

# Computer Science Department Annual Report for 2007–2008

## Summary

We started out the academic year by welcoming a visiting lecturer, Dwight Tuinstra, to join our faculty while Tim Fossum, chair, was on leave at the National Science Foundation.

The activities summarized below show that the faculty and staff of the Computer Science Department continue their significant involvement in the academic life of the College and in the Computer Science Profession.

## Faculty and staff

- Timothy Fossum, Ph.D., Professor and Chair on leave
- Charles Marshall, Ph.D.
- Susan Haller, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Interim Chair
- Brian Ladd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
- Faye Simmons, Adjunct Faculty
- Ann Winters, Secretary

## Highlights

(These items are listed in no particular order.)

- CIS majors participated in several internships (credit and non-credit) during the academic year, at the following locations:
  - NASA (Florida)
  - IBM (past and upcoming - Summer 2008)
  - General Electric (past and upcoming - Summer 2008)
  - Northeast Analytical (upcoming - Summer 2008)
  - Lockheed Martin (upcoming - Summer 2008)

- Chase Manhattan (upcoming - Summer 2008)
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory (upcoming - Summer 2008)

The NASA internship was highly competitive. Our Potsdam intern, Jamie Szafran, was one of 20 selected from a pool of over 1000 applicants nationwide.

- Three students: Anthony Capone, Jamie Sinclair, and Eric Hutchins completed a senior project building an interactive and secure web environment for parents, teachers, and students to communicate on assignments and student progress. It was designed for and tested by the Potsdam Central School District.
- Our department submitted its revisions to the Computer Science BA program (including a name change) to SUNY Central and the State Education Department for final approval which was received.
- Our department submitted a name change for the minor from "Computer and Information Sciences" to "Computer Science". This change was approved by the Faculty Senate in its meeting of May 21, 2008.
- The department had 33 course changes/additions approved by the school and catalog copy was updated.
- In collaboration with the Mathematics Department and the Information and Communication Technology, our department received permission and funding to plan a Professional Science Masters Program with an emphasis on Computational Science.
- Brian Ladd took a student team to participate in the the CCSC-NE regional contest at Wagner College in New York City.
- Susan Haller served as moderator and Brian Ladd as panelist in a special session at the the international SIGCSE Conference held in Portland, OR, 2008. This is the premier annual international conference of CS educators.
- Timothy Fossum was elected as a member of the Board of the Northeast Section of the Consortium of Computer Sciences in Colleges.
- The ACM Student Chapter continued its activities during the academic year
- Susan Haller continues to serve as Secretary of the International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Symposium, which held its annual meeting in Coconut Grove, FL May, 2008. Dr. Haller will serve as conference chair for the 2009 Symposium to be held on Sanibel Island, FL.
- There were two meetings of the Computer Science Department Alumni Board. The fall meeting was held October 13, 2007; the spring meeting was held April 26, 2008.
- The department developed articulation agreements with 8 SUNY community colleges that have A.S. degree programs in Computer Science. The agreements are for transfer from each of these programs to SUNY Potsdam B.A. degree program in Computer Science.

- The department submitted a proposal for a B.S. degree program in Computer Science. This will be considered by the Art and Sciences Curriculum Committee in Fall 2008.

## **Scholarly Activity – Refereed Publications**

“Teacher responses to student gender differences” by Martha Voyles, Susan Haller, and Timothy Fossum in *Proceedings of the 12th Annual SIGCSE Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education*, 2007.

“Games: Good/Evil” by Susan Haller, Brian Ladd, Scott Leutenegger, John Nordlinger, Jody Paul, Henry Walker, and Carol Zander in , *Proceedings of the 39th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*, 2008. This is a special session description.

“Teachers respond functionally to student gender differences in a technology course” by Martha Voyles, Timothy Fossum, and Susan Haller in *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 2008.

## **University service**

- Susan Haller chaired the Admissions Committee and served on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Faculty Senate, Interdepartmental Programs (SIIM) Committee, and the Academic Standards Committee. She also was alternate senator to the SUNY Faculty Senate.
- Timothy Fossum was on leave as a program director at the National Science Foundation.
- Susan Haller served as Interim Chair to the Computer Science Department while Timothy Fossum was on leave.
- Brian Ladd and Charles Marshall served as CS Department representatives to the SUNY Potsdam Faculty Senate