



Ground Breaking Ceremony Brings the House Down With Support

On November 1, 2007, more than 650 guests attended the Volgenau School's Groundbreaking

Ceremony celebration at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts at the Fairfax campus.

Guests were treated to great food and a little groundbreaking fun as they were invited to guess the weight of a wheel barrow full of dirt from the construction site. John Sweeney, a Civil Engineering major, won an iPod shuffle for his estimate of 540 lbs. The actual weight was 547 lbs.

The celebration also included departmental displays highlighting research activities happening at the school. The program continued in the Center's Concert Hall where guests enjoyed a short video program about the actual groundbreaking along with spectacular 3-D images of the new building's interior and exterior.

Dean Lloyd Griffiths announced a special initiative to help fund this urgently needed world-class facility. A primary goal of the 2010 Building on Excellence Campaign is to secure pledges of \$2010 from each of our IT&E alumni and friends by June 30, 2010.

In tribute to those who have given \$2,010 to the building fund, a private recognition reception will be held in the new building's spectacular glass atrium to honor and thank donors. During the reception, a recognition wall will be unveiled.

The program ended with a laser show highlighting the new building.

Sushil and Kamal Jajodia Auditorium Honors Ten Years of Outstanding Dedication

The highlight of the recent groundbreaking celebration was the announcement of a significant gift to the building campaign. A 250-seat lecture hall in the new building has been named the Sushil and Kamal Jajodia Auditorium. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.



Sushil and Kamal Jajodia

"It is entirely fitting that this highly visible auditorium be named for a faculty member (and his wife) who is renowned for his extraordinary successes," said Dean Griffiths, adding, "Sushil Jajodia's reputation has brought significant honor and recognition to The Volgenau School."

The new auditorium will be equipped

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Calendar

February-April Events

2/5/08

OpenSolaris Presentation

2:00 – 4:00 pm
Research I, rm 163

2/7/08

DTrace Demo

1:30 – 3:00 pm
Research I, rm 163

2/15/08

Alumni Reception & Networking

5:30 – 7:30 pm
Brion's Grille

2/18-2/21/08

National Engineers Week & Career Fair

12:00 – 4:00 p.m. daily
The Volgenau School -
Science & Tech II

2/22/08

Kenneth A. De Jong, '07 Outstanding Research Award Recipient

The Evolution of
Evolutional Computation
3:00 p.m.
Research I, rm 163

3/18-19/08

Internship & Job Fair

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Johnson Center,
Dewberry Hall

4/25/08

The Volgenau School Annual Awards Gala

6:00 p.m.
Johnson Center,
Dewberry Hall
By invitation only

Mason Aims to Increase Minority Population of STEM Grads

By Dave Andrews

Long gone are the days of the “geeky” reputation of science and technology majors. Now that job recruiters are seeking more and more graduates in these fields, they are hot tickets. But school administrators and employers would like a more diverse graduating class.

Mason in cooperation with eight colleges and universities throughout Virginia and North Carolina will focus on increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — the so-called “STEM” fields.

The initiative, named the Virginia-North Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (VA-NC AMP), is supported by a five-year, \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

“Our primary goal is to double the average number of students from underrepresented minority populations graduating in the STEM fields,” says Bernard White, Associate Dean of Undergraduate studies in the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, and the initiative’s principal investigator for Mason.

The Virginia and North Carolina coalition includes the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Bennett College, Elizabeth City State University, Johnson C. Smith University and St. Augustine’s College.

The grant enables these schools to focus on recruiting and retention, as well as enhancing student activities and professional development. Alliance-sponsored activities will include research workshops, internships and faculty or peer mentoring. If the program proves successful, the alliance will be eligible for a second five-year initiative to target graduate students.

“I am 100 percent confident that we can be successful in this initiative,” White says. “I firmly believe we’ll reach our goal of doubling the number of underrepresented minority students receiving STEM-related degrees.”

The initiative is sponsored by the NSF’s Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). Since 1991, LSAMP has created 35 similar alliances across the country, involving more than 475 campuses and 250,000 graduates in STEM fields.

James Hicks, LSAMP program director, says, “The main long-term goal is to bridge the gap for minority students to go on to earn doctorates and become professionals in STEM fields. My phone has been ringing off the hook from people praising the program and the significant impact it’s had on their campus.”

Jim Fiori Demos DTrace

DTrace is a comprehensive tracing facility built into the Solaris OS. It can be used by administrators, developers, and performance analysts and can be safely used on live production systems. You can create custom programs with the D scripting language to instrument the system and provide immediate, concise answers about the behavior of applications and the system.

Jim Fiori, a principal engineer at Sun Microsystems will be running a demo and providing an overview of DTrace and demonstrate the technology including native DTrace probes in Java, GUI tools and the DTrace tool Kit.

February 7, 2008 Research I, rm 163 1 p.m -3 p.m.

Graduate Student Receives Prestigious Eisenhower Grant

Congratulations to **Omar Elkassed**, a graduate student in The Volgenau School. Elkassed has received the prestigious Eisenhower Grant for Research Fellowship under the Federal Highway Administration.

The 2007 Dwight D. Eisenhower Grants for Research Fellowship (GRF) is awarded by the University and Grants Program, under the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Office of Professional and Corporate Development (OPCD). The grants are provided for nine-to-twelve month periods. The goal of the GRF is to attract exemplary students to transportation research, education, development, and technology transfer activities and provide them with unique opportuni-



ties to conduct invaluable research on important transportation projects at U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) facilities.

Elkassed’s grant-winning project is entitled “Gather and analyze information on transportation education programs and develop materials in support of the FHWA workforce development programs.”

