Wellesley College
Computer Science Department
Winter 2013 Newsletter

Cirque du CS 2013 !!
Sunday, March 3

Come one, come all, faculty, staff, alumnae, students, friends, and family, to the **Cirque du CS**! Our biannual celebration of student scholarship will be held from 1:00 to 6:30 pm on Sunday, March 3.

As always, there will be fabulous demonstrations of student projects and research, senior seminar presentations, and lots of fun activities and delicious food, including popcorn, cotton candy, face painting, balloon animals, and Lyn's famous chocolate chip cookies.

Cirque du CS 2013 Schedule

Student project demonstrations:	1:00 – 3:00
Break:	3:30 – 4:00
Senior Seminar presentations:	4:00 – 5:15
Dinner for seminar attendees:	5:15 – 6:30

Visiting Committee

This was a busy year for the Computer Science department, highlighted by our very positive review by an external Visiting Committee in March. This review followed a lengthy, in-depth study of our vision and goals for students and faculty, curriculum, student experiences, and department resources, which began under **Randy Shull**'s guidance as Chair and culminated in our report to the Visiting Committee completed in January 2012. The committee commended the CS faculty for their innovative pedagogy and introductory curriculum that draws students into computer science, their outstanding research that has received substantial external funding and created many research opportunities for students, and the vibrancy and sense of community that the department has created. The department is using the recommendations of the Visiting Committee to build an even stronger department to ensure that students continue to receive an excellent education in computer science as we plan for the years ahead.

Kristian Tran '13 and **Jacqueline Killenga '13** at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing in Baltimore in October 2012

Faculty News

Last spring, **Orit Shaer** received the prestigious five-year NSF CAREER award to support her research on "Advancing Innovation in Bio-Design through Reality Based Interaction." She also received a grant from Agilent Technologies. Researchers at Agilent are developing tools for medical professionals to interact effectively with large amounts of heterogeneous data and records, which aligns well with Orit's interests. Orit was the Graduate Students Consortium Co-Chair for the 2012 ACM Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction Development held last February, and received an NSF grant to support graduate student travel to the conference. Orit's research assistant, **Consuelo Valdes '11**, was supported by an HHMI Intern award this past year, and has provided invaluable help with managing Orit's active HCI group. Consuelo recently presented her paper about "A Collaborative Environment for Engaging Novices in Scientific Inquiry" at the ACM ITS'12 conference.

Orit began her early leave last fall, following her successful reappointment last spring. During her leave, she is conducting research on the development and assessment of innovative technologies for human-computer interaction that enhance scientific collaboration and learning. She is carrying out this research in her HCI lab at Wellesley, and at Olin College in collaboration with **Scott Harris** and **Amon Millner**. Orit also chaired the 7th Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces Conference at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge in November. The program included two exciting keynotes, tutorials and workshops, 30 presentations, and a wonderful poster and demo session. Pictures can be found at http://www.flickr.com/groups/2078071@N25/pool/

Takis Metaxas returned this year from a productive sabbatical that he spent as a visiting scholar at Harvard's Center for Research on Computation and Society, pursuing his research on the authenticity, trustworthiness, and impact of communications on social networks. Takis gave a talk in March on "Misinformation and Propaganda in Cyberspace" at the Truthiness in Digital Media Symposium at Harvard University, and published a paper with **Eni Mustafaraj** in the October issue of sciencemag.org titled *Social Media and the Elections:*
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/338/6106/472.full.pdf
An accompanying interview may be viewed at: http://www.sciencemag.org/content/338/6106/472/suppl/DC1
Takis and Eni were awarded a three year NSF grant to support this research, "Trails of Trustworthiness, Understanding and Supporting Quality Information in Real-Time Systems."

Brian Tjaden's sabbatical leave during the 2013-14 academic year was approved last fall. During his sabbatical leave, Brian will continue his research on computational methods for analyzing high throughput DNA sequencing data. His research is currently supported by an NSF grant that extends through this year, "Methods for Characterizing Small Genes in Bacteria." Brian recently submitted a three-year NIH grant proposal, "System and Methods for Analysis of Bacterial Transcriptomes," to the NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences that, if funded, would support his research during his sabbatical.

Lyn Turbak's request for a sabbatical leave during the 2013-14 academic year was also approved last fall. He will spend his sabbatical at the new MIT Center for Mobile Learning, collaborating on a major initiative on developing computational thinking through mobile computing. Lyn was recently awarded a three-year NSF TUES grant for a project titled, "Computational Thinking Through Mobile Computing," a joint project with MIT, UMass Lowell, Trinity, and USF, with Lyn as the lead PI. Among other components of the grant, Lyn will lead the effort to integrate App Inventor programming challenges into the Khan Academy online learning framework. This past year, Lyn also received a Brachman-Hoffman Small Grant and Faculty Awards Scholarly Activity Grant to support students working on his research project on "TinkerBlocks: An Environment for Creating Block Programming Languages."

At the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Northeastern Conference (CCSCNE) at Quinnipiac College in April, **Lyn Turbak**, **Eni Mustafaraj**, and **Stella Kakavouli** ran a workshop on "Teaching CS0 with mobile apps using App Inventor for Android." Lyn and Eni also participated in a panel on "Lessons learned from teaching App Inventor," and Eni participated in a panel on "Mobile application development in computing curricula." **Stella Kakavouli** presented a paper, "Also *your* job to learn! Helping students to reflect on their learning progress," describing her work on students' reflection on their programming work in our Data Structures course. **Jean Herbst** attended the conference and was a judge in the student poster competition.

We are pleased about the successful and very well deserved reappointments of **Jean Herbst** (Instructor of Computer Science Laboratory) and **Scott Anderson** (Lecturer) last spring. The department is grateful for Jean's substantial contributions to the labs for our introductory and computer hardware courses, and for Scott's leadership of CS110, teaching of our computer graphics and popular databases courses, and invaluable administration of department computer resources.

Goodbye to our Hess Fellow, **Tyler Moore**, who left at the beginning of June to take a position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. We wish him the best of luck at SMU!

New Courses

Our Hess Fellows, **Eni Mustafaraj** and **Tyler Moore**, taught two exciting new courses last spring, leveraging new technologies and Internet resources. Eni taught *CS349A The Intelligent Web*, in which students learned how to develop web applications that are personalized to users' needs and interests. Such tools are used by websites such as Amazon.com and Netflix, to offer recommendations tailored to their users. Eni's students studied the algorithms used by these systems and used this knowledge to build intelligent applications for the Wellesley community, including a course recommendation system that used historical data provided by the Registrar's office. Students in CS349A and their friends participated in a day-long Hackathon, in collaboration with Wellesley's Division of Student Life, to develop a system to recommend Wellesley events to students.

Students in CS349A participating in a Hackathon

In Tyler's *CS349B Quantifying the World*, students learned how to use large amounts of data available from the web and other digital resources to answer previously unanswerable questions. The course covered techniques for hypothesis formation and data collection, and methods for the analysis and visualization of data, culminating in final projects using real data. Although Tyler has left the department, we hope to continue to offer a course of this sort in the future, as the technical knowledge and tools needed to visualize and analyze vast amounts of heterogeneous digital information will become increasingly important in the coming years.

Lyn Turbak and **Sohie Lee** will be offering a First Year Seminar, *CS118 Creative Computing (Introduction to Computing in Python)*, to be taught this spring. The Visiting Committee endorsed our plans to revise our introductory course for majors, CS111, to use the Python programming language and incorporate more project based active learning experiences, so this seminar will lead to our new version of CS111, coming next year!

Student Activities and Achievements

There has been an explosion of student activity outside the classroom, with some spilling over from course projects!

Students participated in research this year in much larger numbers and many presented their work at national and international conferences, including the annual conference for the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, IEEE Conference in Social Computing, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, and International Conference on Financial Cryptography and Data Security.

In April, several students presented their work at the **New England Undergraduate Computing Symposium: Celebrating Excellence and Diversity in Computing**, held at Brandeis University. **Karishma Chadha '14**, **Emily Erdman '13**, and **Erin Davis '13**, presented a poster on "TurtleBlocks: Blocks for Constructing Tangible Turtle Tracings," and won the "Best Overall Project" award. Also presenting were **Dana Bullister '12**, on, "Google Bombing and Network Manipulation", and two mobile apps projects from *CS 117 Inventing Mobile Apps*: **Maki Kato '12** and **Sarah Xu '15**, presented a poster "Inventing Mobile Apps", and **Charlene Lee '14 and Sonali Sastry '13**, presented a poster on their project, "Tanner Connect."

