

GRADCASTER

A PAPER-FREE NEWSLETTER FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



October 2009



Technology in Tune with Art



A Computer and Music Partnership at UC Makes for a Sound Education

An innovative collaboration between UC's nationally and internationally ranked engineering and music programs began when two graduate students met at an on-campus research event. The result has been joint projects, an invention disclosure and—perhaps—an upcoming patent application.

This ambitious partnership between music and computer science at the University of Cincinnati isn't yet producing toe-tapping show tunes.

But it is earning applause in the form of a recent invention disclosure, a possible patent filing and memorable performance art.

About two years ago, Mara Helmuth, professor of composition, musicology and theory and president of the International Computer Music Association, and Dharma Agrawal, distinguished professor of computer science, began partnering on research projects thanks to a chance meeting between their graduate students—Jennifer Bernard Merkwowitz, who was working with Helmuth, and Peter Jun, who was working with Agrawal.

After students Merkwowitz and Jun first met at the annual UC Graduate Poster Forum and began sharing ideas, the faculty members did likewise.

Right from the start, their goal became the exploration of sensors and sensor networks in creating and controlling music. **Read the rest of this article, along with other material on UC grad students and faculty, in the 2009 Graduate School Annual Report [here](#).**

Fall Enrollment is UP:

8221

Letter from the Dean

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to a new academic year. We are very pleased that you have chosen the University of Cincinnati to pursue your graduate studies. **Whether you are enrolled in a traditional or distance learning program, our graduate faculty and staff are committed to ensuring that your UC experience is of lasting value.**

For those of you who are in the exciting stage of starting graduate work, I urge you to be thoughtful and deliberate as you pursue your education. Based on my own experiences, I would suggest the following:

-Expect to work very hard. There is no substitute for this. Your clear commitment will bring out the best in our graduate faculty as they work with you.

-Approach your degree work not as a set of credit hurdles which have to be overcome, but with the excitement of learning and discovery and the drive for the highest personal attainment.

-Be very clear about your professional objectives--what is it that you want out of your education at UC? Plan your program of study accordingly.

-Challenge yourself to explore outside your discipline. This is one of the advantages of being at a research-extensive university. The possibilities are enormous—tap them!

-Refine your professional skills. The [Graduate Student Professional Development Center](#) has many offerings to assist you.

-Get involved in the campus community. It is a great way to have fun, meet bright, interesting people, and develop professionally. The [Graduate Student Governance Association](#) (GSGA) is a good place to start.

-Very importantly, find the appropriate balance between work and recreation; it is essential. Our campus, city and region offer many recreational opportunities.

In closing, I want to wish you success in this academic year. If the [Graduate School](#) staff can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Neville Pinto
Dean of the Graduate School



Welcome to the resources provided by the newly established [Graduate Student Professional Development Center](#)! Your career success depends on innate talent, hard work, and a record of achievements in your discipline. Nevertheless, **nearly every career requires strong skills in communications, interpersonal interactions, and oral and written presentations.** With these needs in mind, Dean Pinto recently established the GSPDC to provide and coordinate workshops, seminars, and online resources.

The gateway to these opportunities is the new professional development website, www.grad.uc.edu/PD. In addition to a section for the [Preparing Future Faculty \(PFF\) program](#), this site includes information on the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CET&L) and Graduate School [workshops](#) that cover networking, grant writing, oral presentations, electronic thesis/dissertation submission, and pedagogy. You can also find material on funding opportunities, from travel grants to fellowships, and the [Graduate Student Poster Forum](#). Finally, the website features a blog we've recently started to discuss identifying and resolving ethical conflicts in different fields.

Oh, I/O? **Input/Output?** This means, give us input on what you need and we'll strive to provide it!

Robert Brackenbury
Director, GSPDC
robert.brackenbury@uc.edu



The [Graduate Student Governance Association](#) (GSGA) has redesigned its Research Award program, and graduate students are already reaping the benefits!

During the summer, Jim Bowen (GSGA president), Sandra Degen (Vice President for Research), and I redesigned the former One-Time Research Award. **Our goal was to create a program that would better promote the rigorous and far-reaching research of UC graduate students.**

This new Research Award (RA), funded in part by Vice President Degen and the Office of Research, is competitive, with a certain total amount of award money available per round. It is also larger, so students can receive up to \$500 per graduate career, and more rigorous, touting an intensive application that is reviewed by faculty members.

Without wasting any time, GSGA granted Research Awards to three graduate students, including one from aerospace engineering, another from immunobiology, and a third, Mark Tiemeier, from biological sciences. Tiemeier travelled to California to study a species of spiders (pictured) that he says exhibit a rare combination of "both solitary and colonial behavior." "I explore how food availability affects their decision of whether to forage solitarily or in a colony," he explains. "While they're a fantastic model organism for these questions, they only live in California and Mexico, and I would have been unable to complete my study without help from the GSGA Research Award." We are currently accepting applications for the next deadline—5 p.m., Oct. 21. Please visit the new webpage (www.uc.edu/gsga/RA.htm) for more details, or contact me at shannopy@email.uc.edu.

Peggy Shannon-Baker
GSGA Vice-President

10/12
[Yates Scholars](#) Orientation
(invitation only)

10/12
[Library Resources Workshop](#)
(12:00-1:30)

10/14
[Library Resources Workshop](#)
(5:30-7:00)

10/19
[Editorial Assistantship](#)
Call for Nominations

10/23
[MAGS](#) Nominations Due to
Graduate School

10/26
Graduate Program Directors
Meeting

Q & A

Question:
Is there a "One Stop" for all of the professional development opportunities offered outside of my academic program?

Answer:
Yes. The new [Graduate Student Professional Development Center](#) (GSPDC) offers all sorts of resources for professional development including workshops, funding opportunities (coming soon), and the Preparing Future Faculty program.

Graduate Student Welcome Reception a Success

The Graduate School's inaugural Graduate Student Welcome Reception was a success! Despite pouring rain and colder-than-usual temperatures, between 225 and 250 grad students from every corner of campus kicked off the school year by networking, learning about professional development opportunities and hanging with friends. Also in attendance were important graduate student organizations, including the [Black Graduate Student Association](#), the [Graduate Student Governance Association](#) (GSGA), [International Student groups](#), and the start of a Women's Graduate Student Association.

Dean Pinto opened the reception by mentioning the Graduate School's many famous alums such as George Rieveschl (inventor of Benadryl, PhD in chemistry), John Henderson (Wilberforce University 17th President, EdD in counselor education), and Kathleen Battle (American soprano, MIM in voice). Dr. Robert Brackenbury (Brack), the first director of UC's [Graduate Student Professional Development Center](#), closed by describing the opportunities the center will offer.

The Graduate School welcomes all graduate students and wishes them luck as they begin another exciting academic year.

Student Accomplishments

[Hannah Chai](#) (CECH)
[Philip Cherian](#) (PHARM)



Out on the Town

Enjoy the Arts

Don't let the economy and the "poor grad student" life cramp your cultural style... an [Enjoy the Arts](#) membership means arts access without having to break the bank! If you are looking for something fun and funky to do on a Wednesday, low-key on a Saturday, and refined and sophisticated on a Sunday, then **Enjoy the Arts is your hook-up for cultural events 7 days a week—for FREE or CHEAP!**

A membership with Enjoy the Arts will keep you connected to the region's arts happenings and opportunities. **Student memberships are available for \$25 and include:**

- **\$500 of free tickets**
- Weekly Hip-Tip emails
- **Discounted movie, Cincinnati Zoo, and Newport Aquarium tickets**
- Access to Members-Only events
- Special 2-1 discounted tickets
- **Access to over 40 cultural organizations**, including Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati Ballet, Know Theatre of Cincinnati, Broadway Across America, Contemporary Arts Center, and many more.

For more information, visit www.enjoythearts.org, email info@enjoythearts.org, or call 513-621-4700. Enjoy the Arts is also on **Facebook** as a group and fan page, and you can follow us on **Twitter**. We'll see you wherever the arts take you!

Kristin Suess

Grad Student Glance



Jessica Siu
Physical Therapy, DPT

Jessica Siu has earned the distinction of receiving the first Department of Rehabilitation Sciences scholarship for physical therapy students.

Now in her third year of the doctoral physical therapy (DPT) program, Jessica began at UC as an undergraduate in health sciences. Her experiences here convinced her that UC would be a great place to earn a graduate degree. "I had worked with some of the same faculty that would also be teaching in the physical therapy program and knew that they were focused on student success," she says, adding, "the class sizes were small and board pass rate high."

In addition to being an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Jessica takes part in the student government organization at UC. Last year she organized the mini heart marathon team, which raised \$1200. She hopes for more participants and money this year.

