CWIT *update*

THE CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AT UMBC

A Word From the Director

By Dr. Penny Rheingans

Spring seemed awfully long in coming and then suddenly it was the end of the semester. I'm still not quite sure how that happened, but it's all good.

As the Scholars head into exams, I'm already looking forward to graduation. Next week, I'll get to watch six CWIT Scholars walk across that big stage: Bhuvana Bellala (CMSC), Tiffany Ernst (CMSC), Julia Ford (CMSC), Kevin Johnson (ME), Leah Mason (ME), Angela Norton (CBE), Clayonna Wheat (IS). They'll be joined by our T-SITE Scholar graduates: Kiante Brantley (CMSC), Michael Brown (CBE), and Nishay Raja (ME), as well as our Cyber Scholar graduates: Nathan Cline (CMSC), Victoria Lentz (CMSC), Lauren Mazzoli (CMSC), Kat Pfeiffer (IS), Katrice St. Rose (IS), and Brislin Thomas (CMSC). Read about their plans for the next phase elsewhere in this newsletter.

We've finished selecting the next cohort of all three Scholar programs. Our C14 cohort of sixteen CWIT Scholars is Tyler Boyle (Colonia HS), Maria Brown (River Hill HS), Colin Corcoran (Catonsville HS), Connor Craft (Patuxent HS), Emily Duan (Chesapeake HS), Maya Gupta (Oakland Mills HS), Erica Haschert (Elizabeth Seton HS), Sarah Heiner (Bel Air HS), Rebekah Kempske (Catholic HS),

Kristin McLaughlin (Community Christian School), Sara Nabulsi (Baltimore Polytechnic Institute), Nadja Osiander (Oakland Mills HS), Meera Patel (Atholton HS), Julianna Posey (Middletown HS), Alliana Warner (Western School of Technology) and Emily Yu (Thomas Sprigg Wootton HS). Our Y3 cohort of CYBER Scholars are Pragya Chaudhari (UMBC), Aaron Gray (UMBC), Sergei Gorkhovetskiy (UMBC), Kwame Robertson (UMBC), Bailey Rouk (CCBC), Taylor Webb (Hammond HS), Casey West (UMBC), and Danielle Zack (UMBC). Finally, our T4 cohort of T-SITE Scholars are King Carmichael (HCC), Cristina Fortiz (PGCC), Sophie Abrere Kozolan (MC), Tatiana Nikolaeva (CCBC), Kayla Pope (AACC), Moustapha Tiam (MC, Tobie Tunde-Alli (PGCC), Bryan Vanek (FCC), and Sarah Wells (AACC). We're excited that they've chosen CWIT/CYBER/T-SITE and UMBC.

As I approach the end of my seventh year as CWIT Director, I continue to be awed by the spirit, accomplishments, and compassion of our Scholars and alumni. I am endlessly thankful for the generosity and honesty of our partners and supporters among the UMBC faculty and staff. This newsletter contains a window into what we've been up to the last couple of months. Hope you enjoy this little bit of our world.

CYBER Corner

By Cindy Greenwood

The Cyber Scholars & Affiliates have continued with another busy semester this spring. We also continued our Cyber Practicum for Scholars and Affiliates to hear from cyber professionals each week. Speakers came from organizations such as the Women's Society of Cyberjutsu, NSA, T. Rowe Price, the Department of Homeland Security, and several others. Students have expressed that they enjoy hearing from speakers representing a variety of companies and roles within the cyber field and that the practicum helps them better understand the different types of jobs one might consider within the field. Four of our Scholars and Affiliates stepped up this semester to help increase the cyber-related offerings for students. Alejandra Diaz, Alex Jackson, Teddy LaFemina, and Stephanie Pearre have great ideas for initiatives such as cyber skill-building workshops, certification study groups, and much more. The execution of these new ideas began slowly this semester and we look forward to putting their plans into action this fall. As always, we are grateful for our corporate sponsors. Several of our students will head to Northrop Grumman, our largest sponsor, for jobs and internships this summer. We would also like to thank BAE Systems, Varen Technologies, and The Coleman Group for being Cyber Champions this year. In addition, we are excited for our students to gain summer internship experience with companies including Tenable Network Security, Mindgrub, and Google.

conGRADulations!
Meet our Graduating Seniors!

Tiffany Ernst
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Northrop Grumman
CWIT has made me who I am today. I would not have gone to a four year university without the scholarship. CWIT has made me well rounded and a high achieving, motivated person.

Claudette DuPont
(T-SITE Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
I am most proud of graduating and being asked to be the Keynote Speaker at AACC Engineering Scholars dinner.

Nathan Cline
(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Northrop Grumman
CWIT has provided amazing opportunities to meet professionals in the area (which led to my current job) as well as exposed me to the UMBC community at large. It was always a great feeling to know I had a place to go to on campus during the day to just relax.

Julia Ford
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science

Bhuvana Bellala
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
MIS– University of California, Berkeley
I came in to UMBC with the goal to finish undergrad in three years and I did it! Also, most importantly, I am proud that I have found something I am passionate about and that I have been able to create the opportunity to pursue that passion.

Victoria Lentz
(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
JHU– Applied Physics Lab
I am most proud of being part of the Cyber Scholars program and being one of eleven students in the nation to receive the Scholarship for Women Studying Information Security for the 2014-2015 school year.

Angela Norton
(CWIT Scholar)
Chemical Engineering
Future Plans:
PhD– University of Deleware
These past four years of working hard and carrying around two book bags have been worth it! I am very proud to say I have earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

Katrice St. Rose
(Cyber Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Federal Government
I will always remember CWIT as being the Support System I had while in under grad!

Nishay Raja
(T-SITE Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Northrop Grumman
I am most proud of my research on "Improving Spatial Visualization Skills of Freshmen Engineering Students at UMBC". I hope that in the long run, it helps in the retention of students, particularly females, in engineering.

Brislin Thomas
(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
CWIT gave me a great industry mentor and community of scholars, professors, and CWIT staff to rely on. I will miss being close by and run-

Clayonna Wheat
(CWIT Scholar)
Business Technology Administration
Future Plans:
NASA
I'm most proud of being the first person in my family to graduate with a bachelors degree. Becoming an example for my little cousins behind me.

Kat Pfeiffer
(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Rockwell Collins ARINC
Without CWIT, I don't think I would have the opportunities that I currently have after graduation. Being a part of CWIT has opened so many doors for me, and I'm excited to take the next step and see what the future holds.

Kiante Brantley
(T-SITE Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Masters– UMBC
I am most proud of achieving my goal academic goals so far. My goals were to receive an A.A. degree in 2 years and a B.S. degree in 4 years (2 years after the A.A, while working the entire time).

Lauren Mazzoli
(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Northrop Grumman
I am most proud of my hard work throughout college. Not only did I work part time every semester since I came to UMBC, but I also took at least 15 credits a semester while maintaining a high GPA.

Kevin Johnson
(CWIT Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Textron Systems; Masters– JHU
CWIT has given me the confidence to go out into the working world and be confident in myself and my skills. I feel confident about working as an engineer, getting my master's degree part time, and growing as a leader in the future.

Leah Mason
(CWIT Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
PhD– Missouri S&T
CWIT has been my college family. They have taught me valuable life lessons, they have always been there to support me, and they are a fun group of people that I will miss very much.

Michael Brown
(T-SITE Scholar)
Chemical Engineering
Future Plans:
Carrier Corporation
CWIT has given me the opportunity for tremendous professional growth, for which I'm very grateful.

T-SITE Update
By Dr. Susan Martin

Family, Support, Reassurance, Encouragement, Inspiration, Motivation, Fun
These are the words that T-SITE scholars used when asked in a recent focus group to describe their experience as part of the CWIT community. The T-SITE scholars program is funded by an S-STEM grant from the National Science Foundation (DUE-1154300-in its fourth of five years) to serve a total of 28 academically talented transfer students majoring in engineering or computing who have financial need, with a focus on women and other underrepresented groups. A fourth and final cohort of nine T-SITEs being funded on the current grant has been selected and will join the CWIT community this fall. Our T-SITE scholars are a wildly successful group and embody excellence in diversity! Three quarters of the 28 scholars selected are women or African American. Like most transfer students, T-SITES are have their eyes on their future career. This May more three T-SITEs are graduating and four more are on track to graduate in August or December. The T-SITE faculty mentors (Dr. Taryn Bayles, Dr. Marie desJardins, Dr. Carolyn Seaman, Dr. Anne Spence, and Dr. Gymama Slaugther-project coPIs) are an integral part of T-SITE scholar success. Nishay Raja talked about her faculty mentor like this- "I think Dr. Spence is awesome. She's helped me through everything. …she tells me what you need to do and what classes to take. So that's always been very helpful, even my research was through her as well. We also have some great news about the T-SITE program—it will continue! Another S-STEM project (DUE- 1458343) was funded in April to serve 25 more transfer students majoring in computing. Dr. Penny Rheingans, CWIT Director, is the Principal investigator. Dr. Carolyn Seaman (IS Department), Dr. Susan Martin (CWIT), and Dr. Charles LaBerge (CSEE) are coPIs on this new project. Recruitment for the first cohort of transfer students from Maryland community colleges who intend enter UMBC in fall 2016 major in computing fields at UMBC will begin this fall.

5TH ANNUAL SPRING INTO LEADERSHIP "SUCCESS AFTER FAILURE"

The annual Spring into Leadership event was held on Tuesday, March 31, in the UC Ballroom. More than 40 industry professionals, alumni, faculty, and staff members attended this event

alongside approximately 85 Scholars and Affiliates. The keynote speaker was Ms. Helen Phillips of Northrop Grumman, a UMBC alumna with a BS/MS in Mechanical Engineering. Ms. Phillips focused her talk on succeeding after failure and persevering when things do not go as planned.

BITS AND BYTES

Bits and Bytes is a student-led event for high school junior girls which encourages young women to explore the IT and engineering fields and creates an opportunity for them to be surrounded by others with similar interests, including fellow high school students and CWIT Scholars who volunteer their time during the event. It includes a design challenge, a chance to spend the night in the CWIT LLC, and sessions about preparing for college. This year, CWIT hosted 35 high school junior girls for the annual event. For more information about next year's program, visit:
http://www.cwit.umbc.edu/hs/hsprograms/

CWIT LLC

The CWIT-LLC moved to Chesapeake Hall this year and grew to 47 students. Our wonderful RA, Erika Heffernan, did a fabulous job of having a range of programs from monthly dinners to movie night s to help students feel engaged. Our returning sophomore s on the floor also contributed to helping the freshmen students feel at home in the new space. We look forward to continuing to grow in the coming years!

CWIT SHOWCASE

Fifteen Scholars and Affiliates presented sessions to their peers during this year's CWIT Showcase. This event aims to give students a condensed experience similar to that of a professional conference. Students presented on research they have conducted, interesting class projects they completed, and experiences they have had (including the Clean Water Project in Kenya by Engineers Without Borders members, the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing by three students who attended, and more).

Student Organizations Update...

CWIT Student Council

This past semester, CWIT Student Council has been busy with reinventing the purpose of the council by introducing a new constitution and planning more social and service events that bring the community together as a whole. The board members have been active participants in many committees such as Bits and Bytes and Spring Into Leadership. As per tradition, CWIT Student Council has helped out with Let's get Techy and sponsored the CWIT Formal. Additionally, CWIT Student Council memebers have volunteered with Samaritan Women, held fundraisers and activities such as roller skating, laser tag, and Orioles game nights. The officers for next year have been elected. The new officers are Hannah Corcos (President), Sydney Menikhei (Vice President of Student Events), Hannah Aris (Vice President of Public Relations), Savannah Steinly (Secretary), Holly Johnson (Treasurer), and Sofia Nasafi (Communications). Congratulations to the new officers! They will do an excellent job and bring our scholar and affiliate community even closer.

