The Computer Science Program of CSU Channel Islands presents:

**Social Software Supports STEM Students**

a talk by

**Brian Thoms, PhD**

**Wednesday, March 11, at 6pm, in Del Norte 2530**

*Abstract*: In his presentation, Dr. Thoms will present the design and evaluation of an online peer-to-peer support system for students across STEM disciplines. The software utilizes existing online social networking (OSN) software and provides students with a multi-dimensional peer-to-peer support structure. More specifically, this research introduces an innovative expansion to online course learning software that enhances communication based on students’ course activity including course grades and technical abilities. The software was measured across introductory computer programming courses, required for students majoring in computer-related fields. Initial survey data was positive and while overall levels of agreement fell between pretest and posttest surveys, the majority of students responded favorably to the new system. Dr. Thoms will also introduce participants to future design considerations and research in the fast-growing area of social learning technologies.

*Bio*: Find out more about Dr. Thoms [here](#).

*Refreshments will be served*