INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ONLINE SECURITY OFFERING UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

(BLOOMINGTON, IND.) The organizers of a leading conference focusing on online security issues have announced they will provide financial assistance to a scholar who is a primary care giver, and who has their research paper accepted for presentation. *Financial Cryptography and Data Security 2008* will award the $750 scholarship to pay for childcare and other family-related expenses related to attending the conference, January 28-31, 2008, in Cozumel, Mexico

L. Jean Camp, associate professor, Indiana University School of Informatics, is president of the International Financial Cryptography Association, host of the twelfth international conference that will bring together approximately seventy attendees from four continents.

"This scholarship is targeted at female graduate students who are specializing or considering specializing in computer security," said Prof. Camp. "It will address goals in the Computing Research Association report 'Recruitment and Retention of Women Graduate Students in Computer Science and Engineering', by encouraging re-entry students with children, and by beginning to broaden the institutional culture of security."

Prof. Camp explained that the scholarship was created to encourage women to apply to the conference, and to engage them more deeply in computer security – a field dominated by males. In 1984, the participation of women in computer science began a dramatic decline from a high of thirty-seven percent, and has never completely recovered.

Women in computer science tend to concentrate in particular fields such as human-computer interaction, and are under-represented in security-related research. Prof. Camp joined the faculty at IU when leaving Harvard University, in part, because half of the computer security faculty is female.

"Engaging re-entry students and women in research not only increase the likelihood that the student will succeed, but also the likelihood that these students will contribute to security and privacy research," explained Dr. Camp.

The *Financial Cryptography and Data Security 2008* conference will likely produce new breakthroughs in security and cryptography, with immediate applications, particularly for financial institutions. Previous outcomes include one of the first online micro-payment systems, early identification of "phishing" as a security threat, and some of the earliest work on Internet commerce.

Additional information about the conference and caregiver scholarship is available at http://fc08.ifca.ai. For information about the IU School of Informatics and to arrange an interview contact Neal G. Moore, 317.278.9208, ngmoore.@iupui.edu.

About the Indiana University School of Informatics
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