In June, **Marie Vasek '12**, **Karishma Chadha '14**, **Johanna Okerlund '14**, and **Lyn Turbak** traveled to Portland, Maine to attend the New England Programming Languages and System Symposium. There, Marie have a talk on her thesis "Representing Expressive Types in Blocks Programming Languages" and Lyn gave a talk on Tinkerblocks work "Blocks Languages for Creating Tangible Artifacts." Lots of cool pictures from the Tinkerblocks research group are available: http://www.tinkerblocks.org/

Johanna Okerlund '14, Karishma Chadha '14, and **Marie Vasek '12** at NEPLS in Portland

Olivia Kotsopoulos '14 and **Lyn Turbak** travelled to Innsbruck, Austria where Lyn presented a paper titled "Blocks Languages for Creating Tangible Artifacts" at the IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human Centric Computing. Co-authoring the paper with Olivia and Lyn were **Smaranda Sandu '14, Emily Erdman '13, Erin Davis '15,** and **Karishma Chadha '14**.

Olivia Kotsopoulos '14 at VL/HCC in Innsbruck, Austria

Competitions

Our students showed that there is nothing like a little competition to get creative juices flowing!

In May, "Team Wellesley" competed in The Cable Show 2012 App Development Contest, an international event sponsored by the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

The Wellesley team of **Kristian Tran '13** (Captain), **Emily Lin '14**, **Veronica Lin '15**, and **Stephanie Lee '14** placed third in the competition for their app, "WorkOutBuddy," that helps users to communicate with friends to promote a healthy lifestyle with fitness activities.

Emily Lin '14, Kristian Tran '13, Veronica Lin '15, and **Stephanie Lee '14** at The Cable Show 2012 App Development Contest

In October, the Wellesley HCI team once again competed in the North America East Regional Jamboree of the international Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) undergraduate student research competition. The team progressed to the World Championship Jamboree on November 3rd and won awards for *Best Requirements Engineering, Best Eugene Based Design,* and *Best SBOL Based Tool.* Team members include **Kimberly Chang '12, Kathy Liu '13, Wendy Xu '13,** Nahum Seifeselassie (MIT) '13, **Casey Grot '14, Linda Ding '14, Kara Lu '14, Nicole Francisco '14, Veronica Lin '15,** and Madeleine Barowsky (Framingham High School) '15.

Wellesley iGem team competing at the North American East Regional Jamboree

As part of Lyn Turbak's CS342 Computer Security class, all 15 students participated in an intense all-weekend-long Capture-the-Flag contest in November at MIT sponsored by Lincoln Labs. There were 3 teams of 5 students each vying with 12 other Boston-area teams to defend their virtual machines and attack others. Chelsea Hoover '11 helped the teams prepare for the contest. Lots of pictures can be found at Margaret Ligon's blog
https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/mligon-computer-security/?pli=1
and Ljubica Ristovska's blog
https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/ljubica-s-cs342-site/ctf-photos

Students from the CS342 Computer Security class that competed in a Capture-the-Flag contest at MIT

In October, nine Wellesley students participated as three teams in the BOSPRE ACM programming contest: **Michelle Ferrairae '13, Emily Erdman '13, Karishma Chadha '14, Irene Kwok '14, Alex Poon '14, Shirley Lu '15, Laurence Toal '14, Danika Suggs '14,** and **Amy Hu '14**.

Both **Karishma Chadha '14** and **Erin Davis '15** were awarded SIGPLAN PAC grants to attend the Programming Languages Mentoring Workshop and the 40th Principles of Programming Languages Conference in Rome, Italy this January, where they presented their work on Tinkerblocks.

CCSCNE 2012
A large group of students and faculty attended the 17th Annual Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Northeastern Conference at Quinnipiac College in April:

Getting ice cream on an outing at CCSCNE'12

Student poster presenters included **Jie Han '12**, on "Interactive visualizations of data on high yield investment programs," **Shelley Wang '13** on "Computational Biology: Improving alignment of short DNA reads to bacterial genomes," and **Marie Vasek '12**, on "Representing expressive types in blocks programming languages." Also presenting were **Karishma Chadha '14**, **Erin Davis '15**, and **Emily Erdman '13**, "TurtleBlocks: Blocks for constructing

tangible turtle tracings," **Ana Smaranda Sandu '14** and **Olivia Kotsopoulos '14**, "PictureBlocks: A language for creating tangible artifacts," and **Samantha Finn '12**, "Classifying Twitter accounts by political orientation." Participants in the programming competition included **Diana Gerr '15**, **Shirley Lu '15**, **Danika Suggs '14**, **Emily Erdman '13**, **Erin Davis '15**, and **Marie Vasek '12.**

Grace Hopper Conference
A record number of Wellesley-ites attended the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference in Baltimore, MD at the beginning of October, including 8 current students, alums, and faculty members. Grace Hopper is the largest gathering of women in technology (3000+ women this year).

