

## An Evening of Celebration



On November 3, 2010, faculty, staff, students, parents, and special guests gathered at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton for our annual Faculty of Computer Science Awards Ceremony & Dinner.

Over the course of the evening, many students were recognized for their scholastic achievements and their involvement in extra-curricular activities. The total monetary amount for the various prizes and scholarships was \$267,425.00.

The first recipients of the recently-established Eldon and Maxine Claire Scholarships, (shown on the right), were among those who were honoured at this event.



## Dean's Message to Alumni: The up-and-down cycle of Computer Science enrollments at UNB

Since the inception of the computer science degree program at UNB over 42 years ago, we have seen two large peaks in our enrollments: one in 1989 and another in 2001. It is important to note that the up-and-down cycle of CS enrollments at UNB is not something new, but the current number of students enrolled in our 3 undergraduate programs is very alarming. The low enrollments in the most recent 7 years, coupled with the fact that the number of CS graduates in 2011 will be the lowest since the early 1980s, deserve our full attention. As we experience the worst decline in enrollment in the history of Computer Science at UNB, we rely on your help and support more than ever. We need your support to increase our enrollments, provide quality education for our students, and ensure that our graduates' experience remains exceptional, meaningful and relevant. The support of our 2500+ alumni worldwide will have tremendous impact on the depth and breath of our members' research and our Faculty's impact on the community as a whole. Your help and support are vital to our efforts to build our reputation for quality education and innovation, to extend our students' learning experience beyond the traditional classroom, and to secure a bright future for the Faculty of Computer Science at UNB.

I invite you to establish a UNB-CS Alumni Association in order to foster interaction between alumni and the Faculty of Computer Science. Its mission would be to nurture mutually beneficial relationships between the Faculty and its alumni and friends, and to promote and foster the welfare of the Faculty of Computer Science at UNB.

I thank you, on behalf of our students, faculty and staff for your support. I would be delighted to hear from you. Please call me at (506) 458-7265 or send me an email to [ghorbani@unb.ca](mailto:ghorbani@unb.ca).



Best wishes for 2011,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AGH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ali A. Ghorbani

# Getting to Know Our Staff: Dave Barr

In this issue of CS News Bytes, we'd like to take the opportunity to introduce you to one of our staff members, Dave Barr. Dave is a valued member of the Systems Support Division (SSD) of the Faculty of Computer Science. Many of you have probably interacted with Dave, as he often assists students, faculty and staff with technical issues. However, you may not be aware of many of the behind-the-scenes jobs that Dave tackles each day. For instance, Dave does a lot of web programming for our internal systems in Computer Science. One major project has been the online co-op system, which facilitates the exchange of information between students, employers, and our co-op office. This co-op system is now being used not only by our Faculty, but also by the Faculties of Engineering and Science at UNBF and the Faculty of Business at UNBSJ.

So where did Dave study and prepare for his current career? Well, here in CS at UNB of course! Dave started his BCS degree in the fall of 1998, after graduating from FHS. He left UNB for one year, 2000-2001, to attend Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma on a baseball scholarship. However, after one year away he returned to UNB, and he completed his BCS degree in December of 2003. Looking back now, Dave says that he really enjoyed the CS program and found it challenging.

While studying CS at UNB, Dave participated in our co-op program, and completed five work terms with various different employers. He had the opportunity to work in different cities, within various government departments and organizations, and he gained a great deal of experience. Dave found his co-op work terms to be truly enriching and rewarding.

Even after receiving his BCS degree, Dave has never stopped learning. His job with our Faculty presents him with new challenges every day, and Dave is always up to the task. He has also found time to take courses on a part-time basis, and completed UNB's Diploma in Technology Management and Entrepreneurship in 2010.

