I will always remember 2009-10 as the year in which we applied to ABET 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.” In support of its accreditation application, the department completed a comprehensive (450+ page) self-study that describes its curriculum, faculty, facilities and assessment plan. The self-study was submitted to ABET in June, and we are now preparing for a visit by an ABET accreditation team in November 2010. It is our hope that by this time next year our program will be fully accredited by ABET.

While maintaining its focus on its commitment to undergraduate education, the department made significant headway in other areas as well. The graduate program in computer science and information systems continues to grow and currently has more than 40 students. There were significant accomplishments in faculty research and scholarship as well. The Face Aging Group continued its impressive track record of securing external funding for its research. The recent approval by UNCW of The Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies in Identity Sciences represents a crowning achievement for this group. The USeIT (Using Squeak to Infuse Information Technology) group continued its NSF-funded activities for a third year, and hosted Squeakfest 2010, an annual meeting of the Squeak community, at UNCW that attracted participants from places as far away as Germany and Uruguay. Computer science faculty continued to publish their scholarship at international conferences, in many cases co-authoring papers with their students.

This year was also distinguished in other ways. We formed a computer science advisory board, whose membership includes Carla Hunt (manager, knowledge and information systems, MCNC), Ed Addison (CEO of Teradisc and Lexxle, Inc.), Ryan Wilkins (Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc.), Larry McAdams (president, Construction Imaging Systems), James Fredley (president, Triumph Interactive, Inc) and Shin Kurokawa (lead software developer, Digieffects Inc.) The board met for the first time in March, and we look forward to working with the members and reaping the benefits of their valuable feedback.

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 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

Gur Adhar published “Parallel Algorithms for Maximum Independent Set in Trapezoid Graphs and their Applications” in the Proceedings of ninth International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Computing and Networks (PDCN 2010) in Innsbruck, Austria. He was also a session chair at the same conference.


Curry Guinn presented “Remote Monitoring of Activity, Location and Exertion Levels” at the Virtual Healthcare Interaction for the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), in Arlington, Va. He also presented “A Hybrid AI Approach to the Classification of Emotive Text” at the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ICAI 09), World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Applied Computing in Las Vegas, Nev., July 2009.

Clayton Ferner and Barry Wilkinson led a workshop called “Teaching a Hands-on Undergraduate Grid Computing Course” at SIGCSE 2010 in Milwaukee, Wis. Ferner also conducted a colloquium at Wake Forest University’s Department of Computer Science in Winston-Salem, titled “Automatic Parallelizing Compilers: Why Bother?”

Devon Simmonds presented “A Comparison of Aspect-Oriented Approaches to Model Driven Engineering” at the International Conference on Software Engineering Research and Practice (SERP) WORLDCOMP, in Las Vegas, Nev., July 2009; “A Comparison of Software Architectural Styles Using Aspects” at the International Conference on SERP (Maziar Bodoohi co-authored); “The Viability of UML Models in Small Web Applications” at the International Conference on SERP (Jason Dudley co-authored); “A Case Study in Software Reengineering” at the seventh International Conference on Information Technology: New Generations 2010 (D.C. Tucker co-authored); “XMI2USE: A Tool for Transforming XMI to USE Specifications” at the fifth International Workshop on Foundations and Practices of UML (FP- (Wuliang Sun, Eunje

Song and Paul Grabow co-authored); and “A Comparison of Aspect-Oriented Approaches to Model Driven Engineering, at the International Conference on SERP.


Continued on p. 3
Faculty Focus (continued from p. 2)


Eric Patterson presented the poster “Improvements in Active Appearance Model Based Synthetic Progression for Adult Aging” at the IEEE International Conference on Biometrics: Theory, Applications, and Systems 2009, Crystal City, Va.


Laurie Patterson, Gabriel Lugo, Dargan Frierson, Carol Midgett and Eleanor Pusey presented “PIMUST: The Teal K16 Road” at the Department of Education’s Math and Science Partnership MSP Program, New Orleans, La., March 2010.


Karl Ricanek, Fang Fang, Qijun Fang and Susan Simmons published “Markov Chain Monte Carlo Model Composition Search Strategy for Quantitative Trait Loci in a Bayesian Hierarchical Model” for World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, presented in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 2010.


Khoa Luu, Ching Suen, Karl Ricanek and Tien Bui published “Spectral Regression-based Age Determination” for the IEEE Computer Society Workshop on Biometrics, Continued on p. 5
Student Showcase

Current Students’ Accomplishments

Ricardo Valea, Phillip Whisenhunt (pictured above) and Camilio Alvarez were featured in the Greater Wilmington Business Journal on Nov. 13, 2009 for their work with iPhone applications. The three have since formed a software development company called BoomCo which is focused on iPhone application development. The full article is at http://tinyurl/2uhlgh5.

Congratulations to MS CSIS student Maz Boddooohi and Maurice Benson for winning the 2010 Southeast (SE) Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) Outstanding Student Paper Competition. Their paper “Variable Rectangle Strip Cutting Heuristic Analysis – a Real World Implementation” was recognized at the meeting’s luncheon on Feb. 22. The 2010 SE DSI Student Paper Competition was open to Ph.D., masters and undergraduate students. All student papers were subject to the same review process as regular papers.

Benjamin J. Jamieson graduated with university honors in computer science. His honors project was titled “TuneToTab: From Tune to Tablature in Real Time.” Congratulations to Will Wharton for being among the first 60 contestants to complete, 100 percent correctly, all of the challenges in Part 2 of the IBM’s “Master the Mainframe” Contest and to Lyle Scott for being one of the winners in Part 1.


Wesley Williams and Devon Simmonds published “A Case Study in the Design of a Restaurant Management System” in the proceedings of FECS 2010 the sixth International Conference on Frontiers in Education: Computer Science and Computer Engineering. (continued on p. 6)

Awesome Alumni

Lindsey Kelley ’09 accepted a job offer from Credit Suisse for a position in their technical analyst program at their Research Triangle Park location. Her team provides effective structured technical support for multiple front/middle/back office applications. They are responsible for problem solving and root cause analysis for problems raised to them. She writes, “I cannot wait to take all of the skills and fundamentals that I’ve acquired here at UNCW with me into the real world.”

Congratulations to Kevin Matthews ’08 and ISOM faculty member Tom Janicki who received the “Best Paper in the Innovative Education and Experiential Learning Track” award at the 40th annual meeting of the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute. Their paper was titled “Development and Preliminary Results of an Adaptive Grading / Learning System (AGLS).”

Christopher Watford ’07 has been working for GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy since Feb. 2007 as lead software engineer. He also completed emergency medical technician training and graduated from Cape Fear Community College’s paramedic school. He writes, “Currently I’m straddling computer science (lead software engineer for methods and software development) and medicine (emergency response organization) at work, which is pretty fun! I hope to work part time as a paramedic soon.”

Heath Newton ’06 recently opened Cape Fear Games (http://www.capefeargames.com/) at 3608 Oleander Dr. It carries board games, card games, rpg’s and much more. Stop in, and say hi.
Faculty Focus (continued from p. 3)

in association with the 23rd IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 2010.


Gene Tagliarini and Shelby Morge presented “Using an Open-Source Modeling and Simulation Tool to Transform Learning and Instruction” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education’s 21st International Conference, SITE/AACE, San Diego, Calif., April 2010.

Gene Tagliarini and Shelby Morge presented “Using an Open-Source Modeling and Simulation Tool to Transform Learning and Instruction” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education’s 21st International Conference, SITE/AACE, San Diego, Calif., April 2010. Co-authors are Mahnaz Moallem and Sridhar Narayan.


“Computer science is cool again,” said Eric Grimson, chair of the Computing Research Association. The organization found that computer science major counts are increasing for the second year in a row. See the full article at: http://tinyurl.com/2walf5n

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

(continued from p. 4)

Carmelo Alvarez, Ricardo Valea, Phillip Whisenhunt, Ron Vetter and Jeff Brown presented “UNCW Mobile Applications: Interactive Text Message and iPhone Development” at the UNCW Board of Trustees meeting, October 2009.


A summer 2009 survey, conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers reported that, of the majors offered at UNCW, computer science is the one with the highest average starting salary: $61,407. Second is geological sciences at $52,770.

THE VOTE IS IN:
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See more at:
http://tinyurl.com/yzbxd9
Other Faculty Ventures: Did you know that…?

Laurie Patterson and her husband, Phil Furia from UNCW’s creative writing department (both pictured at right), recently published a book together. “The Songs of Hollywood,” was released in April, 2010 by Oxford University Press. See more at http://tinyurl.com/23lkdqv.

Karl Ricanek and Ron Vetter were guest editors of the February 2010 issue of Computing Now, the IEEE Computer Society's online source for scientific content from its peer-reviewed magazines, journals and conference proceedings. That issue highlighted Biometrics and is available online at http://tinyurl/3y2ufvq. They were also invited to speak with UNC’s Vice President for Federal Programs and US Army Special Operations Command last week.

Jack Tompkins was selected to serve as a reader at the College Board's 2010 AP Computer Science Reading.

Ron Vetter was asked to be a keynote speaker at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges annual conference held November, 2009 at Roanoke College in Salem, VA.

Ralph Bradley maintains the membership database for the Cape Fear Jazz Society.

The MORPH longitudinal database created by UNCW’s Face Ageing Group is being actively used by students and faculty in Canada, Mexico, France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia, Israel, Taiwan, The Netherlands, India, Finland, Singapore, Korea, Croatia, Wales, England, Chile, Hong Kong, Iran, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malaysia, China, Australia, Portugal, Turkey, Egypt and Japan.

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!

Fall 2009 Graduates


Bachelor’s Degrees: Jacob A Boniface, Hogan Gordon Hagy, Jacob Michael Kane, Lindsey Jo Kelly, Elizabeth Nicole Snead, Matthew Ryan Traynham and Ricardo Arturo Valea.

Spring and Summer 2010 Graduates

Master’s Degrees: Maz Boddoohi, Seiken Higashionna, Matt Ratliff, Maurice Benson, Chris Cotton, Jerry Martin and Michael Parker Moran.

**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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**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 e-mail to mferner@uncw.edu, or update your alumni information here.

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