Computer Science Professor Receives Emmy Award

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has recognized Dr. Donald Bitzer, Distinguished University Research Professor of Computer Science, with an Emmy Award for developing plasma screen technology. Bitzer accepted his award for technical achievement during a ceremony on October 2 in New York City.

Bitzer and his colleagues developed the plasma panel in 1963 for use as a computer display in an educational environment. By 1964, Bitzer had come up with the final ideas for the technology and he received the original patent. By the late 1960s, he was teaching others how to develop plasma screens.

With a plasma screen, the resolution is not dependent upon size and the high definition is consistent. The screen is easily viewed for long periods of time because the dot flashes that occur more than 100,000 times a second are not visible to the naked eye. The Japanese were immediately interested in the display because their language,

Dr. Donald Bitzer, pictured with his Emmy Award

Kanji, required graphical displays. The alphanumeric displays used in the past were inadequate for communicating the fluidity of the language. The United States government also took Bitzer's panels and placed them in areas where desk space was short, such as submarines, tanks, and aircrafts. Eventually, the technology became interesting for the purposes of high definition television. From airline terminals to grocery stores, plasma screens can be found all over the world today.

Since receiving an Emmy Award, Bitzer has been having a great time. His sense of humor shines through when he recounts his trip home. "When I flew back to Raleigh from New York, I had the award in a special styrofoam box. The individuals at the ticket counter thought I was insane when I told them I had won an Emmy. Usually, when you think of an Emmy, you think of some gorgeous movie star or television personality. They took one look at me and figured I was a lunatic. Of all the awards I've ever received, this is definitely the most fun."

Several of Dr. Bitzer's family, friends and colleagues accompanied him to the awards ceremony.

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From A 35th Birthday to An Emmy - Help Us Spread the Word!

A Message from Department Head, Dr. Alan L. Tharp

From time-to-time, I have the opportunity to interact with alumni, executives, and academic leaders from across the nation. More often than not, the stories I share about our successes are met with comments such as, "I had no idea" or "That is truly impressive…you should be spreading this news with more people." I couldn't agree more. So allow me to share with you some of our recent successes, so you can proudly spread the word with your friends, family, and professional colleagues.

First of all, we celebrate a milestone birthday in 2002. Against the backdrop of one of the nation's most prestigious universities steeped in history and tradition, the NC State Department of Computer Science turns 35 years old this year. While a relative youngster on campus, our department is actually one of the oldest recognized computer science departments in the nation! In fact, since our launch in 1967, we have become one of the nation's largest and fastest growing computer science departments, and with well over 4,000 graduates, we are also recognized as one of the nation's leading producers of computer science talent.

Academically, this year's incoming freshman class is the strongest in the department's history with an average GPA of 4.13 (on a 4.0 scale) and an average SAT score of 1250. To improve the retention rates of females in the computer science discipline, we recently launched the Women in Computer Science initiative. To meet the growing demand for quality distance education, we are now offering a Master of Computer Science degree via distance learning technologies. And our focus on being a leader in emerging technologies played a significant role in the U.S. National Security Agency's recognition this year of NC State as a Center for Excellence in Information Assurance Education.

Our commitment to partnering with the global business community has never been stronger. During uncertain economic times, our ePartners Program has grown over the past year to approximately 50 different companies which have made significant contributions to the department.

Finally, we are proud that our very own Dr. Donald Bitzer, Distinguished University Research Professor of Computer Science, was recently recognized by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with an Emmy Award for his work in co-developing plasma screen technology. He is the first faculty member at NC State ever to receive an Emmy Award!

Throughout this issue of *Connected*, you will find feature articles on many of the success stories mentioned above. As alumni, I encourage you to not only be proud of these successes, but to serve as ambassadors and help us share the good news.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan L. Tharp

Thank You For Getting Connected

We would like to thank the following individuals for providing their generous support directly to the NC State Department of Computer Science.

Bin Yu **(Ph.D., 2002)**
Kathy Markham **(B.S. 1975)**
Laura Allen Van Meter **(M.S., 1999)**

Many of our alumni contribute to the university through the Annual Fund, typically as a result of a direct phone call solicitation from one of the courteous students on the Annual Fund staff. Please be advised that **you can ask that your contributions go directly to the Department of Computer Science** or a specific fund, if you so wish. Such targeted contributions can also be made online at www.ncsu.edu/annualfund/.

