Hello CSIS alumni and friends!

This newsletter celebrates the 2012-2013 student, faculty, alumni, and business friends’ activities that enable CSIS to meet its goals of delivering quality CS/IT programs and impacting high-tech workforce and economic development in Greater Nebraska. The newsletter starts by showcasing newly graduated Ryan Levell’s entrepreneurial spirit in mobile app development that he demonstrated as an intern at Hollman Media, LLC (page 2).

CSIS is proud to have one of few IT programs nationwide and the only Bachelor of Science IT program in Nebraska. We are also proud of the quality of our CS program that continues to provide highly sought after graduates (page 14). We are especially proud of the CS Robotics Team winning the 2013 regional Midwest Instructional Computing Symposium competition this spring (page 4). CSIS students worked diligently this year to complete several research, class and independent projects (pages 6-9). CSIS faculty continue to be engaged in research (page 13) and CSIS faculty and students continued to be involved in various activities. Please contact me if you would like to receive more information on any student or faculty project.

In 2012, CSIS and the Department of Teacher Education launched a new online MSEd program in Information Technology that meets the Nebraska K-12 supplemental teaching endorsement for Information Technology (IT) and prepares business professionals who provide technology-related professional development (page 10).

UNK and Kansas State University (KSU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for automatic acceptance of high-achieving CSIS students into graduate programs at KSU (page 10). CSIS has a similar MOU with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

A Nebraska Rural Futures Institute grant was established to attract technology alumni back to Nebraska (page 10). As Kearney continues to grow as a high-tech employment center in Nebraska, CSIS programs continue to grow to support this development. Demand for CSIS classes continues to increase and the number of majors continues to rise. CSIS business partnerships continue to add value and led to new CSIS student scholarships in 2012 — the first ever for CSIS students.

I am always touched when alumni and business professionals give their time and resources to help CSIS students, such as with membership on the CSIS Advisory Council (page 12) and with presentations and tours for CSIS students (page 11). I love hearing from you when you get promoted, change jobs, get married, have a new baby, etc. (page 15). There are several ways for friends and alums to stay in touch with each other and with CSIS (page 16).

With the help of CSIS alumni and friends like you, we are able to deliver our programs and provide graduates to fill the high-tech workforce needs in Greater Nebraska.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sherri Harms, CSIS Chair
harmssk@unk.edu
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT SHINES: CSIS STUDENT’S APP FEATURED IN NEW YORK TIMES

The text below is an excerpt from a January 17, 2013 press release from Hollman Media, LLC

On a typically cold afternoon in January of 2012, an email caught the attention of Hollman Media, LLC president, Travis Hollman. It was a short note sent to him by Allison Hatch at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

“A colleague of mine brought the recent article about your company in the Kearney Hub to my attention and I thought I would reach out to you and let you know about a program we have to help companies create and expand their internships programs,” she wrote.

“We were aggressively working to establish an innovative intern program with some of the faculty at the University of Nebraska Kearney,” recalled Hollman. “Our whole team is made up of UNK grads and I was hesitant to create more paperwork by working with a third party.” But Hollman decided to give InternNE a try.

“It’s encouraging to hear that companies like Hollman Media are willing to try out the InternNE program,” said Hatch. “The program provides financial assistance to companies creating new internships and then helps employers connect with students.”

Last March, Hollman Media recruited its first intern for the program: Ryan Levell, a UNK Computer Science major from Cozad.

“I thought [Levell] was smart and down-to-earth,” said Hollman. “So I offered him a temporary internship as a programmer. And I told [Hatch] that I would give the program a try, but I still wasn’t convinced it was going to lead to any permanent positions.”

Hollman turned his new programmer loose developing mobile apps for Android and Apple products. The first app Levell helped the company create for Apple products was called My StuffFinder, a GPS-enabled app designed to help users find commonly misplaced items such as keys, cars, and wallets. Levell said the company was simply trying to get an app published during the summer that they could use to show no more than a dozen potential clients what the company was capable of producing.

“We never planned on it being reviewed in The New York Times...or anywhere else,” said Levell.

But that was before 2013. The app was being installed roughly a hundred times a day before being featured in a January 3rd issue of The New York Times. In that article, gadgetwise.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/02/can-your-phone-find-your-car/, a Times tech writer picked My StuffFinder as one of her apps of choice for helping her parents find their car and other lost items. Overnight downloads for the free and paid versions of the app shot up to around a thousand installations and the app reached the #54 position in the competitive Lifestyle category in iTunes.

