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CWIT Update

THE CENTER FOR WOMEN & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT **UMBC**
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

A Word From the Director: Dr. Penny Rheingans

It's been a busy semester here in CWIT -- from the FLL MD state championships, to Bits & Bytes, to new Scholar selection, to the first CWIT Formal, to the inspirational Spring into Leadership dinner and classes, there must have been some classes in there. As you read through this Update, you'll get a snapshot of just how much our Scholars are up to, both in CWIT and across campus.

I really love graduations. Next week, I'll get to watch twelve CWIT and SITE Scholars walk across the stage to get their degrees: Justin Bass (ME), Tom Davis (CMSC), Cassie Dobrzanski (CBE), Paridhi Jain (IS), Asmita Korde (CMPE), Mariano Mumpower (ME), Angela Nealen (CBE), Michael Rahimi (IS), Littleton Riggins (CMSC), Binh Thai Tran (ME), Kellie Tilley (CBE),

and Chris Wolf (IS). It's been great to watch them grow in knowledge, skills, and confidence. It will be even more fun to watch what amazing things they do next.

We've finished selecting our C10 cohort of CWIT Scholars who will begin in the fall. This highly accomplished group of seven is Tiffany Ernst (South River HS), Kevin Johnson (Reservoir HS), Leah Mason (Centennial HS), Angela Norton (North Point HS), Tylynn Pettrey (home-schooled), Marie Wagner (Atholton HS), and Clayonna Wheat (Dr. Henry A Wise Jr. HS). We're excited that they've chosen CWIT and UMBC.

- P. Rheingans



Women in Technology Series Takes a Leap Forward with Spring Into Leadership Event

"Goals are Important, but being flexible is better!" and "It Takes a Village"
—Myra Norton, April 5, 2011

These were two of the points made by Ms. Myra Norton, CEO of Community Analytics LLC, at the first annual Spring into Leadership event hosted by CWIT staff, the CWIT Student Council, UMBC's Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the Information Systems Council of Majors (ISCOM). The interactive event was designed to help attendees expand their social network

and intentionally cultivate new opportunities. A total of 97 CWIT Scholars and Affiliates, other undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Engineering and Information Technology, UMBC faculty and staff, and technology professionals from the local area participated in the event.

Funding was provided by CWIT, the UMBC Student Government Association and a grant from the National Center for Women in Information Technology's Academic Alliance ReturnPath Student Organization Seed Fund.

This event will take place again in 2012 thanks to funding provided by Lockheed Martin Corporation.

- S. Martin

WE'RE CHANGING OUR NAME!

CWIT is changing its name to The Center for Women in Technology!
On July 1st 2011 we are changing our name to more accurately reflect our mission-- CWIT is dedicated to increasing the representation of women in the creation of technology

in information technology and engineering careers.

Our acronym stays the same, CWIT—pronounced "see-wit". Be on the lookout for our new brochure and website launching this summer.



The Center for Women in Technology

con GRADuations!

CWIT & SITE Graduating Seniors



Paridhi Jain (CWIT Scholar)

Information Systems
Interned with General Electric; Growing Seva Ltd. as an Entrepreneur
"CWIT has helped me in countless ways... Not only has it given me a great group of friends, memories to last a lifetime, and a great support system, it also gave me the opportunity to be a change agent by being the founder and an active member of the CWIT Student Board. The platform provided by CWIT widened my horizon in terms of my career choices, provided great networking opportunities and helped me become more confident in myself. I could never thank CWIT enough!"

Littleton Riggins (CWIT Scholar)

Computer Science
Interned with SAIC;
Plans to work at SAIC
"I have seen that the world can be a cruel and unfair place. CWIT has prepared me to change that."

Asmita Korde (CWIT Scholar)

Computer Engineering
Interned with NASA;
Entering Electrical Engineering Masters program at UMBC, while completing a Co-Op with NASA

Justin Bass (SITE Scholar)

Mechanical Engineering
Plans to work at Jacobs Engineering

Chris Wolf (CWIT Scholar)

Information Systems
Interned with Lockheed Martin and the Social Security Administration;
Plans to work with MITRE Corporation
"Throughout my experiences at UMBC, both good and bad, the CWIT community has always been there to support me. It is a great program and I wish everyone the best of luck!"

