New Faculty Activity

INSTITUTE FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Teaching

Vincent Cicirello

Vince gave a presentation to the Stockton Mathematics Seminar on October 31 titled “Swarm Intelligence: Distributed Problem Solving Inspired by Collective Behavior of Insects and other Natural Multi-agent Systems”. The term Swarm Intelligence has been given to a set of problem solving tools that have been inspired by models of the interaction that takes place within natural “swarms” such as ant colonies, bees, wasps, flocks of birds, schools of fish, etc. This presentation introduced the students to some of the general concepts shared by many of these problem solving tools. It then focused on one in particular as an example, the meta-heuristic known as Ant Colony Optimization (ACO). Since its development in the early 1990’s by researchers in Belgium, ACO has been successfully applied to solving difficult combinatorial optimization problems and has even been used commercially for applications that include vehicle route planning and network routing. This presentation began with an overview of a computational model of ant trail following behavior originally developed by biologists in their study of the insect world. It then showed how computer scientists have used this model as a distributed problem solving metaphor.
Norma Boakes, Assistant Professor of Education

Norma celebrated World Origami Day that takes place on October 24, 2005. Origami relates to her dissertation topic- Origami in the mathematics classroom. She will be doing Origami activities in all of her Methods of Teaching Elementary School Mathematics courses, her Elementary School Math- Geometry course, and at the Free-to-Be preschool program to celebrate this day (designed to increase the awareness of the art of paperfolding, Origami.)

Norma was also awarded Division-based Support Funds for Junior Faculty to support both her dissertation research and a proposed G-course that would be based on her Origami research.

Nathan Long, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Nathan spoke to two sections of Diversity Issues (GSS1044) on Intersexuality. Professors Gonsalves and Haresign invited Nathan to speak on this topic as part of the gender section of the diversity issues course. He introduced students to “the space between male and female” and explained the ways in which medical professionals use three criteria (gonads, chromosomes, and genitalia) to determine sex. Here are comments from 2 of the students about the presentation:

"Intersexuality is a brand new concept for me. Growing up in a society that discourages exploration of differences, it appears to me that this topic has been deliberately ignored. Nathan described stories of intersexuals throughout history and their different situations. Thomas Hall, a man who was brought to court in the Virginia Colony for have gender issues. Nathan also introduced the possibility of George Washington having Klinefelter’s syndrome. Symptoms include no facial hair, rounded facial features, bad teeth, and infertility. If this is true then the entire view of the father of our country should be revised".

"My emotions changed dramatically due to this lecture and my interest grew. My emotions used to be very biased, but as the presentation by Nathan went on I started to become open minded and found it to be a very interesting subject. "Labeling someone a man or women is a social decision." I used to think that it was just a fact not a decision".

Nathan Long will be chairing a panel on teaching creative arts at the Southern Humanities Conference, in Asheville, NC in February.

Brandy Rapatski, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

On September 26 Brandy presented her research to the math seminar and to Professor Bob Olsen’s freshman seminar class. The title of the presentation was, “Using Math to Determine the Infectiousness of HIV/AIDS”. 

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**Connie Tang, Assistant Professor of Psychology**

Connie Tang has been working on a new GSS course entitled "Children and Crime". She is planning to offer this course in fall 2006, and would appreciate feedback from colleagues on the course.

**Course Description:**
This course will survey two general ways in which children and crime intersect: Children as victims of crime and children as perpetrators of crime. Under children as victims of crime, topics will include child physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, corporal punishment, children’s eyewitness testimony, the repressed and recovered memory controversy, and child protective services. Under children as perpetrators of crime, topics will include juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, trying juveniles as adults, and conflict resolution. Finally, pathways from victim of crime to perpetrator of crime will be explored, and ways to stop this vicious cycle will be discussed. Throughout this course, knowledge about normal child physical, cognitive, and social development will be used to bring light to bear on the class topics. In addition, this course will incorporate theories and research in the fields of psychology, criminal justice, and social work.

**Christine Carracino, Assistant Professor of Mathematics**

My main focus these past few months has of course been teaching. It is exciting how many students participate in class; this is important. To help them participate, I have them do group work most days, which they respond well to. In the Mathematics seminar a few weeks ago, I gave a talk showing how I use Calculus in my research, and I had several students ask questions during and after the talk. I plan to develop a General Studies course on intuition or the subconscious, and I participated in both a GEN meeting and a GNM meeting to get a feel for General Studies. In January, I plan to attend the national meeting in Mathematics, and I will apply for Division-based support for this.

**Scholarship**

**Nathan Long**

Nathan Long is slated to have a 100-page chapbook out by the end of the year composed of two stories ("The Dog" and "The Last Hot Day of Summer"), published by Popular Press. ("The Dog" placed as a semifinalist for the Indiana Review Fiction award, and "The Last Hot Day of Summer" was recently published in Natural Bridge.)

Long presented on the future of gay/lesbian fiction, with author Severna Parks, at the James River Writers' Festival, in Richmond, VA at the end of Oct. The panel discussed the history of sexual minorities in fiction, the authors’ relationship to sub-category literature, and topics that still remain marginalized in literature today.
Kristin Jacobson, Assistant Professor of American Literature


Jacobson will also be attending two conferences, presenting research related to her book project, Domestic Geographies: The NeoDomestic American Novel. In November she will attend the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association's conference in New Brunswick, NJ to present her paper, “Renovating The American Woman’s Home: The Discourses of Technology and Home in Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.” In December Jacobson will present “Anxious Male Domesticity: Gender Troubled Corrections” at the Modern Language Association's conference in Washington, D.C. Jacobson’s attendance at these conferences has been generously funded by the new Divisional ARHU funds for junior faculty.

