We want to thank you for the support you have given to us over the years. The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology would not be the exceptional place that it is today without your support.

The hard recruitment efforts by the campus have started to pay off with growth in the B.S. Computer Science program (up 13% over last year) and a slight growth in the Applied and Computational Mathematics program (with 43 students enrolled). All of our programs have experienced placement well over 95% and we keep experiencing growing demand for our graduates.

This spring, our graduate program was given a new name: Computational Sciences and Robotics (CSR). We found the old name of Robotics and Intelligent Autonomous Systems was a bit difficult to market with both employers and students having difficulty recognizing the emphasis that our program has in algorithm development. We believe the new name is a much better way to communicate the nature of our program and the number of applications for the graduate program remains strong as we look forward to a new class starting in the fall.

The new graduate program has strong industrial support from L-3 Communications Systems West (CSW), which is an industry leader that is based in Salt Lake City. Through their generous support we now have a new laboratory that was dedicated on April 2, 2012.

Our new lab is the L-3 Communications Embedded Systems and Robotics Lab. L-3 CSW has contributed over $100,000 in the form of graduate student fellowships, direct funding of laboratory equipment, and donations to support the participation of regional middle school children in need in our summer workshops.

We were fortunate to have Susan Opp, President and General Manager of L-3 CSW (EE 85), give a brief speech at the lab dedication.

Other L-3 CSW employees in attendance: Albert Modrovsky, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; June Knight, Director of Software Development (CSC 96); and Cheryl Holen, Software Engineer and our first graduate of the new graduate program.
The Ronald Weger Faculty Development Fund was endowed last year and it also benefitted from a recent donation to add to the endowment.

This fund seeks to bolster the support for faculty in order to keep them current in their field and provide resources that will assist with their research or enhance teaching.

We have had faculty apply for the funding and the first award from this fund went to Dr. Roger Johnson for his travel to the national Joint Statistics Meeting in San Diego. He will present a paper and attend a workshop to learn various techniques in pedagogy in order to improve the design for a couple of our courses.

If you are interested in further supporting this faculty development fund then please feel free to contact us.

Our campus has recently been added to a corporate charitable program from Rockwell Collins that has resulted in several donations to the campus and to our department. The larger donation came in the form of a $15,000 grant to support a computer science senior design team where we had a team working with a Rockwell Collins campus in India. All the money was dedicated to sending the students to Hyderabad, India to meet the people they have been working with over the academic year. This team’s experience illustrated to our entire senior design class the global nature of the profession and the opportunities and challenges that await when working with people from different cultures. Other donations from the Rockwell Collins program included: $2,000 to support the campus entry in the NASA lunar rover competition and another $2,000 directed towards scholarship support for Computer Science majors.
Our department remains a strong competitor in the regional ACM programming contest with two of our four teams placing in the top ten and all of our teams placing in the top fifty for the region, which comprised over 200 teams last year. We continue to need support for the ACM Coach’s Challenge where your donations are matched by the coaches to provide scholarships for the team members. This scholarship fund has been a great catalyst for our program by supporting talented students who were having to choose between working extra hours at a part-time job to pay for school and participating on the programming team. The scholarships have given every student the opportunity to be a member of the team and learn more about the programming skills that have made them feared competitors in our region as well as successful employees. Coach Corwin and Coach Logar invite you to cost them some money – they will match your donation dollar for dollar.

**Faculty**

**Dr. Kyle Caudle**

Dr. Kyle Caudle comes to us from the Naval Academy, where he had been teaching for ten years. Dr. Caudle has a Ph.D. in Computational Statistics from George Mason University and his research interests include: Non-parametric statistics, Computational Statistics, Time Series Forecasting, and Massive Data Streams. Kyle is a natural teacher and he has also been active on several research projects in his first year on campus.

**Dr. Mengyu Qiao**

Dr. Mengyu Qiao comes to us from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology where he received his Ph.D. in Computer Science. Mengyu’s experience and background are valuable to the program since he has research interests in: Data Mining, Pattern Recognition, Information Security, Bioinformatics, Multimedia Processing, Networking and Distributed Systems. We are very excited about the upper-level computer science classes that we will be able to offer due to his expertise.

**Julie Dahl**

Julie Dahl was awarded the Benard A. Ennenga Faculty Award for 2011. The Ennenga is an award where the campus selects a single faculty member to recognize for outstanding contributions in teaching. Julie has an outstanding record of teaching and is very deserving of this award.

**Retirees**

We are sad to see Laura Geary and John Lofberg retire at the end of the spring semester, we wish them well.

**New Faculty**

We had a very successful year in our faculty searches this past year and look forward to several new faces joining us in the fall.
HELPING THE DEPARTMENT

There are many ways you can help the Department as we continue to pursue our mission and strengthen our programs. The number one priority we have identified is supporting scholarships. Our admissions office is able to catch the attention of the best and brightest students in the region, but the cost of school is a major factor when students consider our university. Currently, it costs students well over $9,000 a year for just tuition and fees to attend school (this doesn’t count any other expenses). South Dakota is no longer a discount compared to many of our neighbors and this has hurt our recruitment efforts.

We have a scholarship fund to recruit incoming math majors that has been integral to the program’s success. The same assistance is necessary to preserve the viability of our computer science program. Your donation to our scholarship fund for these incoming freshman would allow us to recruit more competitively, attracting students with exceptional ability and enabling the continued academic excellence of our department.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Dear Donors, Alumni & Friends,

Thank you for all your support of the department and our programs. As we continue to strategically plan for the future there are a few ideas and current programs that I would like to mention. As you may know, our participation in the ACM programming contest, the Putnam, and the Math Modeling Contest does not receive any state funding. Many of our senior design projects and the student research projects are supported at a very minimal level. Our department is very interested in starting a visiting faculty position, or even establishing an endowed faculty position. Even a modest donation to our department services would allow us to do more in terms of recruitment or fund social activities like our ice cream social.

Another way you could help our programs is in the area of recruitment. The university has had a long working relationship with alumni that devote a small amount of their time contacting their local high schools to drop off recruitment materials or even meet with prospective students. Feel free to contact us and we will send you any necessary materials.

If your company has an internship program that hires students in Computer Science and/or Mathematics, please consider stopping by your Human Resources office to talk about recruiting students from the School of Mines. In this competitive job market, knowing someone on the inside is invaluable. Chances are your employer is happy to recruit from an institution with a long tradition of producing outstanding graduates.

Another way to help the department is to stay connected. We have a news page on our department website and a Facebook page, www.mcs.sdsmt.edu and www.facebook.com/groups/sdsmt.math.cs. Being an informed member of a support network is a very valuable way to help a small university gain recognition in a global and competitive world.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has always counted on passionate faculty, dedicated staff, excellent students and generous support from our alumni and friends. We greatly appreciate your support. Best wishes to you from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Sincerely,

DR. KYLE RILEY
DEPARTMENT HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY