Last summer, as I wrote this piece for our newsletter, we had submitted a 450+ page self-study ABET in support of our application for accreditation of our B.S. in Computer Science (Systems Option). ABET accredits programs in engineering, computer science and technology, and defines accreditation as “assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards established by the profession for which it prepares its students.”

The campus visit last November by the ABET evaluators, was by all accounts, a successful one. The evaluators found no deficiencies in our program, and were complimentary of many aspects of our department. Following the visit, the department responded aggressively to the shortcomings identified in our assessment practices, and we anticipate that our B.S. program will be fully accredited later this fall.

While striving to maintain its commitment to excellence in undergraduate education, the department made significant headway in other areas as well. As evidenced at universities nationwide, enrollments in computer science continued to grow for the second year in a row. The graduate program in Computer Science and Information Systems also reported strong interest in its offerings. The Face Aging Group continued its impressive track record of securing external funding for its research.

Demonstrating their commitment to excellence inside and outside the classroom, Computer Science faculty continue to publish their scholarship at international conferences, in many cases co-authoring papers with their students, as detailed in the following pages.

Building on his record of professional service, Dr. Ron Vetter was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Computer starting January 2011.

As we continue to make our mark in teaching, research and service, we invite you to join us in any way you can. Look for us on Facebook and on LinkedIn, and if you happen to visit Wilmington, we would love for you to drop by and say hello.

Sridhar Narayan, Ph.D. professor and chair
Faculty Focus


Ralph Bradley taught the first Honors section of CSC 105 which included student presentations of current technology events and a team based software development project.

Curry Guinn, Ronnie Smith, and Nancy Green submitted a grant proposal entitled “A Co-constructed Narrative Dialogue Model: Modeling Social Conversation with Persons who Have Cognitive and Linguistic Impairments Associated with Dementia of the Alzheimer’s Type” to the National Science Foundation (2010).

Clayton Ferner and Barry Wilkinson published “Constructing Distributed Computations in an Undergraduate Grid Computing Course” for The 2010 International Conference on Frontiers in Education: Computer Science and Computer Engineering (FECS) 2010. He also submitted two grant proposals: “Creating a Patient Safety Human Simulation Center to Improve Patient Safety for Health Risk Behaviors” to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) with Ruthanne Kuiper, Mahnaz Moallem, Anne-Marie Goff, Brenda Pavill, Anne Zabriskie, Yeoun Soo Kim-Godwin and “Collaborative Research: Teaching Multicore and Many-Core Programming at a Higher Level of Abstraction” to National Science Foundation (NSF) with Barry Wilkinson.

Marni Ferner offered a new course, Web Design and Development and is developing another new course, Database Web Applications which will be offered in spring 2012.


Special congratulations to the following department members for their recent accomplishments:

Ron Vetter who was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Computer effective January 1, 2011. The two-year renewable appointment is a significant accomplishment in recognition of Ron’s contributions to IEEE.

Karl Ricanek whose proposal submitted on behalf of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies in Identity Sciences (ISIS) was fully awarded by UNC’s General Administration in the amount of $200,000 for their bio-lidar system. This will give the group long range capability for biometric identification and high resolution 3D capture.

Clayton Ferner whose application for promotion to Professor was approved by the UNCW Board of Trustees.

Clayton Ferner, Eric Patterson, Laurie Patterson, Karl Ricanek, Amrutha Sethuram and Ron Vetter who were mentioned by one more graduating seniors as someone “whose impact on them was significant.”
Faculty Focus (continued from p. 2)


Patterson also published “Toward Accurate Synthetic Age Progression of Three-Dimensional Face Models for Adult Aging Representation” for the same conference.

Eric Patterson, Karl Ricanek, Wankou Yang, Amrutha Sethuram and Changyin Sun published “Gender Classification using the Profile” in the Proceedings of the 8th International Symposium on Neural Networks (ISSN), Guilin, China, May 2011.

Karl Ricanek, Wankou Yang, Cuixian Chen, Changyin Sun published “Ensemble of Global and Local Features for Face Age Estimation” in the Proceedings of the 8th International Symposium on Neural Networks (ISSN), Guilin, China, May 2011.


Laurie Patterson, Kevin Matthews, Thomas Janicki and Ling He submitted “Implementation and Assessment of an Adaptive Learning System to Increase Student Feedback” to Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education, 2011.

Gene Tagliarini, Shelby Morge, Mahnaz Moallem, Chandra Roughton and Karen Hill published “Student Learning with Squeak Etoys” for the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference (SITE), March 2011.

