

**Short Annotated History of the
Computer and Information Science Department
at UMASS Dartmouth**

No	Date of event	Description of event
1	September 1981	First 24 EFRs and 4 Transfer students have been admitted into BS in Computer Science program; originally this program was administered for a year by a faculty committee from Mathematics and ECE Departments chaired by Prof. Robert Kowalczyk
2	June 17, 1982	Southeastern Massachusetts University (SMU) President Donald Walker recommended to the "Committee on Personnel & Program of Studies" of the Board of Trustees to change name of the Department of Mathematics to Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. This new department undertook responsibility to administer the BS in Computer Science program
3	June 24, 1982	SMU Board of Trustees approves change of the department's name to Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
4	September 1, 1982	20 EFRs + 4 Transfer students are admitted to the BS in Computer Science program. Dr. Robert Green was hired as the first faculty of the planned Computer and Information Science Department. The SMU General Catalog of 1982-1984 mentions for the first time that BS in Computer Science program is being offered at SMU.
5	January 12, 1983	SMU President Walker informs Board of Trustees that external consultants recommended that computer science and computer engineering programs should be located in one department. However, after consultation with SMU faculty involved in this matter he recommends that ECE Department will host the computer engineering program and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will host the computer science program and that the departments will cooperate. He also informs the Board that he expects to recommend in January 1984 to establish new and separate Department of Computer and Information Sciences
6	April 7, 1983	SMU President submits to the SMU Board of Trustees a report entitled " <i>The Future of Computer Studies at SMU</i> ". In this report there is the following statement " <i>We should immediately create within the College of Arts and Sciences a new unit, the Department of Computer and Information Sciences.</i> " The report defines the mission of the new department; this mission includes: development of computer science programs on undergraduate and graduate level, computer fluency, computer science minor, and lists major areas of study such as: programming and problem solving, data structures,

		programming languages and translators, computer graphics, computer architecture and operating systems, analysis of algorithms and formal models of computing, artificial intelligence, software system design, applications of computers in other disciplines, social impact of computing, and other related courses.
7	June 23, 1983	SMU Board of Trustees receives next report from President Walker on the status of the planned CIS Department. Dr. Robert Green was elected in Spring 1983 as chairperson of the CIS Department; he served as departmental chair until May 31, 1987
8	September 1, 1983	74 EFRs + 15 Transfer computer science students are admitted to the BS in Computer Science program. New Computer and Information Sciences Department is established. Dr. Jan Bergandy is hired, as the first faculty with Ph.D. in Computer Science degree
9	September 23, 1983	In 1985 budget plan prepared by SMU President to the Board of Trustees meeting includes money specifically allocated to support programs in computer science hosted in the CIS Department
10	September 1, 1985	Dr. Edmund Staples is hired as tenure-track Associate Professor; he supported algorithms and foundations' courses of the computer science curriculum
11	September 1, 1986	Dr. Boleslaw Mikolajczak arrives as a Visiting Professor to CIS Department with mission to contribute to development of the MS in Computer Science program; he organizes Computer Science Seminar Series with year-long topic devoted to Petri nets and modeling of concurrent computational processes in AY 2006-2007
12	June 1, 1987	Dr. Jan Bergandy has been elected as CIS Department chair for period of June 1, 1987- May 31, 1991
13	September 1, 1987	First students are admitted to MS in Computer Science program offered by the CIS Department
14	September 1, 1987	Dr. Boleslaw Mikolajczak is hired as a tenure-track Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science; he supports foundations of computing, parallel and distributed algorithms, and software development of parallel and distributed systems including workflow management systems
15	Fall 1987	First accreditation visit of the BS in Computer Science program from Computer Science Accreditation Board (CSAB) takes place. The following faculty were employed as full-time tenure-track faculty at that time: Jan Bergandy, Robert Green, Adam Hausknecht, Boleslaw Mikolajczak, Kay Schulze, Edmund Staples, Richard Upchurch, and Margery Zeller
16	June 24, 1988	The BS in Computer Science receives first accreditation from the Computer Science Accreditation Board for students graduating in AY 1987-1988
17	September 1, 1990	CIS Department moves to new location in the Dion Science and Engineering Bldg.
18	June 1,	Dr. Robert Green has been elected as CIS Department chair for

	1991	period June 1, 1991 until May 31, 1995
19	September 1, 1991	Southeastern Massachusetts University changes name to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
20	September 1991	CIS Department establishes Parallel Computing research lab.
21	June 1, 1995	Dr. Boleslaw Mikolajczak has been elected as a chair of the CIS Department for 1995-1999; later he has been re-elected as chair for additional three 4-year terms until May 31, 2011
22	September 1995	MS in Computer Science on-site program in Taipei, Taiwan, started with CS foundations courses being offered for qualified candidates; this program continued until 2003; approximately 35 students received MS in Computer Science
23	June 1, 1996	CIS Department moves from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering
24	October 1996	CSAB accreditation visit takes place that re-accredits the BS in Computer Science program
25	September 1, 1997	New Object-Oriented BS in Computer Science Curriculum has been introduced. Implementation of this curriculum started in Fall 1997. The curriculum is composed of three tracks: software track, systems' track, and foundations track.
26	September 1997	MS in Computer Science on-site program at Raytheon, Portsmouth, RI started; this program continued until 2005; approximately 40 students received MS in Computer Science from this program
27	September 1, 1998	Dr. Paul Bergstein is hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor to support object-oriented and software engineering methodologies and technologies of the curriculum
28	September 1998	CIS Department establishes research lab in Database Systems
29	January 1, 2000	Dr. Iren Valova, Dr. Ramaprasad Balasubramanian, and Dr. Anish Mathuria are hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professors; Dr. Valova supports neural networks and bio-informatics component of the curriculum; Dr. Balasubramanian supports computer systems, mobile robotics and image processing components of the curriculum; Dr. Mathuria supported computer networks and cryptography; he resigned in December 2002.
30	April 2000	Computer Science Industrial Advisory Committee (CSIAC) has been formed; the Committee meets bi-annually to advise the CIS Department on issues of academic programs, ABET accreditation, and research and development directions in computing.
31	September 2000	CIS Department changes architecture of the graduate computer science curriculum. It calls for three required courses: CIS 560 Theoretical Computer Science, CIS 570 Advanced Computer Systems, and CIS 580 Paradigmatic Software Development It also calls for six elective graduate computer science courses and for required individualized master's project that is a prerequisite to