“That isn't even our highest-charting app,” said Levell. “The second app for iPhone I helped with is in the Top Fifty in the weather category.”

Hollman said, “[Levell's story] is reflective of what we originally hoped to accomplish through an intern program with UNK. I can't say enough great things about the InternNE program as well as the UNK faculty. The faculty side of UNK has always been extremely supportive of our company and our company's desire to keep its students in the Kearney area through new jobs in technology. But InternNE was the missing key we needed to get our program off to a good start.”

Note: Ryan graduated in December 2012 with a Computer Science Comprehensive major.

This story was also featured in an Omaha World Herald article: http://www.omaha.com/article/20130205/MONEY/702059981/1016.
CSIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS GROWING

Stahly Awarded First Buckle Excellence Scholarship

In 2012, Northwestern Energy began providing a $1000 per year scholarship for a junior or senior CSIS student at UNK. This scholarship will help support an upper-level CSIS student who has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

“The addition of the Northwestern Energy Scholarship for junior and senior students, CSIS now has a scholarship opportunity for CSIS students at all levels,” said Dr. Harms.

The first Northwestern Energy Scholarship was awarded to Spencer Knight, a CS senior from North Platte and the 2013-2014 scholarship went to Matt Zułkoski, an IT junior from Kearney.

CSIS Friends and Alumni Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Marilyn Jussel

CSIS friends and alumni created a scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Marilyn Jussel, a well respected CSIS emeritus professor who taught at UNK from 1977-2001.

In the 1980’s, Dr. Jussel worked under a grant with Apple Computers to help teachers learn to implement computers in their classrooms. She drove a school bus equipped with 15 computers, as she traveled to give workshops. In the 1990’s, she helped establish workshops for middle school girls to learn more about math and science.

The friends and alumni who established this fund recognize the impact that the CSIS programs and faculty like Dr. Jussel made on their lives. They encourage all CSIS friends and alumni to support this fund. The goal is to endow the scholarship so that it can be awarded annually.

The University of Nebraska Foundation has several options for giving to this fund, including outright gifts and recurring gifts. Many employers provide matching gifts as well. If each CSIS alumni & friend would contribute to this fund, it would really make a difference in providing adequate scholarships to deserving CSIS students. To make a tax deductible contribution, go to the University of Nebraska Foundation page at nufoundation.org and search for the CSIS Friends and Alumni Scholarship Fund.

CSIS Awarded Sean Stahly of Milford, Neb., the first Buckle Excellence Scholarship, a two year scholarship in the amount of $3,000 per year. As the recipient, Stahly will also have the opportunity to tour Buckle’s facilities and become acquainted with the company’s IT leadership through job shadowing opportunities.

Stahly graduated in 2013 from Milford High School, where he was captain of the quiz bowl team and member of the speech and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) teams, and was involved in One Act and Key Club.

The scholarship was announced in 2012 when a $150,000 permanent endowment was established at the University of Nebraska Foundation to provide annual scholarships for students interested in CSIS majors. The Buckle Excellence Scholarship is a result of an on-going valuable partnership between the Buckle and CSIS. This relationship has afforded many students the opportunity to have excellent internship experiences and has provided many graduates with rewarding and fulfilling careers.

Dennis Nelson, president of Buckle, said, “Buckle recognizes the importance of establishing a strong technical workforce in Nebraska. By supporting the CSIS program, Buckle hopes to encourage and support the growth of that workforce and the development of future IT professionals.”

Sean Stahly

CSIS friends and alumni created a scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Marilyn Jussel, a well respected CSIS emeritus professor who taught at UNK from 1977-2001.

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CSIS STUDENTS WIN MIDWEST REGIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Congratulations to the UNK CSIS Robotics Team of Travis Anderson, Tyler Neal, Naoki Ishikawa for winning the regional Midwest Instructional Computing Symposium (MICS) robotics competition in La Cross, WI on April 19th, 2013. University students from the seven-state area (Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois) competed at this event. The UNK team received $500 for their first place finish.

On April 4th, 2013 the CSIS 441 Artificial Intelligence students held their 11th annual local robotics competition, using the MICS robotics competition guidelines.

Three teams of students competed in this year’s local competition. The team of Josh Howard, Spencer Knight, and Daniel Russell (shown below) won the local competition.

The team of Derek McNeil, Josh Brummer and Daniel Houle (shown below) earned second place at the local competition.