Danae Metaxas-Kakavouli, **Rebecca Shapiro '07, Emily Erdman '13, Wendy Xu '13, Samantha Kim '12, Megan Strait '10, Vasumathi Raman '07.** Back row: **Stella Kakavouli**, **Michelle Ferreirae '13**, **Akofa Ahiable '13**, **Sohie Lee**, **Kristian Tran '13**, **Jacqueline Killenga '13**, **Olivia Kotsopoulos '14**, **Carolyn Kim '13,** and **Renee Chu '07** at the Grace Hopper Conference

Jacqueline Killenga '13 won a Facebook scholarship to attend the conference, and **Emily Erdman '13**, **Olivia Kotsopoulos '14** and **Carolyn Kim '13** won Grace Hopper Scholarships.

We had many more students who were interested, but were not able to attend due to lack of funds. Please consider donating to the Wellesley CS department so that more students can take advantage of this wonderful conference.

Ruhlman Conference
In April, a large contingent of computer science students participated in panels and presented at the annual Wellesley Ruhlman research conference.

Caroline Gallagher '14, **Nora McKinnell '14**, **Karen Su '14**, and **Kristian Tran '13**, presented a panel on "Hacking for the community: How to build a system in one day?"

Jie Han '12, **Marie Vasek '12**, and **Era Vuksani '12**, talked about "Games, visualizations, and experiments: Three ways to understand computer security better."

Lara Helm '12, Casey Grote '14, Wendy Xu '13, Margaret Ligon '13, Michelle Ferreirae '13, Taili Feng '13, and Heidi Wang '12

Michelle Ferreirae '13, **Taili Feng '13**, **Casey Grote '14**, **Lara Helm '12**, **Margaret Ligon '13**, **Heidi Wang '12,** and **Wendy Xu '13** were on a panel entitled "Baaing, strumming, and vibrating: The journey of three little mice."

Michelle Ferreirae '13, **Taili Feng '13**, **Casey Grote '14**, **Kathy Liu '13, Kelsey Tempel '13**, **Heidi Wang '12**, and **Wendy Xu '13**, discussed "What happens when you apply Computer Science to Biology? Creating systems for improving the scientific process."

Maki Kato '12, Charlene Lee '14, **Mariam Qazi '13**, **Sonali Sastry '14,** and **Ruxin Xu '14**, participated in a panel on "It's easy as A-B-C: Learning how to invent mobile apps for the Android."

Yesenia Trujillo '14, gave a talk on "Social media: Free speech and anonymity for exposing the Narco conflict in Mexico," **Caroline Gallagher '14**, presented "Video Summarization: How to understand hours of video in seconds," and **Carolyn Kim '13**, discussed "Relationship Between Stereo and Motion Cues in Depth Perception."

Elizabeth Pan '12 talked about "Yes we can: The democratizing impact of social media on political organizing," **Ana Smaranda Sandu '14** gave a talk on "Rapid prototyping for everyone," and **Marie Vasek '12** presented "Improving types of block-based programming languages."

Summer Internships and Research

Olivia Kotsopoulos '14 studied emotionality transfer through Reddit as an implicit social network as part of a REU on Massive Online Social Networks hosted by Suffolk University in Boston.
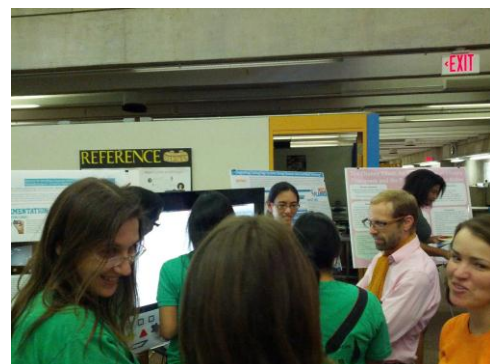
Monica Feldman '15 worked at Fox News Digital with the Strategy & Design Team doing front end development and quality assurance work and writing technology articles for the Fox News website. This wintersession, she is also working at Kayak as a Quality Assurance Engineer writing and updating automated testing scripts.

Danika Suggs '14 did an internship at HP in Cupertino where she worked on two Android apps. The first was designed to integrate with a Windows 8 app and the second was an NFC tag organizer.

Smaranda Sandu '14 had a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at Purdue University in Artificial Intelligence representing planning domains in an implemented reasoning system using mathematical logic and artificial intelligence techniques.

Wellesley Summer Research Program
Over the summer, we had our largest summer research program ever with tremendous energy; 30 students remained on campus to engage in full-time computer science research with six CS faculty members. Members of this research community formulated previously unanswered questions to interesting and important computational problems and then spent their time working together to try to answer these questions. The research atmosphere was vigorous. Students presented their work throughout the summer and the research experience culminated in a poster session at the end of the summer. Pictures of the event are available: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/052qs4i3nos1vcz/yUZ04RnNc2#/

Summer Research Program poster session

Tanner Conference

The Tanner Conference in November showcased the internship experiences of Wellesley students, including several large panels of CS/MAS students and individual presentations by students.

A panel on "Improving Facebook, Reddit, and More" was presented by **Caroline Gallagher '14**, **Olivia Kotsopoulos '14, Irene Kwok '14**, **Smaranda Sandu '14**, and **Yi Tong '15** (advisor **Sohie Lee).**

"Failure Is Not an Option: Designing a Hands-Free Jet Pack Interface" was presented by **Charlotte Kiang '13** (advisor **Brian Tjaden**).

"Cloning, Painting, and Searching: Enhancing Synthetic Biology through Human-Computer Interaction" consisted of panelists **Linda Ding '14**, **Nicole Francisco '14**, **Casey Grote '14**, **Veronica Lin '15**, **Kara Lu '14**, and **Wendy M. Xu '13** (advisor **Orit Shaer**).

"Projects, Perks, and Perspectives: Navigating Emerging Technologies" was presented by **Kristian Tran '13**, **Taili Feng '13**, **Michelle Ferreirae '13**, **Emily Lin '14**, **Sachi Shah '13**, and **Kelsey Tempel '13** (advisor **Ellen Hildreth**).

"Projects, Parks, and Perspectives Panel", Tanner Conference

Colloquia and Talks

There have been many interesting talks sponsored by the department during the last year, including colloquia presented by faculty members and visiting scholars and senior seminars by graduating students.

Colloquia

Last February, **Keith Reilly** of TripAdvisor came to talk to an overflow crowd of students of faculty about "How to Ace a Technical Interview." Keith Reilly's talk inspired **Kristian Tran '13** to create a student Google Group and organize CS technical interview practice sessions to develop students' interview skills.

Orit Shaer spoke on "Wellesley HCI Lab Summer Research," and **Takis Metaxas** and **Eni Mustafaraj** presented "Summer Research Opportunity: Trails of Trustworthiness." **Surama Harihareswara** of the Wikimedia Foundation gave a *talk* and an *informal information session* about GOOGLE SUMMER OF CODE (GSoC), a mentoring program sponsored by GOOGLE, where students develop software for open source projects by working in close collaborations with mentors from such projects.

Also in February, **Brian Tjaden**, **Orit Shaer**, **Michelle Ferreirae '13**, and **Mala Radhakrishnan** (Chemistry) offered a panel on "Interdisciplinary Science," in the series, *Liberal Arts Learning in the Digital Age.*

In March**, Erin Stadler Beierwaltes '03** of Skipstone Consulting gave a talk on "What is an Agile Organization and Why do I Want to Work There?" She works as a consultant for organizations trying to transform themselves from traditional approaches to Agile, and spends a lot of time educating the community and students about Agile through community classes, events and lectures. The HCI group hosted **Michael Horn** from Northwestern who presented "Blocks and Stickers: Rethinking the *Where* and *How* of Learning to Program," about Tangible Programming Blocks.

In April, we were honored to be visited by **Dr. Latanya Sweeney**, Founder and Director of the Data Privacy Lab at Harvard. Dr. Sweeney has had a distinguished career in the area of technology and policy related to privacy, and was recently appointed to the Privacy and Security Seat of the Federal HIT Policy Committee, the group responsible for advising ONC on policy for the new national health information infrastructure. Dr. Sweeney's talk, "Privacy in the Digital Age: Technology Can Save Privacy" was sponsored by the Treves Fund, Library & Technology Services, Media Arts & Sciences, and CS, as part of a symposium at the College, "Liberal Arts Learning in the Digital Age."