Currently Jessica is concentrating on pursuing fundamental goals. **"What I am focused on at this point is keeping my mind open to learning as much as I can about the practice of physical therapy, finding an interest in everything, and becoming the best, well-rounded practitioner that I can be."**

Announcements and Awards Oct. 09

[Graduate School's 2009 Annual Report Released](#)

[UC Welcomes New President](#)

[UC Climate Commitment 101 Lecture Series](#) Check this website for upcoming climate change and sustainability activities and lectures.

[Form From Form: Art from Discovery Exhibit](#) Opening reception 5-8 p.m., Thursday Oct. 29, in the Philip M. Meyers, Jr. Memorial Gallery (Steger Student Life Center). Noted Greater Cincinnati artists exhibit new works inspired by Darwin. This event is one of many being held as part of UC's year-long [Darwin Celebration](#).

[Greenland Glaciers: A Melting Mystery](#)

[Video: Faces of UC](#)

View a presentation about diversity at UC.

[Homecoming](#)

Campus Crowd

Lots of Excitement on Main-Street this Fall

Start off your fun this fall by visiting the [Catskeller](#) on Thursday nights for Acoustic Brew. This weekly program features performances by a variety of talented UC students. Classic rock trio Blue Skies performs on Oct. 15, and piano prodigy Dan Orlando performs on Oct. 29. Performances begin at 6 p.m.

If your luck is in, try your hand at the Texas hold'em tournament taking place at 7 p.m., Friday Oct. 16.

Don't miss the [Catskeller's preview of holiday beer on Nov. 4](#). Hosted by Adam Bankovich of Cavalier Distributing, the event costs \$10 and includes appetizers and tastes of 6 craft beers. Or expand your knowledge of wine by going to the Mick and Mack Best of Italy wine tasting, which will be held at 5 p.m., Nov. 5. For just \$10 you can taste red and white wine, as well as feast on an Italian buffet that features risotto Milanese, mussels, and calamari.

Resource of the Month

Discovering the University of Cincinnati Libraries

Over the summer, the University of Cincinnati Libraries remodeled their home page (<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/>) to provide direct access to more library resources. By clicking the Books, Articles, and Journals tabs, you can search for resources using the best tools available. The Quicklinks located on the left side of each page offer shortcuts to the most popular resources, including OhioLINK, Blackboard, library hours and maps, etc.

Some tools are easier to discover and use than others, and the abundance of them at the libraries may be overwhelming. To help you, UC libraries provide help online. In addition to the Help topics at our home page, we have a specific page for graduate students: <http://www.libraries.uc.edu/instruction/students/grads.html>.

While online resources are convenient and easily accessible, you may want to meet the people who create them and make them available-your friendly librarians. You will have a chance to speak with librarians at one of the library orientation workshops sponsored by the Graduate School. The first one takes place 12:00-1:30 p.m., Oct. 12, and the second, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Oct. 14. For in-depth, **hands-on training in specific tools and technologies, consider taking our workshops** (see the schedule and register online at <http://web-central.uc.edu/hslclass/>).

Keep up with library news by visiting our blog at: <http://www.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/>
Consider subscribing!

President's Corner

Dear UC Graduate Students,

On behalf of [Graduate Student Governance Association](#) (GSGA), let me welcome you to campus. Over the summer, GSGA officers have been laying the foundation for a great upcoming year. As we ended last year, we were planning for the worst, concerning our budget, while hoping for the best. We are pleased to announce that, thanks to the foresight of last year's executive board and the assistance of university administrators over the summer, the best possible outcome has been reached.

Diana Hechavarria, our treasurer and graduate representative on the Board of Trustees, was instrumental in the selection of our new president; **in fact, chairman Niehoff praised her at the most recent Board meeting for being willing to ask candidates difficult questions.** Peggy Shannon-Baker, GSGA vice president, has led efforts to revamp our Research Awards, as you might have already read, and has appeared at many of the graduate program orientations. Russell Best, GSGA campus representative, has been **advocating for environmental and sustainability initiatives as well as helping out with the new food service contract negotiations.**

This coming year we will continue to focus on issues important to graduate students, such as student health insurance and graduate and family housing. You can help us accomplish our goals by being active on campus. Our primary goal this year is to encourage graduate students to come out from the labs and offices and be a more visible force in the university community. A stronger graduate student presence on campus will show decision makers that we are an integral part of UC.

Good luck this year.

Sincerely,
[Jim Bowen](#)