UC PEOPLE

Angel Rivera, associate professor and chair of computer science.

By Colleen Bierstine '15

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.
A: I earned a bachelor’s degree in informatics engineering from U.C. Lisandro Alvarado in Venezuela and a master’s and Ph.D., both in computer science, from Syracuse University. I have family in California, a sister in Mexico, and my mother and brother in Venezuela.

Q: How did you get interested in computer science?
A: When I was growing up, the local university had just opened a computer science program. My mom taught at the school, so my brother and I would go sneak into the labs. We were shameless about asking the students and professors questions. My brother and I were very curious kids.

When we got out of high school, we knew computer science was the direction for us. It was like there was no other choice. We both went on to have computer science careers.

University. I worked as a teaching assistant for several classes at Syracuse while I was working toward my Ph.D. and then came to Utica College in 2005 as an assistant professor of computer science. I currently live in New Hartford, but

“There are many opportunities in this field. With a degree in computer science, you can move sideways into anything from sound effects to agriculture.”

-Rivera
Welcome
Nicholas Accordino, Development Officer
Gregory Ryan Farley, Instructional Technologist
Thomas Fletcher, Academic Coordinator, Office of YSLPP

New Titles
Tracy Balduzzi G’14, Director of Graduate Operations
Trisha Barone ’13, Project Manager for Administrative Operations and Associate Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President
Tyson Kreiger, Associate Professor of Psychology
Herbert LaGoy, Librarian II
Gary Leising, Professor of English
Amy Lewis, Transfer Credit Evaluator
Shauna Malta, Professor of Physical Therapy
Rose Patterson ’87, Director of Online Instructional Innovation
Sara Scanga, Associate Professor of Biology
Shanna VanSlyke, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
Gina Whalen ’89, Receptionist for the Office of Student Financial Services

Degrees
Joseph Perry ’90, Director of Creative Services, Master of Science in Linguistic Studies from Syracuse University
Courtney Witherspoon ’08, Coordinator of Orientation, Master of Science in Higher Postsecondary Education from Syracuse University

LOVE A PARADE?
President Todd S. Hutton will serve as co-grand marshal of the City of Utica Independence Day Parade on Friday, July 4 at 11:00 a.m. All UC faculty, staff, students, and families are invited to participate. Meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Genesee Street, where the parade will commence.
The Party in the Park, sponsored by The Genesis Group, will take place that evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Proctor Park with live bands, A Taste of Utica and the Mohawk Valley, and fireworks at dusk.
If you are interested, please sign up at www.utica.edu/hr/training.cfm, or contact the Office of Human Resources at 792-3276.

A reminder that summer hours and business casual attire are now in effect and will continue through Friday, August 15.
Business hours during this period of time will be from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Employees will be paid through 5:00 p.m. each of these days.
Please be sure to note the change in hours for this time period on your voicemail greetings.
Sarah Elleman, head field hockey coach, took first place in the women’s division of the second annual Marcy 5k Run and Walk to benefit Gold Star Mothers on May 10 in Marcy, NY.

For the fourth time, Gary Heenan G’05 participated in the Ride for Missing Children on Friday, May 16, 2014. The ride was initiated in Utica NY in 1995 in order to raise awareness about the plight of missing children.

President Todd S. Hutton has been named to a new steering committee on the Future of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges organized by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC).

The committee, which is comprised of 22 presidents from colleges and universities throughout the country, will encourage independent, higher education organizations to revitalize their missions and business models, as well as equip and prepare them to meet current and future challenges.

The committee’s first meeting is slated to convene this September in Washington, D.C. and will focus on the upcoming year’s research committee.

Brandy Gray ’10, institutional research assistant, and Lesley Wallace, employment manager, attended the Assessment Network of New York (ANNY) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Workshop in Rochester, NY, April 27.

Topics covered included IPEDS Data as the Public Face of an Institution and IPEDS Data and Benchmarking: Supporting Decision Making and Institutional Effectiveness.

Paul J. MacArthur, associate professor of public relations and journalism, and his co-authors won first place in the Broadcast Education Association’s Gender Issues Open Paper Competition for their article “Parallel Lines of Commentary? The NBC Broadcast Network’s Primetime Olympic Depiction of Male Gymnasts at the 2012 Olympic Games.”

