THE CICS COURIER
spring 2011 newsletter

WWiT 2011 Conference

By Leslie Flora

A New Decade, Time for Change is this year's theme for the fourth annual **Women Working in Technology (WWiT)** conference on April 22, 2011. The event brings high school, undergraduate,

Kirsten Smith

and working women with an interest in technology together for a collaborative day of exploration. Keynote speaker **Lou Russell** of Russell Martin and Associates will be providing a keynote workshop on "Growing Resiliency in Times of Change."

The event will take place at three sites. The career exploration track will be hosted by Interactive Intelligence. A full day of hands-on activities is planned. The main conference, at the Indianapolis Sheraton, will be webcast back to BSU to foster student participation."

CICS Graduate Assistant **Krista Hess** is leading the planning for this year's event hoping to draw special attention to local Indy start-ups and including a specialty workshop focused on making a difference in the community. Sponsorship levels range from $50-$1,000.

For more information or to be a sponsor of this year's event please contact **Kirsten Smith** at Kirstensmith@bsu.edu (765-285-3762) or visit **http://cics.bsu.edu/wwit/** and Facebook page!

CICS 25th Anniversary

To read the Director's Prospective and view great video content, please visit us online at

http://www.bsu.edu/cics

Alumni Dinner Sponsored by Orange Business Services

By Ryan Misener

The **Center for Information and Communication Sciences (CICS)** held its 25th Annual Alumni Dinner on February 26 at the Ball State University Alumni Center. The night began with a cocktail party sponsored by Orange, where students met and networked with CICS alumni. Later, students attended an intimate Q&A session moderated by **Professor Richard Bellaver.**

During the dinner, **Director Dr. Stephan Jones** honored Silver Circle Award recipients **Jennifer Early (2000), Michelle Shaw (2000), Kirsten Smith (1999), and Larry Canon (2002)** to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the CICS program.

Dr. Jones also awarded Distinguished Alumni Values awards to **John Brooks (2000) and David McCauley (2001)** in recognition of their embodiment of core CICS values. The Keynote

From left to right, Silver Circle recipients Michelle Shaw, Jennifer Early, Kirsten Smith, and Larry Canon

speaker, **Distinguished Professor Dr. Ray Steele**, emphasized the importance of the alumni and their ongoing record of service to the Center.

"[CICS] was always about the students, and that is what makes a difference," Steele said.

CICS making strides in Cisco Competition

By Matthew Wilkerson

Three teams from CICS competed in the NetRiders networking competition that was hosted by Cisco Systems, Inc. in October and November of 2010. NetRiders is a competition that utilizes both written exams as well as Cisco software, known as Packet Tracer, in order to simulate real world networking scenarios.

The competition consisted of three rounds. In round one, students competed with over 50 teams in the state of Indiana, with the top ten teams advancing to the second round.

In Round Two, the top 10 teams competed for the opportunity to advance to the final round, which consisted of the top team in every state in the United States and parts of Canada.

The three teams in CICS consisted of **Mike Linsey and Mitch Loudenbeck, Dhiraj Baidya and John Bartels, and Marc-Antoine Denechaud and Arnav Sharma.** All teams advanced to the second round, with **Baidya/Bartels** earning 1st place in Indiana.

While the competition is still fairly new, it is expected to become a yearly staple of the Cisco Networking Academy.

CICS Develops New Medical School Web Portal for Marian University

By Ashley Timbrook

Students from the CICS class of 2010 created a template for a web portal for Marian University's College of Medicine and its School of Osteopathic Medicine— the first school of its kind in the state of Indiana. The college needed to update its online presence to accommodate its explosive growth. CICS students aided in the design and integration of their new web portal, allowing for easier use and additional storage. CICS students conducted usability research, testing, design ideas, and devised a plan for implementation of social media as part of a capstone course project. **Pete Williams (2001)**, Assistant Vice President and CIO, was the Marian University liaison to CICS.

"The Marion University web portal project was a true representation of the CICS experience," said **Chelsey Sigler (2010)**. "For me, the project served as the ultimate capstone assignment and highlighted the skills and knowledge I gained over my 11 months at the Center."

After completion of the studies and compiling research, Marian University began developing its new web portal. Dr. Jones reported that the web site is set to go live in the fall of 2011.

