Dear CS alumni, friends, and colleagues:

I’m delighted to share with you that Dr. Rich Miner, managing partner of Google Ventures, received a Distinguished Alumni Award on April 19 at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center. Rich received his BS (1986), MS (1989), and ScD (1997) degrees from our department. He was recently named No.10 in the 50 most powerful people in Boston by bostonmagazine.com. Rich co-founded Android, Inc., developer of the Android mobile operating system, and was an executive on the Android team after its acquisition by Google. He also co-founded Wildfire, a voice communications startup that was sold to Orange. During the award ceremony Rich announced the establishment of a scholarship in honor of his advisor, Dr. Patrick Krolak.

Three new faculty members, Dr. Anne Mulhern, Dr. Anna Rumshisky and Dr. Kate Saenko, will join the department in the Fall 2012 semester. We are still searching to fill one non-tenure-track lecturer position. We will search to fill two tenure-track faculty positions next year.

Dr. Mulhern will be a non-tenure-track lecturer. She received her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2010. She had two years of teaching experience as a faculty member elsewhere before joining us.

Dr. Rumshisky will be a tenure-track assistant professor. She received her PhD in Computer Science from Brandeis in 2011 and she has been a postdoctoral researcher at MIT for a year. Her research area is natural language processing.

Dr. Saenko will also be a tenure-track assistant professor. She received her PhD in Computer Science from MIT in 2009 and she has for three years. Her research area is computer vision.

The Computer Science Department Industrial Advisory Board, established in late 2008, changed its leadership in April 2012. Eric Helliwell, CS ’88, the inaugural chair of the board, decided to step down after about four years of distinguished service. Bob Donald became the new chair and Tom Burke, Michael Opre and Jeff Brown became new members. CSIAB now consists of nine members from industry and five members from the CS faculty. Meeting twice a year, the CSIAB provides input to our CS degree curricula and helps to connect us to industry. More information of the CSIAB can be found at http://www.uml.edu/sciences/computer-science/CS-IAB-Faculty.html.

I am eager to hear from you about your achievements, thoughts, concerns, and suggestions on how to strengthen the UMass Lowell Computer Science Department for our students. I believe that a strong department will, in turn, help our alumni and make them feel proud of being graduates of our program. If you would like to offer financial support to the department or to a specific program in the department, please specify that on your donation form.

Yours sincerely,

Jie Wang, PhD
Chair and Professor
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**Professor Grinstein** and 18 of his students, staff and assorted family members volunteered at The Food Project in Beverly, MA, on April 7. It was a beautiful day with the goal of “engaging young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture.” The Food Project delivers produce through CSAs, farmer’s markets, and hunger relief organizations in the greater Boston Area. To learn more, visit [foodproject.org](http://foodproject.org).

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**Jie Wang**

Prof. Wang was named Project 111 Key Scholar by the Ministry of Higher Education of China in February 2012. He will work at the National Key Lab for Computer Networking at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications and direct research projects.

In March 2012, Prof. Wang visited Hong Kong University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as Director of China Partnerships at UMass Lowell. He also visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University (Shanghai), East China University of Science and Technology (Shanghai), Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Wuhan), and Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou). He discussed university-level collaborations and presented research talks on knowledge discovery from the Internet.

Prof. Wang represented the UMass system in the education group of the New England Advanced Cyber Security Center (ACSC) to investigate how to improve cyber security curricula to better meet the needs of industry and the US government.

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**Fred Martin and Holly Yanco**

Profs. Yanco and Martin organized Botball and Botfest once again at the Costello Gym. This year’s Botball competition theme was "Reef Renewal." The competing robots had to perform tasks such as gathering kelp, transferring fish to rings that represent fish farms, and keeping Botguy on their side of the arena. Twenty-two teams from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine participated. CS Alum (BS and MS) Brenden Keyes was one of the event’s judges. Botfest had over 15 groups participating in a robotics science fair.

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**Haim Levkowitz**

Prof. Levkowitz was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship by the U.S. Government for the second-time.

Prof. Levkowitz will spend the entire academic year in Brazil as a visiting professor at the University of São Paulo in São Carlos.


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**Tingjian Ge**

Prof. Ge received the prestigious NSF CAREER award in the amount of $474,111 (over five years). This grant is to support research entitled “MUSE: An Integrated Approach to Managing Uncertain Scientific Experimental Data.” The project aims to solve some major query processing challenges over increasingly data-intensive science domains.
The Robotics Lab had a strong showing at the 7th Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, held March 5-8, 2012, in Boston. Munjal Desai presented a paper entitled "Effects of Changing Reliability on Trust of Robot Systems," co-authored with Mikhail Medvedev (UML), Marynel Vázquez (Carnegie Mellon University, CMU), Sean McSheehy (UML), Sofia Gadea-Omelchenko (University of Pittsburgh), Christian Bruggeman (CMU), Aaron Steinfeld (CMU), and Holly Yanco (UML). The conference had a 25% acceptance rate for full papers.

This research is supported by a $200,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health under a Small Business Innovation Research Award. The results presented in this scientific publication show that these posts on Twitter closely match the number of flu-like cases reported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and can significantly enhance public health preparedness against influenza and other large-scale pandemics. To learn more, please visit http://www.cs.uml.edu/~hachreka/SNEFT/.

A research paper co-authored by Harshavardhan Achrekar, a PhD student under the supervision of Professor Benyuan Liu, "Twitter improves Seasonal Influenza Prediction," was been selected as the Best Student Paper at the Fifth International Conference on Health Informatics (HEALTHINF 2012) held February 2012 in Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal. Fewer than 9 percent of submitted manuscripts were accepted as full papers.

Zheng Li, a doctoral candidate advised by Prof. Tingjian Ge, received a Travel Award from the leading database conference, ACM SIGMOD 2012, held in Scottsdale, Arizona. A research paper was presented at the conference. Miss Jingwen Wang, an MS student supervised by Prof. Cindy Chen, also received a Travel Award to attend the conference.

Professor Grinstein is pleased to announce that 5 of his students have been awarded stipends through the Google Summer of Code global program. They are: Sanjay Anbalagan, Heather Byrne, Andy Dufilie, John Fallon, and Sebastin Kolman. As noted on the website, “Since its inception in 2005, the program has brought together over 6000 successful student participants and over 3000 mentors from over 100 countries worldwide, all for the love of code.” To learn more, visit http://www.google-melange.com/gsoc/homepage/google/gsoc2012.

Five UMass Lowell undergraduate students participated in the fourth annual New England Undergraduate Computer Science Symposium (NEUCS), held on April 21, 2012, at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. NEUCS is supported by the Empowering Leadership Alliance to celebrate outstanding undergraduate accomplishments in computer science. Members of the Engaging Computing Group at UMass Lowell presented three posters at the conference.

Graduating Students

Mary Beth Smrtic, a PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology, graduated this spring, 2012. She has been working for Prof. Georges Grinstein as a research associate for 4 years in the Institute for Visualization and Perception Research (IVPR).


Bo Yan, a doctoral candidate advised by Prof. Guanling Chen, defended his dissertation in May 2012. Bo's work has focused on automated methods to monitor and troubleshoot enterprise WiFi networks using distributed wireless sniffers. Bo will join MicroStrategy in the summer.
The Power of One—each and every individual gift makes a difference. Your ONE donation will allow professors to use cutting-edge educational technology in the classroom. Your ONE donation will enable a student to attend UMass Lowell with the help of a scholarship. Your ONE donation will support current and future UMass Lowell students.

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