The team of Travis Anderson, Tyler Neil and Naoki Ishiwaka received third place at the local competition, yet they were able to go on to win the regional MICS competition. Congratulations to all of these students!

In the competition, student teams designed, built and programmed robots to autonomously play a “capture the flag” game. On each attempt, a robot was allowed a maximum of 4 minutes to navigate the grid-maze world and attempt to capture the opponent robot’s flag and return home. Navigation of the grid-world was complicated by up to three obstacles that were placed within the grid-world. The robot that successfully achieved its mission in the shortest combined time was the winner.

In the implementation of their autonomous robots, student teams used advanced programming techniques and designed their robots to respond to various sensors, including compass, ultrasonic, tach, and light sensors. Students had to create the interplay between the physical design of their robot and the mental capacity they programmed into the robot in solving a problem.

The winning team consisted of Travis Anderson, a junior from Kearney, NE; Tyler Neal, a junior from Grand Island, NE; and Naoki Ishikawa, a sophomore from Saginomiya, Japan.
The CSIS Department selected Ryan Levell and Rachel Decker as the outstanding graduates for fall 2012 and selected Daniel Houle and Josh Brummer as outstanding graduates for spring 2013. This award is based on scholarly activities, academic achievement and service to the department, university and community.

RYAN LEVELL

Ryan graduated magna cum laude with a Computer Science Comprehensive Bachelor of Science degree. Ryan was one of our first mobile app development students. For his senior project, Ryan’s team developed a joisting Android app. Ryan was a research assistant for the Geography Department where he wrote software to estimate the evapotranspiration of satellite images and co-authored a 2011 Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Aeronautics, & Space Science presentation. Ryan also served as a math and computer science tutor.

RACHEL DECKER

Rachel graduated summa cum laude, as the first student to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology with an Emphasis in Web Development. Rachel represented UNK at the 2012 Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing and the 2010 Colorado Celebration of Women in Computing. Rachel is a member of Phi Eta Sigma - National Honors Society. She is a Girl Scout leader, and holds the International Software Testing Qualifications Board Foundation Level certification. For her senior project, Rachel’s team created an online inventory tracking/management site for the multiple store locations of Bruce furniture.

DANIEL HOULE

Daniel graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Computer Science and a Business Administration minor. Daniel displayed tremendous breadth and depth of creativity in his projects. Daniel has a passion for mobile app development. For his senior project, he created an Inflatable Defense game that can be downloaded from Google Play. In the game, the user attempts to stop artificial intelligence-enabled balls from floating across the screen. Daniel represented the CSIS Department at the 2013 Kearney-area First Lego League competition for middle school students, where he demonstrated his Rag Doll app. Daniel is now employed at First National Bank in Omaha.

JOSH BRUMMER

Josh graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree with double comprehensive majors in Computer Science and Mathematics. Josh represented the CSIS Department at the 2013 IT Breakfast for businesses and at the 2013 Kearney-area First Lego League competition for middle school students. Josh served as the Vice President of Recognition of the National Residence Hall Honorary; served in multiple roles for the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity; and held the position of President of his residence hall for two years. Josh completed a summer research experience at Kansas State University (KSU) where he designed and developed an application for running 5 separate tests on conduit strength for the USDA. In the fall, Josh will be attending KSU as a Master of Science student.
CSIS STUDENT RESEARCH AND TRAVEL

CSIS students presented at the Fall Student Research Symposium and at the NRIC Nanosciences Symposium in Lincoln, NE. Two CSIS students presented at the UNK Student Research Day (SRD).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Hastings and Tyler McConville with their poster at the NRIC Nanosciences Symposium


RESEARCH PROJECTS


Ben Versaw. (2013). Spring Undergraduate Research Fellow, Dr. John Hastings.


Daniel Russell. (2013) USDA Grant, Dr. John Hastings.

RMCWiC 2012

Dr. Harms and four CSIS students attended the Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing, (RMCWiC), in Fort Collins, CO. RMCWiC honors and supports women in the computer science field. The goal of RMCWiC is to encourage the career interests of local women in computing and provide female role models for women in computing.

Senior computer science major Rachel Decker of Kearney attended the conference for the second time. “I decided to attend the conference again this year because I made a lot of great connections and learned a lot of great tips the last time we went,” Decker said. “Also, it is really cool to see what different kinds of research students from other colleges are working on. I think it is important for women students to attend this conference because the speakers offer career tips as well as personal experiences they have had as a result of being a woman in computing.”
CSIS senior seminar students presented their projects on Wednesday, December 12th, 2012. All CSIS senior students are required to learn about professional ethics and to complete team projects. They also complete ethics presentations and papers.

Rachel Decker, Jackeline Galdamez-Zacarias, Sonya Harrel and Melissa Costello (shown above) created a consolidated online inventory tracking/management system for the multiple locations of Bruce Furniture. This system will allow Bruce Furniture to quickly check for items at all stores, and will provide an efficient way to track inventory.

Nathan Huebert (shown below) created a website for business information and as a contact mechanism for potential clients for his father's piano business, based in York, NE. Piano tuning requires the business owner to travel to the customers’ pianos. Being able to plan a travel route is important. Gathering information on potential clients along the travel route is extremely useful.

Austin Hendrickson, Stephen Hunter, Mustafa Hayir and David Hunter (shown above) created a proof of concept lab network using the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP). In this network, a lab machine pulls its image from the terminal server and runs in either a fat (more locally run apps) or thin (few locally run apps) depending on the capabilities of the local processor.

Jacob Beck, Ryan Levell, Josh Brummer and Scott Tallmage (shown above) created an Android mobile app game. The idea of their app is to cause the other players to make their device move outside of a threshold to the tune of music, and the last player standing wins. They considered their game a joisting–like game as the players have to try to avoid moving their own phone, while trying to get the other players to move their phone. They also demonstrated their game to the FLL middle school robotics competitors in January 2013.
On December 13, students in CSIS 440 Client-side Web Development presented their final JavaScript programs that demonstrated new APIs provided in HTML 5. Throughout the class they learned about several web technologies, including CSS, Ajax, DOM, JavaScript, and HTML 5. Because of the importance of HTML 5, students were required to pick a new API provided in HTML 5 and develop JavaScript programs that demonstrate the feature. Derek McNeil is shown below presenting his multimedia program.

The CSIS 440 students and their HTML 5 topics are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Derek McNeil</th>
<th>Multimedia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Decker</td>
<td>Drag and Drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Hernandez</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Galvin</td>
<td>Scalable vector graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Dieckhoff</td>
<td>Web storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Gray</td>
<td>App cache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustafa Hayir</td>
<td>Web worker script</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Skogg</td>
<td>Geo-location</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The CSIS 404 software engineering class completed many projects during the spring 2013 semester. Throughout the semester students learned key software engineering concepts that they then applied to a project of their choice. Kelsey Nuzum is shown below presenting her Astrology Android app.

The CSIS 404 students and their projects are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daniel Houle, Derek McNeil</th>
<th>UNK Book Exchange Website and Android app</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Knight</td>
<td>Machine Learning Front-End for Case-Based Reasoning Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Brummer</td>
<td>Bluetooth Android Multiplayer Joisting Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Anderson</td>
<td>99 Card Game Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naoki Ishikawa</td>
<td>Ball Android App</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Neal</td>
<td>Computer Recovery/Tracking Software System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Versaw</td>
<td>File/Project Explorer/Management Software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Nuzum</td>
<td>Astrology app</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kelsey Nuzum
The Artificial Intelligence (AI) students also completed independent projects. Daniel Houle is shown presenting his Inflatable Defense Android Game. Each student creatively designed their own project to demonstrate their understanding of AI algorithms, such as search algorithms, constraint satisfaction algorithms, machine learning algorithms, robotics, and genetic algorithms. They also were required to blog about their project throughout the semester. A complete list of students with their project titles and blog sites is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Blog Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josh Brummer</td>
<td>Simulation of Conway’s Game of Life with Two Species of Life</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~brummerjd/">cs.unk.edu/~brummerjd/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Houle</td>
<td>Inflatable Defense Android App</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~houledm/">cs.unk.edu/~houledm/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Russell</td>
<td>Autonomous Ant Colony Challenge</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~russellde/">cs.unk.edu/~russellde/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Neal</td>
<td>Sound-activated AIBO Dog</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~nealtg/">cs.unk.edu/~nealtg/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Anderson</td>
<td>Customized AI for 99 Card Game</td>
<td><a href="travisai/blog.wordpress.com/">travisai/blog.wordpress.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naoki Ishikawa</td>
<td>Game of Life Board Game Simulation</td>
<td><a href="hoho555.wordpress.com/">hoho555.wordpress.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Knight</td>
<td>Nearest Neighbor with Regression Wrapper for CBR Systems</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~knightsg/">cs.unk.edu/~knightsg/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Howard</td>
<td>LightCycles (Tron) Game</td>
<td><a href="cs.unk.edu/~howardjd/">cs.unk.edu/~howardjd/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek McNeil</td>
<td>Nth-degree of Separation between a Starting Actor/Actress and a Goal Actor/Actress</td>
<td><a href="http://192.81.216.180/">http://192.81.216.180/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) STUDENT PROJECTS**

