

8 Talks in 12 Days

During 12 days in early February, the department sponsored eight different research talks by visiting computer scientists. Titles of the talks were:

- “The Art and Science of the Computer Game”
- “Automated Fault Diagnosis”
- “Collaboration over the Internet: What Actually Works”
- “CORBA and Distributed Databases”
- “Automatic Choice of Scheduling Heuristic for Parallel/Distributed Computing”
- “Image Decomposition and Compression Using Neural Networks”
- “Trust and Partial Typing in Open Systems of Mobile Agents”
- “A Genetic Algorithm for Designing Materials”

Friends Scholarship

Winner of the \$1,000 annual Friends of UNCW Scholarship is CSC major **Jonathan Sellers**. Sellers is a transfer student from UNC-CH and is double-majoring in CSC and PDS.

Laboratory Dream Coming True

For at least 10 years, Computer Science faculty and students have dreamed of having a laboratory facility where they can perform software and hardware experiments that cannot be done on the mainframe-based networks. This semester the dream began to come true when the former electronics lab in Bear Hall was converted to a computer science laboratory.

According to department chair **Dr. Barbara Ann Greim**, gifts from alumni and friends played a key role in making the lab a reality. The tables and chairs used in the room were state surplus furniture, but gifts were necessary to cover other costs such as wiring and cables. The College of Arts and Sciences and others have donated used computers to be used in the lab. Greim says that donors “would be thrilled to see the excitement and enthusiasm created by the new lab, and to realize how much students are learning.”

Five computers installed with transputers are being used for all class work in the Parallel Computing course. Students in Software Engineering have computers dedicated to their class where they can use CASE (Computer Aided Software Engineering) tools and other programs. A student LINUX users group also has computers dedicated to their use where they can gain experience installing, changing, and maintaining this operating system that is gaining worldwide support as competition for Microsoft Windows. Upper level students enjoy electronic key card access, which enables them to use the lab any time.

Greim worries that faculty enthusiasm for using the new lab already has exceeded what the room can support. Plans for next year include increasing the number of computers, upgrading the parallel computing facilities, and adding Computer Graphics, Computer Networks, Compiler Construction, Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems, Object Oriented Analysis and Design, Computer System Architecture, Programming Languages, and Operating Systems to the list of courses whose assignments can be done only in the lab. Some computers in the lab will need to be upgraded in order to run the software used in these courses.

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IEEE Senior Member from UNCW

Dr. Ronald J. Vetter has been elected as a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society, with over 350,000 members in 150 countries. Senior member status recognizes "experience reflecting professional maturity" beyond "demonstrated professional competence;" fewer than 10 percent of the membership attain this distinction. Readers of *IEEE COMPUTER* might recognize Vetter as the editor of the monthly column, *Internet Watch*.

Meet Our People...

Laurie J. Patterson, the newest full time faculty member in the department, is a specialist in teaching novice computer users. Laurie comes to UNCW after 10 years as a technical consultant and trainer for the University of Minnesota, Baylor College of Medicine, and Personnel Decisions International. Laurie has written technical training manuals, designed and taught courses, and managed computer hardware and software.

At UNCW, Laurie brings infectious enthusiasm, good humor, and experience to teaching the Computer Literacy course, advising computer science majors, and assisting with various departmental duties. She is also busy finishing her doctorate in Instructional Technology and Distance Learning.

Growth and Change Barbara Ann Greim, Ph.D.

Your responses to our initial newsletter were very gratifying. All of us enjoyed the renewed contact with our former students. We appreciate your taking time out from your other activities to contact us.

I am pleased and excited to report that we expect two outstanding new full time faculty additions for the fall semester. **Dr. Gene A. Tagliarini** comes to us from Clemson University. His background is in the hardware area; his recent research has been in biologically-inspired computing including neural networks, wavelets, and genetic algorithms. While at Clemson, Dr. Tagliarini developed Web-based materials for teaching computer architecture.

Dr. Clayton S. Ferner will be leaving the technical staff of Lucent Technologies, Inc. in Denver, Colorado to join our faculty. Dr. Ferner specializes in high performance computing, parallel computing and compiler construction. At Lucent, Dr. Ferner has been working with multimedia teleconferencing and voice-over IP products.

During the next few months, the most important task facing our faculty will be to revise our curriculum. We need input from our graduates. Specifically, what courses or topics were most useful to you in your careers? What courses or topics were least useful? What would you look for in a new CSC graduate you would hire?

Norris Phased Retirement

Professor Fletcher R. Norris has announced his phased retirement beginning in June 1999. Dr. Norris will teach half-time for the next three years.

Norris joined the UNCW faculty in 1970. In 1971-1972 he completed a year of post-doctoral study in Computer Science at Florida State University. Norris was one of the leaders in establishing the UNCW Computer Science degree program in 1975.

He has been a popular teacher of computer science, advisor to student groups, and respected colleague for 28 years. According to **Chair Barbara Greim**, "Dr. Norris' wisdom, experience, and dedication will be sorely missed in the department."

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Student Achievement Celebration

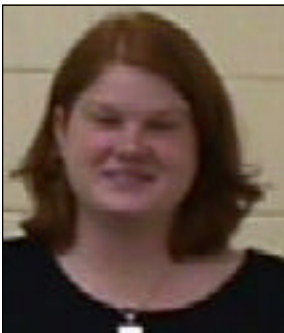
The Department of Computer Science held its First Annual Student Achievement Celebration on Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Four student interns discussed their Spring 1999 internship experience.

