Tiny Computers and Tornadoes Focus of Next SWOSU Computer Club Meeting

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Dr. Andrew Fagg and Dr. Amy McGovern of the University of Oklahoma School of Computer Science will be guest speakers at the November 28 meeting of the Computer Club at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Fagg and McGovern will speak at 5:30 p.m. in Room 235 of the Stafford Center on the SWOSU campus. Admission is free, and the public is invited. Pizza and soda will be served.

Fagg will argue that computer science is about the process of solving computational problems and understanding why certain solutions to the problems are “better” than others.

Fagg will discuss his recent work with Adam Brown on a 1000-node network of tiny computers that form the basis of an interactive art piece. Each node can sense when a person comes near, respond with sound and light effects, and communicate the information to the nodes around it.

By passing this information from one group of nodes to the next, one can achieve a coordinated response by the entire network to the single event detected by the first.

McGovern will describe her work on improving the prediction of severe weather phenomena, specifically focusing on tornadoes. This work is a collaboration with the School of Meteorology at OU. New data mining techniques are being developed that can identify the precursors of tornadoes in simulated storms.