**CSIS STUDENT INDEPENDENT PROJECTS AND PRACTICUUMS**

**Jeff Poling,** CSIS 495 Independent Project, MBA program information system. *Dr. Harms.*

**Rachel Decker,** (Fall 2012), CSIS 492 Practicum, 1 hr, Buckle Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Levell, Ryan,** (Fall 2012) CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Hollman Media, LLC, Kearney, NE.

**Sonya Harrell,** (Fall 2012) CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Hastings College, Kearney, NE.

**Tyler McConville,** (Fall 2012) CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Buckle Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Austin Hendrickson,** (Fall 2012), CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Valley Medical, Kearney, NE.

**Ben Hinrichsen,** (Spring 2013), CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Buckle Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Scott Tallmage,** (Spring 2013), CSIS 492 Practicum, 4 hrs, Xpanxion Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Noah Whitaker,** (Spring 2013), CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Xpanxion Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Tyler Neal,** (Summer 2013), CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Buckle Inc., Kearney, NE.

**Devin McIntyre,** (Summer 2013), CSIS 492 Practicum, 3 hrs, Allmand, Hastings, NE.
UNK OFFERS NEW ONLINE MSEd PROGRAM IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2012, UNK started offering a fully online MSEd in Instructional Technology with an emphasis in Information Technology. It is offered by the Department of Teacher Education in cooperation with the CSIS Department.

This program meets the Nebraska K-12 supplemental teaching endorsement for Information Technology (IT). It is a 36 credit hour Masters in Education program designed for K-12 teachers who teach IT or computer science courses or provide IT support to their school district.

It is also designed for business professionals who train or support end users or who provide and assist with technology-related professional development. CSIS courses in this master’s level program include IT Teaching Methods; Database Systems; System Administration; Computer Security; E-Commerce Information Systems; and Data Communication and Networking.

Students learn how to teach computer skills and how to use computational thinking skills along with critical thinking, when and how to use technology, and a little bit of programming. According to Dr. Harms, “They are learning to teach computers to kids. I believe that teaching the teachers is the best place to start to educate our young people about the technology skills needed for their future careers.”

The Kearney Hub reported on this new MSEd IT program in their August 15, 2012 issue.

More information on this program can be found online at http://www.unk.edu/academics/csis/IT_Education/.

UNK AND KANSAS STATE UNITE FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE GRAD STUDENTS

CSIS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kansas State University (KSU) Department of Computing and Information Science (CIS) that will speed up the admissions process for CSIS students entering the KSU master of science in computer science (MS-CS) or the master of software engineering in computer science (MSE-CS) programs.

Dr. Sherri Harms, UNK CSIS Chair, sees the agreement as an opportunity for both universities and for businesses in the region. “The MOU offers a high-quality graduate program for UNK students,” she said. “It provides KSU with regional students prepared for graduate-level research, and it provides the Midwest with computer science professionals who will likely stay in the Midwest.”

Dr. David Gustafson, professor and Graduate Program Director for the KSU CIS Department said, "We are very excited about the prospect of UNK graduates entering our graduate program in computing and information sciences."

UNK CSIS students with a 3.65 GPA or higher after their junior year will be eligible for the program. As part of the agreement, these students will not be required to take the Graduate Record Examination. In addition, once the students join a KSU-CIS graduate program, they will be reimbursed for the KSU application fee.

There is strong demand for computer science professionals in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of computer scientists is expected to grow by 19 percent through 2020. “For the past several years, we have had 100 percent placement for our students,” she said. This trend can be seen in the growth of the CSIS program at UNK. According to Dr. Harms, the number of students in CSIS classes has nearly doubled since 2007.

CSIS has a similar MOU with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Computer Science and Engineering Department. “Having two excellent graduate programs seeking CSIS students shows the quality of our programs,” Dr. Harms said.

