



Department of Computer Science

September 7, 2006

Dear Computer Science Alumni and Friends,

A lot has happened with the Queens College Computer Science Department in recent months. First of all, the department underwent a successful external evaluation and site visit by a two-member committee: Dr. Larry Rudolph, Principal Research Scientist at the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, and Dr. Sargur Srihari, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at SUNY Buffalo. They examined a self-study report that touched every aspect of the department and met with all members of the faculty as well as student representatives. "The committee is pleased to report," they wrote in their thorough and thoughtful evaluation, "that the department has talented faculty, capable leadership and graduate and undergraduate students of high caliber."

Secondly, after leading the department through a difficult period of adjustment with great success and serving its faculty, staff, and students tirelessly over the past three years, Prof. Jennifer Whitehead has decided to return to active teaching and scholarship. She will embark on a new paradigm of computing referred to as Quantum Computing that has the potential to surpass the capabilities of the Turing Machine. Although we all miss her regular presence in the department office, it is comforting to know that she will continue to be a key member of the department's leadership team.

The department continues to expand its talent pool. This fall we have Dr. Matt Huenerfauth joining us from the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation research is on assistive technologies for the hearing impaired — the translation of English to an animated character gesturing in the American Sign Language. We look forward to seeing his work someday help break down the communication barriers resulting from the differences in people's ability to hear.

The Computer Science Department would like to express our deep appreciation for your generous support in the past, and ask for your continuing support for our programs and students. If you are able to make a contribution this year, please make your check payable to the Queens College Foundation, note "Computer Science Department" on the check, and return it in the envelope provided. Thank you very much for your help!

Sincerely,

Zhigang Xiang, Chair

Program codes: 025, 026, 027, 314

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