

## Academic Highlights Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences

NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences recognizes two new faculty members, two student accolades, and a new initiative the faculty has designed to support doctoral students.

### New Faculty Members Join GSCIS

GSCIS welcomes Drs. Souren Paul and James Parrish. Dr. Paul joins the school as an associate professor of information systems. Most recently, he was Associate Professor of Information Systems at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York. Dr. Paul holds the Ph.D. in Management Information System from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. His current research interests are in the areas of collaboration systems and applications, virtual teams, cognitive perspectives on collaboration, organizational knowledge management systems, and information technology applications in healthcare.

Dr. Parrish joins as an assistant professor of information systems. He returns to Florida from the University of Central Florida, where he earned his Ph.D. in 2008. From 2008–2011, he was an assistant professor at University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he was actively involved in student instruction, course development, and in the creation of partnerships between industry and academia. Dr. Parrish's academic interests include knowledge management systems, social engineering, decision support systems, and IT strategy.

### Doctoral Student Becomes President of the Washington Academy of Sciences

Gerard Christman, a doctoral student in information systems, has assumed the position of President of the Washington Academy of Sciences. The Washington Academy of Sciences was incorporated in 1898 as an affiliation of eight Washington D.C. area scientific societies. The formation of the Academy culminated a decade of planning under the leadership of the Philosophical Society of Washington. The founders included Alexander Graham Bell and Samuel Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The purpose of the new Academy is to encourage the advancement of science and “to conduct, endow, or assist investigation in any department of science.” That purpose guided the Academy throughout its first 100 years and will continue to be our guide in the 21st century.

### NASA Awards Fellowship to Doctoral Student

Katie Hixson, doctoral student in computing technology in education, recently was awarded the Harriet Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from NASA. The

Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Project seeks to increase the number of graduate degrees awarded to minorities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. This highly competitive fellowship will award Hixson with three years of tuition assistance and a living stipend. In addition, Hixson will be working and performing research at the Johnson Space Center in Houston each summer for the next three years.

### Inaugural Dissertation Workshop

GSCIS invited a group of students to participate in a pilot Dissertation Workshop July 12-15, 2011. The event, held on NSU's main campus, brought 25 students together with faculty for an intensive “boot camp” experience (according to one satisfied student). Students enjoyed interacting with each other and the faculty, and spent substantial time in the library as well. The faculty has begun plans to broaden and institutionalize this practice for years to come.

Students gather for a photo at the close of the workshop:

