



# Alum Matters

A newsletter for alumni of the Department of Computer Science

## A real-time reunion

**P**ROFESSOR KRITHI RAMAMRITHAM, his wife Ranjani, and their children Roopa and Rajiv got together this May with current students and past graduates from his Database Systems Laboratory, Real-Time Systems Laboratory, and Real-Time Databases Laboratory. The reunion, celebrating Ramamritham's 20 years at UMass and his election as an ACM Fellow, was organized by graduate student Cris Pedregal Martin. Fourteen of the 18 Ph.D. students who Ramamritham advised attended the event, along with families of many of the alumni. They gathered at Professor Ramamritham's favorite restaurant, Amherst Chinese, for lunch, and presented Ramamritham with a commemorative plaque and an engraved Handspring Visor.

In addition to sightseeing around Amherst, they met at UMass for a tour of the new CS building, demonstrations, tea, and friendly conversation. Many also gathered for dinner in the evening. In a more formal part of the event, Panos K. Chrysanthis (Ph.D. '91) and Wei Zhao (Ph.D. '86) presented research talks.

"It was wonderful to be together with many of my former students and their families, some of whom I hadn't seen in years. My family was also thrilled to be with old friends again," says Ramamritham. "We were touched by the fact that most of them had come to town just for this event." Ramamritham also remarked that the day brought back memories of long and intense hours spent with these remarkable people, slogging away on papers, and burning the midnight oil.



(left to right) Wei Zhao, Huan Li, Meghana Arvind, K. Arvind, (Raju) Rajendran Sivasankaran, Cris Pedregal Martin, Panos K. Chrysanthis, Oscar Gonzalez (kneeling), Ming Xiong, (Badri) B.R. Badrinath, Krithi Ramamritham

Ramamritham's current and former students who attended the reunion include:

- ♦ K. Arvind (Ph.D. '91), Founding and Consulting Engineer, Tenor Networks, Acton, MA
- ♦ B. R. Badrinath (Ph.D. '89), Professor, Department of Computer Science, Rutgers University, NJ
- ♦ Panos Chrysanthis (Ph.D. '91), Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- ♦ Oscar Gonzalez (Ph.D. '00), Member Technical Staff, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ
- ♦ Mohan Kamath (Ph.D. '97), Engineering Manager, Noosh Inc., CA
- ♦ Huan Li (current graduate student)
- ♦ Cris Pedregal Martin (current graduate student), Professor, University of New Mexico (January '02)
- ♦ Chia Shen (Ph.D. '92), Senior Research Scientist and Associate Director, Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs, Cambridge, MA
- ♦ Lory Molesky (Ph.D. '96), Senior

- Researcher, Oracle Corp., Nashua, NH
- ♦ H Shrikumar (current graduate student)
- ♦ Rajendran (Raju) Sivasankaran, (former graduate student), Founder and CTO, Knumi, Inc., Cambridge, MA
- ♦ Fuxing (Fred) Wang (Ph.D. '93), Founder and COO, Primeon, Inc., Stoneham, MA
- ♦ Ming Xiong (Ph.D. '00), Member Technical Staff, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ
- ♦ Wei Zhao (Ph.D. '86), Professor, Department of Computer Science and Associate Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

"Even though it was a short period of time (in most cases!) that we spent working closely, a sense of extended family had developed over the years and this special event reinforced it beyond measure," says Professor Ramamritham. "We are all looking forward to the next reunion already."

# Bits & Bytes

Thank you to all who so generously gave to the Department of Computer Science. For a recent list of who you generous people are, please see the back page of this issue of *Significant Bits*.

## Direct line to students

Alumni: This is your chance to have direct access to the undergraduate and graduate students of the Computer Science Department. Once a month a mail message is sent out to all undergraduate and graduate students informing them of opportunities for jobs, scholarships, internships, and other academically directed programs. We will collect your notices and send them directly to the students. Send your notices to [alumni@cs.umass.edu](mailto:alumni@cs.umass.edu).



