



We invite you to our  
**Spring Open House**  
April 1, 2010 \*

Spring 2010 Newsletter

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Science Center – Minifocus

\*no fooling!

Ice cream will be served.

## New Labs and Courses

Since our last newsletter in Fall 2008, we have added 2 new labs and 5 new courses.

### Wellesley College HCI Lab (WCHCI)

*Orit Shaer - Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor*

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) is a rapidly expanding research and development area that has transformed the way we use computers in the last thirty years. The new HCI lab is dedicated to innovation and investigation of next-generation human-computer interactions including tangible, table-top, and embodied user interfaces. The lab is equipped with a Microsoft Surface, a variety of microcontrollers and toolkits for physical interaction, and with diverse mobile devices (iPod Touch, Window Mobile, Android).

Currently we are investigating how next-generation interaction techniques can benefit and enhance collaborative brainstorming and scientific discovery in areas where vast amount of abstract information must be accessed and manipulated.



(Left) Deirdre Garrahan '09 and Megan Strait '10, (right) Chloe Fan '09 working with Microsoft Surface.

In Summer 2009, four students interned in the WCHCI lab as part of the Science Center Summer Research Program (**Chloe Fan '09, Catherine Grevet '09, Megan Strait '10, and Sarah Elfenbein '10**). Their work on G-gnome Surfer, an innovative table-top interface for browsing genomic information, yielded a paper that will be presented in April in the ACM CHI 2010 conference. Visit the [lab website](#) for more information on our projects.

## Gold Intention Recognition Lab

*Kevin Gold - Norma Wilentz Hess Visiting Assistant Professor*

Kevin Gold and lab members **Andrey Piplica '10, Allison Petrosino '10, and Alex Olivier '11** have been having a lot of fun with their pretending project that aims to get robots to recognize which object a person is pretending to use, and where the object would be. Their work has led to two conference papers.



*In the first row, Allison and Anita Leechor '10 are pretending to hold a pen. In the second row, the program has inserted the pen in the right position.*

In March, Andrey (the lead author), Allison and Alex traveled to Nagoya, Japan to present at IRIS 2010 (Robotics and Intelligent Sensors International Symposium). They will be traveling to Florida in May for the 2010 FLAIRS Conference. Allison is also doing thesis work on getting robots to learn the meanings of adjectives, and Alex is finishing up a project on automatically changing the difficulty of Guitar Hero levels.

Andrey and Kevin have also collaborated with **Deirdre Garrahan '09** and Orit Shaer on a project that investigated how gestures and prosody information can be computationally augmented to support co-located group brainstorming. Their work will be presented as a Work-in-Progress paper in the ACM CHI 2010 conference. Learn more about the lab projects by visiting the [website](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS

Kevin has accepted a tenure-track position at the Rochester Institute of Technology in the Interactive Games and Media department, where he will be starting in Fall 2010.

## CS114 The Socio-Techno Web

*Takis Metaxas, Eni Mustafaraj, Lyn Turbak (evangelist)*

This course was taught for the first time in Fall 2009 and will return in Fall 2010. The focus of the course was to teach about CS and critical thinking while studying how the Web and its components work. Furthermore, students also learned to build mobile applications for the Android phones, using an experimental programming environment, App Inventor for Android, being developed by Google. Google chose Wellesley as one of 12 test sites for App Inventor, and donated 20 Android Developer Phones for the course. The course was featured on [Wellesley College News](#) and the [Boston Globe](#).

## CS220 Human Computer Interaction

*Orit Shaer*

This course introduces fundamental methods, principles and tools for designing, programming and testing interactive systems. The course covers topics such as usability and affordances, user-centered design, human cognitive and physical ergonomics, and user interface architecture. In addition, the course reviews recent developments in HCI including emerging interaction styles such as mobile interaction, augmented-reality, tangible user interfaces, and ubiquitous computing.

