



# GΣΣK 2 GΣΣK



Volume 1 Issue 2

August 2008



### CIS Program Faculty

- Dr. Joseph Szakas  
Coordinator  
- 207.621.3181  
E-mail: szakas@maine.edu
- Professor Peter Dionne  
- 207.621.3250  
E-mail: rau355@maine.edu
- Professor Diana Kokoska  
- 207.262.7864  
E-mail: dkokoska@maine.edu

### Individual Highlights:

<i>E-Commerce Students Strut Their Stuff</i>	2
<i>Fourth of July Parade</i>	2
<i>UMA Enrollment Mini Grants</i>	2
<i>Dancing with the Bear</i>	3
<i>Information Technology Internships</i>	3
<i>Results of the CIS Graduate Survey</i>	4

## DR. JOSEPH SZAKAS ON LEAVE FOR THE FALL SEMESTER



**Professor Szakas**

Dr. Joseph Szakas, professor and coordinator of the CIS program will be on leave in Washington D.C. for the fall semester.

Dr. Szakas' wife, who is in the Air Force Reserves, has been activated, and Joe and the family will accompany her on her assignment.

He will continue to be in e-mail contact over the fall semester.

Mark Goodridge, a former UMA graduate and master's recipient of Thomas College, will be teaching the CIS214 Java class in his absence.



Greg Jolda will be teaching the CIS101 and the CIS350 classes. Many of you already know Mr. Jolda as he has been teaching the CIS351 Oracle class for the CIS program for several semesters.

Mr. Jolda is also an adjunct instructor at USM and has previously taught at West Point.

## ARE YOU A NET GEN'ER?

Have you ....?

- established an account on a social networking site (Facebook or MySpace)
- authored an e-portfolio (social or academic)
- downloaded music from iTunes
- communicated using a wiki or a blog
- submitted a video to YouTube
- subscribed to an RSS feed
- presented material via a podcast
- received a school cancellation via text messaging



## Σ-COMMERCE STUDENTS STRUT THEIR STUFF

### E-Commerce *Best in Show*



#### Best in Show

Debra Bourgoïn, Venessa Fredette, Christian Zinck, and Yuliya Violette (missing from the photo)

Student teams in the summer course offering in CIS438 Electronic Commerce spent the semester designing and developing an e-commerce site for a pseudo or real business.

Throughout the semester, students learned about e-commerce theory as they researched business topics and presented critiques on selected e-commerce topics.

Using a PHP-powered template, students installed

community contributions that added functionality to the basic product catalog and shopping cart.

The depth and breadth of the project demonstrated the need for diverse skill sets and required extensive resource sharing.

A professional technology panel consisting of Dean Tom Abbott, Coordinator Jodi Williams, and Web designer, Deedee Reardon, reviewed the completed projects as they

were presented by the groups and awarded “Best in Show” to an artist gallery site.

A body scrub site designed by Dave Pearson, John Harris, Jason Violette, and Karen Paul was selected as the most well presented project.

Other sites included wood carving and photography.

Certificates were awarded during our class pizza party.

*“After taking this class, I know that I want to pursue a career in Web design.”*

Debra Bourgoïn



## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The CIS program at the Bangor campus was well represented at the annual Fourth of July parade festivities.

Instructor Diana Kokoska and Post-Bach Student, Diana Lavoie (a.k.a Diana, Too) served on the Parade Committee that designed and created the tribute to America’s veterans – a depiction of the War of 1812

and the penning of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key.

CIS Student, David Pearson and his family manned one of the battle cannons that shot promotional t-shirts into the crowd along the parade route.

Diana Lavoie and Diana Kokoska handed out flags, brochures, and bookmarks to the parade viewers.



David and Liz introducing the UCB parade entry

## UMA ENROLLMENT MINI GRANTS AVAILABLE

(Printed by permission of the Symposium Committee)

President Hughes Handley has budgeted \$45,000 to support projects designed to increase student enrollment through recruitment of new students and/or improved retention of enrolled students.

Funds have been distributed (\$15,000 each) to support projects in

### Partnerships, Electronic/Virtual Outreach, and Career Development.

Students are encouraged to team up with a faculty or staff sponsor to apply for a mini grant to support an activity in one of the three areas.

Applications and more detailed information are available at

<http://www.uma.edu/emgaform.html>

Applications are due by the end of September. Review of applications will be completed in October with funds immediately dispersed to successful projects.