## Alumni Association

**The UMass Alumni Association** provides a connection between alumni, faculty, friends, and the University. Stay connected by becoming an Alumni Association Member. **Membership matters.** 800-456-UMASS (8627) [zMinutemen.com](http://zMinutemen.com)

## Suthers receives NSF CAREER Award

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DANIEL SUTHERS (PH.D. '93) of the Information Computer Science (ICS) Department received the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award for his proposal "Collaborative Representations: Supporting Online Knowledge-Building Discourse."

Suthers is interested in improving the quality of software available for online learning, both at K-13 and university levels. "I am focusing on providing better support for knowledge-building discourse, the interactions between learners and their mentors by which they arrive at an understanding of a topic of study," says Suthers. While a student at UMass, Suthers' advisors were Professor Edwina Rissland and Research Associate Professor Beverly Woolf.

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards for new faculty members. The CAREER program recognizes and supports the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Awards range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and are in duration from four to five years.



## Alumni Connections

**Panos Chrysanthis** (Ph.D. '91) has been appointed an editor of *The VLDB Journal* (The International Journal on Very Large Data Bases) for a six year term.

Since spring '99, **John Greene** (BS '93), has been at BEA Systems WebLogic division in San Francisco, CA. Recently, he changed positions within BEA to Backline Interface Engineering Manager. At the new position, he is the interface for worldwide backline support into both engineering and product management. In addition, he will be writing a monthly column for the new Sys-Con publication *WebLogic Developer's Journal*.

## Alumni Connections needs updates!

Calling all alumni: Let us know where you are! We'll publish a list of where you are living and working these days so you can keep in touch with each other. Send email to [alumni@cs.umass.edu](mailto:alumni@cs.umass.edu) or complete the form on the back of this issue. Thanks!

In addition to her position as Senior Research Scientist, **Chia Shen** (Ph.D. '92) has taken on the added responsibility as Associate Director of Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs (MERL-CRL).

## Where have they gone?

THE DEPARTMENT IS PROUD to have graduated fourteen students with Ph.D.s over the past year.

- Lisa Ballesteros: dissertation topic “Resolving Ambiguity for Cross-language Retrieval: A Dictionary Approach” (Bruce Croft, Advisor); Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Mt. Holyoke College.
- Jefferson Coelho: “Multifingered Grasping: Grasp Reflexes and Control Context” (Rod Grupen, Advisor); Software Design Engineer at Agilent Technologies.
- Madirakshi Das: “Some Studies in the Use of Color for Image Indexing and Retrieval in Specialized Databases” (Ed Riseman, Advisor); Senior Research Scientist, Imaging Science Research and Development at Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY.
- Oscar J. Gonzalez Gomez: “Building Distributed Real-Time Systems with Commercial-off-the-Shelf Components” (Krithi Ramamritham, Advisor); Member of Technical Staff at Lucent Technologies- Bell Labs.
- Manfred Huber: “A Hybrid Architecture for Adaptive Robot Control” (Rod Grupen, Advisor); Assistant Professor at University of Texas.
- Anton Leuski: “Interactive Information Organization: Techniques and Evaluation” (James Allan, Advisor); Senior Research Fellow at UMass Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval (CIIR).
- James (Tim) Oates: “Grounding Knowledge in Sensors: Unsupervised Learning for Language and Planning” (Paul Cohen, Advisor); Assistant Professor, Computer Science/Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- Jitendra D. Padhye: “Model-Based Approach to Top-Friendly Congestion Control” (Jim Kurose and Don Towsley, Advisors); Research Scientist at AT&T Center for Internet Research at ICSI.
- Justus H. Piater: “Visual Feature Learning” (Rod Grupen, Advisor); Research Scientist at INRIA.
- Daniel S. Rubenstein: “End-to-End Support for Large Scale, Continuous Media Sessions Over Best-Effort Networks” (Jim Kurose and Don Towsley, Advisors); Assistant Professor at Columbia University.
- Sambit Sahu: “Network and End-host Support for Heterogeneous Services in the Internet” (Jim Kurose and Don Towsley, Advisors); Research Staff Member at IBM-Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Internet Technologies Division.
- Subhabrata Sen: “Server and Proxy Services for Efficient Streaming Media Delivery over the Internet” (Don Towsley, Advisor); Senior Technical Staff Member at AT&T Labs - Research.
- Mia Stern: “Using Adaptive Hypermedia and Machine Learning to Create Intelligent Web-based Courses” (Bev Wolf, Advisor); Post Doctoral Researcher at IBM Research.
- Xiaoguang Wang: “Model Reconstruction and Refinement Using Multiple Aerial Images” (Al Hanson, Advisor); Senior Software Engineer at Cognex Corporation.