The course final project requires students to work in teams to design, program and test a novel user interface. In Spring 2009, we collaborated with Honda America to challenge the students to design and prototype a user interface for the future in-car infotainment system. Honda America sponsored a design contest for students enrolled in the course. A committee that included Orit and three external judges from Honda selected three winning teams: first place (Alison McKenna '11, Megan Strait '10, Geetha Wunnava '10), second place (Sarah Elfenbein '10, Catherine Grevet '09, Soo Been Kim '10), and third place (Lili Shi '10, Lulu Hu '11, Liz Peirce '09). Visit [our gallery](#) to learn more about these projects.

In Spring 2010, the course is focusing on mobile user interfaces. Students work in teams of three to design, build, and evaluate the user interface of a novel iPhone application.

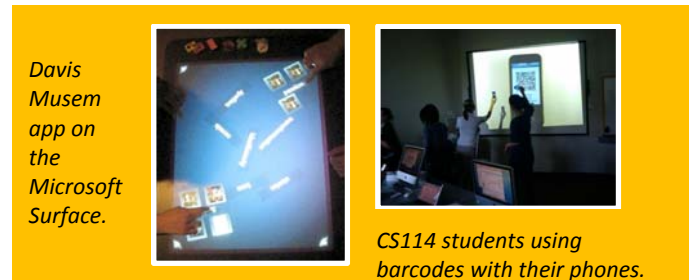
## CS349 Topics: Tangible User Interfaces

*Orit Shaer*

In Fall 2009 our CS349 focused on Tangible user interfaces, an emerging human-computer interaction style that interlinks the physical and digital worlds. Extending beyond the limitations of the computer mouse, keyboard and monitor, tangible user interfaces offer intuitive and collaborative human-computer interactions that support activities such as learning, problem solving, design, and entertainment.

In the first part of the course students were introduced to the latest research in the field, and to a variety of techniques and platforms for designing and building tangible user interfaces including the Microsoft Surface (a coffee-table size horizontal multi-touch surface), and the Phidgets toolkit (a collection of USB attached sensors and actuators). The second part of the course was dedicated to a team project, in which students designed and built a novel tangible user interface.

Two teams of students investigated how the Microsoft Surface can be utilized for enhancing the Davis Museum visitors' experience (Megan Strait '10, Soo Been Kim '10, Martina Balestra (Olin), Lia Napolitano '10, MaCherie Edwards '11, Helen Wu '11). Rebecca Spitzer '10, Natasha Kellaway '10, Donna Yee '11, and Ji-won Woo '10, developed Dynamic Rehearsal, a collaborative interface for analyzing theatrical rehearsals. Finally, Colette Whitaker '10, Margarita Miranda '10, and Maia Bittner (Olin) used the Lilypad Arduino to create iBike, a smart interface for urban commuters. Visit the [team blogs](#) to watch videos of all projects.



*Davis Museum app on the Microsoft Surface.*

*CS114 students using barcodes with their phones.*

## CS349 Topics: Research in Developmental Robotics

*Kevin Gold*

This interdisciplinary course, taught in Spring 2009, included hands-on experience with SRV-1 Blackfin mobile robots, Lego Mindstorms NXT robots, and video and audio processing in MATLAB, as well as journal article discussions and training in how to do research effectively. Several of the students that took the course went on to become members of the Gold Intention Recognition Lab.

## CS349 Topics: Games

*Kevin Gold*

This course is being taught for the first time this Spring 2010 and has attracted 20 students. It has both required reading, in which game designers and others discuss the creation of games, as well as required playing of games that exemplify particular genres from the history of video games. In their assignments, students learn how to create games in several platforms, including Flash, and will build games for their final project.

## Faculty News

**Stella Kakavouli** is on medical leave during the 2009-10 academic year, going through treatments for breast cancer. Happily, the prognosis is good.

**Takis Metaxas** received a Best Paper Award for his paper "Using Propagation of Distrust to find Untrustworthy Web Neighborhoods" at the ICIW 2009 Conference in Venice, Italy. On April 26-27, 2010, Takis will participate at the Web Science 2010 Conference in Raleigh, NC, and present the paper "From Obscurity to Prominence in Minutes: Political Speech and Real-Time Search", joint work with **Eni Mustafaraj**, a continuation of their research about the impact of web in the political process, this time looking at the use of Twitter and real-time search results.

