Dr. desJardins promoted to full professor

The CSEE Department wishes to extend its congratulations to Dr. Marie desJardins for her recent promotion from associate professor to full professor. Dr. desJardins began teaching at UMBC in 2001 as an assistant professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, and since then has taught courses in areas such as artificial intelligence, multi-agent systems and computer programming. As director of the Multi-agent, Planning and Learning Lab at UMBC, Dr. desJardins works with students to find AI solutions to real world problems. In addition to teaching, Dr. desJardins has actively been pursuing research in the areas of multi-agent systems, machine learning, and planning.

Throughout her decade-long career at UMBC, Dr. desJardins has been an active member of several university organizations and committees. From 2008 to 2010, she served as the Undergraduate Program Director for the Computer Science Program. Currently, she is a member of the CSEE Executive Committee, the UMBC Faculty Affairs Committee, and the CWIT Internal Advisory Board. Dr. desJardins’s numerous contributions to the CSEE Department, whether through teaching, research or committee involvement, have not been overlooked and the Department is confident that she will excel as she takes on her new role.

RECENT GRANTS

Dr. Yuan Peng received a grant of $188K from NSF to support his project in supply chain interoperability research.

Dr. Tuley Adelai received an NSF Grant Award for her collaborative research on Entry Rate for Source Separation and Model Selection: Applications in IEM and EEG Analysis.

I was very excited to receive a competitive fellowship from a company that I have admired since I was a kid seeing "IBM compatible" stickers on all the computer parts. Later I came to respect IBM even more for their obsession with intellectual property portfolios and high quality standards. This fellowship will help me complete my PhD with a topic that includes some of the most current trends in computer science such as social media mining and parallel computing on multicore systems.

Aniket Bochare
CAS Research Fellowship

"I feel extremely honored to have a fellowship from IBM. I am very thankful for the support from IBM and Dr. Yelena Yesha, my advisor. The funding support from them has helped me to carry my Master’s Thesis Research as well as my education at Computer Science Department at UMBC.”

Kavita Krishnaswamy
Ford Foundation Fellowship NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

This past August, Professors Sergei Nirenburg and Marija Popovic taught “Difficult Aspects of Reference Resolution: Description, Theory and Hands-On Practice” at the European Summer School for Language, Logic and Information in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Aniket Bochare
CAS Research Fellowship

"I feel extremely honored to have a fellowship from IBM. I am very thankful for the support from IBM and Dr. Yelena Yesha, my advisor. The funding support from them has helped me to carry my Master’s Thesis Research as well as my education at Computer Science Department at UMBC.”

Kavita Krishnaswamy
Ford Foundation Fellowship NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

This past August, Professors Sergei Nirenburg and Marija Popovic taught “Difficult Aspects of Reference Resolution: Description, Theory and Hands-On Practice” at the European Summer School for Language, Logic and Information in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Aniket Bochare
CAS Research Fellowship

"I feel extremely honored to have a fellowship from IBM. I am very thankful for the support from IBM and Dr. Yelena Yesha, my advisor. The funding support from them has helped me to carry my Master’s Thesis Research as well as my education at Computer Science Department at UMBC.”

Kavita Krishnaswamy
Ford Foundation Fellowship NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

This past August, Professors Sergei Nirenburg and Marija Popovic taught “Difficult Aspects of Reference Resolution: Description, Theory and Hands-On Practice” at the European Summer School for Language, Logic and Information in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Aniket Bochare
CAS Research Fellowship

"I feel extremely honored to have a fellowship from IBM. I am very thankful for the support from IBM and Dr. Yelena Yesha, my advisor. The funding support from them has helped me to carry my Master’s Thesis Research as well as my education at Computer Science Department at UMBC.”

Kavita Krishnaswamy
Ford Foundation Fellowship NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

This past August, Professors Sergei Nirenburg and Marija Popovic taught “Difficult Aspects of Reference Resolution: Description, Theory and Hands-On Practice” at the European Summer School for Language, Logic and Information in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
Shawn Lupoli joins CSEE faculty as new lecturer

The Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering would like to welcome new lecturer Shawn Lupoli to the department. Mr. Lupoli will be teaching CMSC 201 (Introduction to Computer Science) and CMSC 104 (Problem Solving and Computer Programming) at UMBC this Fall.