The CSIS Department had numerous presentations during the 2012-2013 year. The first presentation was by CSIS alum, Michael Andrews, Intellicom, on August 28. Michael discussed web development and web security.

On September 26th, Paul Eurek and other Xpanxion LLC employees (included CSIS alum Lance Rall) spoke to CSIS faculty and students about global IT and Xpanxion’s business model.

CSIS hosted an Internet Security presentation, through the cooperation of the FBI on October 4th. Thomas Smith discussed computer security and how people can protect themselves online.

CSIS alum John Gorman (shown above), a Program Manager for Wide River TEC in Lincoln, NE presented Health Informatics and Electronic Medical Records on October 31, 2012. He discussed current practices and provided insights on where the health-care industry is moving.

On November 15th, Buckle Inc. hosted an open house for UNK technology students and staff to show off their new office. Students met many of Buckle’s IT professionals and learned about their program and facilities.

Don Seifried gave a presentation to CSIS students and faculty on March 27th, 2013. Don discussed the information systems that his company creates for corrections agencies, including systems for: investigation and intelligence; offender funds administrations; commissary operations; and secure inmate email. He described how his company creates custom solutions by using strategic partnerships with customers, vendors, and employees and a strong scoping process with subject matter experts to help ensure buy in and success of the applications. Don states, “We not only develop the applications but we maintain many of them ongoing as well. We ensure success by accurate data migration, infrastructure planning, and client training.”

Don also indicated that he is interested in hiring UNK students for summer internships and UNK alums for full-time employment in the Des Moines, IA area. For more information please contact Don at DonS@A-t-g.com.

**ACM ACTIVITIES**

ACM held its first meeting of the 2012-2013 year on October 3rd. They elected officers and discussed future meetings and activities. Officers for the year were Spencer Knight, president; Scott Tallmage, Vice President; and Nate Coleman, Treasurer.

ACM hosted a Internet gaming night on October 30th where students played the Left 4 Dead first-person shooter game. Jason Webb, CSIS alum and current MSEd student provided a demo of the 3D printer he uses for his research to the ACM students on February 19th.
The text below is summarized from a March 20, 2013 news release from Shawn Kaskie, Director, Center for Rural Research and Development, UNK, 308-865-8135 kaskiesc@unk.edu. They are particularly interested in having CSIS alumni participate in this project.

Professionals with Nebraska roots who have pursued careers elsewhere are the focus of a new initiative driven by the Center for Rural Research and Development at UNK.

Led by the UNK Center, resources at the University of Nebraska Alumni Association and the software company Xpanxion will be brought together to empower companies in Nebraska using a “rural sourcing” approach to reduce labor costs and take advantage of the largely untapped talent pool.

This project aims to expand on a successful “cross-sourcing” model used by an existing software company and leverage it to recruit University of Nebraska alumni back to rural Nebraska in targeted professional service occupations such as technology, legal, health care and other high-growth sectors.

“This project aims to reverse the rural brain drain in our region,” Kaskie said. “In the pilot phase, we will offer alumni a variety of options to return their families and expertise back to Nebraska.” Data collected from phase one will direct the communication and education strategies for participating alumni who will receive information on current job openings or assistance for starting or buying a business in rural areas.

“The project will allow Xpanxion to hire more Nebraska natives into software development and testing jobs,” Eurek said. He said he hopes to ultimately utilize Nebraska alumni resources to fill senior executive positions for Invest Nebraska’s current and future portfolio companies.

“We regularly hear from alumni who would like to move back to their home state if only the right jobs were available,” said Shelley Zaborowski, associate executive director of the Nebraska Alumni Association. “The Rural Sourcing project provides a channel for alumni to learn about such opportunities, and for many additional opportunities to be created.”

CSIS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVITES

The 2013-2013 Advisory Council members (in alphabetical order) are: Jim Allen, VP of IT, Berkley Technology Services, Des Moines, IA; Jeff Blackmon, President, Strategic Continuity Solutions, Olathe, KS; Pete Evans, Oracle Applications Developer for the Douglas-Omaha Technology Commission; Steve Goddard, Professor of Computer Science and Chair, Department of Computer Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE; Rob Harbols, Web System Development, Buckle, Inc., Kearney, NE; and Scott Weitzel, Senior Patent Attorney, Sheridan Ross, Denver, CO. Faculty members are Shahram Alavi and John Hastings. Student members are Devin McIntyre (IT) and Spencer Knight (CS). Dr. Harms serves as an ex-officio member.

The Council held phone conferences in July and November 2012 and met on March 8, 2013 for its annual meeting. At this meeting, the Council met with a representative from UNK Admission to discuss recruiting and a University of Nebraska Foundation representative to discuss scholarships. They met with Chancellor Kristensen, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Dr. Bicak and Dr. La Duke, Dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences to discuss the future direction of the CSIS Department. At lunch, area business representatives were available to discuss their needs and how that pertained to CSIS student internships and employment for graduates. After lunch, they met with CSIS students to discuss ideas for marketing and improving the curriculum. The council was glad to see CSIS enrollment increase for the fourth straight year. They also appreciated having feedback from the UNK administration, area business professionals and CSIS students.
CSIS FACULTY ACTIVITIES

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS


PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS


FUNDED GRANTS


SELECTED SERVICE

Harms, S. Editorial Board Member and reviewer, Int. Journal of Data Mining, Modeling and Management (IJDMMM) (2008-present).

Harms, S., Hastings, J. Members, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, UNK Chapter.

Harms, S. Editorial Review Board Member, 2012 IADIS International Applied Computing Conference.

Harms, S. Student Poster Judge, 2012 RMCWiC, Fort Collins, CO.


OTHER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CSIS faculty and students volunteered for the First Lego League (FLL) Kearney area middle-school robotics competition on January 12th, 2013. CSIS students Scott Tallmage and Josh Brummer presented their joisting app and Daniel Houle presented his stick person/dirty physics app.

In fall 2012, OTOL 116H was converted to a student lounge. It has a computer workstation, TV, and a small couch and chairs for students to relax or meet with other students.

CSIS hosted the first ever Buckle Scholars Day on February 20, 2013. The three finalists were Sean Stahly, Seward, NE, Ben Wagner, Columbus, NE, and Rachel Fedderson, Kearney, NE. “All three finalists have bright futures ahead of them,” said Dr. Harms, CSIS Chair. “I wish we could award this scholarship to each of them.”

The CSIS Department, together with the MIS and Telecommunications programs, once again sponsored an Information Technology Breakfast for students and businesses on the morning of the spring UNK Career Fair. More than twenty companies were in attendance. Companies represented included: Buckle Inc., ESU-10, Intellicom, Inc., NPPD, Sandhills Publishing, and Xpanxion. This event is always a great opportunity for students to seek internships and full-time employment.

CSIS hosted an end of the year ice cream social on April 30th. This allowed students to take a break from their studies and celebrate the end of the year.
2012-2013 CSIS GRADUATES

FALL 2012

Shown above are the graduates who attended the CSIS graduation reception for fall 2012. Below is the list of graduates for the fall 2012 semester. Included in the list are the names of the CSIS graduates, along with their major program of study and where they are currently employed. This is the first group of IT graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Program of Study</th>
<th>Employment/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Birbal</td>
<td>CIS, Orange County Public Schools, FL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Branstiter</td>
<td>IT, Xpanxion, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Decker</td>
<td>IT, Buckle, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonya Harrell</td>
<td>IT, Apple, Hastings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hunter</td>
<td>CIS, Cerner, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Hunter</td>
<td>CIS, Intellicom, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Levell</td>
<td>CS, Xpanxion, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Lopez</td>
<td>CS minor, Xpanxion, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Skogg</td>
<td>CIS minor, PwC, Dallas, TX</td>
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All of the 2012-2013 graduates had excellent employment or graduate school offers and are wonderful representatives of CSIS. The CSIS faculty and staff wish our new alums much success in their future endeavors!

SPRING 2013

Shown above are the graduating seniors, exchange students, and faculty who attended the spring 2013 CSIS graduation reception. Below is the list of graduates for the spring 2013 semester along with their major program of study and where they are currently employed (if known).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Program of Study</th>
<th>Employment/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Decker, Sonya Harrell, Antonio Lopez, Tyler Branstiter, and Ryan Levell</td>
<td>CIS, Orange County Public Schools, FL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Birbal</td>
<td>CIS, Orange County Public Schools, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Branstiter</td>
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<td>Stephen Hunter</td>
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<td>Antonio Lopez</td>
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<td>Ryan Skogg</td>
<td>CIS minor, PwC, Dallas, TX</td>
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Dr. Hastings, Mustafa Hayir, Nathan Huebert, Dony Dongig, Min Chul Lee, Mr. Alavi, Austin Hendrickson, Daniel Houle, Josh Brummer, Dr. Harms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Program of Study</th>
<th>Employment/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Beck</td>
<td>CS/Music, Seminary in Dallas, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Brummer</td>
<td>CS/Math, KSU grad school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mustafa Hayir</td>
<td>IT, International student who is still looking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Hendrickson</td>
<td>IT, Bosselman, Grand Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Houle</td>
<td>CS, First National Bank, Omaha</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Tallmage</td>
<td>CS, Xpanxion, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Person</td>
<td>CS minor, Xpanxion, Kearney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dony Dongig</td>
<td>CS Exchange Student, Continuing studies in Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Min Chul Lee</td>
<td>CS Exchange Student, Hansol Inticube, Seoul, Korea</td>
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</table>
ALUMNI NEWS