Several of our faculty will be participating in CCSCNE 2010 in Hartford, April 16-17, 2010. **Sohie Lee** and **Ellen Hildreth** will present their paper "An introductory computational course for science students". Based on their CS114 experience, **Eni Mustafaraj** and **Lyn Turbak** are co-leading a workshop on using App Inventor for Android to develop mobile phone apps in CS0. In March, Lyn co-led a similar workshop at SIGCSE in Milwaukee.

On April 18, 2009, our department hosted the first **New England Undergraduate Computing Symposium** (NEUCS 2009) with the theme "Celebrating Excellence and Diversity in Computer Science". More than 100 students from colleges in New England participated. **Megan Strait '10** won the award for "Most creative project for an introductory course" for her final project from CS112, "chemGUI", a program that performs mathematic analysis over classification data.



(Left) Scott Anderson and Catherine Grevet '09, (right) Sarah Shiplett '09 during the poster session of NEUCS 2009.

On October 17, 2009, our department was one of three sites hosting the Boston area preliminaries for the ACM programming contest (**BOSP**). Eight teams competed at Wellesley, including three teams from our department: Wellesley AAA (Alex Olivier '11, Allison Petrosino '10, Andriya

Piplica '10), Wellesley 2 (Colette Whitaker '10, Helen Wu '11, Donna Yee '11), and Not Crazy, Just Proud (Maddie Adams '12, Anna Loparev '10, Margarita Miranda '10).

We have received funding from the Center for Work and Service to support four summer interns (three from Wellesley, one from Olin) to develop technology to enhance the experience of attendees at **Tanner 2010**. The faculty spearheading this project are Scott Anderson, Mark Chang (Olin), Takis Metaxas, Eni Mustafaraj, Orit Shaer, and Lyn Turbak.

**Lyn Turbak's** textbook, "Design Concepts in Programming Languages" (coauthored with David Gifford at MIT and Mark Sheldon at Olin) was named an **Outstanding Academic Title of 2009** by Choice Magazine, which reviews and recommends scholarly books for libraries. This designation is given to less than 10% of reviewed books.

At ACM CHI 2010 in addition to her paper on G-nome Surfer, **Orit Shaer** will be presenting "A Specification Paradigm for the Design and Implementation of Tangible User Interfaces". This is a summary of her PhD thesis work at Tufts with Robert Jacob.

## Student News

Last summer, **Jess Chung '11** worked with Eni and Takis on several projects, including the use of YouTube videos in the 2008 Congressional Elections, using Joomla to create a social networking site, and using Google's App Inventor to program Android phones. **Rebecca Graber '11** is spending Spring 2010 in Budapest, Hungary. She is taking a class in Quantum Computing and working hard to improve her math skills. But she also finds time for her passion, ballroom dancing. Rebecca also did a summer internship at the Boston Museum of Science where she noticed how important is to comment your code when working in a group. **Cidney Hamilton '11** interned during the summer at Qwobl Inc., a startup in Cambridge, MA, where she contributed in developing user interfaces for a new semantic search engine.

**Chelsea Hoover '11** is working with Lyn to extend the Forlan system used in CS235 to handle pushdown automata and Turing Machines. She has been accepted into the 2010 SISMAT summer program at Dartmouth. **Audrey Kao '11** spent Fall 2009 in Hungary, where she participated in the Eastern and Central European studies program, studying Hungarian politics, history, art and language. On weekends, she traveled to 7 European countries bordering Hungary.