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

It has been an exciting year for the SWEethearts. We attended both the SWE Regional and National conference, went back to our roots with the SWE Tie Dye social, and sponsored multiple professional development events! This semester we participated in more outreach events than ever before! Thank you to everyone for an amazing year and good luck to all of our graduating SWEsters!

CWIT's Spring Calendar

January
26 Welcome Back Pizza & Cupcakes
31 Spring Scholar Retreat

February
2 Family Meeting
11 Men in CWIT Meeting
15-16 Bits & Bytes
28 Scholar Selection Day

March
9 Men in CWIT Meeting
30 Pick Your Classes Extravaganza
31 Spring Into Leadership

April
10 T-SITE & Cyber Interview Day
15 Lean In Event with LinkedIn and Facebook
20 Men in CWIT Meeting
24 CWIT Showcase
29 Microsoft Info Session with CWIT Alum

May
2 CWIT & PWIT End of Year Picnic
19 Senior Dessert
22 Undergraduate Commencement

Alumni Updates!

Thomas Davis (SITE) will be moving to Rochester, NY to be a Technical Consultant at a company called NimbleUser
www.nimbleuser.com
Denish Van (SITE) was promoted to a Senior IT Specialist at IBM and will be getting married in November 2015
Katrina Chan (C9) will graduate this May with a Master's in Information Systems from UMBC
Katie Gibson (C3) will participate in the University of Pennsylvania PhD commencement in May with plans to defend her dissertation later this summer
Emily Scheerer (C9) will marry Ryan Brown on July 3rd. They met through the UMBC Ballroom Dance Club and he proposed at UMBC on the dock at "Pig Pen Pond."

Bragging Rights: Scholars' Awards & Accomplishments

Jenette Philips (C12) is excited to have her first job opportunity this summer!

Teddy LaFemina (C12) was awarded a Scholarship for Service: CyberCorps scholarship. This scholarship is funded by NSF and awarded to 5-7 students at UMBC ranging from juniors in Undergrad to PhD students

Qeturah Olivera (T3) participated in 2 fashion shows and served as a Success Peer working with students with intellectual disabilities as a classroom peer

Vincent Lie (Y2) maintained a 4.0 while working 20 hours per week with UMBC DoIT

Vitaliy Turechykov (Y2) was awarded the SFS Scholarship and was on President's List for Fall 2014

Victoria Lentz (Y1) was 1 of 11 students in the nation to receive the Scholarship for Women Studying Information Security

Travis Ward (T2) was inducted into Tau Beta Pi

Theodora Martin (C13) was assistant pit director for Musical Theatre Club's production of Urinetown became the 2015-2016 STEM Outreach Coordinator for UMBC Rocketry Club; Treasurer for Meditation at UMBC; played violin in UMBC Community Symphony Orchestra in Spring 2015

Sophia Haire (C12) was inducted into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi

Shannon Donelan (C11) won 1st place in the Baltimore-Washington Fencing Club Conference championships; volunteered with a group of CWIT students at the Samaritan Women

Savannah Steinly (C13) attended STRiVE during spring break; was accepted as a Welcome Week Leader at UMBC for the fall of 2015!

Samantha Turskey (Y2) earned a 4.0 in Fall 2014!

Samantha Smith (C12) inducted into Tau Beta Pi

Rachel Cohen (Y2) became a part of SGA's Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs; working on getting involved as a volunteer/instructor for the national Girls Who Code initiative

Oladipupo Eke (T3) became a SGA senator was initiated into the Tau Beta Pi

Nishay Raja (T1) inducted to Omicron Delta Kappa

Nicole Racine (C11) became president of ASME

Mike Brown (T1) was a part of UMBC's Engineers without Borders team that went to Kenya this past January

Megan Lynch (C12) served as a co-leader for UMBC Alternative Spring Break

Lauren Mazzoli (Y1) was a member of Pi Mu Epsilon and Golden Key; Team Captain of 2nd place team in MDC3 Cyber Competition

Kourtney Rutkowski (C12) spent the spring semester in Louisville, Kentucky with GE Appliances; submitted a manuscript to the American Chemical Society's publication *Macromolecules*

Kevin Johnson (C10) helped organize Engineers Week with Tau Beta Pi; vice president of student events in the CWIT student council; social events coordinator for Tau Beta Pi; member of the executive board for Omicron Delta Kappa; leader of Men in CWIT

Katrice St. Rose (Y1) held a leadership role in UMBCs chapter of NSBE

Kat Pfeiffer (Y1) received the Gregory Schwerdt Endowed Memorial Scholarship, and has her art displayed in a Baltimore gallery

Holly Johnson (C11) was re-elected as President of Women's club soccer; Treasurer of the CWIT student council

Hannah Aris (C13) traveled to Panamá with Global Brigaded; Director of Finance for this year's Brigade to Nicaragua next year; an Resident Assistant (RA) this upcoming year; Vice Presidents of Student Affairs for the CWIT Student Council; Secretary of The Society for Biological Engineers; Member of UMBC's Varsity Cross Country and Track and Field Teams

Grace Tarnosky (C13) was an officer in CAB, Astronomy Club and ASME

Elyse Hill (C12) was involved in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) club

Chris Williams (Y2) worked in Dr. Karabatis' lab

Chiebuka Ezekwenna (T2) presented at CWIT Showcase about his experience at Grace Hopper

Celia Drew (C11) inducted to Pi Mu Epsilon; served on the research, scholarship and creative achievement committee for UMBC's strategic planning process

Celestine Wong (C13) attended several hackathons; treasurer next year of UMBC Hacks

Caroline Kery (C13) volunteered at the Refugee Youth Project and Southwest Emergency Services thrift store

Beth Wolinski (C13) inducted to the National Society of Collegiate

Shout Outs!

Scholars send anonymous kudos, congrats, and encouragement to their community

• Congratulations to **Michael Brown** on his new job with Carrier!

• **Leah Mason**-best of luck at Missouri Science and Technology!

• **Tiffany Ernst**, huge congratulations on your job at Northrop Grumman! Wishing you the best!

• **Kevin Johnson** impressed me all year with his leadership roles at the de facto head of the men in CWIT group. Kevin has many leadership roles in a lot of different organizations, and it was admirable how he juggled all of his hats and provided valuable contributions to everything that he was involved in.

• I was really proud of everyone on the floor.

• **Bhuvana** for getting into UC Berkeley for graduate school!

• **Chris Williams, Alejandra Diaz, Vaughn Jackson, Edward LaFemina, and Stephanie Pearre** for taking initiative to get more hands-on practice for cyber scholars!

• I was really inspired by **Sophie**. She always works really hard and has a lot of great advice. I love our conversations, and I will really miss that when she leaves the floor next year.

• Shout out to **Bhuvana** for having been a great CWIT president and for finishing her classwork in three years!

• Congratulations to **Angie Norton** for working so hard and becoming an engineer!

• All our **seniors** moving on. You all will be missed, and we expect big things from you!

• Shout out to **Katie Dillon** for being the greatest and most adorable computer science freshman I got the pleasure of knowing this year!

• **Nishay's** URA impressed me the most this year. Well done Nishay!!

• Every single member of the **CWIT Community** continues to amaze me everyday.

• Shout out to **Elyse Hill** for being such a wonderful study buddy.

• Congrats to **Alicia** for getting a research opportunity at Harvard this summer!

• **Austin Cole, Katie Swanson, Vincent Liu, and Mark Cirincione** are all wonderful friends who came to my rescue this semester when things got rough for me. Their encouragement helped me so much and I'm so grateful to have made friends like them.

• My roomie, **Tess**, has been the best! I couldn't ask for someone better to share my living space with.

• Shout out to **Lauren Mazzoli** she is such an inspiration! Good luck on all your future endeavors.

• I am proud of **John Swank and Mark Cirincione** for obtaining meaningful internships within their field.

• I am proud of **Hannah Aris and Hannah Corcos** for stepping up and running for CWIT Student Council again.

• Thanks to **Elyse Hill and Jenette Phillips** for not forgetting me while I'm all the way in Kentucky, it means more than you know!

• **Victoria** has been a great support and friend throughout the semester!

• **Vincent** continues to impress everyone with his motivation to do the best he can. Kevin freaking Johnson you are the man! Congrats on graduating and representing CWIT so well for the past four years, love you man!

• **Hannah Aris** : Going to Panama to distribute medical equipment to locals with the Brigade Rouge I think. Also, her athletics involvement. Awesome!!!!!!

• **Mike Brown:** Volunteer with the Engineers without Borders to provide potable waters to locals.

• **Brislin Thomas**: Being an outstanding student and her accomplishments rewarded by the CSEE department

• **Leah Mason**: She was the only girl and only mechanical engineer in her capstone project along with three brilliant computer engineers. She held her own and came up with a great design for a rather challenging project. I was very proud!!!!

• **Jacob** received kudos from his peers for his caring and friendship

• **Qeturah** surprised me by her activism for social justice. I hope she never loses this spark!

• **Retreat Committee**: Good job everyone, I had a great time. It was the only "vacation" I had last summer and I had a blast.

• **Kevin Johnson**: Kevin is great. From his involvement with CWIT and honor society and what not!

• Congrats to all **junior scholars** that made it through junior year! WE DID IT!

• Congratulations to our wonderful **Crystal Diaz-Espinoza** for her marriage!!!

• **Elyse, Sam and Hannah**! All three of you rock! Your persistence inspires me every day. I know you all will make great engineers!!! Stay strong.

• Congrats to **Kate Swanson** for her internship with Google!

• Kudos to **Lauren Mazzoli**!! She is awesome and has done so many cool things to leave her mark at UMBC.

• Shout out to **Celeste** who has taken on a LOT of credits this year so she can do both computer science and social work! She has great time management!

• Thank you to my lovely **freshman CWIT cohort** for always being there for me this year, for studying with me, for picking me up when I'm feeling down, and for being your awesome selves! It has been a great year with you and I am grateful to call you all my friends.

• Kudos to **Caroline Kery** for being a go-getter, master networker, and stellar performer on several projects above and beyond her course load. You rock!

• **Elyse Hill** has been very helpful with my general adjustment to the college life.

• **Becca**, you ruled as Hope Cladwell.

• **Tess**, you kick butt at teaching physics. Because of you, physics discussion was actually helpful and I think of you explaining the problems to me when I take exams.

• **Celeste,** congrats at getting the NIST internship.

• **Beth**, you are an awesome tutor and you've helped out the grades of a lot of people.

• **Hannah and Savannah** provide quite a lot of sunshine into a conversation. Their positivity just radiates out to the people they talk to. I'm so glad that I'll be seeing them more often in ENCH 215 next year.

• **Sam Smith** is the next Joshua Bell.

• I want to give a shout out to my Peer Mentor, **Mike Brown**. Congratulations on graduating this year! Thanks for all the advice over the years. I hope I can do the same for the incoming T-SITEs. You truly are an inspiration and I know you will go far!

• Shout outs to **EKE!!** Got voted into the SGA senate!!

• I also liked hearing about **Michael Brown's** trip to Uganda. It was encouraging to see someone taking their degree out into the world and utilizing it to help people.

• Shout out to **Elyse** for going to be a TA next semster's ENES 101 class!