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○ 2013

CWIT update

THE CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AT **UMBC**
AN HONORARY UNIVERSITY IN BALTIMORE

A Word From the Director

By Dr. Penny Rheingans

I can't believe another year has flown by. It seems like a whirlwind of action. We've got new programs (Cyber Scholars), new activities (a new Industry Mentoring practicum), new staff (Cindy Greenwood), and lots of familiar old friends and activities. There's too much going on to capture here in the Update, but this will give you a taste of what our community is up to.

It's time to celebrate graduations again. This week, I watched seven Scholars walk across that big stage: Rebecca Baldwin (CMPE), Michael Barrett (CMSC), Alex Markowski (CMSC), Morgan Madeira (CMSC), Lilian Johnson (CBEE), Jennifer Guy (ME), and Shreya Mohan (IS). I can't wait to see what this group does next.

We've finished selecting our C12 cohort of CWIT Scholars who will begin in the fall. This highly accomplished group of eleven is Hannah Corcos (Salisbury School), Sophia Haire (home schooled), Elyse Hill (Beddow School), Kelsey Hof

(Liberty HS), Edward LaFemina (Reservoir HS), Megan Lynch (Catholic HS of Baltimore), Sydney Menikheim (Catholic HS of Baltimore), Jenette Phillips (Maurice J. McDonough HS), Kourtney Rutkowski (C Milton Wright HS), Samantha Smith (C. Milton Wright HS), and Samantha Sullivan (Catholic HS of Baltimore). We're excited that they've chosen CWIT and UMBC and doubly excited that they will all be joining the CWIT LLC.

We've also selected our inaugural (Y1) cohort of Cyber Scholars. These new Cyber Scholars are a mix of incoming freshmen and continuing students. They are Andrew Coates (UMBC), Alejandra Diaz (Middletown HS), Eric Forte (Reservoir HS), Alex Jackson (Annapolis Area Christian School), Nathan Kline (UMBC), Victoria Lentz (UMBC), Lauren Mazzoli (UMBC), Katrice St. Rose (UMBC), and Robert Thompson (Archbishop Spalding HS). As our first cohort, this group will really help build the foundation of the Cyber Scholars program.

Cyber Scholars Inaugural Cohort

By Cindy Greenwood

In response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's call-to-action regarding the shortfall of trained and certified cybersecurity personnel, CWIT and the UMBC Center for Cybersecurity will launch the Cyber Scholars Program in fall 2013. This program is funded by a \$1 million gift to UMBC from the Northrop Grumman Foundation. The program will recruit, retain and graduate academically talented students interested in the field of cybersecurity, with an emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities.

The first cohort of Cyber Scholars were selected in March and will begin their studies at UMBC this August. This project leverages the CWIT program model and existing infrastructure to provide Cyber Scholars with academic and professional support to be retained through graduation in the majors of Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Systems. The Cyber Scholars will participate in the annual New Scholar Retreat in June and engage in a weekly practicum course during their first year in the program through which they will connect with and learn from professionals working in cybersecurity at a variety of companies and agencies. Participation in the practicum will also be offered to interested students who are not Cyber Scholars, including CWIT and Meyerhoff Scholars, Honors College students, and others. In addition, Cyber Scholars will be assigned faculty mentors with whom they will engage in research experiences and industry mentors who will help them understand the field and how to prepare for future careers. Students who enter the program as freshmen will also take a First Year Experience seminar with the freshmen CWIT Scholars and other freshmen living on the CWIT Living Learning Community. For more information about the Cyber Scholars Program, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aKSBx>.



T-SITE Update

By Dr. Susan Martin

The eight members of CWIT's first cohort of Transfer Scholars in IT and Engineering (T-SITE) have each navigated their first year at UMBC and are actively giving back to CWIT and UMBC! T-SITE is funded by an NSF-funded S-STEM grant (DUE-

1154300) and will serve 30 transfer students as part of the larger CWIT Scholar and Affiliates community through 2017. Over the past year, the T-SITES, as we call them, formed deep bonds with each other, forged connections within the broader CWIT community, and skillfully adjusted to the academic opportunities and challenges they encountered here at UMBC. The overall success of this first cohort is attributed to their individual talent and personal drive as well as the supportive relationships they developed with each other, their faculty mentors and CWIT staff, and fellow students in their major. While benefitting from being a T-SITE, they have also been giving back to CWIT and the larger UMBC community. Anastasia Raffucci (CMPE, from CCBC) and Mike Brown (CBEE, HCC) both earned 4.0 GPAs this past fall. Claudette Dupont and Kabish Shah (both MEs, from AACC and CCBC respectively) went back to their transfer institutions and to talk about their T-SITE and transfer experiences at UMBC. Nishay Raja and Matthew Odujo (also MEs from CCBC) are serving on the student committee planning the retreat for the new scholars joining the CWIT community this fall. Natalie Morningstar (CMPE, MC) shared great advice and techniques with CWIT Scholars and Affiliates in a spectacular presentation about creative networking at the annual CWIT Showcase in April. Ankush Rattan (CS, HCC) begins working with the Office of Institutional Research this summer as part of its newly created student database team (a collaborative effort with the Department of Information Technology) that is developing administrative reports from UMBC's student information system. These T-SITES have already made a difference here at UMBC. CWIT gratefully acknowledges the central role that this year's faculty mentors, Dr. Taryn Bayles (CBEE), Dr. Anne Spence (ME), and Dr. Gymama Slaughter (CSEE) have had in T-SITE success.

Rebecca Baldwin
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Engineering
Future Plans:
Fall 2013- MS Computer Engineering at UMBC
While @ UMBC:
Interned at SAIC

CWIT has been a strong foundation for my entire college career. As a freshman, I relied on the family atmosphere and incredibly close friends from the floor. Each year after, I enjoyed great support and encouragement from fellow students and the staff. Most of my greatest achievements have been in part because of CWIT, from extra-curriculars to my two internships. I will always look back on my CWIT experience with fond memories.

Shreya Mohan
(CWIT Scholar)
Information Systems
Future Plans:
Solutions Analyst- T. Rowe Price; Pursuing MS in Information Systems
While @ UMBC:
CWIT Student Council President (2011-2013);
Desktop support technician- UMBC's Office of IT;
Researcher under Dr. Lisa Anthony in the Human Centered Computing Department

"CWIT has enabled me to grow as an individual, a scholar, a student, and a leader. It has played a pivotal role in my college experience and I am confident that I can and will be a successful woman in IT as result of the resources, tools, and guidance this program has provided me."

congratulations! CWIT Graduating Seniors



Samantha Celmer
(CWIT Scholar)
Chemical Engineering
Future Plans:
Summer 2013- Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center with the Army Public Health Command.
While @ UMBC:
Studied abroad in Europe;
REU for Environmental Engineering Department with Dr. Brian Reed at UMBC

Jennifer Guy
(CWIT Scholar)
Mechanical Engineering
Future Plans:
Working full time at NAVAIR

Morgan Maderia
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Summer 2013- Software engineering internship at Google;
Fall 2013- MS Computer Science @ UMBC
While @ UMBC:
STEM Editor for UMBC Review 2012-2013;
Interned at Google

Alex Markowski
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
NSA-3-year Development Program

While @ UMBC:
Served on 1st Executive Board of the CWIT Student Council;
4 years on Retreat Committee;
Studied abroad in Sweden; Interned at Booz Allen and NSA;
Part of UMBC Orchestra

"I've found CWIT has given me the support and community I didn't know I needed, and has since helped shape me into the leader I am today. I've tried to give back and share my experiences with other scholars in the hope that they can learn from my past..."

Lilian Johnson
(CWIT Scholar)
Chemical Engineering
Future Plans:
Fall 2013- PhD at Cornell University
While @ UMBC:
SWE President 2010-2012;
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society;
NIST (2011); University of Akron Department of Polymer Science in Akron, OH (2012)

"CWIT has served as my home base through college. The staff and fellow scholars have become my community at UMBC. In my future graduate school career, I hope to find a similarly supportive community."

