FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NSA and DHS Designate the University of Maryland as 'National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research'

COLLEGE PARK, MD (June 2, 2009) - The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have jointly designated the University of Maryland as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research. The university will receive the formal award at the 13th Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education in Seattle, Washington on June 3, 2009.

The application process was coordinated by Gerry Sneeringer, Director of Security with the University of Maryland's Office of Information Technology. It reflects the substantial accomplishments in the area of information assurance research by faculty and students in a number of academic disciplines across the university. The following members of the University of Maryland community participated in the development of the university’s application:

- John S. Baras, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Michel Cukier, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
- Brian Darmody, Assistant Vice President for Research and Economic Development
- Lawrence Gordon, Professor, Accounting and Information Assurance
- Michael W. Hicks, Associate Professor, Computer Science
- Martin Loeb, Professor, Accounting and Information Assurance
- William Lucyshyn, Senior Research Scholar, School of Public Policy
- Sennur Ulukus, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Min Wu, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research Program was launched to address the need for robust information assurance technology, policy, and practices that will enable the United States to effectively prevent and respond to a catastrophic event. It is jointly sponsored by NSA and DHS and recognizes schools that foster an information assurance research focus in curriculum and labs. The vision for the program is to establish a process that will present opportunities for information assurance research centers to delve into much needed solutions to securing the global information grid and provide the NSA, DHS, and other federal agencies with insight into academic information assurance programs that can support advanced academic research and development capabilities.

“This award is a recognition of the critical role that University of Maryland research is playing in the protection of the information and communications resources essential to 21st century life,” said Gerry Sneeringer, who also serves as the university’s IT security officer.

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Universities designated as Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research are eligible to apply for scholarships and grants through both the Federal and Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Programs.

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About the University of Maryland

The University of Maryland is the state’s flagship university and one of the nation’s preeminent public research universities. Ranked No. 18 among public universities by U.S. News & World Report, it has 29 academic programs in the U.S News Top 10 and 90 in the Top 25. The Institute of Higher Education (Jiao Tong University, Shanghai), which ranks the world’s top universities based on research, puts Maryland at No. 37 in the world and No. 8 among U.S. Flagship universities. The faculty includes three Nobel Laureates, seven Pulitzer Prize winners, 40 members of the National Academies of Science, and scores of Fulbright scholars. The university is also recognized for its diversity, with one-third of the student population being students of color. For more information about the University of Maryland, visit [www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu).

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