The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) had a record-setting year for FY 2008-2009 in regards to external funding. Approximately $9 million was received for research projects within the College. This placed CCI second only to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in terms of total funding at the University level. CCI alone contributed nearly 25% of the total University funding for FY 2008-2009. And because CCI's faculty size is much smaller, our per-faculty-funding is by far the best at UNC Charlotte. For FY 2009-2010, CCI has already received over $6.7 million in external funding.

The College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) recently hosted its 10th Annual Cyber Security Symposium. Over 500 individuals attended this year's event. Guest speakers from around the country addressed the latest issues surrounding cyber crime and what is being done to combat this ever-increasing problem. “The Cyber Security Symposium continues to draw attention to the urgency of dealing with cyber terrorism,” said Bill Chu, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Software and Information Systems (SIS) at CCI. “Once again, we assembled a list of distinguished industry experts to talk about this on-going global threat. It’s a thrill to see how the symposium has grown over the years and the interest it has generated with business leaders and professionals from around the region.”

Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory proclaimed October, “UNC Charlotte Cyber Security Awareness Month.” President Barak Obama also proclaimed October “National Cyber Security Awareness Month.”

The Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics opened its brand new $35M, 94,000 g.s.f. Bioinformatics Research Center (BRC) in August on the Charlotte Research Institute Campus of UNC Charlotte. The building offers space for both wet and dry laboratories, and includes core facilities for molecular biology, proteomics, and computing. Additional genomics and proteomics core facilities are available.
The College of Computing and Informatics would like to recognize its partners in the Business Affiliates Program.

- Bank of America
- Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company
- Duke Energy
- TIAA-CREF
- Queen Associates
- Mariner
- Logical Advantage
- Microsoft

>> Mark Your Calendars

- November 11> Vice President of Technology for IBM, Nick Bowen, will speak on campus. [Register]
- November 13> 8-Hour Start-Up Competition
- December 9> CCI Advisory Board Meeting

The BRC has also taken a leadership role in developing Bioinformatics programs in collaboration with the developers of the North Carolina Research Campus, a billion-dollar, 350-acre research park that will be home to the research programs of a large number of private biotechnology companies as well as university and medical research programs.

>> The Associate Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics and Associate Professor in Computer Science, Dr. Rick Lejk, was one of five finalists this year for the prestigious Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. This is the highest teaching honor bestowed by UNC Charlotte. Dr. Lejk joined the University over 20 years ago as a lecturer in the then Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

>> Mark Olson, center, with CCI’s Software Solutions lab was recently honored by the Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics, Dr. Yi Deng, for ten years of service at UNC Charlotte. In June of 1999, Olson was employed as a Medical Informatics Manager for the Carolinas Healthcare System. He accepted an opportunity to be one of the founding members in the then newly-formed Software Solutions Lab. Olson’s core responsibilities revolve around end-user experience and information architecture, making complicated applications engaging and easy to navigate.

>> CCI’s VisCenter recently held an open house for the campus community to introduce its new Renaissance Situation Room. The VisCenter is a key partner in the Renaissance Computing Initiative (RENCI). This is a partnership among five NC universities: UNC Chapel Hill, NC State, UNC Charlotte, Duke, and UNC Asheville. The VisCenter has joined with the Urban Institute and The Center for Applied Geographic Information Science (CAGIS) to form RENCI@uncc. The thrust of RENCI@uncc is the development of urban growth models for the whole state and novel interactive visualization techniques to enable understanding and decision-making using these complex models. The VisCenter leads the latter effort through the Renaissance Situation Room, which includes a multi-touch table, tiled display, immersive stereoscopic environment, and integrated interaction for all these tools.

>> In September, CCI hosted a presentation by IBM’s Vice President of Cloud Computing, Rick Telford. In his current position, Telford is responsible for defining and coordinating delivery of IBM’s broad portfolio of Cloud services. IBM has a clear vision for what is required to make Cloud Computing accessible and valuable to the enterprise. They provide Cloud consulting, Cloud implementation, and Cloud-delivered services to deliver on this vision. During his tenure at IBM, Telford has played a number of key roles in various software and service initiatives, including e-mail and document management, networking, security software, systems management, and IT infrastructure services. Telford also serves as Executive Partner for UNC Charlotte as a part of IBM’s Partnership Executive Program.