Michael Barrett worked at
Corning, Inc.



Kelli Futrell-Davis worked at
C-Phone, Inc.



Beth Adams worked at
GE-Nuclear Energy.



Joe Lee worked at
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers.

Four students were also presented with scholarship awards.

Jeremy Scrimme with Dr. Barbara Greim
UNCW Bookstore Scholarship Award



*Additional photos from the awards ceremony can be found on
next page.*

Scholarship Awards



Yukiko Yamashita with Dr. Barbara Greim
UNCW Bookstore Scholarship Award



Dr. Fletcher R. Norris with Henry Ray
Fletcher R. Norris Scholarship Award



Dr. Barbara Greim with Paul Delano
Computer Science Chair's Scholarship Award



Faculty Publications

Dr. Sridhar Narayan's paper, "Enhancing Incremental Learning in MLP Networks Using Ensemble Encoding of Network Inputs," has been accepted for presentation at the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks and will appear in the conference proceedings.

Dr. Ronald J. Vetter has had a paper "Building Video-on-Demand Servers," jointly authored with Drs. David Du and Jenwei Hsieh from the University of Minnesota and Jonathan Liu from Washington State University, published in the *Journal of Telecommunication Systems*.

Dr. Sridhar Narayan and Drs. Barry Wray and Richard Mathieu of the Cameron School of Business have had their paper, "Artificial Neural Networks for Predicting the Optimal Number of Kanbans in a

JIT Manufacturing Environment," accepted for presentation at the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks and publication in the conference proceedings.

Dr. Ronald J. Vetter's paper "Web-Based Enterprise Computing" will appear in the May issue of *IEEE Computing*.

Dr. Sridhar Narayan presented his invited paper "On Signal Classification, Wavelets, and Neural Networks" at the Fourth Joint Conference on Information Sciences.

Dr. Ronald J. Vetter presented "Entrepreneurial Creation of High Quality Distributed Learning Courses at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington" at the 34th annual meeting of the Association of General and Liberal Studies. Joining Vetter in the presentation were Joe Wilson of the Department

of Philosophy and Religion, Dick Ward of the Department of Chemistry, Jeff Brown of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Midori Albert of the Department of Anthropology, Patricia Turrisi of UNCW's Center for Teaching Excellence, and Chad Kearsley from Collegis, Inc.

Dr. Sridhar Narayan and Dr. Ashraf Adelbar of the American University at Cairo have had their paper, "Using Simulated Annealing to Optimize Receptive Fields for MLP Networks with Ensemble Coding," accepted for presentation at the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks and publication in the conference proceedings.

Dr. Ronald J. Vetter presented a three day workshop, "Developing Online Internet-Based Courses," at NCA&T State University.

Let us hear from you!

Name: _____
 Dr./Mrs./Mrs./Miss/Ms First Middle Maiden Last Suffix

Address: _____
 Street/PO Box City State ZIP+4

Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____

Graduation date: _____ Degree/Major: _____ Spouse UNCW Graduate? Yes/No

Employer: _____ Position _____ Matching Gift Company? Yes/No

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 or charged to my ___ Visa or ___ Mastercard Number: _____ Expiration _____

Name as appears on card: _____

Signature: _____ Matched by my employer or my spouse's employer? Yes/No

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 or submitted electronically at www.uncwil.edu/alumni



New Courses for Spring

UNCW students had three new courses to chose from this spring, none of which has ever been taught here before.

CSC 422 Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems was developed by **Dr. Gur Adhar**. This course utilizes a state-of-the-art object-oriented computer simulation package called ModSim III. Using this package, students use a simulation to experiment with changing parameters of a computer system and watch the effects on the system's performance.

CSC 385 Professional and Ethical Issues in Computer Science was developed by **Dr. Sridhar Narayan**. Students report that this course is very relevant to issues which they face on the job every day.

CSC 475 Artificial Intelligence also was developed by **Dr. Sridhar Narayan** in response to student demand. Students in this course are using Prolog to program solutions to various types of artificial intelligence problems.

Honor Society Induction

The North Carolina Beta Chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the national honorary society for computer science, inducted 15 UNCW computer science students at its 21st induction ceremony on April 8, 1999.

Douglas Earl Canning

Paul Delano

Timothy Lee Farmer

Kelli Adelia Futrell

Amy Annette Hahn

Jonathan Mark HammerCheryl

Lewis Harrell

Marjorie Murdock King

Christopher Lee Lofty

Michael Thomas McKee

James Louis Price, IV

Henry Arthur Ray

Jeremy Nathan Scrim

Michael Stuart Taylor

Laurence William Thaete

Grant Recipients

Dr. Gur S. Adhar received a UNCW Summer Curriculum Development grant to support his project "Case Studies in Performance Modeling of Computer Systems." The simulation models Dr. Adhar is developing will be used in the Operating Systems, Computer Networks, and Computer Architecture courses.

Dr. David Berman received an award of supercomputer time from the North Carolina Supercomputing Center for his project "Investigation of Combinatorial Designs."

Dr. Sridhar Narayan received a UNCW Web Course Development '99 grant to develop a Web-based version of the Computer Ethics course.

Dr. Harry F. Smith received a UNCW Summer Research Initiative grant to support his research on improved methods of solution for domination problems in graph theory.

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