ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2010

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to our alumni and friends,

I am glad it's time to present the newsletter again and I hope that you will enjoy it. Let me mention a few changes since the last newsletter. We have a new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Ron Yasbin brings with him a lot of energy and exciting ideas. Under his leadership, we have started working on projects aimed at further elevating the learning experiences of our students. Our department is working closely with the College in all of these initiatives. One of the projects is the "First Year Experience" program for new students, which we hope will help them get a good start with their academic careers.

Our faculty continues to be productive on the research front. The department will host the Show-Me Algebraic Geometry Symposium next month, organized by Prabhakar Rao and Adrian Clingher. Mathematicians from around the state and the country will attend this conference. Our faculty is also active in collaborating with researchers from around the world. We were happy to have visitors from China, Italy, and South Africa working in the department with some of us on research projects last year.
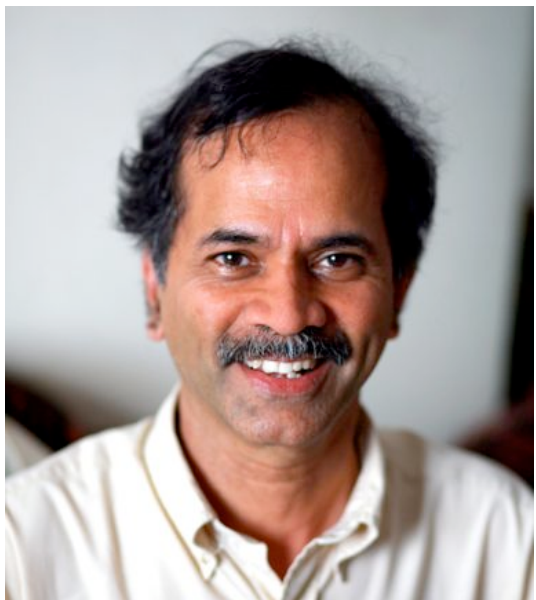
Community engagement is a part of the department's missions. The popular Spencer Lecture Series will continue this year with a topic in the field of computer science. Our partnership with Express Scripts has been fruitful. Thanks to these sponsorships from ESI, our computer science students have had opportunities to work on projects with real-work applications. We are eager to expand such collaborations with other organizations in the area to benefit both the community and the students.

Unfortunately, our budget constraints remain. The department will again have a reduced budget for the coming year. But our commitment to providing the best education to our students stays the same, and we are fortunate to have the valuable support from you, our alumni. Due to generous donations we were able to initiate a new Computer Science Scholarship, and have more funding for our existing need-based and meritorious scholarships. I would like to thank you for your generosity.

Finally, I would like to mention that Alumni Weekend at UMSL is April 16-17. I hope you will come back home to enjoy the interesting programs! Information is available on the Alumni Weekend Webpage:
http://www.umslalumni.org/s/260/index.aspx?sid=260&gid=1&pgid=517&cid=1289&ecid=1289&crid=0&calpgid=61&calcid=805

Haiyan Cai
Associate Professor and Chair

2010 SPENCER LECTURE
RAMA CHELLAPPA
"Recent Advances in Face Recognition"

The 13th annual Spencer Lecture will be held on Monday May 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in room 118 Social Sciences Building (SSB). Professor Rama Chellappa will discuss recently developed algorithms for pose and illumination invariant face recognition using still images. These algorithms are derived using generalized photometric stereo, albedo estimation using a non-stationary Wiener filter and pose-encoded spherical harmonics. Professor Chellappa will also discuss the video-based face recognition problem and present two algorithms, one based on the particle filter and the other based on statistical inference on manifolds. The talk will conclude with suggestions for future research directions in this area.

Professor Chellappa received his MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1978 and 1981, respectively. Since 1991, he has been a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and an Affiliate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park. Professor Chellappa is also the Director of the Center for Automation Research and a member of the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies. Over the past 29 years, he has published numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed journal and conference papers. He has co-authored and edited many books in MRFs, face and gait analysis, and image processing. His current research interests are in face and gait analysis, 3D modeling from video, surveillance and monitoring, hyper spectral processing, and computer vision technologies for the visually impaired.

FACULTY NEWS

John Antognoli has been enjoying his frequent trips to Albuquerque, New Mexico to spend time with his grandson. Also, despite having both hips replaced in 2006, John is still riding his bike "like the maniac that you know me to be!" In addition to all that, after 20 years of teaching only computer science courses, John is delighted to also be teaching mathematics courses for the department. John would love to hear from any of his former students or advisees, so send him an email at: jja@cs.umsl.edu

Haiyan Cai spent last summer with a few old friends at Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park in Utah. "We enjoyed breath-taking sceneries and rafted in the Colorado River. The most thrilling moment was when I jumped into the river and swam in the current." Haiyan also recently attended an IEEE conference in San Diego and presented a paper.

Uday Chakraborty has published a new book. *Computational Intelligence in Flow Shop and Job Shop Scheduling*, edited by Dr. Chakraborty, is available through publisher Springer-Verlag.

Qiang Dotzel developed an online course for Contemporary Mathematics in 2009 following the success of her online College Algebra, developed in 2006. Her online courses allow students to learn at their own pace and yet complete the course within one semester. To ease the impersonality of the online experience, Qiang creates discussion boards, holds chat room office hours, and even explains key points in a virtual classroom. "The convenience of online courses has attracted many learners and has made higher education accessible to many students who have odd work schedules."

Rich Friedlander has worked over the last year on a $1.5 million math–science grant that UMSL has with the Bayless School District. He conducted a week long summer workshop for the district's middle and secondary school mathematics teachers, as well as after school professional development workshops during the school year.

Don Gayou was promoted to Teaching Professor. In addition, based on an Innovation Grant he received in 2009, Don is continuing his investigation of animation and simulation tools to make Computer Science concepts accessible to less-technical audiences.

Ravindra Girivaru and his wife Sumithra welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Sia Surabi. Ravindra has also been invited to give a talk at the Algebraic Geometry satellite conference of the International Congress of Mathematicians to be held in Hyderabad, India in August.

Henry Kang was promoted to Associate Professor.

Martin Pelikan received the ACM SIGEVO GECCO Impact Award in 2009. This new award is given to the papers presented at past Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conferences (GECCO), which have had the most impact. The impact of a paper is measured by the number of citations and the influence on the field of evolutionary computation. GECCO is the largest conference in evolutionary computation and is organized by the ACM Special Interest Group on Evolutionary Computation (ACM SIGEVO). In 2009 the award was given to two papers presented at the first GECCO conference in 1999:
> * M. Pelikan, D. Goldberg, E. Cantu-Paz (1999). BOA: The Bayesian Optimization Algorithm; about 523 citations (Google Scholar).
> * S. Hofmeyer, S. Forrest (1999). Immunity by Design: An Artificial Immune System; about 249 citations (Google Scholar).

Shahla Peterman visited family and friends in Iran in December and was overwhelmed by the political state there.

Galina Piatnitskaia is currently on medical leave. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to her return this summer!

Michael Schulte attended his 40th high school reunion last summer in Denver, Colorado.

Jenny Shrensker and her husband Andy welcomed their first child, daughter Whitney. Jenny was also promoted to Assistant Teaching Professor.

Jenny and Whitney Shrensker

Al Stanger attended the Ninth Gathering for Gardner, held in Atlanta Georgia, in March. This bi-annual conference of mathematicians, puzzlers, game-players and magicians began as a tribute to Martin Gardner, Scientific American's legendary Mathematical Games columnist. Al was also promoted to Assistant Teaching Professor.

Al Stanger at the 2009 Welcome Back Picnic

SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2009, $21,000 was awarded to eight deserving students. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Mathematical Sciences Alumni Scholarship
Derayvia J. Grimes   Kyunghyun Kim
Xin Xi Lai   Shane R. Meyer
Jennifer A. Stefl

Andalafte Memorial Scholarship
Tori Lynn Pierce

Raymond and Thelma Balbes Scholarship
Emily Diane Langston

Joseph M. and Mary A. Vogl Scholarship
Joshua L. Ida

COMPETITIONS

The **Andalafte Mathematical Competition**, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was instituted in 2006 to inspire an attitude of scholarship and excellence in mathematics. The exam is accessible to students having a preparation of at least Calculus II. Three prizes are offered. The winners of the 2009 competition were Nathaniel Maichel (First Place), Steven Burkett (Second Place), and Alan Bauer and Scott Stephenson (tied for Third Place).

Each year, UMSL participates in the **Putnam Exam**. This challenging exam is given at all universities simultaneously and is in its 70th year. The top achievers are designated as Putnam Fellows and many of these have gone on to prominence in their fields. This year, the UMSL team was comprised of Charles McCauley, Tori Pierce and Jennifer Stefl.

The **AMC 10/12** is an annual exam sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society and offered to high school students. High achievers are invited to participate in the AIME exam. Based on those results, members of the U.S. Mathematics Olympiad Team are selected, which competes against teams from all over the world. Some of the high achievers on the AMC exam have since enrolled at UMSL as mathematics undergraduates.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS GRANTS UPDATE

In last year's Alumni Newsletter, Cezary Janikow wrote about the Express Scripts (ESI) grants awarded for projects developed in our CS courses. We would like to update you with our successes and continued work with ESI. You can view the original article in the 2009 Alumni Newsletter, available at:
http://www.cs.umsl.edu/alumni/Newsletters/

o Two projects were successfully completed during the Spring 2009 semester. The Release Scheduling Tool, executed in CS 5500 Software Engineering and taught by Uday Chakraborty, was accepted and royalties were paid. All of the students met the requirements and received prizes. This project built a database for allowing ESI to track and monitor allocation of employees to internal projects. Also successful was the Pharmacy Locator, executed in CS 5880 under Wenjie He. One team participated and their project was accepted. Both royalties and prizes were paid. The project evaluated different technologies for providing pharmacy mapping services for portal mobile devices.

o During the summer of 2009, Cezary Janikow completed a research project by himself. The project was to build a prototype for assessing cost savings in different shipping scenarios.

o During the Fall 2009 semester, the PAP Product and Program Data Access project was completed in CS 5010 under Wenjie He. This project was accepted and royalties were paid. All of the students met the requirements and received prizes. The project provided a GUI interface to an existing Oracle database.

o For the current Spring 2010 semester, a continuation of the Fall 2009 Pap and Program Data Access is being completed in CS 5880 under Wenjie He.

WELCOME BACK PICNIC

On August 29th the Alumni Committee sponsored the department's Welcome Back Picnic at Shaw Park in Clayton. We had a wonderful turnout on a beautiful summer day with a high of only 80°F.

Alumnus John Leighton grilled up a delicious offering of hamburgers, hot dogs and brats, which were enjoyed along side a feast of side dishes and desserts brought by attendees.

Alumnus Tomasz Mozolewski and his daughter

Later in the day, alumnus and faculty member Al Stanger wowed the crowd with his juggling of fire.

Mark your calendars! Our 2010 picnic will be held on Saturday, August 28th at Shaw Park. We hope to see you there!

Additional pictures from the picnic can be viewed at:
http://www.cs.umsl.edu/alumni/Picnic2009/

ANDALAFTE HIKE

The 2nd Annual Andalafte Hike was held on October 24, 2010 at Castlewood State Park in Ballwin. Alumni, students and faculty, along with family and friends, all came together on a beautiful fall morning. Once again, we hiked the River Scene Trail, a three mile trail which includes beautiful views from the bluffs of the Meramec River.

Richard Friedlander, Haiyan Cai and Sanjiv Bhatia

Mark your calendars! The 3rd Annual Andalafte Hike will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010.

Additional pictures from the 2009 hike can be viewed at:
http://www.cs.umsl.edu/alumni/Hike2009/

ALL IN THE FAMILY

John and Julie Leighton on the 2009 Andalafte Hike

Not only does alumnus John Leighton attend our hikes, he was also the "Grill Master" at our picnic in August. But John has given us even more, because he is also the proud father of two sons who are currently in our department!

John graduated with his BA in Mathematics in 1989. He works as the VP of Engineering at Appistry Inc., a firm specializing in platform software for integrating computers and solving large data and execution problems.

John and his wife Julie have become regulars on our Andalafte Hikes. John fondly remembers Ed Andalafte as one of his favorite professors. "Ed had a way with students that allowed the good students to excel and delve deep into the subject at hand. From his corner office in Clark Hall students could always count on Dr. A. to be there and be ready to help in any area of life."

John has four children. His oldest, Chris, graduated from UMSL with his BS in Computer Science in 2009 and started in our masters program this year. Chris also works for Thomson Reuters as a software engineer. Of his father, Chris says, "It was great growing up with someone who has a strong background in math. He could pretty much answer any question I had. It was his passion for math that lead me to a CS/Math degree."

But wait, there's more! John's other son, Sean, is *also* at UMSL! Sean is currently working on his BS in Mathematics and also works at Thomson Reuters as a software engineer.

Of course John is delighted to have his sons following in his footsteps. "Chris and Sean are both smart and hardworking. I am so proud of their accomplishments."

Chris Leighton on the 2009 Andalafte Hike

ALUMNI CHALLENGE

Class is back in session and we are giving away prizes! The first **three** alumni with the **correct** answer to the following challenge win a great prize! Email your answers to **ross@arch.cs.umsl.edu**

Each face of a cube is given a single narrow stripe, painted from the center of one edge to the center of its opposite edge. The choice of the edge pairing is made at random and independently for each face.

What is the probability that there is a continuous stripe encircling the cube?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Join the UMSL Math & CS Alumni Group:

http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52707278682

Stay up to date with department news and events and network with classmates, faculty, and staff!

JOHN ALESHUNAS - BATTER UP!

John Aleshunas can be described in many ways - as a 21-year US Army retiree, as an Associate Professor in the Department of Math & Computer Science at Webster University, as a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), and as an avid recreational road cyclist. But our favorite is this one: UMSL Department of Mathematics and Computer Science PhD student.

John began working on his PhD at UMSL in 2008. The department recently added a new computer science option for our Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Math. In February, John passed our first ever CS option qualifying exam.

And now back to those other descriptions...

After retiring from the Army, John eventually began teaching as an adjunct instructor at Webster in 1996 and then took a full-time position in 2001. He primarily teaches courses in data mining, computer security and cryptography, and systems analysis and development.

John is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and is also a member of their statistical analysis interest group. His current research looks at 10 years of play-by-play data to empirically analyze the outcomes for intentional walks compared to the outcomes based on probabilistic models.

And when he's not busy passing qualifying exams or teaching, John is also an avid recreational road cyclist, averaging 3500 miles per year. "The saddle time keeps me fit and sane," John says.

STEVEN BURKETT - FROM RACECARS TO GRAD SCHOOL

After a long time away, Steven Burkett returned to UMSL in 2008 to complete his BA in Mathematics and is currently working on his PhD in Applied Mathematics. Prior to retuning to school, Steven ran his own business building and maintaining racecars. He was also an amateur racer himself, having raced Mazda sports cars all over the Midwest. He won the Midwest division championship twice and competed in several national championship races. His best finish was 6th in class at the 2006 National Championship Runoffs, driving a Mazda RX-8.

For now, racing is on hold while Steven pursues his lifelong dream of earning his PhD and working in computer science research. Steven's interest is in applying algebraic geometry to problems in computer science. He has been particularly focused on the computation of Groebner Bases and their application to phylogenetics, which is the computation of evolutionary trees from aligned DNA sequence data. Steven's immediate research goal is to develop an improved version of the Buchberger algorithm for computing Groebner Bases that can run efficiently on large scale parallel computers. Longer term, Steven would like to see how tools from algebraic geometry can be applied to the study of evolutionary and genetic algorithms, as well as computational complexity theory.

TORI PIERCE – STAR STUDENT

Tori Pierce has had a busy academic career. She will graduate this year with a BS in Mathematics, along with minors in Computer Science, Chemistry and Philosophy, and a certificate from the Honors College. Tori was one of 12 students nationwide accepted into the Summer Math Institute at Cornell, which she attended last summer. She works on campus in the Math Technology Learning Center and the Math Lab. All this, plus she has landed a summer teaching job with UMSL's Bridge Program that came about from her Saturday volunteer work.