April 15, 2011	April 22, 2011	July 23, 2011
Cisco Certified Annual Retreat @ Ball State University CICS	Women Working in Technology Conference @ Sheraton Indianapolis Centre	CICS Graduation @ Ball State University Worthen Arena

Alumnus Matthew Bruening Indebted to CICS Education

By Michelle Jarvi & Ryan Misener

CICS would like to highlight **Matthew Bruening (1988)** this spring. Bruening works for AT&T Network Planning and is responsible for Ethernet, Broadband (U-verse and ADSL), mobility backhaul, microwave, and ATM/FR networks. He has been employed by AT&T for 18 years and served a 4-year stint in between with Cisco Systems, Inc.

Prior to assuming his current position, he built a small team to assess options to better serve business customers and improve consumer capabilities in non-U-verse areas. The recommendations of this team drove new Ethernet and IP based ADSL2+ network deployments. He was asked to lead the team to implement these recommendations along with some related networks.

Matthew says that CICS instilled a "Curious George" attitude of wanting to understand how technology works and why. The program also helped to improve his writing and presentation skills, which are fundamental and indispensible to any impactful career.

Matthew is familiar with Ethernet transport and IP traffic. He suggests that CICS candidates not only understand how to build a network, but also how to plan for future network scale and expansion. Cost modeling is also important because there are invariably multiple alternatives and cost is a key decision point.

"Be confident, but a bit humble as you enter your first job," Matthew said. "Be quick to listen and ask questions and a bit slower to offer your opinion; there is a wealth of knowledge in most work places and folks generally like to share what they know."

Matthew says it is important to find informal mentors in the work place to ask advice periodically on key questions. Matthew also adds to maintain a balance between your spiritual, family, career, and physical health.

Matthew has been married for 16 years to Suzette Bruening. They have a 12-year-old daughter and a 13-year-old son. Matthew says he would be willing to talk with students periodically and try to answer questions regarding industry trends, his perspective on the program, and job hunting.

Virtual Tour Highlights

To view the full Virtual Tour Program, please visit us at
http://dvisweb1.bsu.edu/media/BSU/cics.html

Open Source Pilot Testing Under Way at Ball State

By Mike Linsey

CICS researchers **Russ Van Natta** and **Mike Linsey** launched a pilot test of the Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment (CLE) in two courses at Ball State University starting in January. Sakai is an open source course and learning management platform used in-full or in-part at over 200 public and private colleges and universities in the United States.

Van Natta and Linsey are conducting a usability assessment of the Sakai CLE in an effort to build an informational database of qualitative and quantitative data to push Ball State University in the direction of adopting an open source alternative to its current system, Blackboard 9.1.

The CICS researchers are managing test implantations of this open source product using a trail version hosted by rSmart, a provider and supporter of open source applications and installations. Van Natta and Linsey will compose a detailed report with an analysis of their findings and recommendations for a more robust deployment of the Sakai LMS on campus.

Steele conducting 2nd edition of popular entrepreneurship course

By Colleen Willis

Dr. Ray Steele

Dr. Ray Steele is offering a breakthrough elective course in entrepreneurship, innovation, and Web 2.0 tools for the second time in as many years.

This course introduces general theories, principles, concepts, and practices of entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship emphasizing the evolving information and communication industries. Steele decided to teach this class because he believes every student should have a basic understanding of entrepreneurship and acquire the mindset for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Steele has said that this class will help students think outside the box and force them to use skills they have never used before. The course is not intended to make students become entrepreneurs, but help them become better at problem solving, he said.

"I thought the class was very beneficial because of the presentation skills that we worked on and the different points of view/thought processes that we were exposed to," said Matt Dodge, a CICS student who took the inaugural edition of the course in the spring of 2010.

Steele incorporates several guest lectures who have succeeded in the entrepreneurship world. The class also focuses on Web 2.0 to help students understand the world of technology. "The books that we read in conjunction with the almost nightly appearances of speakers from the field helped bring to the forefront different ways of looking at business and the world, Dodge said. "We had many opportunities to practice our presentation skills during the class. During a Saturday class we had a presentation seminar, though painful at the time helped out immensely. The tips and tricks that I learned have made me a much better presenter. During the class we were encouraged to be short and precise about what we wrote. I hope that the class is offered again. I found it to be the best business class I have taken in the Center."