○ VOL. 1 │ ○ FALL │ ○ 2009

CWIT *Update*

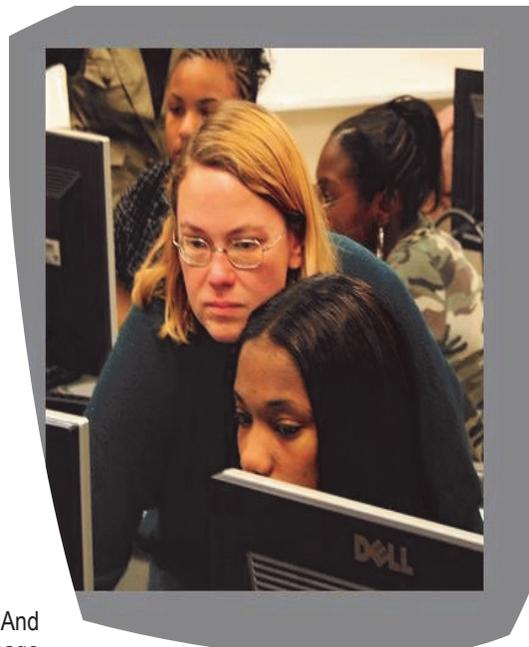## THE CENTER FOR WOMEN & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A Word From UMBC CWIT Director Dr. Penny Rheingans

I'm so pleased to be able to introduce this inaugural issue of the CWIT Update. We've had a busy year full of new faces, big changes, and impressive accomplishments. We've captured a sample for you here.

In the last year, much of our effort and energy has centered on the two Scholar Programs housed in CWIT. The CWIT Scholars Program provides scholarships and support programming for highly qualified students in chemical and biochemical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, information systems, and mechanical engineering who are committed to increasing the representation of women in those fields. The SITE Scholars Program uses a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund scholarships and support programming for highly qualified students in the same five majors, extending the focus to include transfer students, underrepresented minorities, and students with financial need. Our Scholars are retained and graduate in their majors at a high rate, get great

experience in internships and research labs, learn to become leaders, and move on to exciting jobs and graduate programs. One of the recent innovations of which I am most proud is our new Student Board, a group of Scholars who have stepped up to take an active part in shaping what CWIT is and will become.

Increasingly, we are working to expand the CWIT influence more broadly across the College of Engineering and Information Technology. We're working to make student voices heard by sponsoring student meetings with department chairs, focus groups, and a survey about academic and gender climate in the College. We're reaching out to more students through our Affiliates Program that invites COEIT students to take part in selected CWIT activities. And finally, our Scholars are getting out the message that engineering and IT are fun by participating in recruiting and outreach activities.

The next year holds new people, new activities, and new challenges. Should be fun.

Meet the New Assistant Director

I come to UMBC with a Masters of Education in College Student Personnel from the University of Maryland, College Park, where I worked at the University Career Center with experiential learning initiatives. I also have a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from the University of Arizona, where I worked with student success programs such as TRIO and other campus-based programs. For the CWIT Scholars program, my experience with teaching, counseling, advising, and career development have

proven to be an excellent complement to Penny's vast IT knowledge and experiences in academe. We make a great team!

Having a background in College Student Affairs, I am well aware of many of the issues of STEM underrepresentation in college and beyond. It is for this reason that I sincerely believe in the mission of CWIT and I wanted to be a part of it. After beginning this position in July, I have had the

pleasure of being able to work with some of the best and brightest Engineering and IT students – women and men who are learning what it takes to be a leader in their field and have the desire to make a difference – as well as so many great CWIT supporters on campus and off. I am very pleased to be a part of this organization and am excited about what the future of CWIT will bring.

CWIT & SITE Scholars at 2008 Scholars Reception

Scholars Report: Internships, Awards and Accomplishments

Among numerous UMBC academic honors, such as Presidents List and Deans List, within the past year the following CWIT and SITE scholars have received other honors and awards from UMBC and beyond:

Hariklia Karagiannis: Received the "Outstanding Senior" award in Computer Engineering from the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at UMBC

Emily Toy: Received the John B. Schwartz Scholarship from the Department of Information Systems; Accepted into IS Masters program at UMBC

Krishna Sheth: Inducted into the Kappa Theta Epsilon (KQE) Honors Society; Received a scholarship from Scholarship America through Verizon

Angela Nealen: Member of UMBC's BioDiesel Club, which won MTV's global "Dream It, Do It Challenge" in June for the best sustainability idea

Caroline Scheck: Member of a team for the Baja SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) International Competition; Accepted into the Mechanical Engineering Masters program at UMBC.