The Bridge Program offers area high school students opportunities that focus on academic achievement and college preparation, emphasizing math and science enrichment. Their Saturday Academy includes workshops on math, science and writing, as well as career development and college planning. Tori began volunteering for the program in October 2007, and by November, she was offered a job.

Tori really enjoys working with the students. "I try to integrate some of the students likes into the activities. They always ask 'Why do I need to know this? When will I ever use this?' I really enjoy showing them how math is a part of every day life and even a part of their favorite activities, like sports."

After graduating, Tori will continue working for the Bridge Program and then plans to attend graduate school.

The UMSL Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is proud to host the

SHOW-ME ALGEBRAIC GEOMETRY SYMPOSIUM

May 8-9, 2010

The 2010 conference is the second meeting of a series of annual workshops hosted in turn by the Mathematics Departments at University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-St. Louis and Washington University in St. Louis.

Speakers:
- Charles Doran (University of Alberta)
- Krishna Hanumanthu (University of Kansas)
- Jae-Hyouk Lee (KIAS)
- Yogesh More (University of Missouri-Columbia)
- Christian Schnell (University of Illinois-Chicago)
- Vasudevan Srinivas (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)

For more information please visit:
http://www.cs.umsl.edu/~smag-conf/

WE NEED YOUR GIFT!

If you would like to make a donation to the department please fill out this form and mail it to:

University of Missouri – St. Louis
Department of Mathematics & Computer Science
303 Computer Center Building (MC 61)
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

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Dr.Chakraborty

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Dr. Jiang

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Dr. Kang

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Dr. Marić

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Dr. Pelikan

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Dr. Zhao

ALUMNI NEWS

John Blodgett

John Blodgett
BA Mathematics, 1967
Current employment: Programmer/Analyst at OSEDA, U of Mo – Columbia
Favorite professor: Andalafte
Favorite thing about UMSL: The very small class sizes, esp the math classes, which led to lots of personal attention.
Other news: I have now been with OSEDA since 1998. From 1973 through 1998 I was director of the Urban Information Center at UMSL.

Thelma Balbes
BA Mathematics, 1968
Current employment: retired
Favorite professor: I'm attaching a photo of my favorite Math professor and me taken on the York, England city wall, summer 2009.

*Alumnus Thelma Balbes & her husband,
Emeritus Professor Ray Balbes*

Dennis McCarthy
BA Mathematics, 1968
Current employment: Retired meteorologist, National Weather Service
Favorite professor: Pat Cassens and Ed Andalafte
Favorite thing about UMSL: The "early days," of course, when the only building was the old country club building.
Other news: Maggie (McDevitt, 1969) and I moved back to the St. Louis area in 2007 after I retired from the National Weather Service. While we were living in Norman, Oklahoma, in the '90s and Kansas City in the early '00s, our two sons, Greg and Kevin, attended UMSL and both played on the soccer team.

Michael Rubin
BA Mathematics, 1968
Current employment: Consultant, IT Infrastructure
Favorite professor: Dr. Andalafte
Favorite thing about UMSL: Being a part of its nascent years.

Cheryl Goehler
BA Mathematics, 1970
Current employment: IT Auditor
Favorite professor: I apologize, but I forget his name. Shortly after teaching our class the professor emigrated to England to escape arrest.
Favorite thing about UMSL: My favorite thing about UMSL is that almost anyone, even those with physical challenges, especially those living in the St. Louis area, determined to obtain a degree from a university with qualified professors, are able to afford that education.

Robert E. Kiser
BA Mathematics, 1970
Current employment: Consultant & Customer Support & Development Programming for Xerox
Favorite Math/CS professor: Too long ago to remember
Favorite thing about UMSL: It was small enough to have PhD's as professors.

Terry J. Thomas
BA Mathematics, with area of concentration in Chemistry and Computer Science, 1971
Current employment: I am an Account Manager for an insurance company.
Favorite professor: I can't remember the names of my teachers (I'm really OLD)!
Other news: I have two children (Kevin and Meghan) enrolled at UMSL in the Business school. My older daughter graduated in 2003 with a BS in Early Childhood Education.

