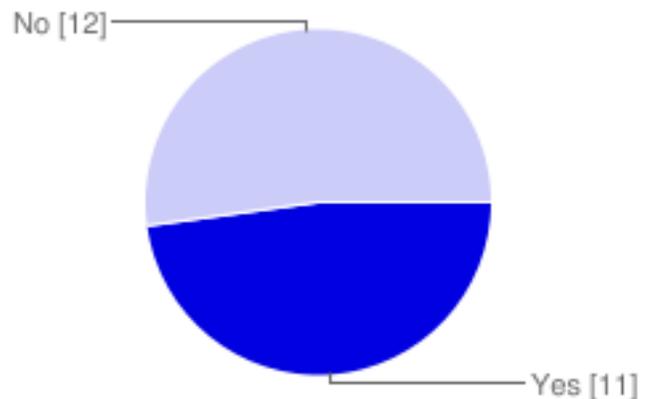


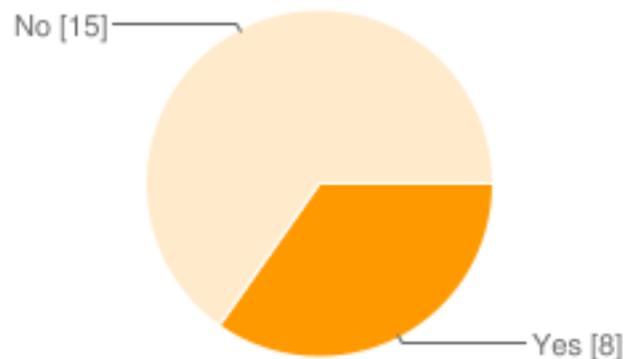
## GSOCS Tenure Evaluation Survey Report for Nael Abu-Ghazaleh

Twenty-three graduate students responded to our seven question tenure evaluation survey. Responses to each question are given below, along with representative comments from students, where applicable.

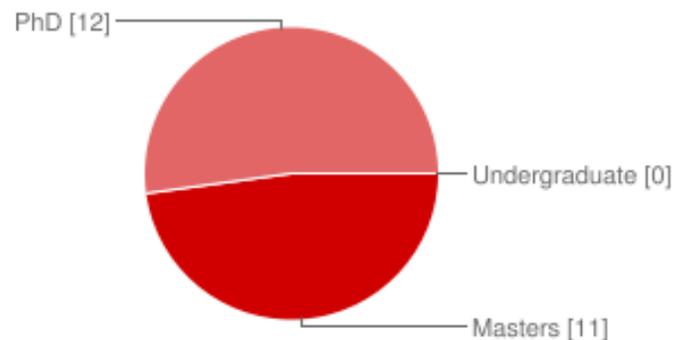
### 1. Have you taken a course with Nael Abu-Ghazaleh?



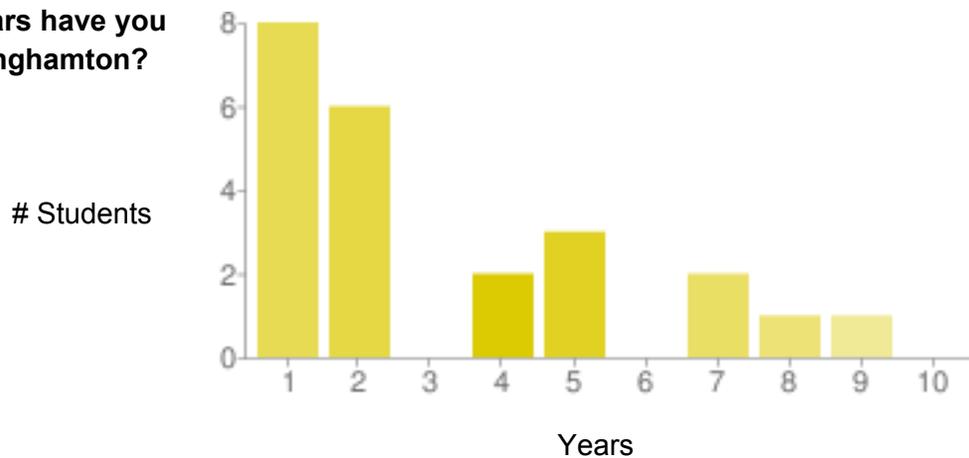
### 2. Have you completed (or are you working on) a project, thesis, or dissertation with him?



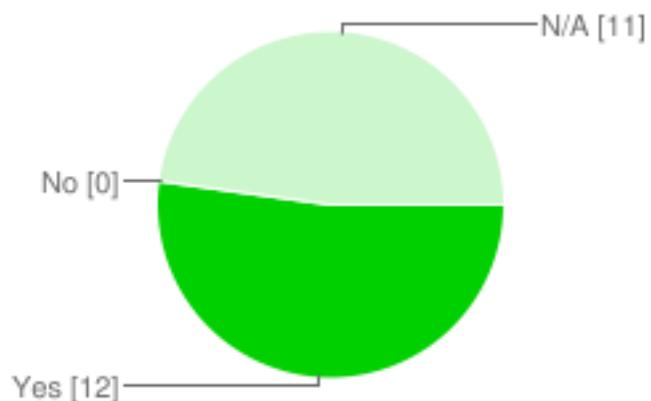
### 3. What degree are you working on?



**4. How many years have you been at SUNY Binghamton?**



**5. Do you feel that the course(s) you took with Nael Abu-Ghazaleh have had a positive contribution to your knowledge of computer science?**



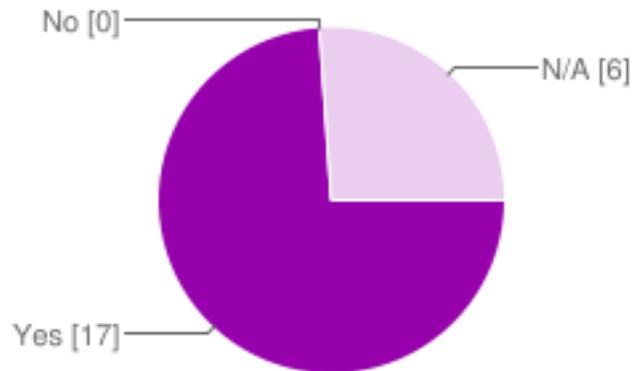
Nine students posted explanations of their positive opinions of Prof. Abu-Ghazaleh's teaching. Overall, students thought that he conducted very thought-provoking and interesting discussions and that he was extremely comfortable and knowledgeable about the material. His courses have inspired some students to continue conducting research in the area of computer networks. Some quotes follow:

"The courses I had with Nael prepared me very well for my PhD research. He engages students in discussions during his classes. Also, he does not spoon feed concepts -- rather builds concepts as part of class discussions that allows students to really [grasp] the concepts."

"I have taken Nael's graduate level Computer Networks course, and sat through his Mobile Computing course. Having a textbook based background from my undergrad syllabus, Nael's networking course was a much wanted stepping stone towards understanding the current state of the research as well as interesting research problems in the field. In addition to clarifying some of the important textbook concepts during the lectures, the programming assignments allowed me to understand the concepts at much deeper level. Overall, research work was highly encouraged throughout this course via writing critiques of important papers in the area and an optional research project as a part of the class project. Our class research project based on delay-tolerant networks was close to publication by the end of the semester itself.

Since, Nael's research was aligned with the courses that he taught, his in-depth knowledge about the subject was evident through his teachings. Furthermore, he always encouraged us to participate in the discussions on important concepts or open questions. This helped us understand concepts clearly or from different perspectives."

**6. Do you feel that Nael Abu-Ghazaleh has contributed an adequate amount to both student education and/or research in his field to be granted a promotion?**



Again, nine students posted comments on their views of Nael's impact on student education and research. These student's overwhelmingly believe that Nael has done an excellent job educating students both inside and outside of the classroom, and that he conducts groundbreaking research. The students say:

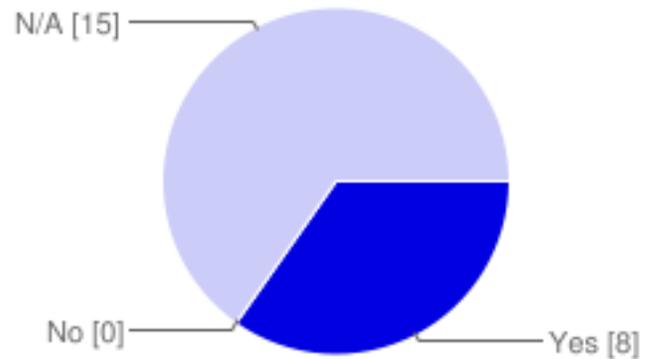
"Nael's research and teaching activities have always been complimentary. He has a vast research experience in wireless networks on MAC, routing, and transport layers of the TCP/IP stack, and his research contributions were always described in appropriate contexts during his lectures for the Mobile Computing course. This allowed us to understand fundamental problems and get insights into the missing pieces in the state-of-the-art.

Another important aspect with Nael's teaching is that he encourages students to share their questions/views on the class/paper topics, and he has an amazing ability to zoom into or abstract away from a concept to understand students' opinions from different perspectives to help them better. "

"He is always up-to-date with his subject and has very successful publications. He always criticizes his work for its possible flaws before publishing it. And he is very open to new projects and ideas coming from his students and colleagues."

"Nael has worked on fundamental problems that researchers have not focused on in enough detail. His teaching experience spans two universities (SUNY Binghamton and CMU Qatar). I believe Nael has had a significant research and teaching impact."

**7. Do you feel that Nael Abu-Ghazaleh has given you a positive mentoring/advisory experience while working on your project, thesis, or PhD?**



Students who have had the chance to work with Nael all have the same feelings about the experience: they are very grateful to work with him, both for his invaluable computer science insight, as well as his personal skills. His students say:

"Nael has a vast experience of research in the fields of parallel processing, wireless networks, sensor networks, and distributed and peer-to-peer systems, which makes him an excellent resources to bounce different ideas off. For my dissertation, I have been working on smart camera networks, in which cameras collaborate on determining the most interesting information to cover. Although, camera coverage has never been his area of research, he could easily abstract away from the details and connect the related problems from the other areas to provide me sound advice or to come up with novel ideas.

Another quality that amazes me about Nael is his brilliant intuition power coupled with insistence on excellence in research. For instance, I developed a polynomial time algorithm for an NP-hard problem of maximizing the coverage provided by multiple cameras by setting them appropriate pan, tilt, and zoom parameters. My initial tests revealed that the performance of my algorithm was exactly matching with that of solving the problem optimally, and I was unable to come up with counter cases as well. However, when I discussed my idea with Nael, he immediately came up with a counter case and suggested me some scenarios where my idea would fail to be optimal. Nonetheless, the algorithm provided very close-to-optimal results, and we got a special appreciation from a peer-reviewer for including the non-so-obvious counter case for the algorithm in our paper.

Nael also has extremely good writing skills, and I am very thankful to him for the efforts that he invested on me to improve my writing substantially.

Overall, I have been working with Nael since my first semester of Masters program at Binghamton University, and I think he has helped me considerably to grow as a researcher in terms of finding exciting problems to work on, generating novel ideas, performing exhaustive evaluations to show its benefits and limitations, and presenting the work concisely and clearly for the readers. In addition to my research work, Nael has always provided me useful advice and support regarding my personal issues. It is really hard to thank him enough for all the tutelage, advice and support that he has given to me."

“He is my adviser. He is always helpful to me while we are working. He suggests new solutions or methods to solve the problems I faced. Also he is very understanding person when I have struggle to finish the something. He is always respectful to our opinions.”

“He is very knowledgeable and encouraging advisor with great research skill set. He is definitely one the best advisors I have come across. Especially his feedbacks during research work are useful. When I came across some difficulties or stuck at particular problem, his comments always helped to move towards solution. He is good mentor and a very good friend of students!”

**Summary:** The response of the graduate students who have completed the survey is very clear: Nael is an excellent instructor, researcher, and mentor who deserves to be promoted. Not a single negative comment was found in any of the anonymous responses, further emphasizing just how strongly the computer science graduate students feel about Prof. Abu-Ghazaleh.