Amanda Adams (2005) is Vice President, Rural Services at Xpanxion, LLC, Kearney, NE.
Bob Brindamour (1994) was inducted into UNK Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012. He was a four-time All-American in cross country and track for the Lopers in the 1990s. He is a Software Engineer at Baldwin Hackett & Meeks, Inc., Omaha, NE.
Brett Chloupek (2005) accepted a job as Assistant Professor of Geography at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO.
Dan Conner (1990) is an Associate Systems Engineer at Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, NE.
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Brett Chloupek (2005) accepted a job as Assistant Professor of Geography at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO.

Dan Conner (1990) is an Associate Systems Engineer at Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, NE.
Shane Freeman (2008) is the Director of IT & Online Marketing at Travers Auto Group, St Louis, MO.
Jed Fong (2008) works for Northrop Grumman on Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE. He and his wife Carrie have three children.
Brian Harris (1993) is a Technical Specialist Software Systems Engineering at Great-West Financial, Denver, CO.
Eric Klaus (1997) is a Network Administrator at Toro Company - Exmark Division, Beatrice, NE.
Jamie Kramer (2003) is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Elearning Experts LLC, Kansas City, MO.
Vrushali Moghe (2004) is an Instructional Designer at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA.
Harry Ngondo (2007) completed his MS in MIS at UNO in December 2012. He is a software analyst at West Notifications Group, Omaha, NE.
Clark Schnase (1991) is the Manager - Data Warehouse and BI at Amazon, Seattle, WA.
Mary Vaughn (1978) authored the book The Gruntled Employee, which describes a holistic approach to business strategies for success. She is also president at Metargy, Inc. in Parker, CO.
Kevin Woolley (2003) is a Computer Client Field Analyst (CCFA) at Agile 1, in San Luis Obispo, CA.

CSIS 2013 FRIEND OF THE YEAR

Jeanne Chamberlin, retired CSIS Office Associate (shown with Dr. Harms) was awarded the 2013 CSIS Friend of the Year for her 22 years of dedicated service to the department. CSIS hosted a retirement reception for her in September 2012. Jeanne received this award at the 2013 spring CSIS graduation reception. We appreciate all she did for CSIS students, faculty, and alumni. She will be fondly remembered for her beautiful smile and her dedication to UNK.

Jeanne Chamberlin receiving her 2013 CSIS Friend of the Year Award from Dr. Harms

Have you changed jobs, married, increased your family or moved? We are interested in hearing about the events of your life. We appreciate being notified of any change of address and of email changes. Please complete the online form available at https://unk.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1NRkaheQoKrKDK5 with a password of “golopers”.

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Ways to Stay in Touch with CSIS

• Join the exclusive “UNK CSIS Alumni” LinkedIn Group
  Post discussions and job announcements. Connect with other CSIS alums. All members are verified CSIS alums.

• Give a presentation on-campus
  CSIS students need to hear from successful alumni. By sharing your story you can make a difference to current students.

• Hire CSIS interns or new employees
  Inform Dr. Harms of your hiring needs and she will post it on the CSIS job website and send an announcement to current students, and/or attend the Fall and/or Spring Career Fairs to meet our students face-to-face.

• Share your success story in an up-coming CSIS recruiting video
  Inform Dr. Harms if you are willing to be featured in this video of CSIS alums.

• Like the “UNK CSIS” Facebook group and check out the new CSIS website, cs.unk.edu/unkcsis

Ways to Support CSIS

• Provide scholarships through the CSIS Alumni & Friends Scholarship in Honor of Marilyn Jussel.
• Enable CSIS research projects through the CSIS Fund.
• See the University of Nebraska Foundation website for more information: nufoundation.org