Michael Rahimi: Received a T. Rowe Price Scholarship

Paula McCusker: Named "Emerging Leader of the Year" by the Office of Student Life for her work in SGA

Amy Ciavolino: Graduated from Harford Community College in May 2009 with an A.S. in Mathematics with High Honors; In May 2009, received a "Commitment to Excellence" award from Harford Community College as a student leader in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Methzli Rodriguez: Received awards for her volunteer work with Project HEALTH

Mariano Mumpower: Won First Place in UMBC's first-ever "Idea Competition" in November; Recipient of a competitive NASA MUST Scholarship; Inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honors society

Kevin Lee: Member of a team for Baja SAE, who won 1st place for cost efficiency and 7th place overall in a competition in Alabama last year

Justin Bass: Inducted into the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society

CWIT and SITE students completed internships and research projects within the past year at these sites:

* Aberdeen Proving Ground, Army Research Laboratory
* Aegis, Inc.
* Black & Decker
* Booz Allen Hamilton
* Colver Power Project
* Constellation Energy Group
* DCS, Inc.
* Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center
* Enterprise Community Partners
* Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
* Garret Brothers, Inc.
* Geico
* Global Portal for Women in IT Project
* Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab
* Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
* Lee Electronics, Inc.
* Lockheed Martin Corporation
* Maritime Applied Physics Corporation
* Math Computational Project
* National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
* Northrop Grumman Corporation & Electronic Systems
* St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
* UMBC Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Laboratory
* UMBC Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
* UMBC Information Systems Department
* UMBC INSPIRE Program
* UMBC Micromaterials Lab
* UMBC Office of Information Technology
* Verizon Telecommunications

CWIT Event Highlights

Summer Retreat

A lot more than just a CWIT Overview - Students Participated in team-building workshops, gender diversity discussions and learned other academic skills to help ease the transition from high school to college!

"The retreat was fantastic. It really gave me a chance to get to know the people I'd be living with. I'd love to go again."
- Michael Barrett, CWIT Freshman

Scholars Reception

This annual event allows for internal and external supporters of CWIT to connect with each other and be inspired by the program's mission. October's reception in the Skylight Room involved 130 of CWIT's closest friends, and included fabulous speeches by CWIT and SITE students and UMBC's own President Habrowski.

"It was a really good showcase of the things that we don't generally say out loud about CWIT. We all believe in the program, and understand what we mean to accomplish, but it was really nice to hear everyone acknowledge those things."
- Priyanka Bushana, CWIT Sophomore

Networking Panel

The first of its kind for CWIT, this Networking Panel event allowed for students to connect with a small number of professionals in engineering and IT through a introductory panel followed by a mini-fair. Overall, nine companies from the Washington-Baltimore area were represented and twelve representatives attended.

"It was a rare opportunity to be able to interact with such influential and diverse members of the working world in such a casual, yet business oriented manner."
-Littleton Riggins, CWIT Junior

ALUMNI NEWS

MAY 2009 CWIT GRADUATES

Lauren Anthony:
Now a Systems/Software Engineer at Lockheed Martin.

Sabrina Bates:
Now a Network Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton.

Justin Pickering:
Participating in GE's Information Management Leadership Program (IMLP).

Lawrence Sebald:
Enrolled as a graduate student in Computer Science at UMBC.

MAY 2009 SITE GRADUATES

Kristen Crizer :
Employed by NavAir.

Justin Lea:
Now a Software Engineer at Lockheed Martin.

David Padilla:
Now a Manufacturing Analyst at Northrop Grumman and enrolled part time in the Information Systems master's program at UMBC.

Denise Van:
Currently working for IBM, under a program called FEMA EADIS.

OTHER UPDATES

Bethany Meyer (C3):
Currently a Web Developer at T. Rowe Price and recently bought a new house.

Dana Douglas (C2):
Employed by UserWorks, Inc. in Silver Spring, Maryland. This past June she was promoted to Project-level User Experience Specialist. She is also pursuing a Master's degree in Human-Centered Computing and planning to graduate in December 2010.

