10th Annual Alumni Symposium

Jeffrey Duke, 2006
Jeffrey was born in Virginia, but raised in Panama City Beach, Florida from the age of three and considers that his home state. He lived there until joining the Navy in 1977. While in the Navy, he had the privilege to visit many countries including: South Korea, Guam, Gibraltar, Italy, Israel, France, Nova Scotia, and many Caribbean Islands. He retired 20 years later and stayed in Charleston, his last duty station. Jeffrey began working with computers while in the Navy and upon retiring started working for Blackbaud as a customer support specialist of a new product they had acquired. He worked in that capacity for about one year before being offered training in a Visual Basic programming class they were starting. He passed the class and worked as a programmer for the next 3.5 years, specializing in user interfaces and reports. He loved what he was doing, but didn’t have the background information needed to do some of the more complex things and left Blackbaud in 2001 to pursue his education. Jeffrey started at CoFC in 2002 and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2006 with a BS in Computer Science with a minor in Russian Studies and a BA in Studio Art with focuses in sculpture and photography. After graduation, he began his career at Charleston Water System as a Systems Analyst and got promoted to Senior Systems Analyst a little over a year later.

Patrick Roos, 2007
Patrick is a senior data scientist at Miner & Kasch, a data science and enterprise architecture services firm based out of Maryland. Patrick has extensive work experience in both academic research and industry settings, focused around data mining, machine learning, and modeling. After completing his PhD work focusing in AI, he spent several years in research at the University of Maryland and the National Cancer Institute, focusing on computational social modeling and biomedical informatics. Since joining industry, he has worked on big data and advanced analytics solutions for companies ranging from small businesses to Fortune 20 companies in industry sectors spanning finance, telecommunications, education, and retail. Patrick received his B.S. in Discovery Informatics from the College of Charleston and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, College Park.
**Alexander Endert, 2008**

Alex Endert is an Assistant Professor in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech. He directs the Visual Analytics Lab, where he and his students explore novel user interaction techniques for visual analytics. His lab often applied this fundamental research to applied domains including text analysis, intelligence analysis, cybersecurity, decision-making, and others. He is an active contributor to venues for human-computer interaction and information visualization (ACM CHI, IEEE VIS, IEEE TVCG, IEEE CG&A). He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science at Virginia Tech in 2012, advised by Dr. Chris North. In 2013, his work on Semantic Interaction was awarded the IEEE VGTC VPG Pioneers Group Doctoral Dissertation Award, and the Virginia Tech Computer Science Best Dissertation Award.

**Avery Scott, 2009**

Student employment with the CofC IT department was a great start to his career. Graduating in 2009 was a bit rough, as there were not a lot of jobs available regardless of education, experience, or location. Avery was finally able to find a job through friends in his graduating class in Atlanta doing the digital equivalent of loading boxes of documents on a shelf. He was happy to be employed, but was bored out of his mind enough to apply for a job advertised on a billboard. He gained invaluable experience at Hostgator, not just in Linux Administration, but also in customer support that helped him get a much better job with Rackspace. After three years there, he had enough experience that he showed up on Apple's radar and is now quite happy to call himself a Site Reliability Engineer.

**Brian Giarrocco, 2010**

Brian Giarrocco is an algorithmic trader, combining market knowledge with data mining techniques to find a tradable edge in Equity Markets. Brian graduated from College of Charleston in 2010 with a BS in Discovery Informatics, and a Finance concentration. Before moving to his current role at Ground Swell Capital, he was a lead trader in the proprietary trading division at Citigroup’s ATD in Mount Pleasant. Currently, Ground Swell’s algorithms trade across more than 30 different exchanges in domestic and international markets.
**Brittany Johnson, 2011**

Brittany Johnson is a 5th year Ph.D. student at NC State University under Dr. Emerson Murphy-Hill, and co-advised by Dr. Sarah Heckman, in the Developer Liberation Front. She received her Bachelor's of Arts in Computer Science from College of Charleston in 2011. She conducted her undergraduate research under Dr. Jim Bowring in CIRDLES.org. Her research interests are in human factors in software engineering and artificial intelligence; her current research is focused on modeling developer conceptual knowledge. She was recently awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to support her research and more recently interned as Microsoft Research under Thomas Zimmermann. More on Brittany can be found at [http://www4.ncsu.edu/~bijohnso](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~bijohnso).

**Jordan Homan, 2012**

Jordan Homan is a co-founder and Chief Technology Officer at Tender Food & Recipes: a new startup founded by alumni driven to change the way people discover new recipes and shop for groceries. Tender Food & Recipes was created to provide an easy way to cook and share recipes together on a mobile platform in an innovative, exciting, yet familiar way. Today, Tender Food & Recipes is known worldwide with over 200,000 users and 50+ million user interactions within the app. With so many people passionate about food, Tender gives foodies a place to discover and share recipes easily in a way that creates a brand new, yet familiar social experience specifically catered for the food industry.

**Jason Daniel, 2013**

Jason Daniel graduated in the class of 2013 with a B.S in CSCI at the College of Charleston. He currently lives in Charlotte, NC with his wife, Taylor, who works for Homeless Support Services in Mecklenburg County. Jason currently works as a software engineer for SSI Schaefer using java, sql oracle, and Schaefer's proprietary ACX framework. The company specializes in warehouse logistics. This includes building the warehouse and machinery to manage and monitor throughput of goods using both complete automation, manual labor, or a mix of the two. The company has their main headquarters based in Giebalstadt, Germany and newer one located in Charlotte, NC. He works in the Charlotte office, but has also worked with the team at the German location.
Krista Grooms, 2014

Krista Grooms is a project scientist for Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic (SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic). Upon graduating from the College of Charleston in 2014, Grooms accepted a full time position at SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic where she had interned since 2010. Since 2014, Grooms has served as a project scientist on multiple electronic security systems supporting Government sponsors. As part of these programs, Grooms has worked on completing major installations as well as spearheading new efforts. These efforts have included working on all major project milestones from requirements derivation to system turnover. Ms. Grooms enjoys the opportunities she has had through SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic. She has been able to travel extensively and participate in enriching outreach programs like STEM.

Joye Nettles, 2015

Joye Nettles is a Spring 2015 graduate from College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Born in Darlington, South Carolina, Joye attended Mayo Magnet School for Math, Science, and Technology where she developed her passion for STEM and education. During her time at CofC, she was actively involved as the founder of the Women in Computing club, president of the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP), and president of the Chi Iota chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Joye found her passion for software development through her research experiences in the Cyber Infrastructure Research and Development Lab for the Earth Sciences, CIRDLES, and an REU at the Georgia Institute of Technology during the summer of her sophomore year. After her experience developing a tech startup and winning $10,000 through the Inaugural class of the ICAT program during her senior year, she developed an extreme passion for entrepreneurship. Since then, Joye has joined ThoughtWorks as an Associate Consultant Developer where she is constantly improving her technical skills.