



Don't Miss the *Cirque du CS* on Sunday, April 3, 2005!

Come to the Cirque du CS!

If you live in the Boston area, we have a very special event on Sunday, April 3 that we think that you and your family would enjoy: the first annual *Cirque du CS*. At this event, many of our current students will be presenting demonstrations and posters of projects they've done in courses, independent studies, and internships. All alums are invited to this event. It's a great way to see how the department has changed, catch up with faculty and other alums, and meet current students. There will be activities and food for people of all ages, including kids, so bring the whole family! Visit <http://cs.wellesley.edu/cirque> for more details.

A Quick Overview of the Department

Since 1991, the CS department has been located on the first floor of the east wing of the Science Center. Introductory classes are taught using a Macintosh computer classroom; flat panel displays have opened up a lot of table space in this room. Most advanced classes use the nearly three dozen Linux workstations in the department, many of which are clustered in the "micro-focus" (which now contains three lab instructor offices). Our most popular course is CS110, in which students get a broad overview of Computer Science in the context of designing and building a web site for a client. The gateway to the major is CS111, in which students learn problem-solving techniques by writing Java programs that "teach" graphical creatures called Buggles to explore mazes and harvest bagels.

We're offering many new courses, including Bioinformatics, Computer Networks, Computer Security, Cryptography, Databases with Web Interfaces, and Systems Programming. We have a new introductory course, Simulation: An Interdisciplinary Tool, that fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

Faculty Notes

Our department has expanded over the years. Our professors now include Scott Anderson, Ellen Hildreth, Takis Metaxas, Randy Shull, Jennifer Stephan, Brian Tjaden, and Lyn Turbak. We have three Lab Instructors: Jean Herbst, Stella Kakavouli, and Sohie Lee. We are

fortunate to have Mark Sheldon filling in for faculty on leave. Pattie Orr, IS Director of User Services, has taught CS100 for many years. Rita Purcell is our administrative assistant.

This year Takis is on leave studying the detection and prevention of web spam. Lyn is wrapping up his third year as chair and is looking forward to his sabbatical next year, when he will be studying computer security.

You may be curious to know what's happened to former department members. Several of our former visiting professors and lab instructors are now assistant professors elsewhere: Stanzi Royden (Holy Cross); Sergio Alvarez (Boston College); Allen Downey (Olin College); Elena Machkasova (University of Minnesota, Morris); and Jim McQuillan (Western Illinois University). LeeAnn Tzeng is in graduate school at Dartmouth College studying computational geometry. Elaine Yang is studying law at the Massachusetts College of Law. Ellie Lonske retired and moved to New Hampshire. Stacy Szucsik is now the Scientific Buyer for the Science Center.

Faculty Profile: Brian Tjaden



Brian joined us as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2003 after receiving his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Washington. His primary research is in the field of computational

biology, with a particular focus on analysis of gene expression data. He has previously worked at such organizations as the Institute for Systems Biology, Biotech, and Intel Corporation. He teaches the Bioinformatics course (with Drew Webb in Biology) as well as CS111 and Fundamental Algorithms. This year, Brian was awarded a Brachman Hoffman Fellowship to study small non-coding RNA genes

Faculty Profile: Mark Sheldon

Mark joined us as a Laboratory Instructor in Spring 2004 and will be a Visiting Assistant Professor next year. He



completed his Bachelor's degree at Duke University and Master's and PhD at MIT, where he focused on programming languages and distributed information systems. After finishing his graduate studies, Mark

worked in industry (including some time in a startup) and taught math and elementary robotics to children. At Wellesley, Mark has taught CS110 lectures and labs, CS111 labs, and a special topics course on Systems Programming.

Mark is also a competitive ballroom dancer. He has represented the US at 7 World Ballroom championships and the World games, and is a 5-time US senior ballroom champion. He coaches the MIT and Harvard Ballroom teams, and he and his partner have been invited to perform, teach, and give dance seminars around the US.

Betsy Masiello wins a Rhodes Scholarship

Betsy Masiello '03 won a 2005 Rhodes Scholarship, an award given annually to only 32 U.S. students for study at Oxford. At Wellesley, Betsy was a Computer Science major, Economics minor, and four-time All-American field hockey player. In her Honors Thesis, Betsy studied the technical foundations of biometric surveillance and its implications for security and privacy. She is now a Masters student in the Technology and Policy Program at MIT. At Oxford, Betsy plans to study economics and interact with researchers at the Oxford Internet Institute, a multi-disciplinary research center examining the technical, economic, social, political, and legal aspects of the Internet.

Events

We kicked off Fall 2004 by playing volleyball and lawn games at our annual **Fun and Games** event in the Arboretum on October 1st. The CS students had fun playing volleyball with the faculty and their families. The event rapped up with a pizza dinner on the lawn where every morsel of pizza was consumed!

In early November we held a **CS Alumnae Panel** with panelists Emily Braunstein '01, Deborah Gelch '03, Kate Golder '02, Betsy Masiello '03, Laila Partridge '86, and Jennifer Prasol '97. Each panelist gave an overview of her career path since graduating from Wellesley. They reflected on what was helpful in making decisions about

their career and stressed the importance of the Wellesley connection after graduation.

During reading period in December, we held our



annual **Holiday Cookie Party** at the Lake House kitchen. This year, in addition to making and baking cookies together, students and faculty and their families had lots of fun

assembling and decorating gingerbread houses. The houses were great and everyone had a good time!

On January 26th, **The Ninth (Almost) Annual Robotics Design Studio Exhibition** was held in the Science Center. This exhibition is a chance for robotics students to show off the robots they built during Wintersession. There was a large crowd at the exhibition (including lots of children) even though there was a snowstorm that day.

The Center for Work and Service organized the first **Science Center Job Fair** in mid-February. Many companies were represented by Wellesley alums, including CS alums Judy (Webb) Gallagher '85 (BBN) and Lisa (Basile) Premerlani '01 (Lincoln labs).

Ellen Hildreth once again organized the **CS Senior Seminar Series**. This series is an opportunity for our seniors to give a talk on their research or a topic of their choice. The talks given so far this year include: *Can You Trust your Electronic Vote?*, *Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Web*, *Wireless Sensor Networks*, *Social Robots*, *DNA Computing*, *Automatic Index Generation*, *Improving OOP with AspectJ*, *An Overview of Relational Databases*, and *Testing Computer Software*.

Our **CS Colloquium** series, organized by Stella Kakavouli, featured talks by Scout Sinclair '04 (now at Dartmouth) on *Making PKI Match the Humans* and Cathy McGeoch (Amherst College) on *Algorithm Engineering*. On Wednesday March 30, Morrow Long (Yale University) will speak on *Information Security*.

Keep in Touch!

Visit our department web page, <http://cs.wellesley.edu>, to learn more about the department. We haven't heard from many of you in a long time! Please let us know what you're up to by emailing fturbak@wellesley.edu