

*W*elcome Math and Computer Science Alumni to the second issue of a newsletter just for you.

Our goal is to keep you informed about the happenings and people in the VSU Computer Science and Mathematics programs.

Feel free to stop by the department and see the changes at VSU and within the department. We are located, for the most part, on the second floor of Nevins Hall.

**Check out
the department website:**

www.valdosta.edu/mathcs/



The Student Success Center is located in Langdale Hall.

For nearly 15 years, math students have found academic refuge in Nevins Hall 2149, and more recently CS students have sought help with their studies downstairs. But now, the tutor lab seems to be an ongoing experiment in parallel processing. So where do students go for help?

Last year, VSU centralized peer tutoring services at the newly formed Student Success Center (SSC) located in Langdale Hall. The SSC offers tutoring throughout the Core Curriculum courses including: biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science, foreign languages, social sciences and writing.

The tutors take a two-credit hour tutoring course offered by the Math/CS department. Additionally, according to the SSC director, Dr. Chere Peguesse, tutors complete a 10-hour training course on "Best Practices in Tutoring" and provide two self-assessments each semester.

Peguesse said the math tutors are the most popular tutors in the SSC for a couple of reasons: they are encouraging and patient, and they help with math, which is what students ask for most.

2006 – 2007 Personnel Updates

Recent retirees include David Boyd and John Schleusner. John Samaras joined the club at the end of the fall of 2007. It appears there will no more retirees this coming year. So, congratulations to John Samaras.

VSU is searching to fill two CS positions as well as two Math professors. We hope to introduce you to new faculty in next year's issue.

Comments?

Have a comment? We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know what you think of the newsletter. You may send comments to mathcs@valdosta.edu. Let us know if you are coming to Homecoming in the fall. We will meet up with you at the annual Arts and Sciences luncheon in the University Center. Again, we remind that you check out the department Website and its sections for Alumni. We thank you for your contributions to our rich academic lives. Look forward to hearing from us next year.

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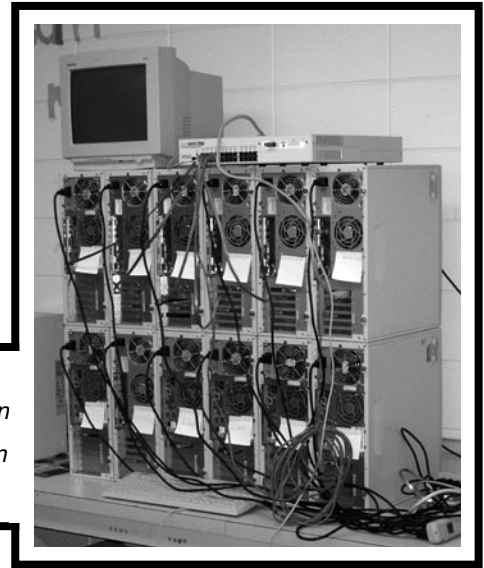
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“Almost all tutors mention in their self-assessments the joy they derive from solving problems and helping other students,” Pequese said. Several of them have collected or created helpful worksheets. I have certainly enjoyed working with them.”

*The old Nevins Hall
Tutoring Lab is now an
ongoing experiment in
parallel processing.*



Math & Computer Science Activities

Our department is involved in so many programs and activities, we cannot possibly list them all or thank all the faculty, staff and students involved. Let us highlight a few achievements that may interest you.

- Congratulations to Katie Klimko who was named the 2008 recipient of the university's most prestigious award, the Annie Powe Hopper Award. Klimko is completing her B.A. degree in mathematics and will attend Harvard Law School in the fall.
- The top Math student award was won this year by Mandy Bennett, who is majoring in Applied Math with a second major in Secondary Education, and a minor in Computer Science. Jimmy Lee, who will graduate in December, won the top CS student award. Jennifer Carroll won the Gerald Petrella Award, which is given to the top student in Mathematics Education.
- Our students continue to represent the department well at the Arts and Sciences' annual Symposium for Undergraduate Research. This Symposium is held every April, and the public is invited. More information can be found at <http://www.valdosta.edu/cur/>.

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Katie Klimko, Annie Powe Hopper Award winner.

Spotlight on Entrepreneurs

Several of our graduates have formed IT companies in Valdosta:

Baha Zeidan (CS '02) and **Dan Henry** (CS '03) formed their own company, Azalea Health Innovations (www.azaleahealth.com), to provide software services to the healthcare industry for automating medical practices. On April 12, they won the Guardian Bank / Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Plan Competition. They won \$15,000!

Ryan Williams (CS '01) is a partner at Nexxtep Technology Services (www.nexxtepin.com), a company that specializes in technology consulting for small and mid-sized businesses. They also employ **Johnathan Hill** (CS), **Stuart Avera** (CIS '97), and **Mike Adkins** (BASIT '07). Nexxtep also won the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce 2007 Small Business of the Year.

James Puckett (CS '95) is the president and one of the founders of Engineers' Consulting Group (www.e-c-group.com), a company that designs and deploys next-generation telephony platforms for domestic and international companies and municipalities. ECG has been in business since 2001. **Mark Lindsey** (CS '99) and **Sherwin Crown** (CS '03) are both Senior Systems Engineers and partners at the company. Several other CS/CIS graduates are employed there; **Kenny Anderson** (CIS 03), **Russ Penar** (CIS 06), **Jon Stanley** (CS 07).



The Puzzle Corner

You are a problem solver, so here's a classic brain-teaser provided by professor emeritus, Dr. M.K. Corbitt:

Four people must cross a bridge over a deep ravine in the middle of the night. The bridge will hold only two people at once and it necessary to carry a lantern while crossing. (Persons must stay together while crossing so that both can use the lantern).

One person requires 5 minutes for the trip across the river, one takes 10 minutes, the third takes 20 minutes, and the last takes 25 minutes.

Each can walk slower if needed, but not faster. Unfortunately they have only one lantern and bridge will be destroyed in 1 hour.

How can they make it across?



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- The CS program had a consultant study the program and give advice about obtaining accreditation. The good news is that the curriculum as it stands needs just a few minor tweaks. However, it is a long and detailed process and will require the administration's support.



Did You Know?

Did you know that if you donate money to VSU, that you can earmark the money to go to one of several Math/CS accounts: Math/CS Foundation Account, Math/CS Scholarship Foundation Account, or the SK High School Math Day Foundation Account. If you have questions, you can contact Kerry Morris at kwmorris@valdosta.edu.