

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technologies

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The Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technologies was established in 2000. The order for its establishment was signed by the Rector of SSU on February 28, 2000. According to this order, the faculty included two departments:

- Department of Mathematical Cybernetics and Computer Science (Head: Prof. D. V. Speransky)
- Department of Theoretical Foundations of Informatics and Information Technologies (now the Department of Discrete Mathematics and Information Technologies) (Head: Prof. A. A. Sytnik)

Previously, both departments were part of the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics. In June 2000, Professor D. V. Speransky was elected the first Dean of the Faculty.

Training in programming at Saratov University has a long history. The first graduates in programming at SSU appeared in the late 1950s. In 1957, the first Computing Center in the Volga region was established at the university, which became the technical foundation for training programmers. The SSU Computing Center was among the first in the USSR to receive a serial Ural computer. In the following years, the university received all the latest computing equipment, which was used for student training. A team of qualified teachers formed at the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics, who, together with the staff of the SSU Computing Center, successfully trained programmers. Many of these specialists later became staff members of our faculty's departments.

The creation of our faculty is closely associated with the name of academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Anatoly Mikhailovich Bogomolov. He was the first to use computers for research in theoretical physics, became one of the organizers of the SSU Computing Center, and was the first

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university lecturer to deliver a general programming course. After moving to Donetsk (Ukraine) in 1965, he went on to lead the Institute of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 1973. In 1977, with his extensive experience, he accepted the offer to become the Rector of SSU. Upon returning to Saratov in 1978, he initiated the creation of the Department of Mathematical Cybernetics, which he led until his sudden death in 1994. While Rector, A. M. Bogomolov envisioned the establishment of a dedicated faculty for training specialists in applied mathematics and computer science. Although he did not live to see his dream realized, his students and followers brought it to life by actively participating in the organization of the Faculty of CSIT.

Initially, the newly formed faculty offered two specialties:

- Applied Mathematics and Informatics
- Computing Machines, Complexes, Systems, and Networks

The Department of Mathematical Cybernetics and Computer Science, headed by Prof. D. V. Speransky (a student of A. M. Bogomolov), handled the first specialty, focusing on mathematical and software support of computing machines and computer security. The second specialty was handled by the Department of Theoretical Foundations of Informatics and Information Technologies, headed by Prof. A. A. Sytnik, also a student of A. M. Bogomolov.

In 2001, the Department of System Analysis and Automatic Control, headed by Prof. Yuri Ivanovich Mitrofanov, transferred from the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics to CSIT. Like the Department of Mathematical Cybernetics, it was responsible for the Applied Mathematics and Informatics specialty.

Since 2001, a new specialty "Computer Security" has been introduced at the faculty. The graduating department for this specialty is the Department of Theoretical Foundations of Computer Security and Cryptography, established in 2002 and headed by Prof. Vyacheslav Nikolaevich Saliy.

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In 2004, a fifth department, Informatics and Programming, was opened at the faculty under the leadership of Associate Professor A. G. Fedorova. This department contributes to the training of specialists in Applied Mathematics and Informatics.

Currently, the faculty employs 6 Doctors of Science and 21 Candidates of Science, many of whom are students of A. M. Bogomolov. The faculty members are highly qualified and experienced. Their degrees, titles, and awards for professional achievements testify to their competence. Notably, academician A. A. Sytnik received the Presidential Prize in Education in 2002, and Associate Professor A. G. Fedorova received the same prize in 2003.

The quality of education is evident from the achievements of our students and alumni. Our graduates work successfully in cities like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Volgograd, and abroad. The faculty traditionally places great emphasis on working with gifted youth, including school students. In 2003, the Olympiad Training Center was opened at the faculty, led by A. G. Fedorova. The center has achieved significant results.

For instance, SSU teams participate annually in the World Programming Championships among university teams. In 2002, a team including our student M. R. Mirzayanov won a silver medal and the title of European Champion in Honolulu. The same team won another silver medal at the 2003 championship in Los Angeles. In 2004, a team entirely made up of our junior students earned the right to participate in the 2005 World Championship in Shanghai at the semi-final in St. Petersburg. In September 2004, first-year student V. Goldstein won a gold medal at the World School Programming Championship in Athens. In 2006 (San Antonio, USA), a team including CSIT student I. Kulkin won a gold medal and the world champion title. At the 2007 World Championship final in Tokyo, a CSIT student team (V. Goldstein, S. Nazarov, A. Klimov) won silver medals. In 2008, CSIT student Dmitry Matov, as part of the SSU team, became the Russian Programming Champion.

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Our students include Presidential Scholarship holders, Potanin Foundation Scholars, and winners of national student research competitions. These achievements confirm the high quality of education provided at our faculty and the outstanding qualifications of our teaching staff.