## DANCING WITH THE BEAR



Dean Dexter, Professor Fahey, Professor Kokoska, Dean Abbott, and Director Legore

*“When you dance with the bear,  
you don’t decide when to stop.”*

Instructor Kokoska was part of a UMA technology team selected to attend a conference on *Students, Technology and Learning: Strategies for Success* at the University of Central Florida.

The conference, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and Educause, assembled presidential teams from around the country to discuss the intelligent use of information technology in higher education.

Speakers focused on Web 2.0 technologies, a Web trend that encourages user participation,

interaction, and collaboration, to advance academic goals through the sharing of technology resources.

The team’s charge is to determine the role of Web 2.0 technologies (such as social networking, virtual communities, blogs, and wikis) in socially and academically engaging students.

The team has created a blog at <http://www.uma.wikispaces.com> to poll students and faculty about ways to implement these technologies at the University of Maine at Augusta.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIPS

Over the summer semester, several CIS students have been applying their information technology skills in diverse internship opportunities:

### Karen Paul

CIS graduating student, Karen Paul, completed her requirements for a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Information Systems as she enjoyed a challenging internship experience re-energizing the Web presence of a Maine construction firm, Ganneston Corp.

Karen integrated a variety of scripting languages to author an interactive Web site that contains both a viewer and administrative interface.

According to her Faculty Mentor, Diana Kokoska, “Karen totally impressed me with her ability to integrate xhtml, css, javascript, xml, and php to create a Web site that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing.”

After completing the site, Karen noted that PHP has now become the favorite weapon in her Web arsenal.

### CIS380 and CIS480

All students in the Bachelor of Science in CIS program must participate in an internship experience as part of the academic curriculum.

The University has established partnerships with many State agencies and non-profit organizations to create internship opportunities that are mutually beneficial. Although the CIS program faculty will pass along internship opportunities, it is the student’s responsibility to locate and secure an internship position that provides a real-life experience in the information technology area.

All students are encouraged to author an e-portfolio to facilitate the internship interviewing process and prepare for future employment opportunities.

### Alaina Wagner

Alaina Wagner was selected to participate in the Margaret Chase Smith Maine State Government Internship program for the summer 2008.

Alaina was assigned to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner’s Office as a Computer Programmer. Her task was to establish a reporting system for a complex database in which all DEP enforcement data is recorded.

Upon completion of the required 300 hours over the course of the summer, she completed both a CIS380 and CIS480 internship experience.

As a tribute to her successful internship experience, Alaina has been offered a contract to continue working for a limited time with the DEP.



Computer Information Systems

Augusta/Bangor

E-mail: dkkoska@maine.edu

Attention *GEESKS, GEEZERS, or GEEEXORS...*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please submit articles for our next newsletter -- student highlights, tech news, upcoming seminars, and success stories – we want them all!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at

<https://cis.uma.edu>

RESULTS OF CIS GRADUATE SURVEY

Each May, the CIS program polls graduating seniors about topics relating to advising, faculty/student interaction, academic rigor, and the internship experience. The figure below compares the 2007 and 2008 responses:

Computer Information Systems Graduate Feedback Form Comparison 2007 - 2008							
Question #	Exceeds Expectations		Meets Expectations		2007 Rating Average	2008 Rating Average	+/- Difference
	Below Expectations	1	2	3			
1					1.83	1.4	0.43
2					1.75	1.5	0.25
3					2.17	1.44	0.73
4					2.17	1.56	0.61
5					2.08	1.44	0.64
6					2.08	1.44	0.64
7					2.58	2	0.58
8					3.08	2.11	0.97
9					2.27	1.89	0.38
10					2.45	1.78	0.67
11					2.09	1.56	0.53
12					2.2	1.67	0.53
13					2.55	1.8	0.75
14					2.45	2	0.45
15*					2.64	2.78	-0.14
16**					1.09	1.11	-0.02
17*					2.36	2.44	-0.08
18**					1.09	1.22	-0.13
19*					2.45	2.56	-0.11
20**					1.09	1.22	-0.13
21					2.18	1.56	0.62
22					2.45	1.78	0.67
23					2.45	2.22	0.23
24					2.45	2.11	0.34
25					2.2	2.11	0.09
26					2.6	2.11	0.49
27					2.8	1.89	0.91
	0	1-3	4-9	10+			
		Yes	No				

Place Stamp Here



STUDENT NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP