Conference Activities

This document outlines the assignments for the Fall 2016 *Computational Systems Biology* course that traveled to ACM-BCB in Seattle, WA. The conference website is located here: `http://acm-bcb.org/2016/index.php`.

Items marked with **Handin:** are deliverables. Items marked with **Faculty:** offer advice for faculty developing their own assignments. Note that this assignment does not include instructions for pre-conference and post-conference surveys.

Before the Conference

- ☐ Pack.
- ☐ Arrange Transportation. **Faculty:** Faculty should help arranging rides, hotel, and other travel.
- ☐ Read through the the abstracts provided. **Faculty:** Corresponding authors are often excited to share their paper/abstract before the meeting if the abstracts are not available online.
- ☐ Read through the Contact Information and Addresses page. **Faculty:** Share a Google Drive folder or document where students provide their contact information (and you provide yours).
- ☐ Read through the conference program (which is usually available online).
- ☐ **Handin:** Write down your answers to the following questions (a few sentences each).
  - ☐ What classes/research/independent projects have you found interesting?
  - ☐ At least one of the following:
    - What are you majoring in or planning to major in and why?
    - What have you done in the summer? What are your future summer plans?
    - Seniors: what is your thesis topic?
  - ☐ What do you want to do post-graduation?

During the Conference

- ☐ **Handin:** Write one-paragraph summaries of **three** talks/demos from the conference. Try to attend talks on different topics. **Faculty:** Modify this list for general areas you'd like students to attend (though students will have choice here).
  - ☐ Big Data
  - ☐ Healthcare
  - ☐ Systems Biology
  - ☐ Biological Modeling
  - ☐ Text Mining

- ☐ Phylogenetic Networks
- ☐ Sequence Analysis

☐ **Handin:** Write one-paragraph summaries of **two posters** (that aren't presented by people from your institution). Taking a photo of the posters is really helpful.

☐ Get to know one of your colleagues (someone you don't already know very well). What are they majoring in and why? What classes did they find interesting? What are their post-graduation plans?

After the Conference

☐ **Read a paper** from the conference. **Faculty:** Keep a Google Drive folder of papers you collect; also encourage students to contact authors for papers.

☐ **Handin:** Write a 1-2 page summary of the paper above, touching on these points: **Faculty:** Modify these questions to fit within your course goals.

- ☐ What is the biological problem?
- ☐ Have there been previous attempts to solve this problem with computation? If so, what are the limitations?
- ☐ What general computational approach do the authors take?
- ☐ What conclusions do they reach?
- ☐ What parts confuse you about the paper?
- ☐ What are your overall impressions?

☐ **Handin:** Reflect on the conference itself. How did it match your expectations of a conference? What surprised you? Were there any negative experiences? Is there anything you would have done differently?

Submit your Homework

Take all the **Handin:** tags and combine them into a single document. You will receive feedback on the talk, poster, and paper summaries.