INTRODUCING THE CWIT STUDENT BOARD

PRESIDENT
Andrea Robinson (C6)
"I accepted the position of the President to give a voice to the scholars. I aim to be an advocate for gender awareness on our campus. I also aim to increase Scholar satisfaction so that there is a greater retention rate and a greater alumni involvement, which will help to make our community stronger."

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT EVENTS
Alex Markowski (C7)
"I organize social events that are designed to build a family-like environment amongst the scholars."

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCHOLAR AFFAIRS
Paridhi Jain (C6)
"I am mainly responsible for networking so that CWIT can gain recognition on campus and amongst Industry leaders."

SECRETARY
Amy Chou (C7)
"The position of Secretary brings many challenges and rewards to my school year. I am accountable of recording and distributing meeting minutes to the rest of the CWIT community, while assisting with the academic and social event planning."

TREASURER
Teresa Oswald (C5)
"I am in charge of organizing fundraisers and keeping track of the board's funding."

RESIDENT ASSISTANT
Thomas Davis (SITE Junior)
"As the Resident Assisteant of the CWIT Living Learning Community (LLC), my aim is to enhance the college experiences of the 28 residents who call the CWIT LLC home by providing a safe, fun environment where academic achievement is enhanced by personal interaction."

conGRADulations!

Recognizing Caroline Scheck, Emily Toy and Hariklia Karagiannis
Senior CWIT & SITE Scholars graduating in December 2009

Shown above is senior Emily Toy, speaking at the 2008 scholars reception in front of the CWIT & SITE scholars and their families. In December, Emily will be before a crowd yet again, but it will be as she walks across a stage to receive her diploma. Joining her from the CWIT/SITE family will be Caroline Scheck and Hariklia Karagiannis.
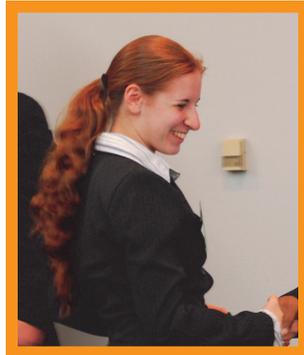
Here they share what they will be doing after graduation, and how the CWIT/SITE program has helped them succeed.

Emily Toy:
-Information Systems
-CWIT Scholar
-Interned with T.Rowe Price, Northrop Grumman, and UMBC's IS Department during her undergraduate career
"After graduation, I will be staying at UMBC a little longer to pursue my M.S. in Information Systems, but I will also be working part-time with Northrop Grumman in their Information Systems sector. CWIT made my college experience a hundred times better than it would have been without being a scholar. I believe that I would have still graduated, found a job, etc… if I was not a CWIT scholar, but it would not have been as easy or as fun. Through CWIT, I have made many friends whom I can count on for a great time, but also for when I need to study. The most important thing CWIT has given me is self-assurance. I recently ran into someone who hadn't seen me since my freshman man year and he said ' you seem so much more confident now!' I realized then that all the networking events, speeches, and internships that I had done through CWIT helped to erode some of the shyness that has characterized me for most of my life, and put me on the path towards becoming a leader."

Hariklia Karagiannis:

-Computer Engineering
-CWIT & SITE Scholar
-Interned with Northrop Grumman and CWIT during her undergraduate career
"As graduation approaches, I can't help but wonder what lies ahead in my future. Whatever my path may be, I will always acknowledge CWIT as the stepping stone for my career. As a scholarship program, CWIT has provided me with academic support, research experience, mentorship opportunities, and the recognizable CWIT name that brands success on every student they graduate. But CWIT has served a much greater role in my heart. CWIT has taught me the value of community, whether it

"Whatever my path may be, I will always acknowledge CWIT as the stepping stone for my career"

be for moral support, social change, or helping others find their path to success. So as I prepare for graduation, I search for the job that will sum up my studies here at UMBC. I plan to work at Northrop Grumman as a Systems Engineer while studying for my masters degree in Computer Engineering. And as I make this transition into the world of industry, I carry with me the lessons of CWIT which have played a significant role in shaping my career and my character."

Caroline Scheck:
-Mechanical Engineering
-SITE Scholar
- Interned with Northrop Grumman Corporation and as a student researcher at UMBC during her undergraduate career
"I will be attending graduate school here at UMBC. I'll be working toward my Master's degree and doing thesis work in the Micro Materials Laboratory. CWIT has provided substantial financial and academic advising. They have also provided me with networking opportunities and introduction to other students in similar majors to my own."