## Your own chair in our building

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SAY that there is a chair named after you in the UMass Computer Science Building? Well, now is your chance. While it won't be an endowed Chair of the Department (though that too is an option with your generous donation), it could be a real chair that gets used every day by faculty, staff, and students. Or maybe you'd like to say that you were responsible for the dining pleasures of our students who use the refrigerator and microwave for meals and midnight snacks.

The Department is in the midst of room renovations to build a departmental lounge for everyone to use. We are well on the way to having the funds for the construction of the lounge, but we still need to furnish the room and provide necessities like a refrigerator and microwave. With your contributions, we can build a gathering place for all to enjoy. When you visit the Department, you can see first hand where your contributions have gone and how they benefit everyone, especially our students. We have provided an envelope for your contribution to go directly to the Department, ensuring that the funds go towards the Campaign for Computer Science. You can specify “lounge fund” on the envelope if you want your contributions to go directly to the lounge renovations.

The Department is a great place to be right now. Your support, in whatever form you choose, continues to make it an even better place. Thank you!

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## Barrett's bestseller

DANIEL J. BARRETT (PH.D. '98) published his third computer book, *SSH, the Secure Shell: The Definitive Guide* with O'Reilly & Associates. Co-authored with Richard Silverman, the book covers internals and applications of SSH, the popular network security protocol. “The book entered the Top 100 Bestsellers list at amazon.com upon publication, duking it out with John Grisham and Harry Potter,” says Barrett. He and his family live in Boston, where he is a software project manager for Merrill Lynch, creating applications for Merrill Lynch Direct ([www.mldirect.ml.com](http://www.mldirect.ml.com)). He can be reached at [dbarrett@blazemonger.com](mailto:dbarrett@blazemonger.com).

To learn about upcoming events,  
click “Department Calendar”

at

[www.cs.umass.edu](http://www.cs.umass.edu)

# Updates

For more alum information, visit  
[www.cs.umass.edu/csinfo/alumni](http://www.cs.umass.edu/csinfo/alumni)

Yes, I'd like to be part of The Campaign for Computer Science. Enclosed is my gift.

**\$5,000** (specify a name for a Department Workstation: \_\_\_\_\_)

**\$1,000** (specify a name for a Department Work Area: \_\_\_\_\_)

**\$250** (your name on a Brick Paver on the *Path of Pride* to the new building)

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, my employer has a matching gift program.

CONTACT ME about a gift of stock or other securities

## Method of payment

Check

Credit card  
(complete form below)

Deduct my pledge payment:

one payment yearly

quarterly payments

monthly payments

Credit card authorization  
please charge my pledge payment to:

VISA

MasterCard

Discover

Card number:

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ -

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expiration date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature

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I hope you are enjoying this issue of *Alum Matters*. To assure that you always receive it in a timely manner, please take a few minutes to update your contact information with the University's Alumni Association. That is how we meet all our addressing needs – U.S. mail and e-mail. Please visit [www.umassalumni.com](http://www.umassalumni.com) and follow the prompts.

If you prefer, you can complete the update form below and return it to us.

It's **FREE** to become a member of the Computer Science Alumni Association! Take a few minutes to update us on your whereabouts. Complete this form and mail it to the address below, or send this information electronically to [alumni@cs.umass.edu](mailto:alumni@cs.umass.edu)

## YOUR INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree received:  BS  MS  Ph.D. Year received degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## WORK INFORMATION

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

URL \_\_\_\_\_

Vita/Comments: *What have you been working on since you left UMass?*

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May we share this information with other alumni and publish it in the newsletter?

Yes  No

**Thank you** for taking the time to complete this form

## MAIL TO

Alum Matters  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Massachusetts

140 Governors Drive  
Amherst, MA 01003-9264  
[alumni@cs.umass.edu](mailto:alumni@cs.umass.edu)