Michael Barrett
(CWIT Scholar)
Computer Science
Future Plans:
Working full time at Webs.com
While @ UMBC:
Interned at Google;
Served on Bits and Bytes Committee for 4 years

Summer 2013 Internship and Research Plans

- T. ROWE PRICE**
Karen Dickens (C9)
- GOOGLE**
Marie Wagner (C10)
- BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON**
Courtney Melissari (C9)
Emily Scheerer (C9)
- MERKLE**
Samantha McDonald (C11)
- GE TRANSPORTATION**
Annette Englehart (C9)
- ARMY RESEARCH LAB**
Nicole Racine (C11)
- EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL CENTER**
Jessica Izumi
- UMBC FACILITIES**
Shannon Donelan
- NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER**
Angie Norton (C10)
Katherine Geisler (C11)
- AVG SPORTS**
Holly Johnson (C11)
- FIRST ENERGY**
Morgan McClure (C9)
- NAVAIR**
Katrina Chan (C9)
- NORTHROP GRUMMAN**
Christina Malliakos (C9)
- SAIC**
Alec Pulianas (C9)
- UMBC IS DEPARTMENT**
Samantha McDonald (C11)
- UMBC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**
Kabish Shah (T1)
- DOMINO SUGARS**
Kevin Johnson (C10)
- WHITING TURNER CONTRACTING COMPANY**
Kabish Shah (T1)
- GE AVIATION**
Leah Mason (C10)
- JOHNS HOPKINS APPLIED PHYSICS LAB**
Sabrina McConoughey (C9)
- NIST**
Celia Drew (C11)
- UMBC REPORT EXCHANGE TEAM**
Beatrice Garcia (C11)
John Swank (C11)
- SIEMENS**
Claudette DuPont

BITS & BYTES

CWIT hosted 25 high school junior girls for the annual event, Bits & Bytes. This event 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. Bits & Bytes includes a design challenge, a chance to spend the night in the CWIT LLC, and sessions about preparing for college. Bits & Bytes is a student-led event and this year was sponsored by BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, and SAIC.



"The competition exemplified what engineering is about. It really demonstrated how you often have to work with others to solve a problem. It was fun to test out new ideas and it was fun to see our product working in the end." -Bits and Bytes Participant

3RD ANNUAL SPRING INTO LEADERSHIP EVENT: "WHAT DO YOU EXPECT...?"

On April 11, CWIT hosted its 3rd Annual Spring into Leadership event and debuted the Maryland Award for Aspirations in Computing, sponsored by the National Center for Women and Information Technology. The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing honors high school girls for their computing-related achievements and interests. The awards ceremony was held immediately prior to Spring Into Leadership and many of the recipients stayed to participate.

This year's Spring into Leadership keynote speaker was Ms. Tina Kuhn, Vice-President, Security and Information Operations, Cyber Intelligence Division, Northrop Grumman Information Systems Sector. Ms. Kuhn shared her career path and gave attendees advice on how to develop their own leadership skills. The event was a collaboration of the CWIT Affiliates Program, the CWIT Student Council, ISCOM, SWE, and WISE Grads.



"For me, Spring into Leadership highlights the fact that CWIT is an open community. All kinds of people come to the event, and I enjoyed getting to hear graduate students talk about their research and industry mentors speak on their workplace experience during the networking time." -Emily Scheerer, C9

CWIT SHOWCASE

Eleven students presented sessions at the 3rd Annual CWIT Showcase, including CWIT Scholars, T-SITE Scholars, and other women students from the College of Engineering & Information Technology. Presentation topics ranged from how to create an online presence to applying for graduate school, reports on design projects, and advice on networking and securing internships.

"Like all of CWIT, Showcase is about mentoring and passing on tips about our skills and experiences to a new generation of students." - Emily Scheerer, C9

CWIT END OF YEAR PICNIC

CWIT 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. The "Backyard Bash" offered a delicious picnic lunch as well as several outdoor games, including volleyball, kickball, bocce, ladder golf, and more. 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!



