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CWIT update

THE CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AT **UMBC**
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

A Word From the Director

By Dr. Penny Rheingans

Spring always seems to mix the ends of things with the beginnings. We bounce between bitter-sweet feelings about what is almost over and excitement about what is just beginning. Fortunately, we seem to be way too busy to wallow too long in the emotions.

Graduations mix proud endings with a hint of the excitement of what comes next. Next week, I'll get to watch nine CWIT Scholars walk across that big stage: Katrina Chan (IS), Karen Dickens (IS), Annette Englehart (ME), Christina Malliakos (CMSC), Morgan McClure (ME), Sabrina McCounoughy (IS), Courtney Melissari (IS), Alec Pulianas (CMPE), and Emily Scheerer (CMSC). They'll be joined by the very first graduates from our T-SITE and Cyber Scholar Programs: Kabish Shah (ME) and Andrew Coates (CMSC), respectively.

We've finished selecting the next cohort of all three Scholar programs. Our C13 cohort of thirteen CWIT Scholars is Hannah Aris (Calvert HS), Katherine Dillon (Mount Hebron HS), Rebecca Glatt (James Hubert Blake HS), Allison Lewis (Havre de Grace HS), Theodora Martin (James Hubert Blake HS), Sara Masoudi (Parkville HS), Jacob Riehl (Chapelgate Christian Academy), Savannah Steinly (Catoctin HS), Grace Tarnosky (Elizabeth Seton HS), Bethany Wolinski (Hereford

HS), Celestine Wong (Clarksburg HS), and Tess Wootton-Klebano (Arundel Senior HS). Our Y2 cohort of CYBER Scholars are Scott Bohon (Calvert Hall College HS), Veronica Clements (Middletown HS), Rachel Cohen (UMBC), Austin Cole (UMBC), Seth Jenkins (Arundel Senior HS), Vincent Liu (UMBC), Kathleen Pfeiffer (UMBC), Wafa Raja (UMBC), Jamal Savoy (UMBC), Kate Swanson (UMBC), Brislin Thomas (UMBC), Vitliy Turchykov (UMBC), Samantha Turskey (Century HS), Christopher Williams (Montgomery College), and Lindsay Zetlmeisl (Westminster HS). Finally, our T3 cohort of T-SITE Scholars are Oluwagbemileke Alafe (CCBC), Michael Byers (College of Southern Maryland), Vivianne Natacha Ngea Mbela Olugemo (Howard CC), Oladipupo (CCBC), Olivia Tillet (AACC), and Qeturah Olivera (PGCC). We're excited that they've chosen CWIT/CYBER/T-SITE and UMBC.

As I approach the end of my sixth 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 Scholars Practicum

By Cindy Greenwood

All Cyber Scholars participated in our Cyber Practicum during their first year in the program, along with nine Cyber Affiliates. This non-credit bearing pass/fail class met weekly in the fall and spring semesters on Friday mornings and consisted of guest lectures by a wide array of professionals from the cybersecurity field. The practicum gave students the opportunity to hear technical talks and professional development advice from very high-level people in industry as well as those who are newer to the field.

Speakers came from Northrop Grumman, NSA, T. Rowe Price, FBI, and many other companies and government agencies. In the fall, the class visited the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (JHU/APL) and visited Northrop Grumman in the spring. T. Rowe Price also created a "tabletop exercise" for the students, through which the class was divided into teams and assigned a cyber professional from T. Rowe to work with them. They received information about a hypothetical security breach at a company and had to work together to decide how best to respond. Through the variety of talks, interactive lessons, and company visits, both scholars and affiliates have identified the Cyber Practicum as one of the most useful experiences from this past year.

As we complete our first year of the Cyber Scholars Program, we would like to thank Northrop Grumman for helping bring this great initiative into existence, as well as our Cyber Champions, BAE Systems and Varen Technologies, who have supported our program this year and participated as speakers during Cyber Practicum. Some of our speakers this year included: Chris Valentino, Northrop Grumman Corporation; Dr. Claudia Pearce, Neal Ziring, and Yul Williams, NSA; Stephanie C. Hill, Lockheed Martin; and Dr. Ernest McDuffie, NIST.

Any individuals, companies, or organizations interested in supporting the Cyber Scholars Program through the practicum or other opportunities may contact Cindy Greenwood at cindyg@umbc.edu or 410-455-3881.