		<p>master's thesis that is optional. It also requires comprehensive written exam based on three required courses. This new architectural innovation provides solid foundations represented by required courses, it gives students a lot of flexibility through elective courses, and it introduces program level assessment through the comprehensive exam.</p>
32	September 2000	<p>CIS Department introduces several new graduate computer science courses: CIS 525 Software Development of Parallel and Distributed Systems CIS 578 Computing Systems Performance Evaluation CIS 588 Neural Computing</p>
33	January 2001	<p>Dr. Eugene Eberbach has been hired as full-time tenure-track Associate Professor of Computer Science; he supported foundations of computer science, mobile robotics, and evolutionary computation components of the curriculum.</p>
34	September 1, 2001	<p>Dr. Emad Aboeela has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; he supported computer networks and multimedia networking component of the curriculum. He resigned in January 2008.</p>
35	September 1, 2002	<p>Dr. Shelley Zhang has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; she supports the intelligent computing systems component of the curriculum including multi-agent systems and design of virtual organizations</p>
36	September 1, 2002	<p>CIS Department reaches its peak enrollment of circa 350 computer science majors including 250 undergraduate and 100 graduate computer science majors</p>
37	September 1, 2002	<p>NSF awards BCC and UMASS Dartmouth a 3-year grant to establish Computer Science Transfer Program between BCC and UMASS Dartmouth; the program transfers annually well-educated computer scientists to the CIS Department</p>
38	September 2002	<p>CIS Department establishes Mobile Robotics Lab</p>
39	September 1, 2003	<p>Dr. Haiping Xu has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; he supports the concurrent software engineering and security component of the curriculum</p>
40	September 1, 2004	<p>Dr. Vinod Vokkarane has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; he supports the computer networks and information security component of the curriculum Dr. Li Shen has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; he supported bioinformatics and medical informatics component of the curriculum. He resigned in August 2007.</p>
41	October 2004	<p>CIS Department builds three research labs located in Textile Building: Neural and Intelligent Distributed Systems Lab Concurrent Software Systems Lab Advanced Computer Networks Lab</p>

42	September 2004	ABET Computing Accreditation Commission re-accredits the BS in Computer Science program
43	January 1, 2005	CIS Department introduces BS/MS Computer Science Option for highly qualified undergraduate computer science majors. This organizational innovation increases number of regional students in graduate computer science program
44	September 1, 2005	Dr. Gaoyan Xie has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor; he supports formal methods in software engineering and software quality and testing methodologies of the curriculum
45	September 1, 2006	Dr. Michael Geiger has been hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor with joint appointment with ECE Department; he supports the architecture and computer systems' component of the curriculum
46	September 2006	CIS Department introduces several new graduate elective computer science courses: CIS 555 Advanced Bioinformatics CIS 563 Multiagent Systems CIS 564 Evolutionary Computation CIS 565 Mobile Robotics CIS 581 Design and Verification of Information Systems CIS 582 Advanced Software Engineering CIS 583 Software Architectures CIS 590 Optical Networks
47	September 2006	CIS Department changes the laboratory science requirements from physics only to biology, chemistry or physics (students' choice). This architectural innovation is in response to increasing role of computing in life sciences.
48	March 2007	UMASS Dartmouth approves Software Engineering Option within BS in Computer Science program; The implementation phase began in September, 2007. This organizational innovation responds to the US software industry needs as indicated by data from Bureau of Labor Statistics and testimonies from CSIAC members.
49	March 2007	CIS Department receives a sub-contract of state-wide NSF grant on Broadening Computing Participation (BCP) for 2007-2010 with special emphasis on participation of women and underrepresented minorities through outreach and multiple pathways to computing
50	September 2007	CIS Department introduces several new courses in information technology across curriculum focus that are accessible to all UMASS Dartmouth students: CIS 160 Exploring Computer Programming with Animation CIS 210 Understanding e-Commerce Technologies CIS 220 Advanced Web Page Development
51	September 2007	CIS Department introduces several new technical elective courses to the undergraduate computer science curriculum in response to changes in market place: CIS 430 Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

		<p style="text-align: center;"> CIS 455 Bioinformatics CIS 464 Computer Game Design CIS 466 Introduction to Mobile Robotics CIS 477 Computer and Information System Security </p>
52	September 2007	<p style="text-align: center;"> CIS Department introduces several new courses in the Software Engineering Option: CIS 264 Software Quality Assurance and Testing CIS 290 Software Architectures and Frameworks CIS 365 Software Process and Project Management CIS 390 Design of Large Software Systems CIS 461 Formal Methods for Software Engineering CIS 498/499 Software Engineering Project I & II </p>
53	May 2008	<p style="text-align: center;"> CIS Department purchases cluster computer from Dell to boost its research in parallel and distributed computing and in computer intensive simulations </p>
54	May 2008	<p style="text-align: center;"> CIS Department offers for the first time a national subject program level assessment test in computer science to graduating seniors. </p>