To maximize the proportion of your gift that comes back to the department, in the "About Your Gift" section, please specify in the "Other" box that you want your gift to go to the **Computer Science Enhancement Endowment**.

Also, your tax-deductable contributions are always appreciated by the department. *Please make your checks payable to "NC State Engineering Foundation Inc.," and write "Computer Science Enhancement Endowment" in the memo section.* Please include your company's "matching gifts" form, if you have one. You can mail your contributions directly to Ken Tate, NC State Department of Computer Science, Campus Box 8206, Raleigh, NC 27695.

Rickers Make Leadership Gift

Computer Science alumnus, **Brian Ricker** (B.S., 1992) and his wife **Jennifer**, also an NC State alumnus, have made a significant financial commitment to the university via a will bequest. In recognition of their planned gift and their investment in the future of the university, they were recently inducted in the R. Stanhope Pullen Society.

35th Anniversary

**Happy Birthday
NC State Department
of Computer Science!**

BITZER, continued from page 1

Those in attendance included his wife, Maryann Bitzer; his sister-in-law, Judy Wiemann; his son and daughter-in-law, David and Christine Bitzer; as well as Dr. Nino Masnari, Dean of the NC State College of Engineering; John Gilligan, Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies; and Stuart Cooper, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Bitzer received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1960 from the University of Illinois, where he spent the next 39 years as a professor. He has been a member of the NC State faculty since 1989.

CSC Seniors Win Two of Four CoE Outstanding Senior Awards

Congratulations to CSC seniors **Michael Donaghy** and **Leif Johnson**, who were recognized at the College of Engineering's 2002 Annual Awards Banquet as winners of two of the four prestigious "COE Outstanding Senior Awards." Michael was awarded the College's Senior Leadership Award, and Leif garnered the College's Senior Humanities Award. Also representing the Department of Computer Science as award nominees were **Charles Killian** in the category of Scholarly Achievement, **Daniel Dailey** in the category of Citizenship and Service Award, and **Milind Kulkarni**, a double major in Computer Science and Computer Engineering who was nominated in the category of Scholarly Achievement.

Undergraduate Student Wins International Scholarship

Amy Lee Haynes, President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Chapter at NC State, received an international scholarship in recognition of outstanding service to ACM and academic excellence in the computing discipline. This scholarship was presented on behalf of both Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE), the Honor Society for the Computing Sciences, and the ACM. Amy was one of only two individuals selected from a worldwide pool of applicants. Amy will graduate this December and plans to pursue a Master of Computer Science degree at NC State.

Graduate Student Receives Prestigious IBM Fellowship

Lina Battestilli has been awarded an IBM fellowship for the 2002-2003 academic year. This is a competitive fellowship, awarded to a select group of students nationwide. Lina is currently a graduate student in Computer Networking and will enter the NC State Computer Science Ph.D. program next Fall. Lina has been very busy this semester working on her qualifying exam, participating in the Mentored Teaching Assistant program, organizing events for the computer Science Graduate Student Association and serving as a founding member of the department's new Women in Computer Science program.

Senior Design Center Hosts "Posters & Pies"

The NC State Computer Science Senior Design Center's "Posters & Pies" event will take place on Thursday, December 5, 2002 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm in Withers Hall, room 218. Each of our student teams will give a brief overview of their senior design projects, followed by demonstrations and poster displays. Pizza and dessert pies will be served after the presentations (we will also serve hors d'oeuvres during the presentations)! For more information about this event, please contact Margaret Heil, Assistant Director, Senior Design Center, 515-6020.

Department to Graduate Record Number in December

The departmental diploma ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 18th at 12:00 in the Meymandi Concert Hall at the BTI Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh. With 150 students graduating, this ceremony will mark the largest graduating class in the history of the department. Approximately 1,000 people are expected to attend.

"Women In Computer Science" Program Launches

Over the years, Computer Science has seen a rapid decline in the enrollment of women. This year, only 16% of all students in both undergraduate and graduate programs are female. The Women in Computer Science (WICS) program has emerged as a response to the sharp decrease in female enrollment. This program was designed by the Department of Computer Science to build a better sense of community for women interested in computing by providing opportunities for personal and professional development, social interaction and outreach. WICS is designed to involve students, alumni, faculty and industrial representatives.

WICS members look forward to creating leadership opportunities for women in computing by hosting seminars and workshops, learning from other successful women in academia and industry, and by eventually visiting middle and high schools in North Carolina to encourage females to pursue education and careers in computer science. To date, WICS has already held several events and activities on campus including a resume critique, social meetings and invited speaker sessions. WICS student officers look forward to the continual development of this program and welcome any support or advice alumni may be able to provide. For more information, about this program, please contact Jill Koethcke, Director of Public Relations & Program Development for NC State Computer Science at (919) 513-2985 or koethcke@csc.ncsu.edu

NC State ACM/AITP Chapter Honored

The ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), the world's oldest and largest scientific and educational computing society with over 80,000 members worldwide, recently announced the winners of their 2001-2002 ACM Student Chapter Awards. Chapters from around the globe competed for cash prizes in categories including Outstanding Chapter Activities, Outstanding Chapter Website, Outstanding Recruitment Program, Outstanding Community Service, and Outstanding School Service. The NC State Student ACM Chapter took home an overall honorable mention award in this international awards program. This chapter was one of only seven in the United States, and the only ACM chapter in North Carolina to receive such an honor.

Michael Donaghy, Erik Kirk, and Amy Haynes, ACM/AITP Officers in 2002, pictured with Carol Miller, ACM/AITP Faculty Advisor (second from right)

THE INDUSTRIAL CONNECTION

Computer Science Focuses on Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of Computer Sciece faculty and staff, has been working under a tight deadline to develop a complete Strategic Plan for the Department of Computer Science. This plan identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and goals of the department and will serve as a guide to continue the department into the future. More information is available at www.strategy.csc.ncsu.edu.

Industrial Advisory Council Welcomes New Members

We proudly welcome six new members to the Industrial Advisory Council (IAC) this year. **Donna Troy** (B.S., 1978) most recently served as President & CEO of Partnerware headquartered in Austin, TX. **Steve Worth** (M.S., 1985) served as an adjunct professor at NC State before leaving to pursue a successful career at Data General and EMC where he is now the Director of Strategic Software Development. **Bill Riddick** (B.S., 1974) is the President of Computer Service Partners located here in Raleigh. **Dennis Flynn** is the Founder/CEO of **The Sonar Group**, a California-based strategic consulting group specializing in business strategy and brand modeling and strategy for emerging growth and enterprise companies, and a member of the Promar Consortium. **Satish Gupta** is the Vice President of eServer xSeries and IntelliStation Products in the IBM Server Group. **John Medica** is Vice President and Co-General Manager of Dell's Client Product Group. The IAC meets annually in October and provides guidance, feedback and direction to the department from an industrial perspective.

Industrial Advisory Council members Dennis Flynn, Bill Weiss and Rowland Archer.

NC State Receives IBM Research Grant

NC State University has once again been awarded the IBM Shared University Research (SUR) program grant. This grant recognizes the high quality of research and educational programs at NC State, and is used to acquire IBM equipment in support of such projects. The award is intended to promote collaborative research in areas of mutual interest, and build and maintain long-term relationships between University faculty and staff and the IBM research, development and solutions provider communities. Through such collaboration, it also seeks to strengthen recruitment of the outstanding graduates produced by NC State. To date, NC State has been the number one source of student recruits to the entire IBM corporation.

This year the grant is aimed at supporting NC State's efforts in the arena of NC BioGrid and computationally-oriented research in life sciences in general, advanced research in the areas of web-services and associated databases, and assessment of the impact of mobile computing on teaching. Also, Dr. Mladen Vouk, Professor of Computer Science, received the highly competitive IBM Faculty Award in June 2002 which will support web services research.

NC State Recognized For Security Initiatives By National Security Agency

The National Security Agency (NSA) has named NC State a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education, a designation that adds NC State to a select group of universities across the nation. According to Dr. Annie I. Antón, Assistant Professor of Software Engineering, the designation recognizes that the university is increasing its information security research and education profile. Information assurance education plays a key role in protecting the national information infrastructure. As a Center of Academic Excellence in this field, NC State will help security solutions keep pace with evolving technology, and help reduce vulnerabilities in the nation's information systems.

NC State Hosts Symposium on Security

On October 16, 2002, NC State hosted the 2nd Annual Symposium on Requirements Engineering for Information Security (SREIS). The symposium is intended to provide researchers and practitioners from various disciplines with a highly interactive forum to discuss security and privacy-related requirements.

According to Laurie Williams, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, this year's SREIS "provided an opportunity for academic and industry professionals from all over the world to discuss emerging security issues and review focused research regarding areas of privacy and security." Over 100 people attended the conference, which was the first major symposium on security hosted by NC State since being named a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education.

The symposium was sponsored by eCommerce at NC State, Purdue University CERIAS, Cisco Systems, Microsoft Research, and the Association for Computing Machinery.

Marine Corps Seeks Assistance From NC State Computer Science

Dr. David Thuente and Dr. Douglas Reeves are leading an NC State team in assisting the U.S. Marine Corps communications in a transition to the use of Opnet ® for network modeling purposes. The $520,000 18-month project is a joint effort between the Center for Advanced Computing and Communication (CACC) and Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC). This project is made possible by a grant from the Office of Naval Research. CACC faculty participation involves modeling the enterprise and base networks as well as client-server applications across networks. The model developed by CTC and CACC will allow the Marine Corps to better assess server locations and bandwidth allocations for future networks. Dr. Thuente and Dr. Reeves are working with John Bass and James Robinson of the NC State Centennial Networking Laboratory to develop, model and test the new systems and networks. The NC State network is being used for proof of concept issues for the modeling of the Marine Corps network.

THE ePARTNERS CONNECTION

A Message From Director of the ePartners Program, Ken Tate

Maintaining strong partnerships with the global business community remains one of the department's cornerstone strategies. Since the release of the spring issue of *Connected*, we have added a new recognition level to the ePartners Program, and we have enhanced the benefits portfolio enjoyed by our corporate partners. Even during the most uncertain of business climates, our ePartners Program has grown to approximately 50 companies. Our corporate partners play a critical role in helping us provide the highest quality educational experience possible for our students. They provide financial and equipment gifts, as well as valuable industrial insight and engagement through strong relationships with faculty and departmental leadership. To all of our corporate partners, thank you so much for your continued support.

ePartners Membership Grows

We are pleased to announce that over the last six months, six new corporate partners have joined the program at the ePartner or Super ePartner level. The funding provided by our ePartners allows our department to continue to grow in emerging areas of computer science technology while providing the highest quality education for our students. Our new Super ePartners are **Cisco Systems** and **Intel**, and our new ePartners are **Connectix**, **Duke Energy**, **Integrated Industrial Information**, **Lulu Press**, and **Red Hat**.

New "Corporate Friends" Recognition Level

A new membership category called Corporate Friends has been added to the ePartners Program. This membership category recognizes those corporations providing the department targeted support of any kind (scholarships, gifts-in-kind such as equipment or software, sponsorship of a Senior Design Center project, faculty endowment support, research grants, etc.) with a value of $1,000 or more. Benefits for our Corporate Friends are designed to provide recognition, ensure communications, and initiate a stronger alignment with the department. We currently recognize more than 30 Corporate Friends. Please view a record of our Corporate Friends and the contributions they have made to the Department at http://epartners.ncsu.edu.

Additional articles and information are available on the ePartners web site at: **http://epartners.ncsu.edu**

THE ePARTNERS CONNECTION

Super ePartners

- EMC Corporation
- Intel Corporation
- John Deere
- Cisco Systems
- Network Appliance
- Progress Energy

ePartners

- Hiddenmind Technologies
- Red Hat
- Telesyn
- Lulu Press
- Duke Energy
- JHP Consulting
- Connectix
- Computer Service Partners
- SAS Institute
- Integrated Industrial Information

Software Gift From OPNET Technologies

OPNET Technologies, Inc., the pioneer and leading provider of Intelligent Network Management software, has made a major software donation to the department valued at approximately $7.6M, one of the largest gifts ever received by the department.

Headquartered in Bethesda, MD, OPNET Technologies, Inc. has long been a strong supporter of the department of computer science. According to OPNET's Vice President of Business Development & Marketing, Todd Kaloudis, "Over 500 university groups worldwide use OPNET software across multiple disciplines including Information Systems, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science - this is the same software we provide to businesses from around the world for planning production networks, and for optimizing the performance of networked applications. NC State has applied our technology broadly, and they have established an effective process for integrating it into their academic programs. We are very happy to be contributing to their work."

OPNET's software gift includes licenses of IT Guru and Modeler products. According to Assistant Department Head & Associate Professor, David Thuente, these are being used successfully in undergraduate, graduate and distance education network projects courses. Dr. Thuente adds "I have used OPNET software for more than seven years to support networking courses and network research with students. OPNET and its University Program have contributed significantly to our curriculum, to the understanding and development of protocols, and they have been indispensable for our research endeavors."

The Perfect Retirement Planning Gift

These days it is rare for an employee to stay with one company for their entire career. The era of pension plans is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Plus, you can only invest a limited amount annually in your IRA's and 401-K plans. What can you do to prepare yourself for retirement? One way to plan for retirement while supporting computer science excellence at NC State is to establish one or more **deferred charitable gift annuities**.

The deferred gift annuity allows you to make a gift now but defer the receipt of income until retirement or some other time. There is no limit on the amount that can be invested in a deferred gift annuity, and it is a wonderful way to provide guaranteed income during your retirement plus some powerful tax benefits. Many donors establish an annuity each year just as they make annual additions to their other retirement plans.

Deferred charitable gift annuities may be funded with cash or appreciated securities. Suppose you make a gift of $10,000 to the Department of Computer Science through the NC State Engineering Foundation. In return, you will receive a stream of fixed income for the rest of your life or the lives of you and your spouse. You have the flexibility to determine when those payments begin. The longer you wait to begin the payments, the higher your annuity rate will be. **The annual, semiannual or quarterly payments are underwritten by the assets of the Engineering Foundation and are guaranteed for the life of the designated beneficiaries.**

The tax benefits of a deferred gift annuity are very attractive. You will receive an immediate income tax deduction for the remaining value of the gift annuity. Until payments begin, you will not need to report anything on your income tax return from the annuity. Depending on how the deferred gift annuity is funded, a portion of your payments may qualify as tax-free income as well. As long as you and your spouse are the only beneficiaries, the annuity will not be taxable in either estate.
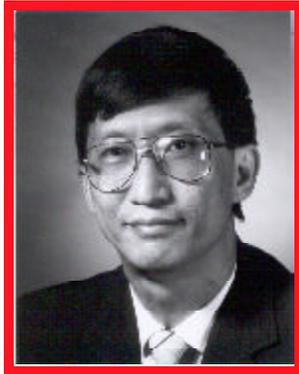
The chart included below shows how a deferred gift annuity might work for the you. As an example, we will assume that you and your wife are both 45 years old. The chart illustrates the difference in your benefits if you defer your payments until you are 60, 62 or 65. In this case, you and your spouse are funding your annuity with a cash gift of $10,000, and you are in the 35% income tax bracket.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can use deferred gift annuities to supplement your retirement income and support NC State's Computer Science program, please contact Joan DeBruin, CFP, Director of Gift Planning at (919) 515-9076 or via e-mail at joan_debruin@ncsu.edu

Defer Payments to Age	Rate Offered	Total Yearly Income	Tax-free Portion of Income	Charitable Deduction	Benefit to Computer Science
60	14%	$1,400	$273	$1,928	$64,039
62	15.9%	$1,590	$283	$2,140	$67,975
65	19.1%	$1,910	$298	$2,599	$75,479

Remembering K. C. Tai, Professor of Computer Science

On October 24, 2002, Professor Emeritus, Dr. K. C. Tai passed away at age 54 after a lengthy illness. Tai earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from National Taiwan University in 1970, and both an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Cornell University where he completed his studies in 1977. Tai was a professor in the Department of Computer Science at NC State for 26 years and during this time he made significant research contributions in software engineering, concurrent systems, programming languages, and compiler construction.

In addition to his dedication to teaching and research, Tai was a member of the Association for Computing Machinery and a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society. He also previously worked as the Director of Software Engineering Program for the National Science Foundation and provided consulting services to Viatec Research in Raleigh, NC.

Tai will long be remembered by his students and colleagues not only for his professional drive and commitment, but also for his kindness and compassion as a friend to so many. He is survived by his wife, Ling.

A special memorial fund has been established to honor Dr. Tai. Individuals interested in contributing to this fund should make their donations to the "NC State Engineering Foundation Inc." noting for the "Dr. K. C. Tai Memorial Fund" in the memo section. Donations can be sent to the NC State Department of Computer Science, Campus Box 8206, Raleigh, NC 27695.

Donations in memory of Dr. Tai may also be sent to the American Lung Association, P.O. Box 27985, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Faculty Profile: Rob St. Amant

Dr. Rob St. Amant, Assistant Professor in Computer Science, has been developing intelligent user interfaces. His research is applicable to the real world - he is particularly interested in improving the interaction and problem-solving capabilities of users.

His ideal working environment would pair education and industry by creating a lab in which software developers enlist the help of faculty and graduate students in improving the usability of various software packages. Such an initiative would "allow me to make connections between academia and industry that could potentially benefit everyday software users," said St. Amant. As a result of such relationships, companies could produce better information management tools and more effective interactive software.

The principles of many graphical user interfaces, like Windows or the Macintosh O/S, were developed in the late

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Computer Science Staff Member Earns M.S. Degree in Computer Science

Gary Stelling, Manager of Technical Support for the

Department of Computer Science, will receive a Master of Science in Computer Science from NC State in December 2002. Gary has worked for the department for almost four years. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University and he received bachelor's degrees in both Chemistry and Data Processing from Washington University in St. Louis. Gary's multi-disciplinary interests began developing when he started using personal computers to analyze chemistry research. Gary Stelling's thesis, entitled "Affective behavior control for lifelike pedagogical agents" is available online from the NC State Library at http://www.lib.ncsu.edu via an author search.

ST. AMANT, continued from page 11

seventies and haven't changed significantly since that time. Although computers were very different 20 years ago, modern interface software hasn't really come to the point where it takes full advantage of the computing power that the hardware provides.

There are many different ways to harness the power that graphical interfaces provide. One approach is to apply techniques from artificial intelligence toward building new interfaces or improving existing ones. Another way is to provide entirely different ways of interacting with computer interfaces.

Dr. St. Amant has also been exploring regression testing, the process of examining changes to make sure they work within the software. Testing software can become difficult and time consuming because it requires a variety of users and a large amount of documentation. With the help of several graduate students, he has developed automated evaluation tools for user interfaces. These programs are much more efficient because they simulate users, evaluate the systems very quickly, and work under experimental control.

Dr. St. Amant believes that software needs to do a better job of tracking and recording decisions that users make on a regular basis, which is an idea known as Programming by Demonstration. For example, instead of manually programming a system to perform a task, the software should observe and program itself based upon the actions of the user. If this situation were true, users wouldn't necessarily need to know how to program because the system would do it for them.

Dr. St. Amant is working in conjunction with graduate students on several projects funded by the National Science Foundation. He may be reached by email at stamant@csc.ncsu.edu

Computer Science Welcomes Two New Professors

Rada Chirkova, new Assistant Professor in Computer Science

In August 2002, both Rada Chirkova and Khaled Harfoush accepted offers to join the department as Assistant Professors.

Chirkova holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in Computer Science from Stanford University and a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Moscow State University.

Harfoush earned his PhD from Boston University. He has an M.S. and a B.S. in Computer Science from Alexandria University.

Khaled Harfoush, new Assistant Professor in Computer Science

Congratulations to the Following Faculty Members

Dr. Harry Perros was recognized as a NC State Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor this year. Dr. Perros is one of only two individuals selected for this honor. This award recognizes the excellence Dr. Perros brings to the Computer Science Graduate Program.

Joyce Hatch, Coordinator of Advising for the Department of Computer Science, received the Barabara Solomon Award for Advising. This award recognizes the excellent service Joyce brings to the students and the department.

Dr. Mladen Vouk has been named Associate Vice Provost for Information Technology at NC State. He will remain a tenured professor of Computer Science as he assumes this new role.

Dr. George Rouskas was promoted to full Professor of Computer Science in August, 2002.

Alumni Profile: Suzanne Gordon

Ask **Suzanne Gordon** (B.S., 1975), SAS Institute's Vice President of Information Technology, the key to her success and she will tell you it took a strong foundation, a good dose of hard work and determination, and more than one ironic twist of fate.

"I got a very strong educational foundation at NC State," says Gordon. She continues to be impressed with the students that come out of NC State, and she has brought many on board at SAS. "I find the NC State students adapt quickly to new technologies…they just 'get it' faster", she says with pride.

However, Gordon would like to see more females in technology disciplines. "I had several females in my suite at NC State who started out majoring in computer science" says Gordon, who graduated with honors in both mathematics and computer science in 1975. "Unfortunately, I was the only one to stay with it" she adds. "The gradual decline of women in the engineering and technology fields is disturbing, and I want to encourage young women to take advantage of the many terrific career opportunities available in this space. And the reality is that the technology field needs women and the different perspective they bring to the table."

When asked about the professors who made the greatest impression on her,

Gordon answers without hesitation, "Dr. Honeycutt and Dr. Tharp." She continues, "Dr. Honeycutt taught my first computer science course. He is great with new students and has stayed in touch with me over the years. He has also sent some terrific graduate students to SAS. And Dr. Tharp was also an outstanding teacher who has stayed in touch over the years. This is one of the things I appreciate most about my education at NC State. Not only did I receive an outstanding education, I developed meaningful relationships with a caring faculty. NC State is a great school with real people who are an example of our state motto, 'To Be Rather Than To Seem'."

Gordon's passion is developing people by helping them find the right place to flourish. She has been a strong proponent of hiring students, and she works hard to help them develop their skills and career interests. As a mentor, her advice is to "read the books, seek all the knowledge and advice you can gather, then allow your gut to process it all and tell you what to do."

NC State has a special place in Gordon's heart, and despite a hectic business schedule, she remains actively involved in serving the university on many fronts. Currently a member of the NC State Board of Trustees, she has also served as a member of both the College of Management Board of Directors and the Alumni

Association Board of Directors, where she was a member of the Caldwell Scholarship Committee. At the request of former Chancellor Larry Monteith, she served on the university planning committee, worked for the Student Aid Association, and served as a team captain for the Wolfpack Club's annual drive. In 1999, Gordon was honored as the Distinguished Alumna of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. She provides volunteer leadership for the Campaign for NC State Students through her involvement with the Mathematics Scholarship Endowment Committee.

Gordon has also been actively involved with the Department of Computer Science, where she has been a guest speaker at departmental functions and a strong supporter of women in technology initiatives.

Suzanne lives in Cary, NC with her husband Ralph, also an NC State graduate, and their two kids, Emily and Stuart. They enjoy attending Wolfpack football and basketball games, water skiing, and playing tennis.

How Was The Job Market When You Graduated?

Although graduate schools across the country have seen sharp increases in enrollment since the recent economic downturn, a large percentage of graduating college seniors still tackle the job market head-on. **Jesse Overby**, a May 2002 graduate from NC State Computer Science, has felt the sting of a tight economy. During his job search he found that "many employers were looking for individuals with experience of five years or more and it was difficult to compete." Like many other recent graduates, Overby applied to graduate school after spending a few months searching for an ideal job opportunity. He said, "Although I had hoped to enter the work force directly after receiving my undergraduate degree, I'd rather continue my education than take a job where I feel I'm not earning valuable experience." Overby has been accepted to the NC State Computer Science Graduate Program and will begin pursuing his Master of Computer Science in Spring 2003. Alumni and companies with information about job opportunities for recent Computer Science graduates are encouraged to send job opportunities to Jill Koethcke at koethcke@csc.ncsu.edu

Graduate Program Offers Distance Learning

The department has made the non-thesis Master of Computer Science degree available to individuals residing in the U.S. by creating a distance education program. This outreach program will provide students with an experience that parallels on-campus studies. Dr. Ed Davis, Director of Graduate Programs, notes that the distance learning program has the same requirements for admission and for the degree as the on-campus version, but will differ in the method of delivery. The program must be modified to accommodate individuals pursuing the degree from afar. Classes and assignments will be communicated via CDs, the internet, and other forms of media. For more information about the Master of Computer Science distance education alternative, please visit http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/degrees/graduate/ and select the tab for "Degrees." Distance Education is managed through Engineering Online, http://engineeringonline.ncsu.edu/ Course offerings, tuition, registration, and other information is available on their website.

Keep In Touch With Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science would like to have your updated contact information on file so we may **communicate with you electronically** and make sure your *Connected* newsletters are finding their way to your office or home. This information will automatically be updated within the department and the NC State Alumni Association. Please send your information to Jill Koethcke (koethcke@csc.ncsu.edu)

Full Name:
Graduation Year:
Degree:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

Also, please let us know what you are now doing and feel free to send pictures if you'd like! We would like to devote the Spring 2003 newsletter to highlight what is happening with our alumni.

Computer Science Luau

During NC State's Faculty/ Staff Appreciation Week, Computer Science hosted their own departmental party. Several members of the faculty and staff arrived in their Hawaiian shirts and sported leis. Everyone relaxed over lunch to the sounds of Jimmy Buffet.

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