Diane Holtzman, Instructor of Business Studies

Diane Holtzman, Instructor in Business Studies, along with Dr. Karen Stewart and Dr. Jennifer Barr, Associate Professors of Marketing, presented a paper on “Service Learning: Theory and Application to Marketing and Management” October 20, 2005 at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Association of Pennsylvania University Business and Economic Faculty at State College, PA.

Vincent Cicirello, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Vince co-authored an article with colleagues from Drexel University that appeared in the September/October 2005 issue of IEEE Intelligent Systems (http://www.computer.org/portal/site/intelligent/). This is work that was done prior to Vince coming to Stockton, but the article has just appeared in September ’05. It is titled: “Service-Based Computing on MANETs: Enabling Dynamic Interoperability of First Responders”. This article discusses work that the group at Drexel has been doing over the last 4 years; including the 2 years Vince was with them. Specifically, with the cooperation of various Philadelphia agencies, the group has been studying problems associated with communications and coordination of first responders and designing a set of software tools deployed on a mobile ad hoc network of handheld computing devices to enable more effective coordination. This article presents some of this work focusing on the service-oriented architecture of the system. The issue in which it appears is a special issue on “Artificial Intelligence for Homeland Security”. IEEE Intelligent Systems is the top-ranked magazine in the field of artificial intelligence.
(AI) and is 9th among all AI related publications according to the 2004 Journal Citation Reports (and is also the top-ranked magazine in all of computer science---20th among all computer science publications).

Vince was recently invited to be on the program committee of the 2006 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO’06) special track on Search-Based Software Engineering (http://www.dcs.shef.ac.uk/~phil/sbse2006/). GECCO’06 is the 7th installment of an annual international conference that was formed in 2000 from the merger of the two largest international conferences in the field of evolutionary computation and which has subsequently swallowed up several smaller related conferences and workshops as special tracks. The Search-Based Software Engineering track focuses on applying evolutionary computation algorithms (e.g., genetic algorithms, genetic programming, ant colony optimization, etc) to solving software engineering problems. For example, some of the work typically presented in this conference track includes representations of software engineering problems that allow evolutionary computation algorithms to be applicable. Vince has been a part of this conference in the past, including as a program committee member, as well as a presenter. This conference produces archival conference proceedings.

Vince was also recently invited to be on the program committee of the 4th International Workshop on Engineering Self-Organizing Applications (ESOA’06) that will be co-located with the International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (AAMAS’06). The ESOA Workshop focuses on research in the design of software that can adapt its functionality and/or structure to changing requirements and dynamic environments without direct user intervention. In 2005 (and again in 2006) ESOA took place (and will take place) as part of the AAMAS conference (http://www.fun.ac.jp/aamas2006/main.html). AAMAS is an international conference that typically draws several hundred attendees. AAMAS is a highly competitive conference, typically accepting only around 20% of all papers and publishing an archival proceedings of these papers, although the co-located workshops such as ESOA are usually more informal encouraging discussion of budding, but not yet complete, research projects.

Dr. Brian Tyrrell, Assistant Professor of Business Studies, discussed Stockton’s Hospitality Management Program as the keynote speaker at the Greater Atlantic City Region Tourism Council meeting.
Sara Martino, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology

Sara has been working on an article submission based on her dissertation research in the area of indirect aggression. The article is titled “the effects of personal self-esteem and collective self-esteem to conflict in the workplace” and will be submitted to Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Sara collaborated on this research project with Gordon Hart, Ph.D. from Temple University. Future projects include looking at indirect aggression and the impact of social influence. Upon IRB approval, she hopes to begin data collection here at Stockton in the spring of 2006. Research has been the main focus of Sara’s efforts since coming to Stockton, in addition to preparing for classes.

Ramya Vijaya, Assistant Professor of Economics

Ramya received funding for a research paper (Imports, Exports and Job Losses: An analysis of the Gender Patterns) from SOBL Junior Faculty Funds.

Brandy Rapatski

Brandy’s paper, “Mathematical Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in Cuba During the Period 1986-2000” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering (MBE). This publication is part of the proceedings from MITACS/MSRI/PIMS Special Program on Infectious Diseases. The Proceedings will be under the title, “Infectious diseases: modeling prediction and control”. The paper was co-authored by (P. Klepac, S. Dueck, M. Liu and L.I. Weiss).

Service

Vincent Cicirello

Vince met with prospective Stockton Fall’06 freshmen CSIS majors at the October 2 open house.

Kimberly Lebak, Assistant Professor of Education

Kimberly conducted a professional development workshop for 60 teachers at Egg Harbor Township Schools and another workshop for 20 teachers at Lacey Township Schools on Stockton’s behalf.

Ramya Vijaya

Ramya Vijaya is part of the cultural apprenticeship program in Diversity Issues freshman seminar. In this role Ramya serves as a cultural mentor to two freshmen and she introduces them to some aspect of her culture. Ramya spend eight hours with the freshmen over the course of the semester.