An integral element of his project is to assist OPCD in its efforts to strengthen partnerships with educational institutions. The academic disciplines involved in Elkassed’s efforts include engineering, transportation, public administration, public policy, education, economics, and law.

New Software Testing Book Fills Teaching Needs Across the Nation

A five-year collaboration is about to come to fruition at Mason. In January, Volgenau School professors **Dr. Paul Ammann** and **Dr. Jeff Offutt** will publish a much-needed software testing resource entitled *Introduction to Software Testing*.

This much anticipated book, to be published by Cambridge University Press, introduces a novel perspective on software testing by defining generic models and coverage criteria suitable for all software life-cycle artifacts. This book is based on Ammann and Offutt's collective experience of over 40 years teaching software testing to hundreds of students, and features accurate theory, comprehensive practice, clear examples, and numerous exercises.

"Our goal was to produce more than a book. We've created complete courses with enough materials so that someone with a general knowledge in software engineering or computer science could teach testing without having to become an expert in software testing first," said Dr. Offutt adding, "This package includes syllabi for undergraduate and graduate courses, high quality Power-Point slides, over 200 worked homework exercises, dozens of fully working example programs, sample exams, and software test tools to be used in courses at the undergraduate, master's, and PhD levels." And of course no book on testing could be released without being tested. The material in draft form has been used in Volgenau School classrooms as well as at other universities across the country.

More information on the book is available on Dr. Offutt's Website: ise.gmu.edu/~offutt/softwaretest



Sushil and Kamal Jajodia, from page 1

with the latest audio/visual technology to provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility for thousands of students and visitors each year. Parents, prospective and current students, corporate leaders and other partners can look forward to special campus events in the Sushil and Kamal Jajodia Auditorium.

Dr. Jajodia founded the Center for Secure Information Systems ten years ago, and holds the title of Distinguished Professor in The Volgenau School. The Sushil & Kamal Jajodia Auditorium will be the first dedicated instructional auditorium on the Fairfax campus, and will be an icon in The Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering.

Stay Connected to Mason

There's always something happening at George Mason University and lots of exciting changes are coming to the Volgenau School of Information Technology.

We want to hear from you! Visit www.gmu.edu/alumni and update your alumni information today. And while you are there, tell us what you've been doing.



ISO Missing Alumni

Did you know that there are over 12,000 technology school graduates? We'd love to contact them all. Please pass this newsletter on to your fellow students who may not be in our system and urge them to update their record today at: www.gmu.edu/alumni

The MASONline Alumni Directory is housed on a secure server at George Mason University. Rest assured that personal information is safe and secure and only other registered users of the online directory can view information.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Professor Andy Sage**. He has been elected as one of ten International Charter Members of the new Omega Alpha Association, a Systems Engineering Honor Society. Learn more at www.omegalph.org. Dr. Sage is the Founding Dean Emeritus of the school.

A.I.M: Alumni In Motion

Brian Patterson creator, Performster, Inc.

When you ask **Brian Patterson**, BS IT '05, what Performster.com is all about, he says, "Think American Idol meets YouTube." Brian and his partner, GMU graduate **Reza Pourrabi**, BS Marketing '05, founded the Web-based company, which plans to launch in 2008.



Contest creators will be able to register and create unique contents by using the site's contest-building wizard tools.



Combining a serious idea with some serious fun, Performster.com is an online site where people can host Web-based competitions. "It's a contest engine," says Patterson (anything from best pet trick to best animated short film) can run through the site.

Contest creators will be able to register and create a unique contest by using the site's contest-building wizard tools. Each contest will have its own parameters such as number of possible entries, length of contest and voting rules. Performster.com serves as an independent third party and a place where anyone can log in to view the latest entries.

Patterson says that his time as a student at Mason has really helped him to push forward with this idea. "As a student, I was able to work on some large-scale projects that put theory into practice." He says Mason was also important because it's where he met Reza Pourrabi. Between Brian's IT foundation and Reza's marketing background, they plan to see where they can take their idea.



Patterson's "day job" is one that he landed right out of college. He's a program manager for Sallie Mae. While he hopes that Performster.com will some day become his full-time job, he's happy where he is and feels the experience is invaluable.

"There have been so many people at Mason who are supportive of our project," says Patterson. "Check out Performster.com and let us know what you think."

The Volgenau School News

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for future articles to
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The Last Word

I hope you have enjoyed this first issue of *The Volgenau School News*. There are many exciting projects, programs, and people at work at our school and that will be featured in future issues of the *News*. We invite you to keep us informed about what is happening in your world so that we can celebrate your success as well.

A key theme for us in 2008 is continuing to improve our School and to enhance the value of our degrees to our graduates.

An important part of this process is our new building. The construction is on schedule for an opening date of fall 2009. The steel beams are already in place and the concrete floors are being poured. Check it out for yourself at <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/?webPath=clarkconstruction/gmu>

This incredible new facility is only possible due to the support of our alumni and friends. We are well on our way toward raising the funds necessary to pay for the building and your continued help is needed. Please help us by contributing to the 2010 Building on Excellence Campaign by making a gift or pledge commitment of \$2,010.

In recognition of your generous gift, the new building's spectacular four-story glass atrium will honor all donors to the building and a recognition wall will be unveiled during our building's opening.

To make your donation please visit http://ite.gmu.edu/corporate_community_partners/brochures/2010_Campaign_Brochure.pdf

Also, please forward this newsletter on to your fellow GMU graduates who may not yet be on our distribution list. We want to reach all of our more than 12,000 graduates.

We wish you continued success for 2008 and beyond.

Lloyd J. Griffiths
Dean