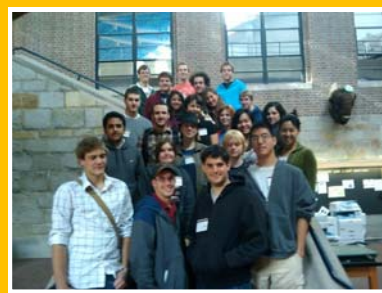
**Nash Kellaway '10** spent the Spring 2009 in Cordova, Spain, taking several courses in the history, art, and cinema of Spain. In the summer, Nash was an NSF REU at the University of Maine and worked at the Oceanography Dep. to create visualizations of lobster larvae migration. In the summer of 2009, **Catherine Lee '11** did a physics REU at Los Alamos National Lab in the Materials Science & Technology Division. The project involved calculating potential energies for a water molecule to eventually use in a molecular dynamics simulation. This coming summer, she'll be working in the Surveillance Systems Group at Lincoln Labs.

**Anna Loparev '10** was a summer intern at the Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab, where she worked as a designer for the game Waker. The game became a finalist in the Indie Game Challenge and Anna went to Las Vegas for the Awards Ceremony. The Boston Globe featured Anna in a story about the Waker game. Anna also traveled to Singapore to present her work at Games Convention Asia. **Alison McKenna '11** is spending Spring 2010 at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She is applying her knowledge from CS220 (HCI) in her Industrial Design Theory class, where students are designing an ergonomic room for elderly people.

Last summer, **Lia Napolitano '10** worked at Apple in Cupertino, CA, as a User Experience Design intern. She created design standards for web applications and reporting tools, collaborated with the user experience services team to develop intuitive interaction styles, and acted as an evangelist for universal UX standards by developing templates, creating builds of layout materials for distribution, and presenting directly to Apple's CIO and several development teams.

**Kathryn Neugent '10** graduated in December and is now working at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff as a research assistant, where she is analyzing data and writing a paper on finding and characterizing all of the yellow supergiant stars in the Small Magellanic Cloud in order to better understand stellar evolutionary models.

**Alex Olivier '11** spent last summer as an NSF REU summer research intern at the University of Oklahoma's Symbiotic Computing Laboratory. She worked on a "mobile crawling assistant" for infants with cerebral palsy. The assistant used data from accelerometers on an infant's limbs to identify and reward productive crawling behavior. This spring, Alex is spending the semester studying abroad in Aix, France. **Allison Petrosino '10** and **Andreya Piplica '10** spent the summer of 2009 working in Gold Intention Recognition Lab (see page 1).



*Teams that attended BOSPRES at Science Center. October 17, 2009.*

In her Spring '09 CS304 course, **Monet A. Spells '10** built a task management system named Beansprout. The following summer, she redesigned the website for the eLearning Services department at Prince George's Community College in Maryland. She publishes a blog sharing the web developer tricks she has learned, and will soon start an internship writing a technology column for the *Washington Informer*.

**Lili Shi '10** spent last summer at SISMAT, a summer security program at Dartmouth College that our alumna Sara "Scout" Sinclair '04 helped to create. SISMAT begins with a 10-day crash course in computer security and is followed by a paid internship (Lili did hers with Dartmouth IT) and an independent project on computer security in the Fall semester (Lili created some demonstrations of hacking techniques under Scott's supervision).

During the past year, **Rebecca Spitzer '10** has been interning as a web developer for the Bostonian Society's "Mapping Revolutionary Boston" project, whose aim is to make the rich history of Boston accessible to the public on the web and mobile phones. This academic year, Rebecca is writing an honors thesis under Takis's supervision, that studies how people get their news online. Last summer, **Colette Whitaker '10** interned at BAE Systems in Reston, Virginia, working with a team on a Department of Defense contract to develop the National Cyber Range. She worked with different modeling programs and helped write a proposal and prepare a large presentation to DARPA.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Megan Strait '10** was awarded the Dean's Fellowship at the Tufts School of Engineering where she was accepted as a PhD student. She will use HCI to invent better visualization techniques for 2-D proteins.

Megan spent the summer at Wellesley HCI Lab (see page 1) and showcased their G-nome Surfer in the "1-Minute Madness" event of the BostonCHI. She also was a student volunteer at TEI 2010 in Cambridge, MA and is traveling to Atlanta for the ACM HCI 2010 this April.