Student Organizations Update

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

SWE has increased its membership dramatically in the past academic year. The executive board expanded to include Membership Chair, Public Relations Officer, and Historian. In fall 2012, SWE partnered with an engineering class at the Institute of Notre Dame, an all-girls school in Baltimore. SWE members visited the class to answer questions and share their experiences. A month later the class visited the UMBC campus and SWE hosted engineering activities, lab tours, and a trip to the dining hall for the 15 girls in the class. Additionally, SWE participated in **Let's Get Techy**, an event co-sponsored with CWIT Student Council, ISCOM, and ASME, in both the fall and the spring. In the spring, SWE hosted a circuits-related activity for the middle school students. SWE is currently gearing up for **WE13**, the SWE National Convention, in Baltimore October 24-26.

SWE bids adieu to their past president, Lily Johnson, and secretary and webmaster, Morgan Madeira, as they graduate. The president, Abigail Williams, is excited to hand the reins over to the incoming president, Ebony Tongo, and take up the past president mantle.

New 2013-2014 SWE Executive Board:

President: Ebony Tongo
Vice President: Shelby Coppelino
Treasurer: Katie Yu
Secretary: Mabel Chua
Membership Chair: Stacy Sumedi
Program Outreach Chair: Vy Ly
Public Relations Officer: Madison Bondoc
Sophomore Representative & Webmaster: Victoria Besner
Senior Representative: Hamsa Gowda
Past President: Abigail Williams



CWIT Student Council

Another school year filled with fun CWIT Student Council events now draws to a close. In early September, we hosted the fourth annual **"C-What? Day,"** where CWIT affiliates played fun minute-to-win-it games and got acquainted with CWIT Scholars. This school year, we collaborated once again with ASME, SWE, and ISCOM to host **"Let's Get Techy,"** an outreach project involving over 100 middle school students. The students were given IT and engineering challenges in the hopes that these would spark interest in technical subjects. This took place during October and again in April. Both events were a huge success. In December, we held our annual **Holiday Party**. This year, we chose to give it a multicultural theme. At the beginning of May, we hosted the third annual **CWIT Spring Formal** in the Harbor Hall Multipurpose room. Throughout the school year, members of the Student Council initiated "pop-up" events, usually impromptu informal gatherings at local eateries like Sushi Q or Buffalo Wild Wings.

Toward the end of the school year, the CWIT Student Council made changes to the officer positions in order to more effectively delegate tasks. These changes are reflected below.

New 2013-2014 CWIT Student Council Officers:

President: Marie Wagner (C10, CS)
Vice President of Student Events: Alec Pulianas (C9, CMP)
Vice President of Public Relations: Morgan McClure (C9, MECH)
Secretary: Courtney Melissari (C9, IS)
Treasurer: Bhuvana Bellala (C11, CS)
Communications Officer: Beatrice Garcia (C11, CS)

The CWIT Student Council would like to thank everyone for the continued support we received during the 2012-2013 academic year. We are very excited and look forward hosting more fun events in this coming year!

Bragging Rights: Scholars' Awards & Accomplishments

Emily Scheerer (C9) 2013 recipient of AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association) Cyber Studies Scholarship
Annette Englehart (C9) Vice President of the Catholic Retrievers and will be President next year

Morgan Madeira (C8), Alex Markowski (C7) and Lilian Johnson (C8) were selected to be part of the UMBC Class of 2013 <http://www.umbc.edu/classof2013/>

CWIT Community supported the Relay For Life team and raised \$2500!

Morgan McClure (C9) Vice President of ASME during 2013; Bits and Bytes and Spring Into Leadership Planning Committee. Will be Vice President of Public Relations for the CWIT Student Council next year.



Lilian Johnson (C8) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this semester
Shannon Donelan (C11) received the UMBC Dottie Koh Memorial Scholarship for female engineering students
Angie Norton (C10) was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi National Honors Society for Engineering.

Alicia Goldstein (C11) was elected Secretary for the DEVICE club.

Holly Johnson (C11) is the new vice president of the women's club soccer team
Alec Pulianas (C9) was inducted to ODK, a Leadership Honors Society, is treasurer of WMBC and IEEE, and the Vice President of Student Events for CWIT; Was awarded the UMBC Undergraduate Research Award to do research in Dr. Mohsenin's lab.

