



College of Computing and Informatics
UNC CHARLOTTE

ALUMNI NEWS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3 >> August 16, 2010

>> I hope you will join us for CCI's first alumni event at the Harris Alumni Center on Tuesday, August 31st from 6:00-8:00pm. This will be an excellent opportunity to network with fellow alumni, see favorite faculty members, and meet the Dean of the College, Dr. Yi. Deng. Complimentary dinner and drinks will be served.

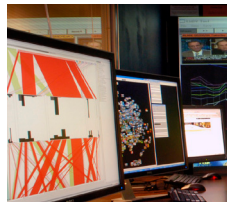


I look forward to meeting you all at our event!! Please RSVP to me by August 25th at marjorie.bray@uncc.edu.

My best,
Marjorie Bray
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

>> IT Job Openings Increase in North Carolina

North Carolina's technology job market continues to show signs of recovery, with the number of information-technology job postings jumping 18.5 percent in July, according to the monthly jobs report by the North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA).



Employers posted 3,970 job openings in July, up from 3,350 in June. The number of July job postings is more than triple the number of openings employers posted in July 2009. The strong showing exceeds the growth levels nationally, where the IT job market expanded 2.6 percent.

"Currently, North Carolina is one of the few states where an economic recovery, at least for IT professionals, could be on the way because of the strong increase of demand for additional staff," NCTA says in the report.

The report is based on market research performed by Bridgeport, Conn.-based SkillProof Inc. NCTA says hot spots for IT jobs include **Charlotte**, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, Cary and Fayetteville. A market analysis by IT staffing company TEKSystems shows that the State had an IT work force of 118,610 in July, a 4.5 percent increase over July 2009.

NCTA's upbeat assessment comes at a time when the overall unemployment rate in North Carolina remains in double digits, though it is declining. (*Charlotte Business Journal*)

>> Recent SIS Graduates

"At UNC Charlotte I was able to complete both my MS in Information Technology and a graduate certificate in information security and privacy that were instrumental in qualifying me for my current position."

Constance Kellen
Network Warfare Wing of the US Air Force

"My Masters in IT at UNC Charlotte prepared me for my career at Duke Energy, both from a technical acumen perspective as well as the ability to work with different groups of people with varying backgrounds."

Jessica Bishop
Smart Grid Business Architect
Duke Energy

"I found that getting to know my professors really helped me succeed in class, and because of that they have become my life-long mentors, helping me succeed in my full-time career."

Ashley Johnson
Cisco

>> CCI Partnering With the Community



In addition to building strategic business partnerships, CCI is also making strong inroads with our Charlotte community. Dr. Tiffany Barnes along with some of her students from the Department of Computer Science' Game Design and Development Lab, hosted three, week- long summer camps in conjunction with the Universities annual Camps on Campus program. Bruce Long, with the Department of Software and Information Systems, also introduced the campers to a behind the scenes look at computer forensics.

The College also hosted its 3rd annual Girl Scouts CyberGirl Tech Day. Faculty and students conducted workshops on virtual reality, gaming, computer forensics, social networking, and what's inside a computer.



It was a busy summer for CCI faculty, staff, and students!

>> CCI Bragging Rights

The Ph.D. program ranks in the top 10 in faculty productivity among 375 top research universities in the United States. (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Our highly-competitive faculty received over \$15 million in research awards for fiscal year 2009-2010.

- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- Department of Defense (DoD)
- Department of Energy (DoE)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Army Research Office (ARO)
- Major industrial funders

>> CCI will host its 11th annual **Cyber Security Symposium** on the UNC Charlotte campus on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. What has become the premier security conference in the region will again feature expert guest speakers from around the country who will address the latest issues surrounding cyber crime and what is being done to combat this ever-increasing global problem. Attendance for the past two years has been around 500 each, with heavy attendance by security professionals from Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and TIAA-CREF. I hope you and your colleagues will be able to attend.

This year's sponsors include The Charlotte Research Institute (CRI); Bank of America; Duke Energy; Consortium for Enterprise Systems; McAfee; SecurEdge Networks; ACM Business Solutions; TIAA-CREF; Symantec; and Deloitte.

For sponsorship information, please contact Marjorie Bray at marjorie.bray@uncc.edu.

>> Alumni Talk Back

I am an Assistant Research Professor in the SIS Department at UNC Charlotte. I graduated from CCI with a Masters in Computer Science in 2006, and received my Ph.D. in Information Technology this past May. My current role is working with Dean emeritus Mirsad Hadzikadic, who is now director of the new Complex Systems Institute (CSI). CSI was established to study Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS). CAS is a way of looking at the world holistically, rather than by using the traditional 'deconstructive' approach. Ant colonies, cities, software, traffic, immune systems, political dissent, ecosystems, and even the brain are all examples of CAS ... individual components interacting and generating global, emergent properties. If you've ever heard of Adam Smith's "invisible hand," then you're already familiar with some basic CAS principles. The "invisible hand" talks about the emergence of stability and efficiency in the marketplace. Somehow, markets self-organize incredible complexity, through the actions of millions – or even billions – of individual actors, all following their own opinions and desires. These same principles can be applied to other fields. My job is to investigate these systems and try to understand them. For example, we are currently developing a computer model of a marine ecosystem. Predator-prey dynamics have been studied extensively over the past 90 years. Yet our methods have uncovered new phenomena that have never before been seen in the research literature. The most exciting part is that these models will have application not only to ocean fisheries, but also to economics, political science, biology, and perhaps other fields as well.

Ted Carmichael, Ph.D., SIS