**Donna Yee '11** is spending Spring 2010 in Shanghai, China, in a program focusing on globalization issues. Meanwhile, she is also interning in a startup company, where she is involved in database design, using her skills from the CS304 course. **Consuelo Valdes '11** is working on the G-nome Surfer with Orit. She will continue that work in collaboration with the Harvard SDR lab over the summer in the Science Center Summer Research Program. This semester, she presented a usability study for the Kayak Android application to the Kayak development team in Concord, Massachusetts.



## Cirque du CS / Alum Panel

The 2009 Cirque du CS took place on February 28, a Saturday afternoon. As usual, there was a carnival atmosphere with circus decorations, balloon animals, face painting, cotton candy, and popcorn. In E111, students from the January, 2009, Robotic Design Studio course displayed their projects, which included musical clothing a mouse-chasing cat, a bipedal dinosaur, and famous paintings with a robotic twist. In other rooms, students presented CS and MAS projects including websites, animations, games, security demonstrations, and poster presentations. **Chloe Fan '09** mesmerized attendees in the hallway with her Wii-controlled music and video application.



*The E-Wing decorated with balloons for the occasion of Cirque du CS.*

**Alex Olivier '11** spearheaded the creation of LED-illuminated balloons and a Firefly Sketches activity in which participants created long-exposure images by waving color-changing LEDs. Robbie Berg (Physics) led tours to demonstrate the laser cutter and 3D printer in the engineering lab.

The Cirque culminated in an **alum panel** that featured **Karyn Benson '06** (Computer Scientist, US Army Research Lab), **Agnes Chang '07** (PhD candidate at MIT), **Christina Chen '97** (Product Manager, Google), **Raina Haque '07** (Law school applicant), **Emily Horton '00** (Analyst, Condé Nast Publications), **Tracie Lee '00** (Design Director, Six Apart Services), **Nirali Patel '01** (Information architecture, Razorfish), **Amy Wong '02** (Senior Developer, Code Red Inc.), and **Sara "Scout" Sinclair '04** (Dartmouth). After the panel, alums, students, and faculty enjoyed talking over dinner.

*Watch out for information on the next Cirque, which will be held in 2011!*

## Colloquia and Talks

On February 9, 2009, Prof. **Alley Stoughton** from Kansas State University gave a talk entitled "Experimenting with Formal Languages" in which she described the philosophy behind Forlan, a collection of Standard ML modules that we've

adopted in CS235 for experimenting with automata, regular expressions, and grammars. Prof. **Ellen Do** from Georgia Tech visited on April 9, 2009 and gave a talk entitled "Things that Think, Spaces that Sense, and Places that Play: Creative Design Computing for Happy Healthy Living" that attracted a large crowd, especially from our students in the HCI course. On October 27, 2009, Dr. **Krzysztof Gajos**, of Harvard University, gave an inspiring talk about personalized user interfaces and their use in enhancing the experience of computer users with motor impairment. Prof. **Hal Abelson** of MIT visited on October 26, 2009. He conducted a lunch-time open-ended discussion with faculty and students about the latest developments and controversies on the Internet. Then he gave a guest lecture for students of CS114 on the topic of speech regulation, entitled "How the Net changes attitudes and assumptions, and creates new societal tensions and unintended consequences". **Betsy Masiello '03** visited on November 10th. She first had dinner with students and talked about life after leaving Wellesley. That was followed by a formal talk, "Public Policy and Internet", in which Betsy gave examples from her job as a policy analyst on Google's public policy team. On February 4, 2010, **Heather West '07** led an informal lunchtime discussion to a packed room about her job as a policy analyst at the Center for Democracy and Technology. She works with legislators, government employees, industry, academics and public interest advocates to craft workable solutions for technology policy.

We are grateful to Stella Kakavouli, Brian Tjaden, Orit Shaer, Lyn Turbak, and Rita Purcell for doing a superb organizational job in bringing great speakers to our events.

## CS Senior Seminar Series

In *March 2009*, **Kate Lopez '09** presented "SCALES: Functional Programming of Multimedia Libraries in Scala" in which she reported about her experience as an NSF REU at the DePaw University, where she participated in a project to implement multimedia libraries for novice programmers. **Catherine Grevet '09** presented her senior thesis, supervised by Scott Anderson, entitled "Environmental Sustainability and Technology design: creating 'green' software", in which she investigated how software developers can address sustainability concerns.

In *April 2009*, **Rhea Dookeran '09** gave the talk "Web Science Research Initiative (WRSI): Defining the Future WWW and Working toward a Smarter Planet" where she highlighted the challenges of the new Web science discipline. **Edward Stumpf '09** gave the talk "LOLCODE to Whitespace: Unusual Programming Languages" where he presented a series of entertaining programming languages.

In *May 2009*, **Rocio DeLao '09** presented “Anti-money Laundering Software” that explored details of how this software works and is used by banks. **Amy Dai '09** presented “Playing Matchmaker: Using computational techniques for sRNA target prediction, her senior thesis work, supervised by Brian Tjaden, that examined large-scale computational techniques for finding gene targets of small regulatory RNA (sRNA) in bacteria. **Ayla Solomon '09** presented “Administrative Role-based access control for Linux” or ARBAC – a language she had designed on top of Security-enhanced Linux, advised by Lyn.

In *November 2009*, **Megan Strait '10** presented “G-nome Surfer: a Table-Top Interface for Collaborative Exploration of Genomic Data” where she presented her work as a member of WCHCI (see page 1). **Kathryn Neugent '10** talked about “Astronomical Computing”. As a double-major in CS and Astronomy, she had much to tell about how CS tools help to make sense of the large quantity of astronomical data. **Nash Kellaway '10** presented “Visualization of Lobster Larvae Migration in the Gulf of Maine Using Matlab”, her summer research project.

In *February 2010*, **Monet Spells '10** presented “Beansprout – The Beginning of a Web Presence”, a talk based on her web developing experience. **Andrey Piplica '10** presented “Learning to place Imaginary Objects Implied by Gestures in Video”, her research on implementing a vision based machine learner (see also page 1). **Rebecca Spitzer '10** presented “Digitizing the Freedom Trail: Mapping Revolutionary Boston”, based on her summer internship.

In *March 2010*, **Lili Shi '10** presented “Who Stole the Cookies? Cyber Warfare and Preventive Measures”, describing her SISMAT experience. **Anna Loparev '10** presented “Unfolding Trees”, theoretical work on automata that she completed under the supervision of Mia Minnes (MIT) during an NSF REU program. **Lia Napolitano '10** presented “Human Computer Interaction and User-centered Design”, where she reflected on her experience of building apps to encourage students to visit the Davis Museum.

Thanks to Ellen Hildreth, Brian Tjaden, and Rita Purcell for organizing this series, in which our CS seniors presented their research in front of faculty and fellow students.

## Tanner 2009

Our faculty and students were present at Tanner with a panel, a roundtable, and a poster. The panel, “Real-World Applications: Internships in Computing, Engineering, and Human-Computer Interaction”, featured several of our students: **Anna Loparev '10**, **Sha Lu '10**, **Lia Napolitano '10**,

**Alexandra Olivier '11**, **Rebecca Spitzer '10**, and **Megan Strait '10**. They spoke about their experience of summer internships at diverse places such as, the Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab, MIT Lincoln Security Lab, Apple Inc., the Symbiotic Computing Laboratory at the University of Oklahoma, a local non-profit, and the HCI Lab at Wellesley College.

The roundtable, “Social Networking at Wellesley: To Community and Beyond!” was organized by Lyn Turbak and S. Joanne Murray '81 (Center for Work and Service). It featured among others Eni Mustafaraj, **Lukiih Cuan '12**, as well as by Google video chat our alumna **Betsy Masiello '03**.

In the posters by students was included “Different Rain in Naverland” by **Soo Been Kim '10** (advised by Takis) that explored the success of the Korean search engine Naver.

