



## Celebrating Jane's Remarkable Career

On May 7th, 2010, the Faculty hosted a reception and dinner to mark the retirement of Dr. Jane Fritz.

Dr. Fritz has had a distinguished career at the University of New Brunswick which began when she joined the School of Computer Science in 1980 (which later became the Faculty of Computer Science). During her 30 years at UNB, Dr. Fritz's service within the Faculty was remarkable and has included student advising, numerous committees and various administrative roles, including a term as Dean. However, it is perhaps her service to the wider university community that truly sets Dr. Jane Fritz apart from others. Throughout her career, she has served on a multitude of Senate and University committees and as a Don in Residence and Director of Shad Valley. In her role as the Associate Vice President Academic responsible for the Learning Environment she established the Centre for Enhanced Teaching and Learning and was instrumental in establishing the International Relations Office. She also provided leadership for accessibility initiatives on campus, the creation of the Human Rights Office and the development and adoption of the *Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities*.

Dr. Fritz has a B.Sc. in Mathematics from McGill University, a M.Sc.(CS) from UNB, and D.Phil. from the University of York in the UK. Her many contributions within her discipline have made her a valued faculty member. She has demonstrated passion for teaching, has been an active researcher and scholar, and has been involved in many national and regional associations related to IT education, professionalism and economic development.

She is well known as an excellent teacher and was recognized as such when she received the university-wide Allan P. Stuart Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989. In addition to the Stuart Award, she has been awarded the President's Medal for outstanding contributions over her career by the University of New Brunswick, the Knowledge Industry Special Recognition Award (KIRA), the Community IT Hero Award by ITAC (Information Technology Association of Canada), and the Gary Hadfield Professional Achievement Award from the Canadian Information Processing Society.

Dr. Fritz had a very full and productive 30-year career at UNB and retired at the end of June 2010. She currently serves as a director of the Boards of Service New Brunswick and NB Power.

Happy retirement, Jane!



## Dean's Message to New Students

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Computer Science and to the UNB community. Orientation and Graduation are the two most important days in our academic life when we get the

opportunity to celebrate our students' success. We celebrate today not only what you achieved so far, but what is to begin from today.

We also look forward to celebrating your graduation.

Computer Science at UNB was established 42 years ago in 1968. Since then our students, faculty, staff, and alumni have continued to contribute in significant ways to our reputation as a very strong faculty for the study of computing science. Currently, we have 3 undergraduate programs (Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Information Systems and Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering). Our coop program was established in 1982, which makes it possible for our students to earn an income and obtain practical experiences on the job. We also offer graduate programs, both Master's and PhD. Our programs are accredited by the Canadian Information Processing Society.

We at the Faculty of Computer Science pride ourselves on many things. We take pride in our history as the first faculty of computer science in Canada and the leader in Atlantic Canada since 1968 with the oldest and most successful coop program in Atlantic Canada. We take pride in our extraordinary students and in our graduates who have excelled and continue to excel in many different places across Canada and throughout the world. We take pride in our academic excellence, the relevance of our 3 undergraduate programs and our master's and PhD programs to the country and the region, and the high demand for our graduates regionally, nationally, and internationally. We take pride as well in our faculty and staff who are working hard to ensure the best quality education for our students.

Thank you for choosing our Faculty. You have decided to invest in us, and we take that very, very seriously. Hold us accountable to meeting your needs as you pursue your dream and we guide you to becoming a member of the IT profession.

Finally, the next few years will be a time of exciting challenges as well as academic and personal growth for you. We are here to help you overcome the challenges and obtain your degree.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ali A. Ghorbani

Please join us at the  
2010 Faculty of Computer Science Awards Ceremony  
Wednesday, November 3rd  
Contact: [hollyb@unb.ca](mailto:hollyb@unb.ca)

# Remembering Our Friend, Linda Sales

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Linda Sales on July 31, 2010.

Linda served as the Graduate Secretary for the Faculty of Computer Science for many years. During her time at UNB, she touched the lives of so many students and colleagues.

Linda's 23- year battle with cancer did not define who she was. Her quiet courage, strength, determination and characteristic subtle humor were admired by all who knew her. For many, she epitomized the skill of living one day at a time in the philosophy of the "glass half full".



In memory of Linda, our friend and long-time colleague, the Faculty of Computer Science created an outside patio area in the ITC Courtyard. The dedication ceremony was held on August 30th, 2010.

Linda will be greatly missed by many in the UNB Computer Science family.

# Looking Back

By Dr. Ali Ghorbani

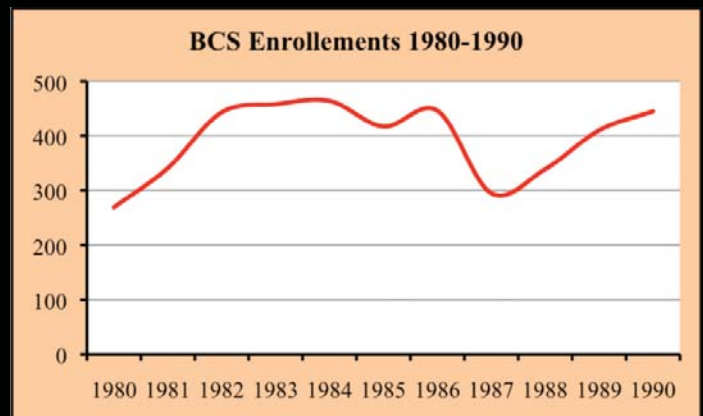
Special Series  
Part 5

In our last issue we mentioned that in the fall of 1988 a committee was struck to consider the matter of faculty status for the School of Computer Science. The committee presented their report to the President on October 11, 1989. In the report, the committee outlined the distinctiveness of Computer Science and its programs that set it apart from the Faculty of Engineering. They first stated that "Computer Science is concerned with the fundamental principles unifying the application of computers to diverse problems, as well as with the design and organization of computer hardware and software systems themselves", and then rightfully pointed out that the relationship of Computer Science to information is analogous to the relationship of pure Science to matter and energy; while Engineering, being an applied science, applies the results of computer science and the pure sciences.

The report listed 14 major points that separated the School of Computer Science from the Faculty of Engineering including the following:

- 1) The University has recognized the distinctiveness of Computer Science by establishing a School, rather than Department, of Computer Science.
- 2) Computer Science is the only academic unit within the Faculty of Engineering whose academic direction is not guided by the Engineering accreditation process.

The report also very carefully identified the benefits of a separate Faculty by addressing "how we would achieve our academic growth and development better as a separate Faculty". This included numerous statistics on the number of students and co-op placements, and the number of faculty members and their journal and conference publications. The report showed that the number of undergraduate students peaked in 1984-85 to 489 students and dropped off by about 20.4% to 388 students in 1988. However, it predicted that the decline in the number of students would halt in 1989-90 due to a very high demand for Computer Science graduates and co-op students. The following graph shows the number of BCS students from 1980 to 1990.



(To be continued in our next issue ...)

\* Source: Notes and documents from the Faculty of Computer Science Archive.

# Celebrating Our Students Outside the Classroom

Anthony Ilukwe (BSSWE student) delivered the 2nd place pitch at the fourth annual UNB Technology Innovation Pitch (TIP) Challenge on April 6th. His idea also earned him the Innovation Prize.

Mat Roscoe (BCS student) took home top honours in the Individual Speaker category at the 2010 UNB In-House Debate Tournament held on March 20th. This second annual tournament was hosted by the Ludlow Debate Club and the UNB Debate Union.

Also on March 20th, Paddy O'Brien (BCS student) placed third in the Recreational category at the Atlantic Regionals of "Tour de bloc" (a Canadian climbing competition tour).

James McManus (MCS student) won a gold medal in the plus 100kg weight class at the Judo Senior Nationals held in Jonquiere, Que. in May.

## 2010-2011 CSA Executive

Editor & Graphic Artist:  
Natalie Webber

Story ideas? Contact us:  
fcs@unb.ca - (506)453-4566

Elections were held in April for the 2010-2011 CSA President and Vice President positions. The following students were elected:

Co-Presidents:  
Ian Bishop & Mat Roscoe

Vice President External:  
Andrew Martel

Vice President Internal:  
David Ackerson

Vice President Finance:  
Marc Antoine Gosselin-Lavigne

Elections will be held in October to fill two additional positions: First Year Representative & Graduating Class President. Watch for announcements.

## Upcoming CSA Events:

- October 7th: Pancake Breakfast
- October 15th: Board/Card Game Get-Together
- October (date TBA): Pub Crawl (tentative)
- November (date TBA): LAN/Video Game Party
- November 18th: Pancake Breakfast
- November 19th: Board/Card Game Get-Together

For more information on these CSA events, check out:  
<http://www.facebook.com/UNBCSA>

## CS Happenings...

Kenneth Kent is the 2010 recipient of the Faculty of Computer Science Excellence in Teaching Award. The winner was announced at the Graduation Dinner on April 10th and a plaque will be presented to Professor Kent at our Awards Dinner in November.

In May, June & July, David Bremner and Ali Ghorbani collaborated on research projects with two visiting students through the MITACS Globalink program.

David Bremner organized a session at the Canadian Mathematical Society's summer meeting (which was held at UNB Fredericton June 4-6).

Brad Nickerson organized the Workshop on Optimal Data Structures for Efficient Organization and Retrieval of Massive Spatial Data, which was held at UNB Fredericton on June 10 & 11.

On July 1st, Patricia Evans was promoted to the rank of Professor.

Weichang Du is the new Director of the Advanced Computational Research Laboratory (ACRL).

Kenneth Kent took over the position of Director of the Information Technology Centre (ITC) on July 1st. The ITC's mission is provide a bridge between industry and academia in the Information and Communication Technology Industry.

On July 12-16, 28 participants (in grades 5-8) attended a "Computers & Technology" camp at UNB. This camp was organized by Rick Wightman through Worlds UNBound. Campers explored computers with "Alice", an application that makes it easy to tell your own stories using 3D animations.

Weichang Du also organized two summer gaming camps for middle and high school students. In July, he partnered with UNB Campus Recreation to offer a camp entitled "Virtual World Meets Real World in Sports", and in August he offered another camp entitled "Artificial Intelligence in Games & Robots".

In July, Andrew McAllister traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to present two papers at concurrent conferences that were part of the 2010 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Applied Computing.

Kenneth Kent is co-editing a special issue of "Software: Practices and Experiences". The special issue is based on the recent Rapid Systems Prototyping Symposium that was held in June. (Dr. Kent was also a steering committee member for the symposium.)

Gerhard Dueck and Kenneth Kent were successful in obtaining a Going Global grant valued at over \$11,000. This will cover 70% of two trips to Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRSU).

David Bremner is currently coordinating a \$93K MITACS internship cluster at Spielo.

Funding has also been secured for the emSYSCAN (Embedded Systems Canada) project. This is a 22-university project in which \$450K will be coming to UNB for equipment and research. Funding for this project is from: CFI, NBIF, BNB, and the UNB Faculties of Computer Science and Engineering.

Prof. Rodney Cooper is a faculty at large representative on the Steering Committee of the UNB Strategic Planning Initiative. The four themes of this initiative are: Building on Student Success; Building Better Research and Graduate Studies; Building a Better UNB; and Building a Better Province. Please see: <http://www.unb.ca/initiatives/strategicplan/>