T-SITE Update

By Dr. Susan Martin

In April, CWIT staff completed the selection process for our third and final cohort of T-SITE scholars. As of the start of the spring 2014 semester, 12 of the 13 (92.3%) have been retained in the program and are still in COEIT majors. Based on the semester-by-semester academic plans of the current scholars, the average time to degree for our T-SITEs will be 3.0 years. Six of the thirteen (46%) T-SITE scholars are currently (or were) engaged in an internship experience. One T-SITE maintains a 4.0 GPA. We have our first T-SITE graduate, Kabish Shah (Mechanical Engineering, CCBC), The experiences of our T-SITEs reflect those of transfer students in general. Transfer students face many academic and financial challenges that can impede their success including managing a commute, juggling family responsibilities, working more than 10 hours a week, adjusting to larger classes taught by research faculty and TAs, and dealing with knowledge gaps associated with differences in the content of prerequisite courses taken at the community college. Many are also seeking basic career information and career development support earlier in their academic careers and prior to transfer. As one scholar explained in an annual focus group, “[the T-SITE] community really helped me my first semester... even though I knew what I was doing the teaching style was different and the requirements were really hard... I was able to connect with CWIT scholars or other T-SITEs were in my class so that was helpful.” Another T-SITE noted, “I am proud to be a part of CWIT. Little by little I can see myself growing into that articulate professional woman I want to be. I do believe that it is healthy to surround yourself with people that you can look up to and CWIT is and will be a defining part of my life.”

congratulations!



Our Graduating Seniors & What They are Most Proud of...

Andrew Coates

(Cyber Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Cyber Engineer at
Si Government
Solutions

Most Proud of...I'm very proud of gaining a full years worth of working experience prior to graduating by completing a 3 year Co-op program with the Department of Defense and am even more proud of being able to accomplish so much while staying close to my family and friends.

Alec Pulianas

(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Engineering
Future Plans:
Engineering Leadership Development Program at Lockheed Martin

Most Proud of...I feel like I have left my mark on UMBC and I'm excited to be an active alum. I'm proud of the diversity of things I accomplished, be it starting a radio show, doing research, or TAing a class.

Sabrina McConoughey

(CWIT Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton

Most Proud of...I am most proud of graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0! I also received awards for Outstanding Graduating Senior in Information Systems as well as Outstanding Graduating Senior in Economics.

Annette Englehart

(CWIT Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Application Engineer at
Baltimore Aircoil Company

Most Proud of...Being in CWIT and using the resources to branch out into Residential Life and being a teaching fellow for the department.

Courtney Melissa

(CWIT Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Booz Allen Hamilton

Most Proud of...That I can say that I made it! There were so many times that I felt like graduation was so far away and there were so many obstacles between me and the end. But, I did it!

Kabish Shah

(T-SITE Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Whiting Turner Contracting
Co.

Most Proud of...Graduating in 2 years with a double degree in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics and an Honors Certificate. I am proud of how I am involved with STEM education and the impact I am making at my community. I am proud of being a first person to graduate college with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics from my family. I am proud of teaching a class.

Christina Malliakos

(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Eaton's Information Technology
Development Program

Most Proud of...I'm most proud that I have made it through college successfully and am going to be graduating!

Katrina Chan

(CWIT Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Patuxent River Naval Air Station (NAS) as a Windows Systems Administrator and MS Information Systems @ UMBC in Fall 2014

Most Proud of...I am most proud of my improved communication skills. I can correspond professionally through email, and speaking to strangers at professional network events is no longer nerve-wrecking. I can also speak with ease in front of an audience.

Emily Scheerer

(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
JHU-APL this summer, MS
Computer Science at
UMBC in Fall 2014

Most Proud of...My little WITs! Mentoring has been really important for my CWIT experience and I have loved the opportunity to give back to the community in this way.

Karen Dickens

(CWIT Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Network Engineer at
T. Rowe Price

Most Proud of...I am most proud of switching my major to IS and pursuing my new passion of network engineering...and being the first of my immediate family to graduate from college!

Morgan McClure

(CWIT Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Patent Examiner at the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office

Most Proud of...I am most proud of my position as CWIT Student Council Vice President and ASME President, I have also been on the Bits and Bytes Committee and the Spring Into Leadership Committee.

Summer 2014 Internship and Research Plans

AAI CORP.

Kevin Johnson (C10)
Victoria Lentz (Y1)

APG ARMY RESEARCH LAB

Sophia Haire (C12)

BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

John Swank (C11)

CDF FREEDOM SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Jenette Phillips (C12)

CODE2040 IN CALIFORNIA

Alejandra Diaz (Y1)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Kiante Brantley (T2)

Lauren Mazzoli (Y1)

DISCOVER AQ IN CALIFORNIA

Jessica Izumi (C9)

EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL

BIOLOGICAL CENTER

Kourtney Rutkowski (C12)

FREIE UNIVERSITAET IN BERLIN

Leah Mason (C10)

GE AVIATION

Shannon Donelan (C11)

GE HEALTHCARE

Celia Drew (C11)

GOOGLE

Marie Wagner (C10)

LOCKHEED MARTIN

Nicole Dawson (C11)

NASA'S GODDARD SPACE

FLIGHT CENTER

Alicia Goldstein (C11)

Holly Johnson (C11)

Katherine Geisler (C11)

Nicole Racine (C11)

NAVAL RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

INTERSHIP PROGRAM

Angie Norton (C10)

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Nathan Cline (Y1)

ROCKVILLE COLLINS

Tiffany Ernst (C10)

SIEMENS

Claudette DuPont (T1)

SOPHIA UNIVERISTY IN TOKYO

Samantha McDonald (C11)

TROPICAL RAINFALL

MEASURING MISSION

(TRMM) AT NASA

Amanda Borowy (C11)

UMBC DOIT DEPARTMENT

Mark Cirincione (C11)

VENTURA SOLUTIONS, INC.

Natie Morningstar (T1)

Student Organizations Update...



CWIT Student Council

This past semester, CWIT Student Council hosted an activity using Alice for Let's Get Techy. Let's Get Techy is an event where middle school kids come to UMBC and learn about STEM. CWIT Student Council also held various fundraisers and activities, such as bowling, a corn maze,

Ledo's Pizza, and Grilled Cheese & Co. The officers for next year have been elected. The new officers are Bhuvana Bellala (President), Kevin Johnson (Vice President of Student Events), Kourtney Rutkowski (Vice President of Public Relations), Victoria Lentz (Secretary), Holly Johnson (Treasurer), and Hannah Corcos (Communications). Congratulations to the new officers! They will do an excellent job.

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

It has been an exciting year for SWE! We had UMBC SWE hearts attend both the SWE National and Regional conference. This year we continued with meetings with corporate companies and we began discussion meetings to spark conversations about how to handle the difficulties of being a women in a technical field. Our end of the year social was a hit. Stay tuned for next year because we have big things planned!



4TH ANNUAL SPRING INTO LEADERSHIP "THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING"



On April 8, CWIT hosted its 4th Annual Spring into Leadership event. This year's Spring into Leadership keynote speaker was Ms. Paula Fetterman, Vice-President, Information Security Manager, T.Rowe Price. Ms. Fetterman shared her career path and helped students understand the value of being a mentor and of mentoring others through interactive networking and stories. The event was planned by a committee of the CWIT community.

"Paula delivered a speech that allowed me to take a lot home and think about. Having been given a mentor myself through CWIT, I could relate to many of the points that Paula made.." -Nathan Cline, Y1

"Spring into Leadership was an excellent way for me to practice my networking skills and gain a little window into the lives of engineering and technology professionals. The talk given on mentoring was very thought-provoking and helped me consider the roles I have at UMBC and how I can make the most of those roles and relationships." -Sophia



SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

To enhance the sophomore experience and help Scholars better understand leadership and their role within CWIT, UMBC and industry, the CWIT sophomore Scholars participated in a Leadership Seminar this Spring semester. The seminar took place six times during the semester and utilized the StrengthsFinder Assessment. Topics included understanding self, communication, working in teams, values, and ethics.



CWIT END OF YEAR PICNIC

CWIT, Cyber and T-SITE Scholars, their families, and CWIT Affiliates Program members



enjoyed a beautiful day on Erickson Field, connecting with one another and relaxing before finals. Big thanks are due to PWIT for their work in planning and providing much of the food and several games to make this picnic a huge success!

CWIT IN THE NEWS...

Lauren Mazzoli (Y1) participated in a keynote panel with Dr. Hrabowski at the **STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference** in Washington, D.C. Use this link to see what she had to say:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/stem-solutions>



CWIT, Cyber and T-SITE Scholars, along with some CWIT Affiliates participated in an **online discussion with Governor O'Malley** to discuss STEM initiatives in Maryland.

<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/blog/?p=10130>



UMBC's partnership with Northrop Grumman, including our Cyber Scholars Program **was featured on on Al Jazeera America** as part of Real Money with Ali Velshi

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 28 high school junior girls for the annual event. For more information about next year's program, visit:

<http://www.cwit.umbc.edu/hs/hsprograms/>

Some 2014 Bits and Bytes Participants said:

"All of the CWIT scholars were **AWESOME** and they really helped me gain a lot of knowledge and enthusiasm about the program. Thank you again!"

"[I enjoyed] Getting to meet and talk to new people who passionate about the same things as me because it's not something that I always experience."



1ST ANNUAL CWIT SPRING RETREAT

As a way to re-connect Scholars and further build community by bringing together all three of Scholars programs for the first time outside of family meetings, we used this January as a time to hold our first annual CWIT Spring Retreat. During this retreat, students connected to others in their major and across programs and shared their goals for the upcoming semester.

Bragging Rights: Scholars' Awards & Accomplishments

Jenette Philips (C12) volunteered over 80 hours to BARCS Animal Shelter as part of the PRAC 096 class through the Shriver Center.

Andrew Coates (Y1) Graduating CSEE Departmental Honor Student; CSEE Outstanding Academic Achievement Award; Research Assistant for NSF Exploit Kit Research Group; Graduated Cum Laude; Magna Cum Laude; Legg Mason Award

Emily Scherer (C9) and Kabish Shah (T1) were selected to be part of the UMBC Class of 2013 <http://www.umbc.edu/classof2014/>

CWIT Community came in second place overall and supported the Relay For Life team and raised \$1877!

Annette Englehart (C9) Worked on a project with V-Linc as senior design!

Celia Drew (C11) attended UMBC's STRIVE; was the undergraduate representative on a Math Department committee; currently the only undergraduate on the research, scholarship and creative achievement committee for UMBC's two-year strategic planning process.

Claudette DuPont (T1) her teams' elevator in 304 was seated number 1 in weight and efficiency!!!

Emily Scheerer (C9) AFCEA Cyber Security Scholarship, Spring 2014

Hannah Corcos (C12) volunteered at an after school club teaching third through sixth grade student Lego Robotics.

Holly Johnson (C11) I was inducted into Tau Beta Pi; I became the treasurer for CWIT student council

and was elected to be the President of Women's Club soccer for the upcoming year; wrote a research paper and presented in a conference over the past semester; put on a demonstration at the USA Science and Engineering festival.

Jenette Phillips (C12) represented UMBC at the USA Science and Engineering Festival held in DC and built a solar powered small-scale Ferris wheel; became an eboard member of ASME.

Katherine Geisler (C11) Won 2nd place at the Morgan State Innovative STEM conference; Won 3rd Place at the Baltimore Washington Collegiate Fencing Circuit Championships.

Kabish Shah (T1) OIA W. Patrick Wilson Scholarship; Janice Antoine Lumpkin Scholarship; Pi Mu Epsilon, National Mathematics Honor Society; Teach NExT (NASA's Engineering Exploration Training) Robotics class.

Katrice St. Rose (Y1) was nominated to be apart of two honor societies.

Kevin Johnson (C10) got inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa; will serve as the Vice President of Student Events next year for CWIT; Social Events Coordinator for Tau Beta Pi

Lauren Mazzoli (Y1) was inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon and Golden Key International Honour Society.

Leah Mason (C10) was initiated into the Tau Beta Pi

Nathan Cline (Y1) Completed the C++ Certification at UMBC Training Centers

Nicole Dawson (C11) Got new best times in every track event I ran this year!

Nicole Racine (C11) have been treasurer of ASME

Sabrina McConoughey (C9) was inducted into the Omicron Delta Epsilon; was awarded Outstanding Graduating Senior in Information Systems as well as Outstanding Graduating Senior in Economics.

Samantha McDonald (C11) Won first place in the Information Systems Department Undergraduate Research Poster Award; Had two of my posters (one being the winning one) presented at URCAD; One published photograph in this year's edition's Bartleby; Created the Official UMBC TED club, Co-president-will begin in the Fall; Became Secretary of Rock Climbing Club.

Shannon Donelan (C11) was elected Treasurer of the Fencing Club; was also inducted into Tau Beta Pi

Sophia Haire (C12) was awarded the Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship and will be attending a scholar's retreat at the Google headquarters in Mountain View, CA this June; Received the Freeman A. Hrabowski Advisory Council Award from UMBC's Mathematics Dept.

Teddy LaFemina (C12) Ran with the UMBC Running club

Victoria Lentz (Y1) completed a training course to become a Certified Ethical Hacker over Spring Break



Alumni Update

Lindsay (Mannchen) Cox (C1) welcomed their second baby girl on March 16th - Hazel Michael Cox.

Priyanka Bushana (C8) recently accepted a spot in Washington State University's Graduate Program in Neuroscience and an ARCS Fellowship. She is also at a new job at the Food and Drug Administration's Department of Toxicology.

CWIT'S SPRING CALENDAR

January:

- 27 CWIT Welcome Back Lunch & Cupcakes (open to everyone in COEIT)
- 29 T-SITE Meeting

February:

- 1 CWIT Spring Retreat
- 3 CWIT Family Meeting
- 7 Leadership Seminar
- 12 Men in CWIT meeting
- 16-17 Students volunteer with Bits & Bytes
- 21 Leadership Seminar
- 26 T-SITE Meeting
- 28 Leadership Seminar

March:

- 1 Scholar Selection Day
- 7 Men in CWIT Meeting
- 4th T-SITE Cohort Meeting
- 10 Freshmen Cohort Meeting
- 12 Junior Cohort Meeting
- 24 Senior Cohort Meeting
- 26 T-SITE Meeting
- 28 CWIT Formal Leadership Seminar
- 31 CWIT Pick Your Classes Extravaganza

April:

- 4 T-SITE/Continuing Cyber Selection Day Leadership Seminar
- 8 CWIT Spring Into Leadership: The Importance of Mentoring
- 11 Leadership Seminar
- 16 Men in CWIT Meeting
- 23 Senior Focus Group
- 25 CWIT Showcase

May:

- 4 CWIT/PWIT End-of-Year Picnic
- 22 Undergraduate Commencement

Shout Outs!

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

Many of the statements began with "I am proud of..."

Emily Scheerer (C9) Congrats for being a part of UMBC's Class of 2014! Well deserved!

Kevin Johnson (C11) for getting into ODK, the leadership honor society.

Leah Mason (C10) for being accepted to a study abroad program this summer! Have a great time and take lots of pictures!

Angie Norton (C10) has been of great help to me this semester. She always answers questions with insight and kindness. She's my chemical engineering go to.

Kabish Shah (T1) Congrats on a great semester!

Travis Ward (T2) and Gurpreet Singh (T2) for being great study buddies in Circuits!

Sophia Haire (C12) I have loved seeing you do amazing things this year (like STRIVE and winning Google's Anita Borg scholarship!) You are amazing. Keep it up! Love, Big WIT

Christina Malliakos (C9) Congratulations on taking the plunge and getting out of Maryland for a new job!

Elyse Hill (C12) and all the other freshmen for always being there for me and making my freshmen year an unforgettable one!

Alicia Goldstein (C11) I was impressed by how well she did with her presentation at the Innovative STEM conference where she won first place.

Samantha Smith (C12) Shout out for doing so amazing this semester! We

stressed, but we love you! Take a deep breath and engineer on!

Morgan McClure (C9) for getting her dream job at the Patent Office, so proud of her!

Christina Malliakos (C9) For moving out West, I'm gonna miss her a lot but so glad her dream came true!

Karen Dickens (C9) Congratulations on working hard and earning your degree!

Sabrina McConoughey (C9) Congratulations for graduating with an astounding 4.0! What an achievement!

All Graduating Seniors Congrats for graduating and getting great job opportunities right after college!

Nathan Cline (Y1) a.k.a. the Nate Dog is the man; he helped me and another friend pass physics 2 with a B

Samantha Sullivan (C12) for pushing through all of the non college challenges she was faced with.

C12 Cohort for being there when I needed them and for always having my back, I love you guys!

Bhuvana Bellala (C11) Congratulations for becoming the new CWIT Student Council President! You will do a great job!

Alec Pulianas (C9) Shout to for his great leadership over the last few years in CWIT. Good luck at Lockheed

Beatrice Garcia (C11) and Sam McDonald (C11) Congratulations for successfully studying abroad this semester!!

Annette Englehart (C9) is the best TF ever!!! Thanks for hav-

know you've been

ing so much patience and for answering all of my questions in statics!

Angie Norton (C10) Shout out for being so determined and a wonderful role model to all of us in the community!!! :)

Lauren Mazzoli (Y1) always impresses me with her hard work and ability to balance a 20-hour work week with 5 classes. It was also awesome to see her speak on a panel with Dr. Hrabowski at the U.S. STEM Solutions Conference.

Kabish Shah (T1) Good luck Kabish for your future, you really impressed me with your achievements.



The Center for Women in Technology

1000 Hilltop Circle, ITE452
Baltimore, MD 21250
410-455-2822

www.cwit.umbc.edu

Send newsletter submissions to crystal@umbc.edu

CWIT Staff:
Dr. Penny Rheingans
Director

Dr. Susan Martin
Associate Director

Ms. Crystal Diaz
Assistant Director
CWIT Scholars

Ms. Cindy Greenwood
Assistant Director
Cyber Scholars

Thanks For Your Support!