Jack Tompkins taught Summer Ventures 2010, four week program with gifted high school students from around the state. He also conducted a Squeak Etoys Writer’s Camp for one week in summer 2010 to teach middle school students some of the joy of programming using Squeak to animate their short stories.

Ron Vetter presented an ACM Distinguished Lecture “Building Mobile Phone Applications” at the University of Iowa Computing Conference, University, February 2011. He also published “iTour: A System for Self-Guided Virtual Campus Tours” with Douglas Kline, Bryan Reinicke, and Camilo Alvarez ’09 in the proceedings of the International Conference on Wireless Networks, July 2010.

2011 Award Recipients

Michelle Lynn Fogwell
Smith-Doss Scholarship

James Horton
Chair’s Scholarship

Illia Ziamtsov
Construction Imaging Systems Scholarship

Alexander Beaty
Construction Imaging Systems Scholarship

Yuli Bonner
Fletcher R. Norris Scholarship

News Bytes
Volume 13, Number 1

Faculty Focus (continued from p. 2)
Student Showcase
Awesome Accomplishments

Tammy Tran ’11 and Clayton Ferner published “Development of an Electronic Medical Record System for the University of North Carolina Wilmington School of Nursing” at the 10th International Conference on e-Learning, e-Business, Enterprise Information Systems, and e-Government (EEE). They will present their work at the conference in Las Vegas, Nev., July 2011.

Brandon Hilton ’11 and Ben Barbour ’11 helped New Hanover High School senior Will Thornton (also department secretary Emma Kay’s son) develop a lecture series teaching computer competency skills to senior citizens in the Hillcrest Public Housing Community for UNCW’s Campus Community program.

Jeff Raynor and David Macurak ’11 will head to Oak Ridge National Laboratories this summer as interns for a project known as Artemis. Their work will involve developing key technology that can quickly identify the gender and age of people in images found on computer hard drives with the intent of dramatically shortening the time needed to investigate the computers of child pornography suspects. Their positions were facilitated by their work with Karl Ricanek and UNCW’s Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies in Identity Sciences. Both intend to return to UNCW in the fall to pursue master’s degrees in the CSIS program.

The following students completed their directed individual study (DIS) topics during the 2010-11 academic year (faculty advisor names are in parentheses):

**Andrew Herrmann**, “iOS Mobile Development: Location-Based 3D Panorama Viewer,” (Eric Patterson)

**Brandon Hilton** ’11: “iPhone and Mac GUI Development,” (Eric Patterson)

**Lyle Scott** ’10: “Setup Cluster and Schedulers,” (Clayton Ferner)

**Chris Velado** ’11: “Music Notation System,” (Ron Vetter)

**Phillip Garris**, “Augmenting Human Memory Using Software,” (Devon Simmonds)

**Ed Peloquin** ’11: “Using the XML Process Definition Language (XPDL) in Business Workflow Management,” (Devon Simmonds)

**Michael Shaw** ’11: “Investigation and analysis of slow-propagating network computer worms,” (Devon Simmonds)

**Illia Ziamtsov**: “Advanced 3D Modeling, Rendering, and Scripting,” (Eric Patterson)

**Scott Ridley**: “Mobile Device Forensics.” (Ron Vetter.)

**Sorting Algorithms: Love Them or Hate Them?**

Either way, you are bound to enjoy this website:

http://tinyurl.com/SortingAlgorithmsAsDances

Alumni News

Caroline Koska Reda ’85 was named in 2010 as GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy’s new President and CEO.

Jeff Bradley ’03 has been working in the aerospace engineering field since graduating and is now a senior systems engineer at Rockwell Collins, a major aerospace and defense company, based in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Mark Lanter ’11 accepted a position in the technology analyst program at JPMorgan.

Chris Velado ’11 moved to Austin, TX where he obtained a job at Periscope Holdings.

Ed Peloquin ’11 is a software engineer at DAK Americas.

Pamela Rosoff ’11 is working at Sage Island as a web developer.

Shawn Chivers ’11 is a software developer at Corning.

Jason Dudley ’11 works at PPD as a web developer.

Andrew Martin works as a software engineer at Construction Imaging.
The department of computer science welcomed Dr. Richard Chapman from Auburn University who spent the 2010-11 academic year with us as a visiting faculty member. Chapman was involved in a number of interesting projects.

In each semester of the 2010-11 academic year, Chapman taught a special topics course called, “Mobile Phone Software Development: Google Android.” As his students can attest, software development for phones is considerably different from software development for more traditional environments such as a desktop computer. Fortunately, these students were able to gain hands-on experience through a generous donation from Verizon Wireless of 20 Android phones in five different varieties giving students a fantastic opportunity to test and perfect their applications. See the full article at: http://tinyurl.com/AndroidPhones2UNCW.

Chapman and graduate student Jason Felds also collaborated with the Watson School of Education in the programming of newly purchased Nao robots that have human-like characteristics and can be programmed to do a variety of human motions from sitting and standing to playing Simon Says and performing Tai Chi. The hope is that these robots will be able to help educate autistic children who have difficulty with face-to-face human interactions. Chapman and the rest of the group provided a demonstration of the robots’ capabilities to UNCW’s Board of Trustees. Wilmington’s StarNews covered the story (http://tinyurl.com/UNCWRobotsStar) as did WECT TV6 news (http://tinyurl.com/UNCWRobotsWECT.)

ACM’s Vaggelis Giannikas interviewed UNCW’s ACM student chapter president, Ben Barbour ’11, for an article about the growing numbers in UNCW’s ACM Student Chapter. Barbour attributes some of the recent popularity to the success of the student lecture series where short (20 minute) mini-lectures give students opportunities to share expertise in non-curricular areas for example, learning C# through the Xbox 360 and XNA. Says Barbour “It is a great honor to have our school selected out of hundreds of chapters as a key example of an active ACM student org!” Congratulations!

See the full article at: http://tinyurl.com/UNCWACM

Don’t miss the UNCW-ACM website:
http://student.uncw.edu/org/acm/

According to NPR, as of March 2011, in the technology sector, undergrads have their pick of jobs, and companies are desperate to hire.

See the full article at: http://tinyurl.com/you-ought-to-be-a-tech-geek
Looking for a job?
The following two websites might help:
http://www.tech-centric.net
http://www.telecomm-jobs.com
Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!

Spring and Summer 2011 Graduates

Master’s Degrees:

Bachelor’s Degrees: Benjamin Eldon Barbour, Gage Michael Bowdon, Jeffrey Stephen Bruce, Philip Daniel Covington magna cum laude, Justin Matthew Cowen summa cum laude, Charles Bennett Davis, Nathan Wesley Fowler, Christopher Michael Gore, Keith Logan Haertel, Joseph Brandon Hilton cum laude, Antonio Tevelle Keith, Mark David Lanter, David Willis Lupton, David Daniel Macurak cum laude, Michael Louis Page, Jeffrey Nathon Raynor, Pamela Lyn Rosoff cum laude, Ricardo Santamaria, Michael Stokes Shaw, James Richard Smith, Kyle Robert Snell, Tammy Nguyen Tran, magna cum laude and University Honors, Christopher Fernando Velado and Ashley Brooke Young.

Fall 2010 Graduates

Master’s Degrees:

Bachelor’s Degrees: Jarod Lee Blakeman, Gregory Andrew Braden, Devin Sheldon Dixon, Michael Lee Lancaster, Erik Lee Langston and Lyle Scott.

Squeak News 2010

Using Squeak To Infuse Information Technology

The 2010 UseIT Summer Institute (photo at right) was a huge success last June. Project teachers from Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender County Schools accompanied selected students for a four-day exploration in the use of the Squeak media authoring environment to model concepts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each day students were presented with new challenges using Squeak to create models to explain complex concepts. While at UNCW, students also had the opportunity to meet professors and professionals working and researching in the STEM areas.

In addition, the 2010 Squeakfest annual international conference was hosted by UNCW last July. The theme for the conference was “Etoys in the STEM classroom.” Two notable keynote speakers inspired their audiences: Julian Lombardi from Duke University and Walter Bender from MIT Media Labs.

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Alumni and Friends:

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Enclosed is my gift of $__________ for the Computer Science Department Trust Fund (make checks payable to UNCW) or charge my ___Visa or ___Mastercard or ___American Express

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Return to: Advancement Services, University of North Carolina Wilmington, 601 South College Road, Wilmington NC 28403-5905

This gift qualifies as a charitable donation. THANK YOU for your consideration and generosity!

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**Calling All Alumni**

What are you doing now? Where are you living? Please send us news about yourself so we can include it in the next newsletter. Professional and personal information is welcome. Send email to [mferner@uncw.edu](mailto:mferner@uncw.edu), or update your alumni information [here](#).

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[www.uncw.edu/csc](http://www.uncw.edu/csc)

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