Computer Science NEWS

Chair's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of our revised newsletter. Our department hosted the Mid-South CCSC conference last March. The ACM chapter continues to provide a computer repair service to the Union community, which is very popular and a great example of service-based learning. This is the second year we awarded the Bill Truex Award in Computer Science during Awards Day chapel; once this endowment has received sufficient gifts, the goal is to also provide scholarship funding. We had some preliminary talks with two alumni at FedEx to create an advisory taskforce and we are looking at partnership opportunities with them.
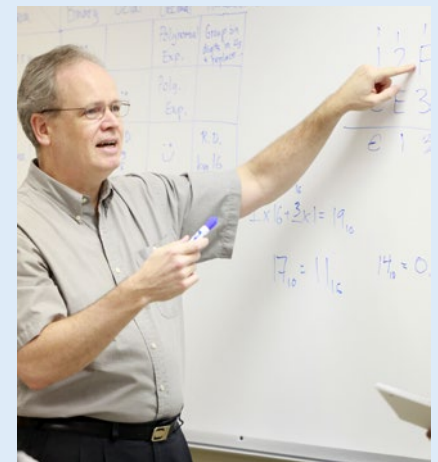
Please mark your calendar for a CS homecoming at the Lambda Chi house on Friday, February 22, from 5–8 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. We hope to see you there.

Blessings,

G. Jan Wilms

Inside this Issue

James Kirk, associate professor of computer science, shows students how to work a problem on the board.

UNION UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT of COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXCELLENCE-DRIVEN CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE-FOCUSED FUTURE-DIRECTED

Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges, MidSouth region, 2012 (CCSC-MS 2012)

CCSC-MS 2012 was held at Union University March 30–31. Dr. Max Haifei Li of Union University was the Site Chair. The conference program included 12 papers, 4 tutorials, 3 workshops, 2 panels, and 2 sessions of undergraduate student research.

The program also included a Nifty Assignments session and continued to host the annual undergraduate student programming competition. Sessions spanned a broad spectrum of computing topics. ■

ACM

The ACM Chapter at Union University is an official affiliate of ACM, the world's largest educational and scientific computing society. Union's ACM chapter was established in 1994.

ACM Meetings 2011-2012

Fall, 2011
October 22: Halo Reach Tournament
November 19: Crash Course in Programming RPG

Spring, 2012
February 10: Phone Programming
February 25: Marvel/Capcom
March 2: HP Talk
April 27: Christianity Panel on Computing (Dr. Kirk, Dr. Russ, Dr. Guilaran)

ACM Officers 2011-2012

ACM Advisor – Dr. Haifei
Grant Godel – President
Jeremy (Travis) Sims – Vice President 1
Grayson Hardaway – Vice President 2
TJ Johnson – Treasurer ■

Senior Semminar Presentations

A Spatial Database and GIS System for Giving Directions, Alex Bett
Programming a Quantum Computer Emulator, Grayson Hardaway
Arduino as a Viable Aircraft Control System, Andrew Moore
VST Synthesizer using VST.NET, Kevin Reed
Showcasing Unreal Development Kit and Its Use For Gaming and Other Applications, Jeremy Sims
Object Feature Detection Using Augmented Reality to Direct a Camera's Aim for Matching Pictures, Joy Tie (received an Undergraduate Research Grant) ■

Student News

The Competitive Programming Team continues to perform strongly, competing in the fall at the ACM Mid-Central Regional Programming Competition and in the spring at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Mid-South Programming Competition.

Ben Horne, CSC Major, contributed to a paper on software extensions to the Descartes software specification language, and it has been submitted to The International Conference on Computing, Networking and Digital Technologies that will be held in Bahrain, on Nov. 11-13, 2012.

Joy Tie, CSC Minor, received an Undergraduate Research Grant for her senior seminar presentation, Object Feature Detection Using Augmented Reality to Direct a Camera's Aim for Matching Pictures.

On the **Day of Remembrance**, students helped to teach 2 labs on Android Phone programming at the University School of Jackson.

New class offerings: Mobile Device Programming and Artificial Intelligence.

Computer Repair – Since 2009, we have been providing low cost, high quality computer services to the Union community. Many Union students and professors take advantage of the fact that their computers can be fixed at a much lower price than that charged by Geek Squad and local computer shops. ■

Alumni News

Elvis Shikuku – received the FedEx Services Five Star Award which recognizes an employee's accomplishments that demonstrate innovation, collaboration, efficiency or profitability associated with results.

Job Updates for Alumni

Barry Britt (2002): Systems Administrator, Iowa State University, Des Moines, IA

Brent Cates (1999): East Division Field Support Administrator, TruGreen LandCare, Memphis, TN

Benjamin Fulton (CSC minor, 2012) Staff Accountant, Blackman and Sloop, Durham, NC

Brian Glas (2001): Sr. Application Security Engineer, Aspect Security, Memphis, TN

Kevin Jett (2006): Director of Research and Development, Wizards of Gyan, Inc., Franklin, TN

Scott Johnson (2001): Sr. Application Operations Analyst, Deloitte, Nashville, TN

Dustin Martin (DMS, 2007): Software Engineer, InVisionApp Inc., Louisville, KY

David Moses (2007): Application Analyst at Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX

Roger Niccum (1997): Information Technology at Rend Lake College, Ina, IL

Clint Peery (2004): Store Systems Application Administrator, Kirkland's Home, Jackson, TN

Andrew Skaggs (2006): Senior Developer, CF Webtools, Omaha, NE

Allen Smith (2004): Software Engineer at eBay, Portland, OR

Milan Zivkovic (2004): Manager, Marketing Analytics, Strategic Innovation Group, Asurion, Nashville, TN ■

Scholarships and Awards

The Joe Tucker Scholarship – **Ben Horne**
The Bill Truex Award in Computer Science – **Grayson Hardaway**
First Place in Major Field Achievement Test – **Grayson Hardaway**
First Year Programming Award – **Nathan Webb**
Outstanding Research Award from the Center for Scientific Studies
   – **Andrew Moore**, Arduino as a Viable Aircraft Control System
Academic Excellence Medal – **Grayson Hardaway** ■

Graduates LEFT TO RIGHT

Jeremy (Travis) Sims (2012), Best Buy, Jackson, TN
Andrew Moore (2012), Franklin American Mortgage Company, Franklin, TN
Kevin Reid (2012), eBuilder, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Grayson Hardaway (2012), Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.
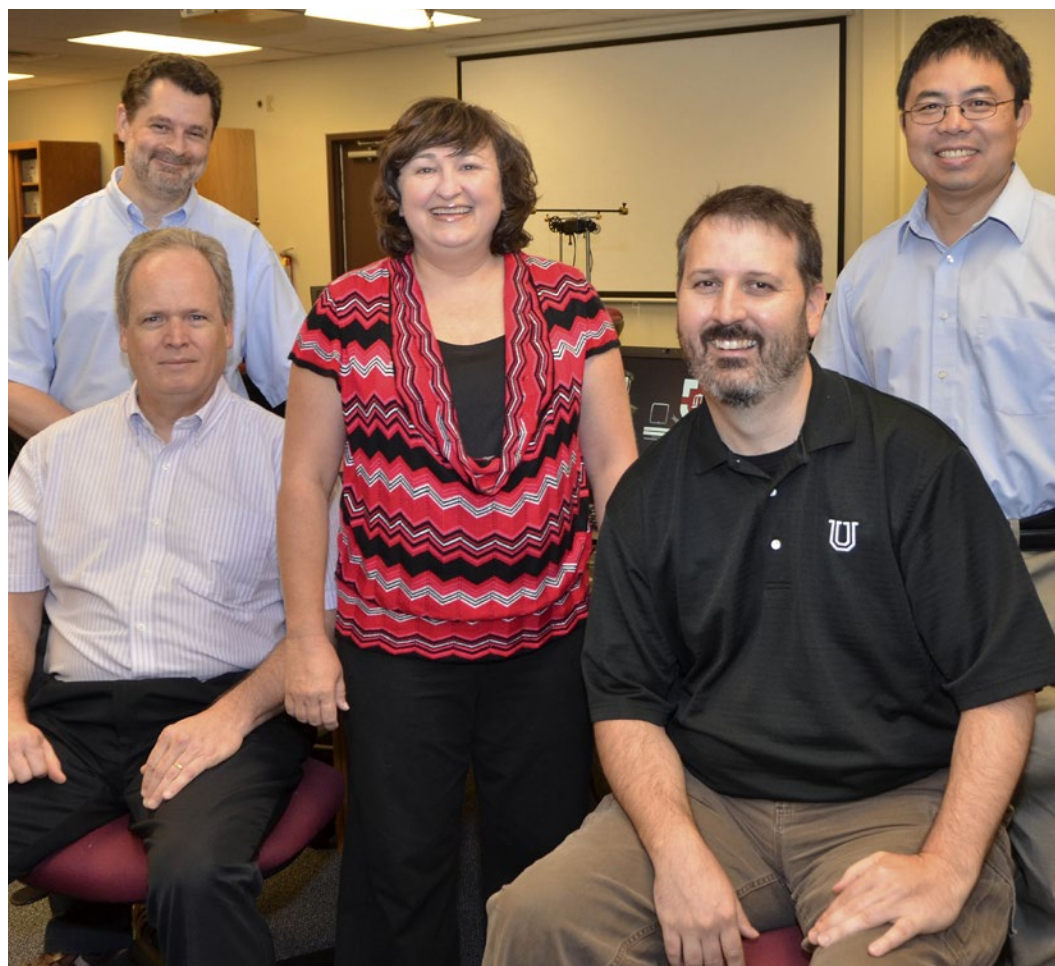**Alex Bett** (2012), Xerox Business Services, Antioch, TN ■

Graduates hold positions at

National Security Agency, Xerox, Sprint, PureSafety, Jackson Madison County Schools, Younger Associates Advertising Division, Logical Systems Inc. LSI, Belvedere Training, Cerner Corporation, Pomeroy IT Solutions, Global Client Solutions, Transformations, Inc., Garmin International, Inc., Professional IT Management, Housing Authority, Pictsweet, Aprimo, ISG Technology, Ingram Book Company, Iowa State University, Wabtec, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, Education Networks of America, Sedgwick CMS, Nash Finch Company, Mid-America Apartment Communities, Nerdvana. ■

UNION UNIVERSITY

Department of Computer Science

1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, Tennessee 38305

Faculty LEFT TO RIGHT

Dr. G. Jan Wilms
professor
jwilms@uu.edu 731-661-5267

Dr. Jim Kirk
associate professor
jkirk@uu.edu 731-661-5274

Stephanie Edge
associate professor
sedge@uu.edu 731-661-5324

Cam Tracy
DMS instructor
ctracy@uu.edu 731-661-5502

Dr. Max Haifei Li
associate professor
hli@uu.edu 731-661-5577

visit us on the web
uu.edu/dept/compscience