## CCSCNE 2009

On April 24-25, 2009, two carloads of students and faculty traveled to SUNY Plattsburgh in northeast New York for the Consortium in Computing Sciences in Colleges Northeastern Conference (CCSCNE 2009). **Amy Dai '09**, **Chloe Fan '09**, **Catherine Grevet '09**, **Sarah Shiplett '09**, and **Ayla Solomon '09** presented posters on their research, and Ayla and Sarah participated in the programming contest. Amy won the second place prize for her poster on her thesis research. Scott Anderson, Stella Kakavouli, and Lyn Turbak attended workshops and talks. On the way back to Wellesley, they stopped in Dartmouth to have ice cream with **Sara "Scout" Sinclair '04**.

## Ruhlman 2009

Several of our CS/MAS students presented their interdisciplinary work in the Ruhlman conference. **Amy Dai '09** and **Nandini Dookeran '09** (advised by Takis and Eni) presented “Computer, take a look at these papers and tell me what they are about: A Web Application for Browsing and Searching Paper Topics Extracted by Machine-learning Algorithms,” work they did during the CS315 course “Web Search and Data Mining”. Both **Catherine Grevet '09** and **Amy Dai '09** also presented their senior thesis. **Marisa Frank '09**, **Francesca Gobeille '09**, **Soo Been Kim '09**, **Serena Wales '09**, **Emmy Zhang '11** (advised by Takis) presented “Game Design and the Transparent Interface,” work based on their CS215 course “Multimedia Design and Programming”. **Ayla Solomon '09** presented her work on Linux security. **Ariel Hathaway '09** (advised by Sohie Lee) presented “Evaluating the Role of Syntax for Novice Programmers: Is Drag and Drop Really a Drag?”



*Our students and faculty on the road, at CCSNE in Suny Plattsburgh.*

## Alums news

We are very happy and proud that several of our CS/MAS majors of the 2009 class were accepted to top grad schools around the country.

**Paola Boettner '09** is pursuing a Masters in Information Technology/Information Security at Carnegie Mellon University. This program combines technical studies (e.g., exploring system vulnerabilities and attacks) with economics, finance, and management. Paola is looking forward to a summer internship in the Information Security division at Boeing in Seattle.

**Amy Dai '09** is finishing a Master of Science in Computer Science at Harvard this May and will then be staying in the area and working as a software engineer at Galatea Associates in Somerville. She is also still contemplating the possibility of continuing her education in a PhD program.

**Chloe Fan '09** is enrolled at the HCI graduate program at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research is focusing on how ubiquitous computing in public spaces can increase awareness of the environment and encourage positive behavior changes.

**Catherine Grevet '09** is enrolled at the CS graduate program at Georgia Tech. Her area of research is CHI, with the focus on personal informatics in terms of sustainability and health. In August 2009, Catherine presented "The use of online videos in the 2008 US congressional elections" at the IEEE SocialCom2009 conference in Vancouver (joint work with Eni and Takis), and in January she presented a summary of her undergraduate honors thesis at the HICSS 2010 conference.

**Sarah Beth Shiplett '09** is enrolled as a grad student at the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab, continuing her work with robots.

**Ayla Solomon '09** is in graduate school at University of Indiana, where she is working on context-sensitive access control, data anonymization, and pseudonym generation.

Five alums (all majors of Media Arts and Sciences) are now working at Google Enterprise Division: **Nandini Dookeran '09**, **Ariel Hathaway '09**, **Ran Tao '09**, **Francesca Gobeille '09**, and **Soo Been Kim '10**. They work in different functionalities to enable the growth of Google Apps in businesses, schools, and government agencies.

After completing a Masters program in Information Security and Computer Science at Johns Hopkins, **Karyn Benson '05** worked for two years on intrusion detection at the Army

Research Laboratory. She has decided to pursue a Ph.D. in cryptography, and is now choosing among the many schools that have accepted her.

**Kristin Powers Harkness '85** is now VP of Product Operations at Kayak.com. Last semester, she sat in on Lyn's Computer Networks class, where she shared many wonderful anecdotes from the trenches. Kristin wants more Wellesley women working at Kayak! **Lily Lee '93**, **Lisa Basile '01**, and **Christina Miller '07** were at the CWS Science Jobs Fair in February recruiting for Lincoln Labs. **Rebecca (Bargoot) Delgado '99** ran into Lyn at the Linden Store in December. She's now the Regional Director of Marketing at Safeco Insurance.

**Meg Kierstead '08** and **Kate Lopez '09** visited the department a few weeks ago. Meg has left her job at EMC to pursue the study of food science. Kate is working at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. **Cassie McLeod '09** is working in the IT department at Cargill in Minneapolis, where she works on Java development and support as well as regularizing IT processes across organizations.

**Yuan Niu '05** visited campus in June, 2009, to tell us about her Ph.D. program in security at UC Davis, where she focuses on usable security, web spam, electronic voting, and phishing. **Rebecca Shapiro '07** is completing her first year in a Ph.D. program in computer security at Dartmouth.

**Melissa Spencer '05** discovered her love of Computer Science too late in her Wellesley career to major or minor in CS, but she enrolled in the CS post-baccalaureate program at Tufts, where she earned a CS certificate in 2006. Since then, she has worked as an IT consultant and software engineer at Galatea Associates in Somerville. Next fall, Melissa will combine her economics background with her passion for technology by studying in MIT's Technology and Public Policy program.

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Sara "Scout" Sinclair '04** was named a 2009 Google Anita Borg Scholar for her work in the graduate CS program at Dartmouth, where she studies the intersection of human organizations and secure systems. This \$10,000 scholarship is awarded to women studying computer science on the basis of academic strength and demonstrated leadership.

**Anita Yip '07** is working at the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston as part of an Americorps program called the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship. She recruits volunteers and supports the Alumnae Association of the organization, and is also taking classes at Northeastern University's College of Professional Studies.

### CS/MAS Senior Luncheon and Prizes

The annual Senior Luncheon for our CS/MAS majors took place on May 14, 2009, with the participation of students and faculty. Faculty alums, Jennifer Stephan and Mark Sheldon also came to congratulate our Class of 2009. As is the tradition, Randy Shull (department chair) presented each senior a beautiful rose. Students had prepared a short movie to share their best memories as CS/MAS majors. Rita Purcell did a wonderful job in arranging a festive atmosphere for the room at the Wang Campus Center.

The luncheon featured an awards ceremony for the CS/MAS senior prizes that were established for the first time in 2009, thanks to a donation to the department. **Sarah Shiplett '09** (CS), was the first recipient of the Academic Excellence award, and **Nandini Dookeran '09** (MAS), was the first recipient of the Spirit award. The Academic Excellence award is selected by the CS faculty, based on a student academic record.

The Spirit award is chosen by nominations from the Wellesley community to the graduating senior who demonstrates high involvement and creates positive experiences in the CS/MAS community. Each recipient won a \$150.00 award along with a certificate. We're excited to continue this new tradition of CS/MAS Senior Prizes. Please visit our [awards webpage](#) to submit 2010 nominations. We thank Sohie Lee for initiating and organizing the senior prize.

### CS Holiday Cookie Party

On December 11, 2009, we organized our annual CS Holiday Cookie Party at the Slater House. Students, faculty and their families decorated first a binary tree. There was great food and conversations, as well as Lyn's famous cookies. We are always grateful to Rita Purcell, Jean Herbst and Sohie Lee for their fabulous organization work in creating a welcoming and warm atmosphere.

### Upcoming Events

CS/MAS Senior Luncheon 2010  
Alums Lunch Series 2010-2011  
Cirque du CS and Alums Panel 2011

### Join Us

Our Wellesley CS/MAS group at LinkedIn has already 132 members.

Join us at: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/1067337>.

### Keep in touch

Email Randy Shull at [rshull@wellesley.edu](mailto:rshull@wellesley.edu) if you want to know what is going on or tell us about your accomplishments or future plans.