Mr. Lupoli is an interdisciplinary computer science educator with over ten years of teaching experience. After receiving his Master’s in Computer Science from Towson University, Lupoli dove into teaching introductory computer science courses. He has over twelve years of teaching experience and has been a Computer Science Instructor at Mount St. Joseph’s High School in Baltimore, Anne Arundel Community College, Virginia Tech University, and Radford University, among other colleges. Most recently, Mr. Lupoli was an Assistant Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).

“After several years as a full-time professor and eight years as a part-time faculty member, I have decided it is time to step away from the traditional college classroom and get hands-on experience,” says Mr. Lupoli of teaching. “I have always wanted to teach in a way that sparks students’ curiosity about technology and its impact on the world. With UMBC, I have found a place that offers me the opportunity to do just that.”

“I have always wanted to teach,” says Mr. Lupoli, who was influenced by his father, who has been an Industrial Technology teacher at Perryville Middle School for thirty-four years. After receiving his Master’s in Computer Science from Towson University, Lupoli dove into teaching introductory computer science courses. He has over twelve years of teaching experience. He has been a Computer Science Instructor at Mount St. Joseph’s High School in Baltimore, Anne Arundel Community College, Virginia Tech University, and Radford University, among other colleges. Most recently, Mr. Lupoli was an Assistant Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).

“Most recently, I served as chair, mentor and reviewer of the AAAI Doctoral Consortium every year since 2000. I was a founding member and co-organizer of the AAAI Teaching Forum, now known as the Annual Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI). EAAI was established to provide a forum for educators and researchers to discuss teaching techniques that better communicate the principles of AI. This year, Dr. desJardins sent three PhD students to the symposium in San Francisco to present a poster entitled “Playing to Learn: An Intelligent Programming Tutor for RPL-PL.”

“Highlights of the workshop included lectures by High School teachers Pat Yonpradit (Springbrook), who discussed Game Programming, and Zachary Piper, who discussed tactics for integrating robots into the curriculum.

Robot sessions during the workshop introduced “The Finch,” a new robot designed by LEGO®’s MINDSTORMS® CREATE Lab, geared at computer science education. “The teachers loved the Finch robots and most plan to incorporate these into their classrooms,” says Martin. High school teachers Patty Bowes (Charles County) and Deirdre Wohlfahrt (Montgomery County) won The Finch in a raffle.

“...Workshop” continued on page 4.

Upcoming Events:

**CWIT Affiliates Retreat**

**When:** September 10, 2011

**Where:** ITE 456

The first annual CWIT Affiliates Retreat brings together new and returning women mapping in engineering, computer science, and information systems, to meet each other, share knowledge, and learn about career opportunities at Zachary Piper.

**Maryland Cyber Challenge and Conference (MCCC)**

**When:** October 21-22, 2011

**Where:** Baltimore Convention Center

Sponsored by UMBC, SAIC, the National Security Alliance, the Tech Council of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, MCCC strives to increase your awareness. There are currently 35 registered teams within the high school, college and professional categories.

**WISE Brownbag Lunch**

**When:** October 18, 2011

**Where:** Commons 328

Dr. desJardins, Rhengans and Brooster will be available for an open forum discussion with junior STEM faculty.

**Regional 2 GOLD and WIE Annual Picnic**

**When:** September 11, 2011

**Where:** Meadowbrook Park

Enjoy free food and prizes and learn about career opportunities at Zachary Piper.

**TEDxMidAtlantic 2011**

**When:** October 29, 2011

**Where:** Sidney Harman Hall, Washington, DC

See some of the world’s most influential speakers at this year’s TEDx conference, where the theme is “A Sense of Place.” Some of this year’s speakers include: Steve Case (founder of AOL), Scott Simon (NPR), Paula Kerger (CEO of PBS) and Peter Agre (Nobel Prize Winner).

AAAI grants Dr. desJardins Senior Member status

“The mission of AAAI is to serve as a professional organization for the advancement of artificial intelligence techniques,” explains desJardins, who has been an AAAI member since 1987, when she was a graduate student at the University of California: Berkeley. Since then, desJardins has served in the organization in a variety of roles including as an AAAI Counsellor (2001-2004), AAAI Symposium Associate Chair (2002-2006), and the AAAI Workshop Program Co-Chair (2009-2011) among others. Most recently, she has served on the editorial board of AI Magazine, a quarterly publication of AAAI that features articles highlighting new AI-related research.

In addition, Dr. desJardins has served as a chair, co-chair, mentor and reviewer of the AAAI Doctoral Consortium every year since 2000. She was a founding member and co-organizer of the AAAI Teaching Forum, now known as the Annual Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI). EAAI was established to provide a forum for educators and researchers to discuss teaching techniques that better communicate the principles of AI. This year, Dr. desJardins sent three PhD students to the symposium in San Francisco to present a poster entitled “Playing to Learn: An Intelligent Programming Tutor for RPL-PL.”

“Highlights of the workshop included lectures by High School teachers Pat Yonpradit (Springbrook), who discussed Game Programming, and Zachary Piper, who discussed tactics for integrating robots into the curriculum.

Robot sessions during the workshop introduced “The Finch,” a new robot designed by LEGO®’s MINDSTORMS® CREATE Lab, geared at computer science education. “The teachers loved the Finch robots and most plan to incorporate these into their classrooms,” says Martin. High school teachers Patty Bowes (Charles County) and Deirdre Wohlfahrt (Montgomery County) won The Finch in a raffle.

“...Workshop” continued on page 4.

**UMBC NAMED NVIDIA CUDA TEACHING CENTER**

UMBC has been named an NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center following the submission of a proposal by Dr. Marc Olson, professor, and Dr. Shujia Zhou, research associate professor of the Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Department. The NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center Program will provide UMBC with enough high-end GPUs to upgrade the UMBC GAIM (Games, Animation and Interactive Media) Lab, as well as a Tesla GPU-based computing processor.

Dr. Olson was familiar with NVIDIA’s grants program through previous equipment grants, and last February, he spoke with David Luebke, Director of Research at NVIDIA, about the CUDA Teaching Center Program. His decision to submit a proposal weighed heavily upon the increasing interest in GPU computing among the UMBC community.

“It’s an important skill for game programming,” says Dr. Olson, who is currently the director of the Computer Science program’s Game Development Track. He adds that UMBC’s Multicore Computational Center (MCC) and High Performance Computing Facility (HPCF) are also moving toward nodes with GPU computing capability and could benefit from the upgrade.

UMBC has become the 25th NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center within the U.S., joining schools such as Florida A&M University, Hood College, Purdue University and UCLA. Apart from the generous equipment donation, UMBC’s distinction as a NVIDIA CUDA Teaching Center provides the university with recognition on NVIDIA’s website, access to teaching materials, and the opportunity to receive discounts on some NVIDIA equipment purchases.

Dr. Olson predicts that the newly-enhanced GAIM lab will be usable by the beginning of the Spring semester. The new equipment will enhance game development and parallel programming classes in upcoming semesters, such as CMSC 483: Parallel and Distributed Processing, which will be taught by Dr. Shujia Zhou in the upgraded lab this Spring.

**Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Annual Picnic**

**When:** September 11, 2011

**Where:** 9440 Lovat Rd. Fulton, MD 20759

WISE invites you and yours to have some fun and welcome new faculty to UMBC and celebrate promotions and tenures at Zachary Piper.

**Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning**

**When:** September 23, 2011

**Where:** John’s Hopkins University

Sponsored by JHU’s Human Language Technology Center of Excellence, and the Center for Language and Speech Processing, this long-standing event brings together faculty, researchers and students interested in Speech/Language/MI.

**WISE Workshop—Tips for Efficient and Effective Teaching**

**When:** November 14, 2011

**Where:** Commons 328

Join Dr. Linda Hodges, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, in a discussion of ways to promote deeper learning in your students and spend less time grading and preparing for class.