Nerd Herd IT club is a student organization in Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University. Our club mission is to promote and motivate the budding and aspiring students within the IT program. Our unique club joins young creative minds together and works to explore the field to develop professional connections through conducting coding hackathons, STEM conference, and participating within university and national level competitions.

Elizabeth Joshi is the President of Nerd Herd club and an Information Technology Masters' student and is currently in her second semester. Elisha received her Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication from India in 2014. She brings in around 2.5 years of industry exposure in the IT field having worked with Infosys as a Network Engineer. She is trying to broaden her networking skills with a deeper knowledge in data analytics. Elisha is a happy-go-lucky person and you'd always find her chatting away gloriously!

Ishwar Bhat Kattur is the Vice President and a second year grad student in Information Technology. Ishwar did his undergrad in Electronics and Communication from Mysore, India. He's passionate about leveraging latest tools to dig deeper in to Big Data practices. When Ishwar is not hunched over his computer, you might find him skateboarding around or trying to lift some weights in the gym.

Stuti Mandal is the Treasurer and currently a Junior pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology with a minor in Business. Stuti is very interested in Networking and is keen on exploring other fields of IT as well. If she is not in class or working, you can find her giving campus Tours to future Sun Devils. Stuti is a cheerful person, and you would always find her smiling!

Elizabeth Hutchison is the Shepherd and an Undergrad Junior in Information Technology. Before coming to ASU, Liz served six years in the United States Navy working on the network side for the ship's missile self-defense system and that's how her love of IT began! Liz has a passion for helping others, cracking jokes, and solving problems.
On August 23, 2017, I attended the ASU Congressional Conference on Cybersecurity. Dr. Michael Crow introduced the keynote speaker, Senator John McCain (Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee). In addition to Senator McCain, there were several other congressional representatives from the State of Arizona who chaired the various discussion groups.

Cybersecurity dominates headlines, drives policy, and is part of our everyday life. Cybersecurity is more than just machines; it also includes the people who use these machines and the laws and policy that govern interactions. The demand for cybersecurity is growing rapidly, leaving the industry with a shortage of qualified talent. There are currently more than 200,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs, with an estimate of up to 1 million cybersecurity vacancies by the year 2020. The key is ensuring educational institutions work with industry to ensure these jobs will be filled by the most capable people.

Cybersecurity threats are evolving at a rapid pace. Identifying these threats in the earliest stages and creating novel countermeasures is a key research area. Internet connectivity has exploded in the past ten years. Much of our critical infrastructure is now dependent on the Internet. As such, some of our most important systems in energy delivery, transportation, and voting have unique vulnerabilities that could be exploited by an adversary. The rapid transition of cybersecurity research to operations from academia, industry, and government quickly to ward off threats is needed. Various methods of transition, including some that have not yet been considered widely are needed. No one has all the answers and there are many questions that remain unknown. This is a difficult continuing problem.

During the conference, I learned that the field of Information Technology and protecting the Internet are grave issues. The educational system and industry must work together to fill the gaps and expand the workforce in this technical area. Access any job related website and you can find openings for Information Technologists. Bottom line: The IT discipline has graduated from its infancy to its youth which means there are untold challenges as we learn more about the capabilities and limitations of a global networked civilization. It also means that we have not yet finished defining exactly who we are as information technologists. We are only limited by our imaginations. Dare to dream!

Dr. J. Helm. IT Program Chair