



## **Ethics in Computer Science Classes**

### **An Open Letter from the Computer Science Faculty**

**We, the faculty members of the Computer Science Department, are charged with the task of preparing our students for a professional career in the computer sciences. We believe strongly that an important part of that preparation is the fostering of a clear understanding of professional responsibilities and ethics. We further believe that this understanding can only be achieved in an environment where rules of responsibility and ethics are clearly stated and actively enforced.**

**Because of these beliefs, we take this opportunity to assert clearly that we are serious about enforcing academic integrity in our classrooms, for the good of our students and for the good of the department, the college, and the university. We feel strongly about this in part because if there are students cheating in our classes then they are in effect cheating on *you*, the honest student – by lowering your grade, by devaluing your hard work, and ultimately by lowering the standards of the university and the value of your degree.**

**We wish to assure students in or associated with our department that we are willing to go to extraordinary lengths and to spare no effort to catch, discipline, and if necessary remove students who view cheating as acceptable. It is not acceptable, under any circumstances, and we intend to do our best to eliminate it – and the small minority of students who propagate it. We have already encountered and dealt with a number of sophisticated attempts at cheating, and we take this opportunity to state publicly that we intend to redouble our efforts to enforce appropriate rules of professional and classroom ethics in our courses. We invite you, the overwhelming majority of honest students who will directly benefit from this, to join us in this effort.**