Bev Martin Dougherty
BS Mathematics, 1972
BA Philosophy, 1972
Current employment: Retired after 33 years of teaching high school and college math; still tutor high school math
Favorite professor: Alan Schwartz
Favorite thing about UMSL: Good memories, good friends, great education.
Other news: Will tutor for traveling money; going to Italy again later this year.

Ann Baker Podleski
BA Mathematics, 1977
Current employment: I got an undergraduate degree from UMSL in 1977 and have a MA and PhD from Washington University. I am an associate professor at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis and have been there for 20 years.
Favorite professor: My favorite professor from UMSL was Alan Schwartz (and his "sidekick" - Bill Connett). They both took a real interest in their students and I have continued that tradition with my students at Harris-Stowe.

Gary Moss
BS Applied Mathematics, 1978
Current employment: Private math and testprep tutor
Favorite professor: EZ Andalafte
Favorite thing about UMSL: Low cost

Marla Ozarowski
BS Applied Mathematics, 1979
Current employment: IT Executive
Favorite professor: Frank Bott
Favorite thing about UMSL: Computer Center Float Trips
Other news: What happened to the punch cards?

Pamela Hager
MA Mathematics, 1979
Current employment: Corporate Trainer and courseware developer. I work for Psychological Associates, Clayton, MO - develop leaders and sales professionals around the world. I teach leadership monthly on the Washington University Knight Center - it's a public seminar offered to business people around the world. I also do in-house training for clients. Most of my St. Louis work consists of courseware development.

Mark Volkmann
BS Computer Science, 1983
Current employment: Object Computing, Inc. software engineer / partner
Favorite professor: Dr. Connett

Mark Volkmann & his lovely family

Todd Kurlowski
BS Computer Science, 1985
Current employment: KDM Technology Consulting, Inc. / President, PeopleSoft Consultant
Favorite professor: Chal Benson
Favorite thing about UMSL: I felt the professors were truly concerned about the students and always willing to work with you.

Lee Shipman
BS Computer Science, 1986
Current employment: Software Developer
Favorite professor: Too long ago to remember
Favorite thing about UMSL: Close to where I lived

Donald Schnorbus
BA Mathematics, 1989
Current employment: Mathematics Teacher
Hazelwood Central High School
Favorite professor: Dr. McDaniel
Favorite thing about UMSL: Top quality education

Victor Wendl
BA Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude, 1989
Current employment: President, Wendl Financial Services, Inc.
Favorite thing about UMSL: Knowledge gained in my 4 years at UMSL was more than any 4 year period in my life.
Other news: setup the Wendl Foundation (www.wendlfoundation.org) to provide laptop computers to the inner city youth that are being homeschooled in St. Louis

Eric Lynn
BS Computer Science, minor in Philosophy, 1990
Current employment: CEO - DeltaPoint Solutions, LLC
Favorite professor: Dr. Andalafte

Jeff Cunningham
BS Computer Science, 1995
Current employment: Principal Software Engineer, Oracle Enterprise Repository
Favorite Math/CS professor: I had a bunch: E. Z. Andalafte, Sanjiv Bhatia, Pete Maher, Cezary Janikow, more
Favorite thing about UMSL: It forced me to learn Math... not just arithmetic. Availability of instructors.

Peter Chang

Peter Chang
BS Computer Science, 1995
Current employment: Self-Employed
Favorite professor: Sanjiv
Favorite thing about UMSL: The gym
Other news: www.maGreenUniverse.com

Daniel Stewart
BA Mathematics, 1996
Current employment: Transportation Engineering Technician

Jim Burton
BS Computer Science, minor in Mathematics, 1998
Current employment: Amdocs / Programmer
Favorite professor: E.Z. Andalafte
Favorite thing about UMSL: Computer Labs

Daniel Mottert
BS Computer Science, 1999
BS Mathematics, computational emphasis, 1999
Current employment: Software Developer
Favorite Math/CS professor: Michael Schulte
Favorite thing about UMSL: The Honors College

Yusuf Smith

Yusuf Smith
BS Computer Science, minor in Mathematics, 2000
Current employment: EWebCarpenters Websites / MicroBilt Corporation – Web Developer
Favorite thing about UMSL: UMSL is focused on education. Companies know that graduates of UMSL have a solid foundation in their profession.