MacArthur presented this paper at the 59th Annual Broadcast Education Association Convention in April. This article was recently published in the Science of Gymnastics Journal, Volume 6, Issue 1. MacArthur also presented “The Online Video Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Over The Top Competition or Consolidation?” at this year’s Broadcast Education Association Convention.

Patricia Swann, associate professor of public relations and journalism, published the second edition of her book titled “Cases in Public Relations Management: The Rise of Social Media and Activism.”

The book features 27 new case studies based on the latest real-life cases in public relations, as well as discussions of the ethical issues that made headlines in recent years. Instructor resources, such as PowerPoint presentations and a syllabus, are also included.

Swann teaches the College’s Cases in Public Relations class, which utilizes the first edition of her book, as do other classrooms throughout the country.

Jessica Thomas, assistant professor of biology:

• and Patrick Spica ’15 were awarded a $2500 grant from the Microscopy Society of America Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program to fund research identifying and characterizing regulatory cofactors of the C. elegans EFF-1 cellular fusogen.

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A. Tracy Balduzzi G’14, director of graduate operations, participating in this year’s grad ceremony. B. Dale Scalise-Smith G’14, professor of physical therapy and vice president for the School of Online and Extended Studies and external partnerships, can now add DPT to her name! C. Robert Halliday, professor of philosophy and associate provost, at the graduate ceremony. 05/17

D. “Mother” Doris Wester Miga, professor emerita of sociology, is presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Jan DeAmicis, professor of sociology. E. Undergraduate Commencement speaker Travis Roy. F. Tyson Kreiger, associate professor of psychology. G. Trustee Emeritus Don Carbone receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. H. Winner of the prestigious Virgil Crisafulli Distinguished Teaching Award Michelle Boucher (right), associate professor of chemistry, is congratulated by Alyssa Thomas, assistant professor of chemistry. 05/18
RIGHT: Celebrating the Newman Center’s 40th anniversary. 05/20

BELOW: (TOP ROW, FROM LEFT) 2014 ASAC Award winners: Joni Pulliam, Doug Croft, Louise Phelps (SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT) 2014 SCT Award winners: Linda Stewart, Lynn Guca, Karen Kaleta. 05/20

BOTTOM: 2014 Excellence in Fostering a Diverse Campus Community Award winner, Paco Santiago. 05/20

See the full gallery at utica.edu/recog2014.

BELOW: Once again in 2014, Team UC received the America’s Greatest Heart Run & Walk Team Challenge Award - College & Higher Education division, once again garnering the Highest Total Pledge. The amount raised by Team UC was for 2014 was $11,185.25. Back row, from left: team captain Rebecca Sullivan, Heart Association’s senior director of development, Jennifer Balog, Kim Lambert. Front Row, from left: team captains Fran Lucia, Debbie McQueary, and Sarah Elleman. 05/06

Team UC is conducting a bottle drive for the 2015 Heart Run and Walk.

Collection boxes for your empty bottles and cans are located:

- White Hall - outside Rm 250, Student Employment Office
- Strebel Student Center - outside the Student Activities Office
- Library - at the entrance
Jessica Thomas, assistant professor of biology (continued):

- attended the Northeast Regional Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology in Woods Hole, Mass., where her students Patrick Spica ’15 and Emra Klempic ’15 presented a poster titled “Identifying the Regulatory Cofactors of the C. elegans EFF-1 Cellular Fusogen and Their Effects on Epithelial Cell Fusion.” This work was in collaboration with Matthew Betzenhauser at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, NY.
- presented her research, along with Justine Gordon ’15, at the 22nd Annual CSTEP Research Conference in Bolton Landing, NY. The title of her poster presentation was “Using Caenorhabditis elegans as a Model to Study ADHD and Memory.” This work was in collaboration with Bryant Buchanan, professor of biology.

Linda Zee, professor of Spanish, presented a paper at the 44th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in Chicago in April. She participated in a session on Latin American Film and Media, and her paper was titled “The Attack of the Marcianos: When the War of the Worlds Broke Out in Quito.”

The following staff members attended a conference in Syracuse on May 21 on risk assessment:

- Lisa Green, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources and Personnel Development
- Robert Harvey, Sgt. Campus Safety
- Bruce Klaus, Captain – Campus Safety
- Wayne Sullivan, Director of Campus Safety
- Carl Lohmann, Director of Residence Life

IN THE NEWS...

