Greetings From The Chair

Well, it’s that time again!

I recently staffed an open house where high school students and their parents have the opportunity to visit Saint Joseph’s. Each major has a representative behind a table in one of the dining halls. We set up by placing materials on the table that will be distributed to our visitors. After setting up, I was approached by a faculty member from a nearby major to pass the time with conversation while we waited for visitors to arrive. I never met this person before that day. It went something like this . . .

Although she was from a major in the humanities, she began by stating that she believed that our majors had much in common. She described how her majors use computers (i.e., run programs) in their coursework. So that was the tie-in with Computer Science. She also volunteered that the difference between our two majors was that their work is “more creative.”

Up until this point, I really didn’t say much but now felt compelled to respond. I politely told her that I truly believe (and I do) that what we do is very creative. We are part of a broader group called “engineers.” What do engineers do? We build things. We are asked to come up with creative solutions to problems. Additionally, we must do that in a short time frame and within budget. The result should work well, last a long time, and often improves our lives. What is more creative than that?

My point is not to disparage one of my colleagues but to illustrate the fact that we need to educate everyone about the important work that we do. Otherwise, they only have Hollywood stereotypes. Part of the problem may be our K-12 educational system. How many years are we required to study English, History, and Math? Those fields are important. No question. How many years are we required to study Computer Science? My cursory study of the new K-12 educational “Common Core” still doesn’t address this.

In a talk given earlier this year by Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the World Wide Web), he speaks of two digital divides. Much consideration has already been given to one that is already familiar to us – the divide between those that have internet access and those that do not. That’s important, but he speaks of an additional divide. He speaks of the divide between those that code and those that know how to use a word processor. The former is where true creativity lies. In his words, “Developers are people who do incredible things.”
Club Notes

Open For All Computer Science Majors!

The Computer Science club is off to a great start! Collaborative meetings have led to many activities planned for the future. In particular, a new service program called Computer Buddies has been initiated. Kayla Asistido (the CS Club President) and Patricia McGann (CS Club Secretary) met with Beth Ford, of Campus Ministry, who got in touch with the Wynnefield Branch of the Free Library System of Philadelphia and, thus, the program began. The CS students are helping to assist people who have trouble with basic computing skills (see page 4 for further details).

Additionally, future activities the club hopes to offer are: a Gaming Tournament, Movie Night, an application and/or web site design, and guest speakers from alumni or others. The main goal of the CS Club is to provide its members with both fun and intellectual activities and also incorporate the aforementioned community service projects, which help share knowledge between members and society.

EYE ON IT → Big Data

What is big data? Big data refers to vast amounts of data that companies use today to model and control their internal processes and business logic. Companies such as Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, eBay, and dozens of other high-profile web outfits use a Java-based software package called Hadoop which analyzes the vast amounts of data generated by these online operations, and it also pumps data into live public applications such as Facebook’s new messaging services and the “Today” module that serves up news stories on the Yahoo homepage.

Department News Bytes

* The undergraduate Computer Science Program has received ABET accreditation!

* We are delighted to introduce a new adjunct faculty member, Mrs. Mary Krueger (see her bio on page 4).

* Two members of the department, Ms. Kayla Asistido and Dr. F. Betul Atalay, recently became US citizens. A Welcome Back/Citizenship celebration was held in September!

* We welcome a new addition to our staff! Mrs. Camille Piccone is the new Office Assistant, helping both Computer Science and Political Science handle their many affairs. She is on campus Tuesdays and Fridays.

Camille comes to St. Joe’s as a seasoned professional with extensive experience in the administrative profession providing comprehensive support for executive-level staff both in the corporate environment and in the private sector, including non-profit organizations. Before coming to SJU, her past position gave her the opportunity to work one-on-one with children with disabilities, mostly children with autism. She also had the opportunity to train service dogs for the mobility impaired and has trained and worked with her own dogs (past and present) as therapy dogs. Stop by BL-209 on a Tuesday or Friday when you get the chance – Camille would love to meet you!
Dr. Jonathan Hodgson (Emeritus) and his wife Andrea recently spent two and a half weeks in Turkey. They started in Istanbul, where Dr. Hodgson attended the International Conference on Logic Programming. They then flew to Ankara, from where they drove to a town called Bogazkoy to visit Hattussas, which was the capital of the Hittite Empire. They then went to Cappadocia, which Dr. Hodgson reports looks a lot like the US Southwest. After this, they traveled to Ephesus and Pergamon—a fabulous hilltop remain from the Roman era. On their way back to Istanbul, they stopped in Boursa (one time silk capital). Finally, after three more days in Istanbul, they returned via London where Dr. Hodgson visited his brother.

Student Screenshots...
Overview of Summer/Spring 2013 Internship Presentations (Presented: December 3, 2013)

Carl Motts (Lamb Financial Group) Lamb Financial Group is an insurance broker that specializes in assisting non-profit organizations find cheaper insurance premiums by working with insurance companies, such as Philly Insurance. Carl’s main role at Lamb Financial Group was to identify non-profit organizations for Lamb’s Producers to call and offer their services. His other responsibilities included debugging company software and automating specific tasks. Carl stated that through this internship he was able to develop better work skills, enhance his communication skills, increase his professional confidence, and hone his computer programming skills.

Sherjeel Quraishi (Elsevier) Elsevier is an academic publishing company which publishes medical and scientific literature. It publishes 250,000 articles per year in over 2000 journals. Sherjeel worked as a summer intern in IT Software Security Assurance. He gained hands-on experience working in a corporate environment and developed important communication and task management skills. He had the opportunity to work and learn with some talented and experienced software security experts. One of his responsibilities included writing python scripts and completely designing the database to Elsevier’s specific needs. Sherjeel noted that his overall internship experience was great, he was able to learn a lot, and made some good contacts.

“An internship is a great way to network and make connections.”
~ Anonymous
Events

- Citizenship/Welcome Back Celebration (September 9)
- Internship Presentations (December 3)
- Holiday Celebration (December 5)
- CS Club Special Spring Events (TBA)
- Department Open House for Accepted Students (March 22)
- UPE Induction Ceremony (April 2)

Student Screenshots (continued) ...

- J. Zhao and Dr. Forouraghi—"An Intelligent Cloud-Based Virtual Learning System", The 12th International Conference on Web-based learning (also appearing in LNCS) Vol. 8167, pp. 101-110, 2013.
- SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT—SPRING 2013: Robby Daly/Andy Hutchison. Title: Green Roof Wordpress Plugins. This project was supervised by Dr. Susanna Wei and Mr. Jeff Bachovchin, AVP of Information Services.
- Luke Myers (class of 2016) reports on his involvement with a new service opportunity for the department, initiated by the Computer Science Club. The newly formed Computer Buddies Program will pair CS students (both undergrad and grad) with patrons of the Wynnewfield Library who need assistance with using a computer. Such tasks include setting up email accounts, social networking pages, word documents, PowerPoint presentations, and guiding them to apply for jobs over the internet. Patrons will have the ability to make appointments with one of the students when needed.
- Congratulations to Kate Portalatin, a second year graduate student! Kate and her husband David welcomed Tatiana into the world at 9:32 pm on October 24th! Tatiana weighed 5 lbs / 3 oz.
- Jiang Li received an internship position for the spring 2014 semester at SevOne, located in Delaware.

Faculty Spotlight

Mrs. Mary Krueger

Mrs. Kreuger graduated from Villanova with undergraduate degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She also has her Masters in CS from Villanova.

Mary started working at General Electric and decided she needed more excitement, so she went to work for the CIA as a Systems Analyst. Later, she went back to various defense contractors, including GE and Lockheed working as a Software Engineer particularly interested in Database Design and Modelling and Simulation. “I have always been interested in trying to get young people excited about the field of Computer Science and see it as a career that is creative and versatile providing a path to many different opportunities.”

Mrs. Kreuger has three children and a new puppy!
Department Welcome Back & Holiday Celebrations
Fall 2013
Fahad AlJalajel (M.S./2008)  Fahad AlJalajel is Chief Information Officer, and H.E. the Minister’s ICT Advisor at Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) responsible for transforming the Ministry’s services to a customer oriented e-government in addition to supervising MCI’s IT operations. Prior to MCI, Fahad was the IT Manager at SAGIA, where he participated in setting SAGIA’s first business strategy plan, establishing IT workforce, and building the Government Network for One Stop Shop Service Centers; add to that, Fahad played a major role in several committees and projects, such as the IT National Plan, National PKI Advising Committee, and National e-Government Strategy – Action Plan Advising Committee. Fahad holds a Master Degree in Computer Science from Saint Joseph University, and an Executive Certificate in Management and Leadership from MIT.

Glenn Brunette (B.S./1993, M.S./1999) Starting in April, 2013, Glenn accepted a new role as Senior Director and Cybersecurity Leader for Oracle’s North American Public Sector division. Reporting to the division’s Chief Technology Officer, Glenn is responsible for championing the cybersecurity needs of Oracle’s government and military customers, helping customers respond to ever increasing cybersecurity threats and challenges, tracking and responding to emerging security standards and regulations, and working with development teams from across Oracle’s vast hardware and software portfolio to improve Oracle’s cybersecurity capabilities and alignment to customer requirements.

Richard Burns (B.S./2006)  Rich received his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware and just started his second year as a faculty member at West Chester University in the Computer Science Department.

Kevin Rooney (B.S./2006) and his wife, Tina, welcomed a baby boy, Liam, into their family in July. Congratulations and best wishes!

Patrick Ryan (B.S./1989, M.S./1991) is a Client Technical Manager at IBM Federal in Bethesda, Maryland. He is an Open Group Distinguished Architect and manages a team of senior IT architects. His team supports the US defense and intelligence community.

The Computer Science Club invites you to come to visit and talk about your careers. If you are interested, please contact Kayla (ka546085@sju.edu) or Christine (ca563957@sju.edu)