Kathy Warner
BA Mathematics, 2000
Current employment: Warner Statistical Service, LLC/ Biostatistician
Favorite professor: Dr. Haiyan Cai
Favorite thing about UMSL: Great people and very convenient.
Other news: Thanks to Dr. Cai, I was motivated to continue my education and get my Master's in Mathematics with an emphasis in Statistics.

Wei Li
MS Computer Science, 2001
Current employment: Thomson Reuters
Favorite professor: Dr. He and Dr. Gayou
Favorite thing about UMSL: Dedicated instructors and quality education at affordable price.

Aaron Tenney
BS Computer Science, 2001
BS Applied Mathematics, 2001
BA Physics, 2001
Current employment: Software Engineer. J Craig Venter Institute.
Favorite professor: All of them
Favorite thing about UMSL: Everything
Other news: Finally defended my dissertation, got a real job and moved to the west coast!

Chan Fong
MS Computer Science, 2002
Current employment: Boeing - Software Engineer (BDS)
Favorite professor: All of them!
Favorite thing about UMSL: So close to my work...I guess location. Also, Masters Degree program was catering towards people that have a full time job and family and I think that was nice.
Other news: A father of a beautiful boy (Mason 3 yrs) and a beautiful girl (Madeline 1 yr). Education is one of the keys that make you survive in today's competitive world.

Nathan Causey
BS Computer Science, 2003
Current employment: Save-A-Lot/Software Engineer
Favorite professor: Ron Dotzel
Favorite thing about UMSL: The class sizes at UMSL were small which allowed one-on-one interaction with the professors.

William Triplett
BM Music Management, 1988
BS Computer Science, 2003
Current employment: Organist, Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church & Accompanist, Shriner Chanters
Favorite professor: Uday Chakraborty
Favorite thing about UMSL: Value for the money

Mina Guirguis
BS Computer Science, minor in Mathematics, 2004
Current employment: Accenture/Consultant
Favorite professor: Dr. Rao
Favorite thing about UMSL: Down to earth professors, great students, Millennium Center's comfy chairs, quiet rooms.

Mina Guirguis

Anthony Cooper
BS Computer Science, 2005
Current employment: Senior Programmer Certified Onsite Inc.
Favorite professor: Schulte
Favorite thing about UMSL: Most classes were available every semester, night or day.

William Hoffman
BA Mathematics, 2005
Current employment: Teaching Pre-Calculus for Dallas High School.

Xuelu Liu
MS Computer Science, 2005
Current employment: National Institutes of Health/ Bioinformatics Software Engineer
Favorite professor: Dr. Wenjie He
Favorite thing about UMSL: Campus & Library

Joe C. Rwema
BS Computer Science, minor in Mathematics, 2005
Current employment: Scottrade, Inc
Favorite professor: Mike Schulte because teaching goes with fun. I also loved Galina because she never left the class until she made sure students understand the subject of the day.
Favorite thing about UMSL: You don't have to break the bank to get a great education.

Hao Xu
MS Computer Science, 2006
Current employment: Senior Software Engineer

ChungYat Johnny Wen
MS Computer Science, 2003
MA Mathematics, 2007
Current employment: University of Rochester / Sr. programmer
Favorite professor: too many (Prof. Chui, He, Kang, Jiang, Galina, Gayou, etc.)
Favorite thing about UMSL: Having a great administrative staff like Kimberly and Deloris

Judah Baker
BS Computer Science, 2008
Current employment: Monsanto - IT Business Analyst
Favorite professor: Mike Schulte
Favorite thing about UMSL: The professors are always willing to spend the time needed to help you succeed.

Stephen Abrams
MS Computer Science, 2009
Current employment: Market Data Developer
Favorite professor: Uday Chakraborty
Favorite thing about UMSL: MSC
Other news: Baby: Maxwell Marvin Abrams - Born Dec. 31 2009