

# **GΣΣΚ 2 GΣΣΚ**

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FΩR THE FALL SEMESTER

Volume 1

Issue 2

August 2008



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## Professor Szakas

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

Have you ....?

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.

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# ΑΡΣ ΨΘΙΙΑ ΝΣΤ GΣΝ'ΣΡ?

☐ 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



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# Σ-CΘΜΜΣΒΟΣ STUDΣΝΤS

## STRUT THEIR STUFF

#### E-Commerce Best in Show



**Best in Show** 

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

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

Debra Bourgoin



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.

# 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 ΞΝRΘLLΜΣΝΤ ΜΙΠΙ GRANTS AVAILABLΣ

(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.



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## 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 <a href="http://www.uma.wikispaces.com">http://www.uma.wikispaces.com</a> to poll students and faculty about ways to implement these technologies at the University of Maine at Augusta.

#### ΙΝΓΘΡΜΛΤΙΘΝ ΤΣCHNΘLΘGΨ ΙΝΤΣRNSHIPS

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 reenergizing 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.

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# Computer Information Systems

Augusta/Bangor

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Attention  $G\Sigma\Sigma KS$ ,  $G\Sigma\Sigma Z\Sigma RS$ , or  $G\Sigma\Sigma X\Theta RS...$ 

\*\*\*\*

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:

Question #	Computer Information Systems Graduate Feedback Form Comparison 2007 - 2008			
	Exceeds Expectations Meets Expectations Below Expectations 1 2 3	2007 Rating Average	2008 Rating Average	+/- Difference
8	1 My academic advisor was knowledgeable about the requirements needed to complete my degree.	1.83	1.4	0.43
2	My academic advisor was available during regularly scheduled office hours or by appointment to register for			
	classes and/or discuss my academic progress.	1.75	1.5	0.25
- 3	The faculty members were knowledgeable in the subject matter in which they were instructed.	2.17	1.44	0.73
	The faculty members kept up to date with emerging technologies and presented relevant information			
	technology theory and applied skill sets.	2.17	1.56	0.61
	The faculty members were concerned about the student's learning and development.	2.08	1.44	0.64
6	There were adequate opportunities for the students to interact with faculty on an informal basis.	2.08	1.44	0.64
7	Required courses are offered in a sequence that allowed me to complete my degree within a reasonable timeframe.	2.58	2	0.58
8	Sufficient elective courses are available in my major.	3.08	2.11	0.97
\$	The core courses in the major provided the necessary breadth of knowledge and experience to prepare me f subsequent CIS electives.	or 2.27	1.89	0.38
10	I can design and implement software solutions in multiple programming languages for a variety of complex problems.	2.45	1.78	0.67
1	1 I can completely document programs I have coded or which I participated in coding.	2.09	1.56	0.53
12	I have a sound foundation in the theoretical bases of computer information systems.	2.2	1.67	0.53
13	3 I have a solid foundation in the mathematical bases of computer information systems.	2.55	1.8	0.75
14	The knowledge and skills applied in the hands-on applications complement the acquired theory and			
	mathematical skillsets	2.45		
15 *	How many papers did you write for courses in your major?	2.64	2.78	-0.14
16 **	Do you feel this number of papers was adequate for your major?	1.09	1.11	-0.02
17.	How many oral presentations did you give for courses in your major	2.36	2.44	-0.08
18 **	Do you feel this number of presentations was sufficient for your major?	1.09	1.22	-0.13
19 "	How many group projects did you participate in for your major?	2.45	2.56	-0.11
20 **	Do you feel this number of group projects was sufficient for your major?	1.09		V-MARK
	1 The software required to complete my CIS lab assignments was available in the IT lab.	2.18		
	The arrangement of lab computers was adequate and conducive to learning.	2.45		
	The lab attendants maintained adequate control and provided necessary IT assistance.	2.45		
	The scheduled hours of the lab were sufficient for me to complete my IT assignments.	2.45	2.11	0.34
	The CIS Internship Experience provided real-world experience in applying my IT skills.	2.2	2.11	0.08
26	8 The internship information on the CIS Web site clearly articulated expectations and responsibilities of the student intern.	2.6	2.11	0.48
27	My faculty mentor adequately monitored my progress throughout the internship experience.	2.8	1.89	0.91
	0 1-3 4-9 1	0+		
	Yes No			



Place Stamp Here

STUDENT NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE ZIP