On a personal note, Dave is married to Laura Gullison, now Barr, and they just had their first child on August 19th, 2010. He also has a great love of baseball, and has been playing competitively for almost 20 years. Baseball has allowed Dave to travel all over the country and the world. He has played in Vancouver, Prince George, Brandon, Quebec City, Halifax, Kamloops, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Chinese Taipei. In the summer, look for Dave's name on the sports pages; he plays senior baseball for the Fredericton Royals in Marysville. The Royals are the 5-time defending provincial champions.



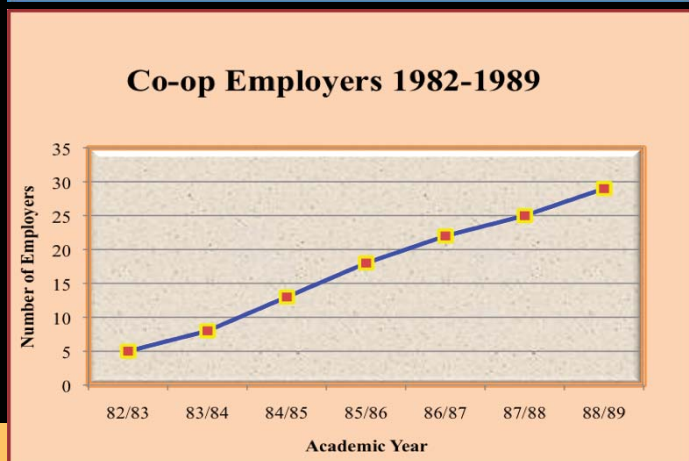
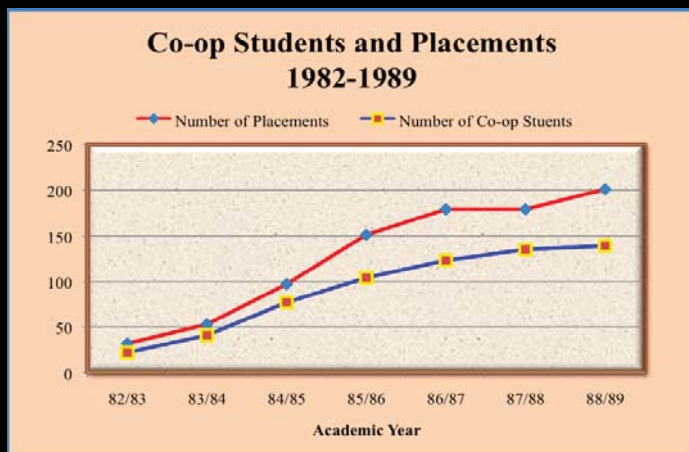
# Looking Back

By Dr. Ali Ghorbani

Special Series  
Part 6

In our last issue we listed the major points that separated the School of Computer Science from the Faculty of Engineering and provided numerous statistics in support of a separate Faculty.

In 1989, the School of Computer Science had a total of 21.66 FTE full-time faculty members and 7 support staff. The Co-op program has grown substantially since it became operational in May 1982. The Co-op statistics and its growth since that time are shown below.



In the proposal for establishing the Faculty of Computer Science at UNB and, more specifically, in the section on the co-op program, it is stated that while the supply of jobs (placements) was high, the program was experiencing difficulties due to the limited supply of students. This is exactly the same situation our co-op program is in today, in 2010. In recent years, there have been times when we have had twice as many jobs as co-op students.

In July 1988, Computer Science moved to Gillin Hall, except for eight offices and two laboratories, which remained in Head Hall. At the time, a total of 10,560 sq. ft. of space (3,540 sq. ft. of office space and 7,025 sq. ft. of laboratory and non-office space) was allocated to Computer Science. In the proposal of January 13, 1989 for a Faculty of Computer Science at UNB, it is noted that this space was 1524 sq. ft. (or 12.6%) less than the recommended amount in the report of 1984 on space allocation. This reduction in space is reported to have occurred during the planning stages for Gillin Hall so that the addition could be brought in on budget. The report also mentions that the School's research activities in 1989 were much larger than envisioned in the 1983/84 report and further expansion was expected which might require more space within five years.

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

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

## Special Scholarships for Students in our Faculty

The following new scholarships have recently been established to help support students in the Faculty of Computer Science:

### Dr. Jane Fritz Scholarship

Value: \$1,000

Number: 1

Duration: 1 year

Conditions: Awarded to a Fredericton campus student enrolled an undergraduate degree program in the Faculty of Computer Science. Selection is based on academic achievement and financial need. Where qualifications and need are similar, preference will be given to female students.

Donor: Family, friends, students and colleagues of former dean of Computer Science, Dr. Jane Fritz.

### Rodney Cooper Bursary in Computer Science

Value: \$1,000

Number: 1

Duration: 1 year

Conditions: Awarded on the basis of financial need to a Fredericton campus student who is a graduate of a New Brunswick high school and is beginning an undergraduate degree program. The recipient must not be eligible for any other UNB scholarship.

Donor: Prof. Rodney Cooper, former students of Prof. Cooper and the New Brunswick Universities Opportunity Fund.

If you wish to contribute to these scholarship funds, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our dean directly: (506) 458-7265 or ghorbani@unb.ca.

## UNB Welcomes Delegates



On Nov. 29, 2010, a special delegate group from the Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU), one of the top-10 universities in China, visited UNB's Faculty of Computer Science in Fredericton. This group was led by Prof. Zhong, Zhangdui, the Chief Scientist of the State Key Laboratory of Rail Traffic Control and Safety, and Prof. Tan, Zhenghui, ex-President of BJTU. We exchanged ideas and explored potential opportunities for student exchange, research collaboration, co-op education, and collaborative academic programs.

## More Points of Interest...

In 2010, Kenneth Kent was successful in securing an NSERC Engage grant for \$25K. This project is a collaboration with Global Technix Ltd. in Moncton and it involves the development of a room pressure controller for medical applications.

Wei Song co-chaired the Wireless Access Track of the IEEE 72nd Vehicular Technology Conference (VTC) in the fall of 2010 and is co-chairing the Wireless Symposium of IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM) in 2011. These are flagship conferences that bring together individuals from academia, government, and industry who are working in the fields of wireless, mobile, and vehicular technology.

In October, the UNB Programming Club hosted a local programming competition. Based on the results of this contest, two teams were formed to represent UNBF at the Atlantic Canadian contest. One of those teams, the UNB Reds, (composed of Ian Bishop, Ash Furrow and Angus Fletcher), went on to compete in the Northeast North America Regional Competition, which was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology on November 6th, 2010.

In October, two BCS students, Ash Furrow and Angus Fletcher, gave talks at the APICS Conference for Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science held in Halifax. Ash and Angus received awards for their presentations, placing first and second respectively.

On December 15th, 2010, representatives from our Faculty visited Bliss Carmen School. There were two hour-long CS Unplugged demos where middle-school students participated in hands-on activities designed to introduce computing concepts such as encryption, sorting, parity, and binary representation of numbers and letters.

Alex Bochem successfully defended his MCS thesis in December. He is the first student to complete the dual degree Masters program. In this program, students receive a degree from UNB as well as a degree from our partner institution, Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, in Germany.

Wei Song's joint application with researchers from the University of Waterloo for an NSERC Strategic Grant has been approved. With this grant, they will conduct research on cooperative communications for heterogeneous wireless networks.

In February, the UNB Programming Club organized a fun Valentine-themed programming contest. The winners, by year, were: Kitiya Srisukvatananan (first year), David Ackerson (second year), Josh Comer (third year), and Jason Brown (fourth year).

In recent months, the UNB Information Technology Centre has been sponsoring and hosting regular meetings of two local user groups: one for Java and one for .Net (<http://frederictonug.net/>). For more information, contact: [itc@unb.ca](mailto:itc@unb.ca)

Editor & Graphic Artist:  
Natalie Webber

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