Since Alan Turing wrote the first instructions for a machine to play the game of chess, programmers have been trying to develop chess programs capable of beating the human masters of the game. One of these programmers is Charles Roberson, a 1986 Elon graduate, who has been developing his program NoonianChess for five years.

During the past two years, NoonianChess has competed in the 10th World Computer Chess Championship in Maastricht, the Netherlands, and the 5th Programmer’s Computer Chess Tournament sponsored by the Internet Chess Club. NoonianChess managed a tie against the three time world champion program, Deep Junior, in the World Computer Chess Championship, and has competed against the present world champion chess program, Shredder. There are only about 250 computer chess programs worldwide so NoonianChess is definitely part of an elite group of programs.


Dr. Lynn Heinrichs was previously an Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems at Western Carolina University. She has an Ed.D. from Northern Illinois University with an MIS concentration, and her research interests include gender differences in Information Technology, Information Systems education, and assimilation of Information Technology.

Shannon Pollard is currently a doctoral candidate in Computer Science at Duke University, and has a B.A. from East Carolina University. Her research interests include Artificial Intelligence and machine learning.
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Dr. Robert Panoff is Voices of Discovery Speaker

Dr. Robert Panoff, director of the Shodor Education Foundation, Inc., presented a lecture on October 2 for the Voices of Discovery speaker series at Elon sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. The topic of his presentation was the research in computational science being conducted at the Shodor Education Foundation. The Shodor Education Foundation research involves the use of computer technology for the advancement of computational science in science and mathematics education through the development of interactive software. Dr. Panoff has formed the National Computational Science Institute to train science faculty in the use of computational science as a learning tool.

Dr. Panoff met with several of the Computing Sciences faculty prior to his presentation including Megan Conklin, Beth Ellington, Dave Powell, Barbara Taylor and Herb Schuette.

Faculty Presentations and Publications

Dave Powell presented a two day course at GM Knowledge center on September 8-9, 2003 on Advanced Optimization, Theory and Application.


Megan Conklin presented a paper entitled Data Mining Spam at the ACM Mid-Southeastern Regional Fall Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on November 13, 2003.


Alumni News

Eric Hammond is the Director of Information Technology at Steel Services, Inc. in Richmond, Virginia, “Please update your records accordingly and continue to send me the newsletter, I really enjoyed it.”

Eric Hammond making his presentation as the Voices of Discovery speaker on October 2.
A team of Elon University students finished in 31st place at the Southeast Regional Association for Computing Machinery Programming contest, held Nov. 8 at Duke University.

Students Ryan Barnard, Matt Lane and Michael Richards, along with faculty advisors Joel Hollingsworth and Shannon Pollard, competed against 161 teams. The Elon team finished ahead of teams from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University and the College of William and Mary.

Conferences

On November 13, 2003 the Elon Computing Sciences Department Student Chapter of the ACM traveled to the ACM Mid-Southeastern Regional Fall Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Ryan Markel presented a paper entitled Developing an Educational Online Learning Experience. Other Elon students who attended the conference were Michael Richards, Matt Lane and Dan Evans along with ACM Student Chapter advisors Megan Conklin and Vicki Hightower.

2002-2003 Academic Award Winners

The Computing Sciences department would also like to congratulate the following students who received the following academic awards for the 2002-2003 academic year.

- **Computer Science Academic Achievement** Richard Dutton
- **Computing Science Department Service** Brian DeYoung
- **Elon College Programming Contest** Brian DeYoung
- **Information Systems Academic Achievement** Christina Dickerman and Marisa Triman
- **Carpenter Award** Ryan Barnard

Graduate School News

Five 2003 Elon University Computing Sciences graduates have pursued further study in graduate programs. Brian DeYoung and Ryan Huff are attending Wake Forest University, Richard Dutton is attending William and Mary, Scott O’Brien is attending Pace University and Matt Rice is attending Florida State University.
The Computing Sciences Department of Elon University has a new minor to offer Elon University students this academic year in **Multimedia Authoring**. The minor provides an interdisciplinary approach to the development of successful persuasive digital content for all disciplines and is 20 credit hours. This allows students to integrate the study of digital art and writing with a solid technical foundation through core courses in English and Computing Sciences. Students will learn document design and content in the English and Art departments where they will address the theory and art of developing multimedia with rich technical writing combined with digital art. These design skills will be complemented with courses in Computer Information Systems focusing on web based databases and web servers.

Students will be expected to implement what they have learned by completing a project, geared toward their own major in the Multimedia Authoring Studio course. The final multimedia authoring project course provides an opportunity to develop skills learned in writing, interface design, digital art, and web development into a significant project that will include both a research and application component. The project will address a multimedia challenge in the student’s field of major study or a related field of interest.

Visit our web site at [www.elon.edu/compsci](http://www.elon.edu/compsci) to learn more about this minor.