Dinner and discussion with **Latanya Sweeney**, facilitated by **Elizabeth Pan '12** and **Ruth McLachlin '12**

Our students enjoyed a students-only dinner and discussion with Dr. Sweeney facilitated by **Elizabeth Pan '12** and **Ruth McLachlin '12**. Read more about Dr. Sweeney and her accomplishments at her website http://dataprivacylab.org/people/sweeney/ and see her talk here http://new.wellesley.edu/cs/events/sweeney.

Other talks in April included **Jurgen Stemle**, visiting professor at the MIT Media Lab, on "Tabletop and Flexible Display," **Jens Grossklags** of Penn State with "A Dose of Reality: User Experiments on Web Privacy and Security," and **Consuelo Valdes '11** discussing "Interactive Interfaces," as part of the *Science Faculty Seminar Series*.

In September, **Andres Monroy-Hernandez** of the Microsoft Research and Harvard Berkman Center for Internet & Society, came to talk about "#Hashtags vs. Talking Heads: How Mexicans are using social media to fight narco-censorship and political manipulation." This talk was co-sponsored by The Wilson Fund, Spanish, CS, MAS, Latin American Studies, Mellon Mays Fellowship, Political Science, and Office of Latina Advisors. Dr. Monroy-Hernandez donated his honorarium to CS major, **Yesenia Trujillo '14**, as a young researcher working on the field of social media use in Latin America.

A start-up panel was sponsored in October by the Center for Work and Service and Computer Science. Alumnae panelists **Rudina Seseri '00**, **Kate Golder '02**, and **Christina Dorobek '08** were moderated by **Karin Robinson '12**, and discussed their experiences in start-ups in the Boston area.

In November, two events were held to discuss graduate studies in CS. In "Conversation about Graduate School" with **Eric Grimson**, MIT Chancellor and former Head of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at MIT, Dr. Grimson offered advice and answered questions from students considering graduate school. Later, CS alum **Karyn Benson '06,** who is currently a PhD student at UC-San Diego, came for a lunch and discussion about graduate school.

In an event co-sponsored by the Education and CS departments, **Gail Breslow** and **Franklin Onuoha** of the Computer Clubhouse in Boston came to talk about the Computer Clubhouse after-school program and how to increase girls' engagement with computers. Gail Breslow is the Director of the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network and Franklin Onuoha is the Computer Clubhouse Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of South Boston. The after-school program is a unique learning environment that helps youth from underserved communities learn through the use of technology.

Also in November, **Brygg Ullmer** and **Miriam Konkel** from Louisiana State spoke about their research: "Toward

Computational Genomics Support via Ecologies of Tangible Interfaces and Interactive Supercomputing," and **Eni Mustafaraj** presented her research on the effect of social media as part of the *Science Faculty Seminar Series*.

In December, Stuart Shieber, founding director of the Center for Research on Computation and Society and a director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, gave a talk titled, "The University's Role in the Dissemination of Research and Scholarship: A talk on good practices for college and university open access policies." The talk, sponsored by Library & Technology Services, was organized by **Takis Metaxas**. Takis has led the charge at the College for an Open Access policy for faculty research. An Open Access policy would allow faculty to retain some of the rights of research publications that would otherwise be granted to publishers. The policy allows for wider dissemination and visibility of faculty scholarship.

Senior Seminars
Last spring, several talks by graduating seniors were scheduled. **Dana Bullister '12**, spoke about "Programming, Languages, and Bootstrap: Bringing Computer Science to Youth," reflecting on her experience with the Bootstrap program at Brown. **Heidi Wang '12** presented a talk on "Rethinking Interfaces," describing her research in the HCI group at Wellesley.

Marie Vasek '12 presented her honors thesis research on "Represented Expressive Types in Blocks Programming Languages," and **Caroline Boes '12** talked about her experience working in the Japanese technology industry in "The Role of Technology in Japan."

We also had several talks by graduating seniors last fall. The first seminar included **Margaret Ligon '13** with "Eclipse v. Emacs: Why IDEs are Awesome", and **Kristian Tran '13** discussing "Redefining Hacking: Finding the Hacker Inside You." In December, **Kelsey Tempel '13** talked about "Product Management: Breathing Life into a Feature," **Michelle Ferreirae '13** described "The Real World vs. Wellesley," and **Emily Erdman '13** presented "Photo Sharing in App Inventor."

Events and Activities

CS/MAS Senior Luncheon and Prizes
The annual Senior Luncheon for CS/MAS majors was held May 7 in the Science Center Penthouse**. Marie Vasek '12** received this year's Academic Excellence award and **Heidi Wang '12** received the Spirit award.

CS vs. Math Ultimate Frisbee

In May, for the very first time, and in what is hoped to become an annual event, the CS Department and the Math Department went head to head in a heated match of Ultimate Frisbee. Led by **Alex Diesel** of the Math Department, the Math team delivered a valiant effort against the CS team led by **Lyn Turbak**.

CS Beach Day

Twenty-three summer research students and faculty had a great day at Horseneck Beach on July 18! Swimming, skim boarding, building sand castles and a sand android, and playing frisbee were followed by a cook-out.

Cook-out at **Jean Herbst's** house after the beach

CS/MAS Holiday Get-Together

In December, we had our annual holiday get-together at Slater House. The featured attraction was a chocolate fountain, which was enjoyed by the large turn out of CS/MAS students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Chocolate fountain at the CS/MAS party

Reunion

CS alumnae were well represented at the 2012 reunion. During reunion, CS alumnae and faculty gathered to catch-up, reminisce, and chat about all things Buggle-related.

Kate Golder '02, Stella Kakavouli, Rebecca Shapiro '07, Vasumathi Raman '07, (on ground with daughter Daylen): **Holly Muenchow '02, Sohie Lee, Shaheli Guha '07, Hitomi Yoneya '07, Marie Vasek '12, Anita Yip '07,** and **Scott Anderson**

Chair's Corner

This is an exciting time for Computer Science at Wellesley, with student interest surging over the past year! With a 30% increase in enrollments and near doubling of CS majors in one year, our classes are bursting at the seams and department events are attracting huge crowds of enthusiastic students. The summer of 2012 had a record-shattering 30 students working on 10 different projects for CS faculty in the Science Center Summer Research Program. Thank you to our students and faculty for all their hard work in preparation for our very successful review by an external Visiting Committee last March! We are currently conducting faculty searches for a new Hess Fellow and Visiting Lecturer that we hope will help us to expand our curriculum and research opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence, computer systems, and software engineering, which were highlighted by our Visiting Committee. The committee also reinforced our critical need for improved teaching and research spaces, a subject of ongoing space planning discussions at the college, as part of the Wellesley 2025 initiative. We were thrilled by the recent news that the College received a generous donation to renovate Orit Shaer's Human-Computer Interaction lab. In its new home in SCI E125, it will be a combined research and teaching lab with state-of-the-art tabletop computers and other equipment for Orit's vibrant HCI group. We look forward to a new year of exciting activities, especially our Cirque in March. Hope to see you there!

Support

We are very grateful for the establishment of the "Academic Wellesley" donor program that has so far raised over $15,000 for the CS department. Our CS majors also participate in an ongoing survey conducted by the Computing Research Association as part of the "DataBuddies" project funded by the NSF, which is aimed at informing the computing community about patterns of student entry, experience, and progress through academic programs in CS. For our efforts, we received a small stipend to support student academic and research activities.

The CS department also relies on the generosity of alumnae, friends, and corporations in helping support the department to provide an excellent liberal arts education for women studying computer science at Wellesley. Your gift enables students to attend conferences such as the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, supports student research, provides much needed equipment, and allows the department to host a variety of events for the Wellesley CS community. Every gift makes a big difference. *Non ministrari sed ministrare.*

Gifts can be sent to Gift Processing, Wellesley College Office for Resources, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481 with a note designating the gift for the CS department. Your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

Keep in Touch!

Contact Chair
Send e-mail to Ellen Hildreth at *ehildreth@wellesley.edu* if you want to know what is going on or tell us about your accomplishments or future plans.

LinkedIn Group
The LinkedIn Group for the Wellesley CS and MAS community (named Wellesley CS & MAS) now has over 300 members. Check out this resource for communication and job opportunities: http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/1067337

Alum Webpage
If you would like to add or update your contact information on the CS alumnae webpage:
http://new.wellesley.edu/cs/people/alumnae
please e-mail Scott Anderson at *sanderso@wellesley.edu*.

New Look for Webpage
Thanks to the terrific efforts of our new student web assistants, **Irene Kwok '14** and **Yun Chi '13**, our department webpage has been updated: http://new.wellesley.edu/cs