



Don't Miss the *Cirque du CS* on Sunday, April 2, 2006!

Come to the Cirque du CS!

If you live in the Boston area, we hope you can come to our gala department event, the *Cirque du CS*.



Many of our current students will be presenting demonstrations and posters of projects they've done in courses, independent studies, and internships. There will be activities and food for people of all ages, including kids, so bring the whole family! The Wellesley Association for Computing (WAC) has been busy creating a new musical for this year's *Cirque*. If you saw last year's musical, you know this is an event not to be missed!

We had a great turn-out in 2005. Past and present CS faculty and alums, their families, and friends from campus and the surrounding community attended. It was a great way to see how the department has changed, catch up with faculty and other alums, and meet current students.

You can even join in the fun of the day by volunteering to help out: contact Stella Kakavouli at skakavou@wellesley.edu or Jean Herbst at jherbst@wellesley.edu

This year's *Cirque* will be held 1- 4 P.M., on the 1st floor of the Science Center E-wing. Visit <http://cs.wellesley.edu/cirque> for more details.

Norma Wilentz Hess Fellowship

The Computer Science Department is currently interviewing candidates for a new visiting fellowship funded through a generous gift from Norma Wilentz Hess, '41. The Norma Wilentz Hess Faculty and Program Fund in Computer Science gives the department the opportunity to hire outstanding teachers and scholars for a period of two years in exciting areas of computer science not already covered by current faculty members. Although all areas are under consideration, the department is especially interested in attracting researchers in interdisciplinary fields such as multimedia, human/computer interaction, artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, educational computing, and ethical, social, and legal aspects of computing. Hess

Fellows will be given the time and resources to develop new courses in their own areas of expertise at both the introductory and advanced levels as well as to engage in collaborative teaching and research projects with Wellesley faculty and students.

The Hess Fellowship Program will not only help the Department of Computer Science supplement its curriculum with a stream of innovative new offerings, but will also provide important links to other departments and faculty who incorporate computer analysis and design in their teaching and research. We look forward to sharing the results of our search with you in our next newsletter.

Faculty Notes

Our current staff includes professors Scott Anderson, Ellen Hildreth, Takis Metaxas, Mark Sheldon, Randy Shull, Jennifer Stephan, Brian Tjaden, and Lyn Turbak; Instructors of Science Laboratories Jean Herbst, Stella Kakavouli, and Sohie Lee; IS Director of User Services, Pattie Orr (CS100); and our administrative assistant, Rita Purcell.

Randy Shull is serving as chair, and **Lyn Turbak** is on leave, writing a textbook on programming language design for advanced undergraduates and first-year graduate students. **Jennifer Stephan** adds this note: "Within the department, I've been rotated into teaching CS110 (*CS and the Internet*) and I love it! Also, this past year, Jean Herbst and I re-hauled CS240 (*Introduction to Machine Organization*) and CS343 (formerly CS340, *Advanced Computer Organization and Design*). The result is a pair of courses that are cohesive and based on the current state of the field of computer organization and design."

The CS100 course taught by **Pattie Orr** was selected as the core course for the new bridge to college program called Pathways (<http://www.wellesley.edu/Pathways>). Pathways is a credit-bearing program to facilitate the first-year transition to college for students who wish to improve their computer skills and Internet research skills.

We are also delighted to pass on the news and offer congratulations to former faculty member **Stanzi Royden**, who just got tenure at Holy Cross!

Student Internships

During the summer of 2005, many of our students had exciting internships and jobs! Two of our students participated in the National Science Foundation's Research

Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program: at Harvey Mudd College, Karyn Benson '06 explored optical network algorithms, and at Ithaca College, Rebecca Shapiro '07 created a game using 3-D graphics and a haptic pen to teach children handwriting skills.

As part of the Distributed Mentor Project (DMP), Vasumathi Raman '07 worked at Carnegie Mellon University on projects involving the perception of animations of human motion. Heather Connor '07 investigated path planning in the Humans and Automation Lab in MIT's Aero/Astro department, and Caroline Chou '06 did database-related research at MIT's Media Lab.

As part of Wellesley's Science Center Summer Research Program, Stella del Rosario '06 worked with Brian Tjaden to develop a system for ranking the impact of journal articles based on citation information, and Karin To '06 worked with Takis Metaxas to create a database for information on web spam. As a Knapp Instructional Technology Summer Intern, Nicole DuRand '06 did web design projects at Wellesley.

Jackie Weber '06 spent the summer at France Telecom in Cambridge testing browser standards compliance. Many students also had summer jobs in the financial sector: Torlisa Jeffrey '06 interned at Lehman Brothers, Gowun Kim '06 was an IT summer analyst at Morgan Stanley, Justina Wang '06 was an investment banking analyst at UBS Investment Bank, and Hitomi Yoneya '07 was an IT intern at Credit Suisse First Boston.

New Courses

We have had a great response to a new course offered this Spring for the first time – *Computation for the Sciences*. Taught by Ellen Hildreth in lecture and Sohie Lee in lab, CS112 provides an introduction to computer programming that provides the tools necessary for students to use computers effectively in scientific work, including in the natural and physical sciences, biological sciences, medicine, mathematics, psychology and economics. Students learn MATLAB, a powerful and widely used technical computing environment. We are also planning additional new courses for the 2006-2007 school year – stay tuned!

Events

The Wellesley Association of Computing (WAC) is a very active student-run organization that aims to enrich the educational and social experience for fellow CS students (check out their newly redesigned website at: <http://cs.wellesley.edu/~wac>). WAC has hosted a number of fun events, including a **Board Game night**, **Google-sponsored pizza party**, and a **LAN party**. The LAN

party brought together students from Wellesley and Olin for a common cause: Open Source networked games. Battles of first person shooters, strategy games and Tetris lasted through much of the evening. The party proved to be a great success, and WAC hopes to host another LAN party this semester.

In November, the Wellesley WAC team traveled to Fitchburg to compete in the **ACM Programming Contest**. Although the team of Rebecca Shapiro, Anita Yip, and Nicole DuRand did not advance to the next round of the competition, the team made a courageous showing, and Wellesley was well-represented.

In December, we held our annual **Holiday Party** at the Lake House kitchen. Students, faculty, and their families had a great time decorating gingerbread houses, and eating cookies and pizza.

There has been an active **Fall Recruitment Program** on campus in Fall 2005, including visits by MIT Lincoln Labs, Bates White, Google, and Lehman Brothers.

The Center for Work and Service organized the second annual **Science Center Job Fair** in mid-February. About 20 science and technology companies participated, including Avande, BBN Technologies, EMC, Genzyme, Mediatech, and Pfizer.

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: *Who are the True Leaders on Wall Street*, *The Future of Computing Security*, *Website Hacking 101*, and *Optimizing Optical Networks*. We have several more scheduled in the Spring.

Our **CS Colloquium** series, organized by Stella Kakavouli, featured talks in Fall 2005 by Barbara Lerner (Williams College) on *Model Checking Software that has Explicit State Machines* and David Liben-Nowel (Carleton College) on *Geographic Routing in Social Networks*. Please contact Stella at skakavou@wellesley.edu if you are interested in giving us a colloquial talk on **your** work!

Keep in Touch!

Consider reaching out to our students and each other by putting your names/contact information on the alumnae page, <http://cs.wellesley.edu/~cs/People/alumnae.html>. Pattie Orr is webmistress for the CS alumnae webpage. You can contact her at porr@wellesley.edu.

Visit <http://cs.wellesley.edu>, to learn more about what's going on in the department. We haven't heard from many of you in a long time! Let us know what you're up to by emailing Randy Shull at rshull@wellesley.edu.