

Computer science students mine software developer forums to teach coding practices

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Pictured are (from left) Zachary Senzer, Lori Pollock and Ryan Serva.

University of Delaware junior Zachary Senzer and senior Ryan Serva recently presented a research paper, "Automatically Mining Negative Code Examples from Software Developer Question and Answer

Forums," at the Fourth International Workshop on Software Mining in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The paper was also published in the proceedings of the 2015 IEEE/ACM 30th International Conference on Automated Software Engineering Workshops (ASEW 2015).

Their research demonstrates how natural language processing and sentiment analysis techniques can be used to mine bad, or negative, code examples from [software](#) developer forums to be used to help programmers in their learning and code improvement practices.

Lori Pollock and Vijay Shanker, both professors in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences and co-authors of the paper, mentored Senzer and Serva in their research.

Senzer, an Honors Program student who is majoring in computer science with a minor in business administration, has been working with Pollock and Shanker at UD's Software Analysis and Compilation Lab since February 2014.

"Having the opportunity to present our research and hear from leaders in the software field was an invaluable experience," Senzer said. "It was fascinating to see how our work fits into the large-scale puzzle that researchers around the world are solving and refining."

Serva, a computer science major who joined the research lab in August 2014, said, "Working with this team has been a great experience. I learned so much, and was able to make a difference in an interesting field."

Serva's research experience complements his internship experience at Amazon, where he will be taking up a position after graduation in May.

Provided by University of Delaware

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