only time I ever use this site is when I am looking for people. Generally masters students. I know all the PhD students so I don't need to look them up. Sometimes I visit the site to see the latest news. They don't keep it up-to-date though. I don't like the way the side-nav is laid and the logo. The logo is weird. Doesn't quite mesh for me. Very minimal

actual design styling. Ultimately, I can usually find what I need; I just wish it looked a little bit better. It uses blue as an accent color, which is interesting.

Junior, Information Systems and BHCI

Homepage

"I like that the menu is consistent. (points to the top nav bard and the six tiles). I was expecting more info on the homepage. Right now it looks like a portal to the other parts of the website. I don't see anything about the HCII on the homepage."

People

"This is nice, not having to reload. I like this view better than the list of people on the current site."

Programs & Admissions

"I greatly appreciate that you combined the academics and admissions parts of the site. It was REALLY annoying. They both looked the same on the old website. It was always confusing where I was supposed to go to get the information I needed."

Current HCII Homepage

"According to the analytics data from Methods last semester, most people click the links on the left side of the page. I thought that was strange because I always click the links on the top. There were like five different ways to get to the different pages. I don't know if this is the plan to be implemented, but I don't see much use for logging in. I just change my info and that's it? It wasn't a big part of the page. It didn't stand out to me as a student to want to log in. If there were more use for it, I would log in more. If it was something directly beneficial to students or faculty that shouldn't be displayed publicly, I would actually probably use my login info."

Junior, Computer Science and BHCI

Homepage

"I like the photos and the color. These are the main functions people come to the site for (points to the tile grid). It's nice. It attracts your eye pretty well. I'm not sure how I feel about the top thing (points to the news slideshow). It highlights the main news stories, but it took me a second to realize that it wasn't a static thing. Also the fact that it stretches across the

screen while everything else doesn't make it seem like a photo header. The fonts: serif on the bottom kind of stands out. The top nav and search bar fonts are kind of hard to read. The search font should be more normal. I like the grid a lot (points to tiles)."

People

"(After explaining the search functionality to the interviewee). I feel like the hierarchy is kind of weird. The way people view websites is kind of like nested content boxes. If you wanted the search to search the faculty list, it should be in that box (points to the space where the thumbnails are). I like the general photo spread, but the text is a little hard to read (points to thumbnails). Especially here (points to Robert Kraut's thumbnail). The other parts are generally good. It kind of throws me off that there are a bunch of different fonts going on. Otherwise it is generally good."

Programs & Admissions

"Seems fine. Simpler page. Not much to comment on. Seems to do its job. One thing you might want to consider is using the image as a spread (instead of on the right), make it a big larger (points to stretch across the top of the content box. I think otherwise the page is pretty good though."

Current HCII Homepage

"Something to consider is that there is more content on the current homepage than yours. People might not see this stuff (points to news and calendar) if it is not on the homepage. It also has more links, which can be messy, but they are all there. In your mockup you seem to have removed a lot of them. You have to be careful about removing links / functionality"

Junior, Decision Science and BHCI

Homepage

"It seems like I have to click a lot to get to the information that I want. The old website had direct access to the different pages. I didn't notice these (pointed to red square in the slideshow news). If there were words, I would have noticed that it is a news story. I think it is an interesting layout."

People

"If this is going to be one page, and all the people are on one page, it might be hard to read the people's names. It also seems like there may not be enough space for all the information. Other than that I think it's good."

Programs & Admissions

"I think it is fine."

Current HCII Homepage

"I usually just come to the website when I need to know specific information, like classes I need. I don't just come here to browse. You know how there is the other server that HCI has (EASy), It's kind of hard to login to it now. Login on the HCI website is not logging into it (EASy). Maybe you could add it. I like that this is on the side, like 'for current students'. They guide me. This is bad though (the HCI news blurbs and calendar). There is no hierarchy. They blend together."

Prospective Students

Junior, Information Systems, Prospective BHCI

Homepage

"I really like the different colors, It helps a lot actually. The news thing isn't clear how to use. I like the font. I think having the boxes as separate colors would be better."

People

"I actually really like how it is organized. The three colors. I like how the other pictures are grayed out. The boxes on the homepage should be the same color as this the box has the color here too."

Programs & Admissions

"I really like the color scheme. If I was just coming into HCI, I would think it is more about computers, but the website shows me that you have to think about the design and people aspect. This shows that this is HCI and that you don't just program day in and day out. It is unclear if there are subcategories. Put an arrow or something."

Current HCII Homepage

"I think there is far too much whitespace. I wouldn't say that everything is cluttered, but everything is packed in. Color scheme is not as nice as yours. I feel like when I was looking for information, it took a long time to find it. Yours looks like it would be much easier to find information."

Non-HCI Students

Junior, Information Systems and Computer Science

Homepage

"I like it. The pictures are visually stimulating and there is not too much text to distract. It is clean."

People

"I like that. It also looks clean. I like the color scheme, it is not overwhelming. It is easy to see what information you need to see quickly. It is very obvious to see that Robert Kraut has been selected. It is intuitive."

Programs & Admissions

"That also looks very clean. I like the color scheme again. I like the navigation, 'F Style' It is good".

Current HCII Homepage

"It sucks. The color scheme is just way too boring. I feel like the nav bar is too compact. Not that clean. I also don't like the shapes (points to the news blurbs)."

Junior, Communication Design

Homepage

"This is a slideshow? What happens when I click on it? I imagine it being automated. My natural expectation would be for it to take me somewhere. The search bar is too high on the hierarchy list. If your research shows that the search bar is used a lot, then it is appropriate, but I personally don't use the search bar often. I do like the hierarchy because it is very clear. The black and white photos help to unify everything together. I think it is pretty clean. Increase kerning for homepage navigation elements. Increase tracking."

People

"This is under people? I think the 'People' link (in the top nav) could be a bit more differentiated for the visited link to signify that you are here. People look to that to navigate. I do like this layout. This is nice. The text for the names looks kinda small. Maybe you should have the images respond to the hover. Make it bigger maybe when you hover. I think I kinda like the idea that the name is visible right now. I just think it is too small right now. Kinda hard to read. With respect to the subcategories, I think they need to more differentiated. The indentation could be a bit bigger. The subcategories cold be gray instead of black. When you add more subcategories there might be a problem with too many on the page. I don't know if the solution will be all or none of what I said."

Programs & Admissions

"Decrease leading in header. More space in between body text and header. More breathing room. Looks like one big chunk. Leading decrease. A caption don't need a lot of leading,

usually leading is used to increase the readability. Bigger leading for the header, decrease it to allow for more space in header and body text."

Current HCII Homepage

"I think that the image is overpowering the nave bar. I think the hierarchy of the text and color isn't right. I think there is a lot of information all at once. There can be more of an emphasis on what HCI wants the audience to see at first glance. The navigation needs to be more prominent compared to that image. I don't know if this (left nav bar) can be combined with this information (top nav bar). I don't know if it's necessarily a bad thing that it shoos up twice, cause it could help people look for information. The typography of the site could be more uniform."

Sophomore, Communication Design

Homepage

"I feel like it looks much better. I'm actually drawn to the images. The logo can be seen immediately. I don't have to look around anywhere else for information. I like how you organized the text and the color and the photo. It works really well. Just the right about of information for a homepage. It looks a lot more efficient than the previous site. I think you did a good job with that. If you wanted to, you could bring the top nav down to the baseline under the logo. You would have more free space then."

People

"I can tell you are trying to highlight the profile, but I think you should highlight it more. Maybe have a frame around it or make it brighter. The other ones are just dimly lit right now. I feel like using Georgia is a really nice font for reading on the screen, but it goes more towards an industrial, traditional look. If you want a more modern look, I would go with a sans serif. Other than that, I think it looks nice."

Programs & Admissions

"The fact that you are using italic and a larger font is good. I'm kind of distracted by the photo a little bit. The alignment on the page. Maybe you could bring it down. How do you plan on highlighting the different nav selected links? If you wanted to, you could even incorporate the dot from the HCI logo."

Current HCII Homepage

"I can understand the organization, but I feel that there is a lot of text. I feel that it could be more image based. There is a lot of stuff on the side and on the top; I don't know which direction you want me to go for information. There are some unnecessary links. The 'for' could probably be eliminated. The top image, I don't know what's going on with that. The color itself, there is green, red, blue, white. White is good, it is very clean. Depends on how you want to integrate it."

Sophomore, Economics and Mathematical Sciences

Homepage

"Looks really simple. I like displays that use the whole box thing. Easy to read. Doesn't seem like there is much going on. Just looks like a toolbar, doesn't seem like there is much on the page to look at. Looks simple, looks useful, but doesn't look like it is finished. It looks like students designed it. Colors and layout look good, visually pleasing."

People

"This almost looks too crowded. I like that you don't have to scroll down. It is really nice. The other one that you showed (the current HCII people page). My only concern though is that I can't search (Ctrl-F) text on the page might make it harder to use. I like how you have the boxes with the words."

Programs & Admissions

"Looks like a typical college page. Looks like more of the standard stuff. Not consistent with the other pages. It doesn't look like there is much information to display. Looks incomplete (points to the left nav). It looks neutral. Not too flashy like the other pages. Not that it is bad, just looks different."

Current HCII Homepage

"Looks standard. Looks more complete, but looks way less visually appealing. Looks complete, but it does look a lot harder to navigate. I would hate to have to go to all these drop downs to find the information I'm looking for. Looks more complete and cohesive, but looks more intimidating maybe, less visually appealing."

Conclusion / Next Steps

Our team is fully confident that this redesign will be successful based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback that we received during our interviews with real users.

We believe we have the skills to bring this concept to life. Here are our bios:

Brian Groudan

Junior studying Information Systems with an additional Major in Human-Computer Interaction and with a minor in Communication Design. Brian has professional interaction design / user experience design work under his belt and has an excellent design portfolio. Brian is design focused, but can also turn his designs into reality through code.

Christian Reyes

Junior studying Information Systems with an additional Major in Human-Computer Interaction. Christian has experience in a variety of technical roles, which include Software Engineer, Front-End Developer, and Assistant Product Owner. Christian is capable of server administration along with front-end application development.

We make an excellent team together and would really be able to make this proposed concept into reality. We would want to conduct more user research while ironing out our mockups and designs. We would then start creating a prototype and test that with users. The Drupal Content Management System can be implemented using custom themes. We could organize and design how the content would be fit into our custom theme so that non-programmers could easily edit and save changes to the page, while maintaining its clean and minimalist appearance.

We would be willing to do this for pay or for units during the school year and possibly the summer. We honestly believe this will transform how people view the HCII and would like to implement this.