The BCS Newsletter
Fall 2011

Editors: Dr. Sheryl Schoenacher and Dr. Marie Pullan

ROBOTS ENHANCE FRESHMAN
PROGRAMMING COURSE

Thanks to the work of Dr. Marie Pullan of the Computer Systems Department, students in BCS 101 will be using their introductory programming skills to build and program LEGO robots. Dr. Pullan applied for and was awarded a Students First Grant that assisted her in purchasing the materials to redevelop her introductory logic course. Students in this class first build the robots that include numerous parts. Once the robots are assembled, students use the NXT-G programming language to program the robots incorporating concepts that they are learning in class. This is an excellent example of how concepts can be translated to a “real world” environment. Dr. Pullan will be presenting her achievements at the Faculty Resource Network Conference (FRN) in Puerto Rico in November 2011. Congratulations to Dr. Pullan and her BCS 101 class!

Senior Project Class Explores New Territory

The Computer Systems Department Senior Project students work feverishly to complete their challenging projects in only 3 months. This semester, projects include work with Android and other mobile applications as well as the development of websites to assist students in job searching. In addition, one team is building a computer game that can be used by the Computer Tech Club and the Anime and Game Club. The Department is proud of its senior project students and congratulates each of these “wise owls” who have worked so hard to get to this point in their education.

Spotlight on Computer Systems Graduates

In this edition of the Computer Systems Department Newsletter, we are highlighting the accomplishments of several of our graduates. This semester we had one of the largest graduating classes ever. It was difficult to highlight just a few. If you wish to be included in our next edition of the Newsletter, please contact Dr. Sheryl Schoenacher in Whitman 212 or via email.

Fall 2011 Advisement and Registration

Fall Advising has begun. Make an appointment to meet with a faculty advisor at your earliest convenience.
Danielle Miga

Daniel Miga graduated in May 2011 in the Web Track. She is very excited about starting her new job in September as a front-end developer for the The Barbarian Group in Manhattan. “It pays extremely well and I can honestly say it is my dream job.” She states, “The CS Department at Farmingdale definitely helped prepare me for creating and coding in a professional environment which means doing it with deadlines! Most of the actual programming classes (specifically for web) gave me the skills and knowledge to write code efficiently. I wouldn’t have felt so sure of myself going into a big job like this if it wasn’t for my degree from Farmingdale. In fact, I probably wouldn’t have even landed the job!”

Shaheen Khan

It is with great pride that the Computer Systems Department congratulates Shaheen Khan—Farmingdale State College’s 2011 Valedictorian. Graduating with a dual degree in Computer Programming and Information Systems as well as Business Management, Shaheen represents the fourth graduating student from the Computer Systems Department in the past 8 years to earn the high distinction of Valedictorian. She earned a 4.0 grade point average.

Nick Basis

Nicholas Basis is a December 2010 Web Track graduate. He landed his job at LF O’Connell in Islip, New York, as a web developer in March 2011. Nicholas plans to continue his education by attaining a Master’s degree. He expressed his appreciation to the faculty and staff in the Computer Systems Department. He stated, “Farmingdale State College gave me an education in the most important part of the field of computer programming, the basics. Using these basics, I was able to gather the skills that got me my job as a Web Developer almost right after graduation. I was able to get a good feel for what each programming language can do and began to get the idea of how all of them can be used in conjunction to create a strong and well-developed website. Each language was taught in depth by skilled professors with the skills to get me ready for the real world.”

Taylor Brown

Congratulations to Taylor Brown who will be graduating with his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Programming and Information Systems in December 2010. Taylor is a Web Track student who landed a wonderful job as a Production Programmer at MBS Insight, Inc., located in Melville, New York. His job entails using ETL integration tools to load data to an Oracle database. He began working at the firm January 3, 2007, and plans to continue working here after graduation. He feels Farmingdale State College has helped him excel in his current job. The firm has given him more responsibility because of the classes he has taken at the College.

Ann Marie Hassan

Graduating this December, AnnMarie Hassan is proud to tell you that she just landed a job at PricePricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Manhattan as an IT Specialist/Coordinator. She begins her new job on November 7th, 2011. She was a Systems Track student who values her education at Farmingdale. She states, “I value the education and experience gained from the Computer Systems Department at Farmingdale State College. Whether it is a professor or counselor, there is always a helping hand and support. From the very first day at orientation, I remember being so overwhelmed by stories and wondering how I would get through these four years. Now, I proudly can say I have done it! On graduation day, I will proudly be able to walk that stage in honor.”

Articles and information to be included in this newsletter can be sent to: Dr. Schoenacher at Sheryl.schoenacher@farmingdale.edu or Dr. Pullan at pullanm@farmingdale.edu. We welcome participation from students, faculty and staff!