Kellie Tilley (SITE Scholar)

Chemical Engineering

Thomas Davis (SITE Scholar)

Computer Science
Interned with Lockheed Martin;
Plans to work at Lockheed Martin
"I am privileged to have been part of the SITE program during my 4 years as a UMBC undergraduate. My experiences in the Computer Science program, and at the university as a whole, were some of the best experiences of my life, and the opportunities afforded to me through the SITE program made those experiences all the better."

Cassie Dobrzanski (SITE Scholar)

Chemical Engineering
Joining the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) Program with the U.S. Navy

Mariano Mumpower (SITE Scholar)

Mechanical Engineering
Interned with NASA
"Being a part of the CWIT/SITE community has helped me reach my academic goals. The combination of financial assistance, faculty mentoring, career information/networking events, and personal support available through the SITE program have helped my focus on being a successful student and defining my career ambitions. I appreciate all the support that CWIT/SITE has provided. Thank you."

Michael Rahimi (CWIT Scholar)

Information Systems
Interned with General Electric;
Plans to work at Accenture
"In CWIT, I've had many great experiences and valuable opportunities to improve my leadership ability. As a result, I have pursued leadership roles on IS projects, internships, student organizations, and in life. I'm graduating and able to leverage any challenge that surfaces."

Binh Thai Tran (SITE Scholar)

Mechanical Engineering

Angela Nealen (SITE Scholar)

Chemical Engineering
Interned with Constellation Energy;
Plans to work at Constellation Energy

Bragging Rights: Scholars' Awards & Accomplishments

Rebecca Baldwin (C8), Justin Bass (SITE), Terrence Dickerson (SITE), Jennifer Guy (C8), Lilian Johnson (C8) and Katelyn Williams (C7) became new members of the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

Samantha Celmer (C8), and Thomas Davis (SITE) became new members of Golden Key International Honour Society.

Amy Chou (C7) was elected Vice President of the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

Amy Ciavolino (C8) had a paper accepted to be presented at Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) in August 2011 entitled "Playing to Program: Towards an Intelligent Programming Tutor for RUR-PLE." Her research faculty mentor is Dr. Marie desJardins, Professor of Computer Science. Amy also had a paper published in March 2011 at the International Conference on Information Visualization Theory and Applications (IVAPP) entitled "Towards Affordable Gesture Based Interfaces."

Paridhi Jain (C6) has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Kristen Dagenais (C7) was elected Senior Representative for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Student Chapter here at UMBC.

Thomas Davis (SITE) was awarded an Outstanding Achievement in Computer Science award for outstanding academic achievement or service in the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Paridhi Jain and Asmita Korde (C6) successfully completed the requirements for the UMBC Honors College Certificate.

Lilian Johnson (C8), Emily Krause (C9), Megan Everett (Affiliate), and Chitra Gadwal (Affiliate) were chosen to participate in UMBC's STRiVE Retreat, a five-day leadership retreat in January.

Emily Krause (C9) was elected Secretary of SAEPI Sorority.

Mariano Mumpower and Justin Bass (SITE) were awarded an Outstanding Senior in Mechanical Engineering award for the highest academic achievement of graduating seniors majoring in mechanical engineering.



Morgan Madeira and Rachel Sweeton (C8) presented their research at this year's Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) on April 27th.

Alec Pulianas (C9) is now the Apple Campus Representative at UMBC.

Bryant Szelistowski (SITE) was awarded an Outstanding Achievement in Computer Engineering award for outstanding academic achievement or service in the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Katelyn Williams (C7) was elected Secretary of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Student Chapter here at UMBC.



BITS & BYTES

Spring Event Highlights

CWIT SHOWCASE

Fourteen CWIT Scholars presented at this first-annual event that brought students in the CWIT Community together to share some of their meaningful out-of-the-classroom experiences. Presentation topics ranged from internships, research, and personal project experiences.



In an effort to encourage more talented young women to enter the IT and engineering fields, CWIT hosted 18 high school junior girls for this two-day, overnight event, sponsored by *Northrop Grumman*. These high-achieving young students had opportunity to stay overnight in Erickson Hall with current CWIT Scholars, compete in an IT or engineering design challenge, attend a college class, and learn more about what life is like as a college student. The program was entirely student-run by a student committee and volunteers.

The competition...made me more confident about aspects of the Engineering field and my future potential. This program also made me able to visualize myself as an actual college student, still the UMBC students were approachable and 'real' with us." -Bits & Bytes Participant



CWIT SPRING FORMAL

In early April, CWIT Student Council hosted its first Spring formal, which was open to the entire UMBC community and guests. It's theme was "A Night in Vegas" and included music, dancing, games, a photo booth, and fun for everyone!

"I think it was an awesome event to bring our community together and open the doors to the whole UMBC community! I had a great time planning and attending and really hope this becomes an annual event!" -Annette Englehart (C9, Chair of Planning Committee)

Thanks For Your Support!



INTRODUCING: THE NEW CWIT STUDENT COUNCIL!

The CWIT Student Council had quite a successful and busy year with programs and collaborations with other student organizations. Accomplishments include:

Planning the second annual "C-What? Day" for fun and community team-building, a Holiday Party, and the CWIT Spring Formal; Collaborating with other student organizations to plan the "Tech it Easy BBQ" in September and the "Study Jam" event during finals week; Raised money for events through planning multiple bake sales and a fundraising night at CiCi's Pizza; Received a donation to help fund the Women in Technology: Spring into Leadership event in April, and served on the event's planning committee.

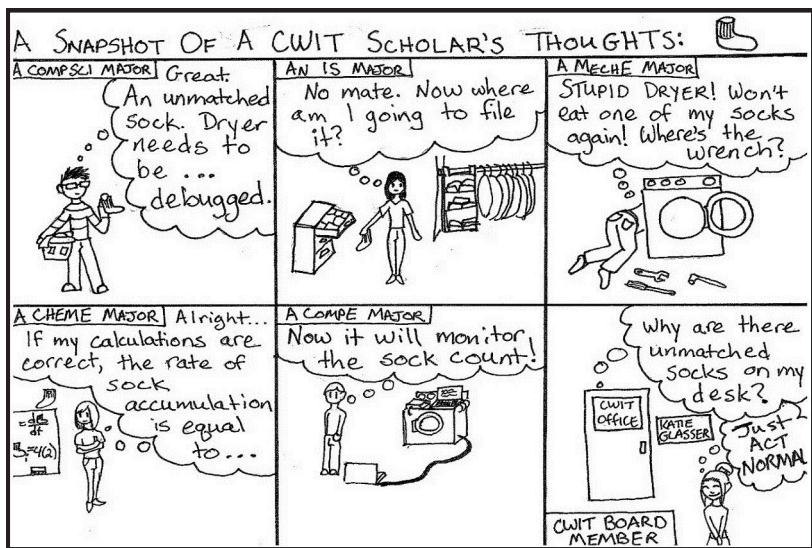
The CWIT Student Council would like to thank the students in the CWIT community for voting in the April elections. Participation in elections doubled from last year! These are the officers for the 11-12 Academic Year:

- President:** Shreya Mohan (C8, IS)
- V.P. for Scholar Affairs:** Amy Chou (C7, CBE)
- V.P. for Student Events:** Michael Barrett (C8, CMSC)
- Secretary:** Katelyn Toy (C8, IS)
- Treasurer:** Chitra Gadwal (CWIT Affiliate, CMSC)
- Historian:** Rebecca Baldwin (C8, CMPE)
- CWIT Living Learning Community's Resident Assistant:** Heidi Gray (CWIT Affiliate, CMSC)



Top Row (L-R): Heidi Gray, Michael Barrett, Shreya Mohan; Bottom Row (L-R): Rebecca Baldwin, Chitra Gadwal, Katelyn Toy. Not pictured: Amy Chou.

- SUMMER 2011 INTERNSHIP AND RESEARCH PLANS**
- ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND:** Michelle Racine
- BLACK & DECKER:** Shreya Mohan, Kevin Roberts
- BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON:** Alex Markowski, Andrea Robinson, Emily Scheerer
- CAREFIRST BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD:** Oana Tibu
- COMPUTER SCIENCE CORP.:** Katrina Chan
- DUKE UNIVERSITY:** Chitra Gadwal (REU)
- GENERAL ELECTRIC:** Chesska O'Neal
- GEORGIA TECH:** Jessica Izumi (REU)
- GOOGLE:** Michael Barrett, Amy Ciavolino, Morgan Madeira
- JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY:** Kristen Dagenais (REU)
- JOHNS HOPKINS APL:** Tim Burke, Sabrina McConoughey, Katelyn Toy
- LOCKHEED MARTIN:** Priyanka Bushana
- MINDGRUB:** Justin Ermer
- NAVAIR:** Jennifer Guy
- NIST SURF:** Lilian Johnson (REU)
- NORTHROP GRUMMAN:** Elizabeth Leon, Christina Malliakos
- SAIC:** Rebecca Baldwin, Rachel Sweeton
- STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY:** Karen Dickens (REU)
- UNIV. OF MD, BALTIMORE:** Katelyn Williams (REU)
- UMBC RESEARCH:** Samantha Celmer
- UMBC DEPARTMENT OF IT:** Heidi Gray, Bryan Miller
- UMBC STUDENT EVENTS BOARD & COMMONVISION:** Steve Karolenko



JUST FOR FUN

WHERE HAVE THE SCHOLARS BEEN?

- January:**
 31st - CWIT/SITE Family Meeting
- February:**
 20th-21st - Scholars Help Run the Bits & Bytes Program
 16th - CWIT Peer Mentors Luncheon
 26th - CWIT & SITE Scholars Volunteered for the FIRST Lego League State Tournament
 28th - Seniors Cohort Meeting

- March:**
 5th - Scholars Help with Scholar Selection Day
 7th - Juniors Cohort Meeting
 14th - Sophomores Cohort Meeting
 15th - CIA & CWIT Meet & Greet
 21st-25th - Spring Break
 28th - Freshmen Cohort Meeting
 28th-April - Career Week

- April:**
 4th - CWIT/SITE Family Meeting
 5th - Women in Technology Series: Spring Into Leadership
 13th - Peer Mentors Luncheon
 30th - Scholars Present at the CWIT Showcase

- May:**
 2nd - CWIT/SITE Family Meeting
 6th - CWIT Living Learning Community Trip to Brunswick After Dark
 7th - PWIT Picnic & Alumni Reunion
 13th - Finals Study Break BBQ
 22nd - CWIT Graduation Celebration Reception
 23rd - Undergraduate Commencement

Alumni Update

Lauren Anthony (C4) is moving to Charlotte, NC in July to pursue a new position as a consultant with Microsoft. She will be graduating from UMBC in May 2011 with her M.S. degree in Information Systems.

Tawny Barin (C3) has accepted a new job as a TV Scheduling Systems Project Manager at NBC Universal in Los Angeles, California.

Jessica Bligh (Warrington) (C3) and her husband recently celebrated the first anniversary of their Jamaican wedding.

Heidi Brueckner (CI) just accepted a position as a Senior Systems Engineer - TIBCO Administrator at Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield in Columbia, MD.

Lindsay Cox (Mannchen) (CI) and her husband Patrick Cox are expecting their first child, due in September. Congrats, new parents!

Kevin Lee (C5) graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in December 2010, and recently began working as a Mechanical Engineer at the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Collin Reed (SITE) graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science in December 2010, and is now working as an Associate Software Engineer at Concurrent Technologies Corporation.

Krishna Sheth (C6) graduated with a B.S. in Information Systems in December 2010, and is enrolled in the Masters of Information Systems Program at UMBC.



CWIT and SITE Alumni at May's Alumni Reunion Picnic.
 Pictured (L-R): Kristin Crizer (SITE), Kevin Lee, Lindsay Cox, Bethany Meyer (C3), Dana Douglas (C2), Teresa Oswald (C5), Katie Hirsch (Affiliate).

News From Abroad

This semester, two CWIT Scholars travelled across the Atlantic to take part in a truly unique educational adventure...studying abroad in Manchester, England.

Here are their stories:

"Studying abroad has been the best decision I have ever made. I have met a ton of new people from all around the world, became a more mature and outgoing person, and to top it all off I have really immersed myself in a culture overseas. In order to meet my wide variety of friends from Chili, France, Austria, India, Hong Kong, and of course the UK, I had to reach outside my comfort zone. These friendships have taught me about many different cultures, and as well as few random foreign words. Travelling through Europe was a once and a lifetime experience as well, and I believe everyone should take any opportunity they can to study abroad." -Michelle Racine (C8, Chemical Engineering)

"Studying abroad has been the most amazing and shocking cultural experience I've ever experienced. I have travelled to Europe twice before for short two week trips. But the independence, from planning trips around Europe to figuring out strange cities with only a map, is absolutely unique. We planned a three week trip, visiting eight different countries and thirteen different cities across Europe, all by ourselves. The skills I've learned on this trip, not just in my classes, but from navigating my way through strange transportation systems, language barriers, and cultural differences will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have made friends with students from Chile, Austria, Hong Kong, South Korea, and from all across America as well. This amazing experience has taught me so much but has also been the most enjoyable semester of college I've had so far! If you have the opportunity to study abroad I would strongly recommend it." -Samantha Celmer (C8, Chemical Engineering)

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The Center for Women & Information Technology