- David Chanatry, associate professor of journalism, interviewed William Virkler, associate dean student & stakeholder engagement, professor of practice criminal justice, for an article titled “Drug Courts Offer Rehab Alternative as Heroin Abuse Surges.” The story was featured on North County Public Radio and WRVO.
- TMC Net, Technology News and The Madison County Courier wrote stories about Dr. Leonard Popyack, associate professor of cybersecurity, lending his expertise to the Cyber Research Institute (CRI).
- Utica College is often mentioned as the alma mater of Andrew Rubin ’86, the founder of Android. Most recently, UC was mentioned in The Technologer.
Q: What part of computer science do you specialize in?
A: I specialize in training formal verification methods, which refers to methods of mathematically proving the properties of a system. For example, think of all the things a smartphone is capable of. There is a way to describe each and every one of those things mathematically. If the math is correct, you know these functions will work, and you can shorten the time it takes to get the product to market because you don’t need as much testing.

Q: Is computer science a flexible field to go into?
A: Ultimately, computer science is about problem solving, so what students learn here is not exclusive to the program. For example, they learn how to take one problem and break it down into smaller, solvable issues. This skill applies to anything, like writing a paper. That’s why I encourage students to minor in computer science no matter what their major is. There are many opportunities in this field. With a degree in computer science, you can move sideways into anything from sound effects to agriculture.

Q: What might people be surprised to learn about computer science?
A: It’s a much wider, more interesting field than people realize. For example, we just started a mobile application creation course this spring where students learn to make games, data collection, GPS, and other kinds of apps for smartphones. We also have an Introduction to Game Programming and Interactive Media course, where students learn how to make arcade-style games. Students get to work with artificial intelligence as well by learning how to write programs to teach a robotic arm. I like how it works here at UC. It’s an intimate environment, and students aren’t afraid to ask questions. We all interact closely.

Q: Has there been a rise in demand for computer science knowledge?
A: Yes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies all computer science careers as high income, and the projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years is 15 percent, which is higher than average.
UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

June
06/11/14 Implementing “Clickers” for Mac. 11:00 a.m.; TBA.
06/11/14 Implementing “Clickers” in Your Presentations (Windows only). 3:00 p.m.; TBA.
06/13/14 What’s the Big Deal About Smart Phones Anyway? 3:00 p.m.; TBA.
06/18/14 Transfer Orientation
06/19/14 Successful Conflict Resolution. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.; Bell Hall – Bull Family Board Room.
06/24/14 Performance Evaluation Session (Supervisors). 2:00 p.m.; Rhoads Drive Conference Room.
06/25/14 Medical Insurance Update: Handling Providers Who Ask for Immediate Payment. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Boehlert Hall.

July
07/04/14 Holiday. College closed in honor of Independence Day.
07/09/14 Word Level II. 10:00 a.m.; TBA.
07/09/14 Google Document (Word Processor). 3:00 p.m.; L121.
07/14/14 Summer Orientation
07/19/14
07/24/14 Situational Mastery. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.; Bell Hall - Bull Family Board Room.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Stay on track this summer with fun programming from the UC Health & Wellness Committee.

Pre-registration may be required for some events. Visit utica.edu/hr/wellness/ for more information and to register.

06/24/14 Final Weigh-in GLFG. St. Luke’s Home.
06/25/14 Medical Insurance Lunch & Learn: Providers Who Ask for Immediate Payment. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.; Boehlert Hall.
07/26/14 Hike Bald Mt./Potluck at Doreen Murray’s Camp. Old Forge
07/30/14 Beach Volleyball Game Against GKG and Masonic.; Utica College
08/17/14 Erie Canal Cruise. 12:45 – 2 p.m.; Herkimer.

ZUMBA with Doreen

Starts June 05
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.
Dance Room, Clark Athletic Center.

Every Thursday through July 31

AROUND CAMPUS

ABOVE: UC faculty and staff enjoyed an interactive, hands-on lesson on the basics on communicating effectively with the media, given by Chris Leogrande ’81, director of media relations, and Keith Henry ’08, of the Simon Media Center. Keep an eye out in training and events for more learning opportunities. 05/20

RIGHT, CENTER: tDPT
Commencement Mixer. 05/16

RIGHT: Nikki Lazore ’15 displays her award from the Health Studies Awards Presentation. 05/06

BELOW: Students enjoying the beautiful weather and campus sights, during finals week. 05/07