Jessica Izumi (C9) was published in the ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces Journal
Kabish Shah (T1) Elected as UMBC Student Government Association (SGA) - Senator; Attended STRive 2013 Leadership Retreat; In-

ducted in Tau Sigma Transfer Honor Society; a UMBC A-Team Ambassador
Sabrina McConoughy (C9) received the Gerald R. Goldman Memorial Scholarship from the Economics department in recognition of her 4.0 and excellent work in the Economics major.

Alex Markowski (C7) was inducted into PME and was Vice President of ODK

Celia Drew (C11) was selected for the A-Team, UMBC's group of student ambassadors
Ankush Rattan (T1) accepted a student position with the Office of Institutional Research to develop reports from the student database.



Shout Outs!

CWIT students send anonymous kudos, congrats, and encouragement to their fellow Scholars & Affiliates...

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

Alec Pulianas (C9) for getting that research grant for next semester.

Haley Sweeton (C11) for getting accepted to the Japanese program this summer!

Alec Pulianas (C9) Reading your weekly Tech. for Tomorrow column has been a pleasure. You've definitely matured as a writer and introduced me to many new technologies. I look forward to your continuing work with TRW!

Tiffany Ernst (C10) and **Nicole Racine (C11)** for their awesome job organizing Relay 4 Life.

Marie Wagner (C10) Congratulations on your Student Council presidency! In my experience, you're a very competent leader and I look

forward to seeing student involvement under your direction.

Jen Guy (C8) for completing the mechanical engineering program in four years with magna cum laude honors!

Natalie Morningstar (T1) for presenting about creative networking ideas at the CWIT showcase

Kevin Johnson (C10) for his induction into the Tau Beta Pi National Honors Society for Engineering.

Lily Johnson (C8) for her acceptance into graduate school at Cornell University

Kevin Johnson (C10) for getting an internship with Domino Sugars

Marie Wagner (C9) for interning at Google in Mountain View this summer

Courtney Melissari (C9) and **Emily Scheerer (C9)** for their internships at Booz Allen Hamilton

Alec Pulianas (C9) for his induction into ODK!

Claudette DuPont (T1) for representing transfer students from Anne Arundel Community College at a Round Table discussion with Governor Martin O'Malley on Higher Education

CWIT C11 Cohort Congratulations on all of your hard work! We successfully completed our first year of college!"

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The Center for Women in Technology



Alumni Update

Mariya Smolkin (C2) moved to San Diego, California, in December and now works as an Energy Analyst/Scheduler in the Trading group at Sempra U.S. Gas & Power.

Littleton Riggins (C6) has begun work on a project focusing on the secure transportation of cryptographic keys in the Information Security Business Unit of SAIC. Littleton also coaches the UMBC fencing club and led a team to a third place finish in the Baltimore Washington Collegiate Fencing Conference. Littleton is also an accomplished fencer and will be travelling to Columbus, OH, in July to represent the Maryland Division at the 2013 Summer National Championships.

CWIT's SPRING CALENDAR

January:

30th: CWIT Welcome Back Lunch & Cupcakes (open to everyone in COEIT)

February:

4th - CWIT Family Meeting
11th - Men of CWIT Meeting
17th & 18th - Students volunteer with Bits & Bytes

March:

2nd - Scholar Selection Day
4th - Freshmen Cohort Meeting
4th - T-SITE Cohort Meeting
11th - Sophomore Cohort Meeting
13th - CWIT Affiliates "Happy Birthday Pi" Social
25th - Junior Cohort Meeting
27th - Senior Cohort Meeting

April:

1st - CWIT Pick Your Classes Extravaganza
5th - 3rd Annual CWIT Formal
11th - 3rd Annual CWIT Spring Into Leadership: "What Do You Expect..." & NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Awards Ceremony
12th - CWIT Showcase
19th - T-SITE Scholar Selection Day
25th - T-SITE Cohort Meeting
26th - Students participated in Relay for Life

May:

4th - CWIT & PWIT End of Year Picnic - Backyard Bash!
23rd - Undergraduate Commencement

Thanks For Your Support!

SAIC

HARRIS

LOCKHEED MARTIN

BAE SYSTEMS

NORTHROP GRUMMAN