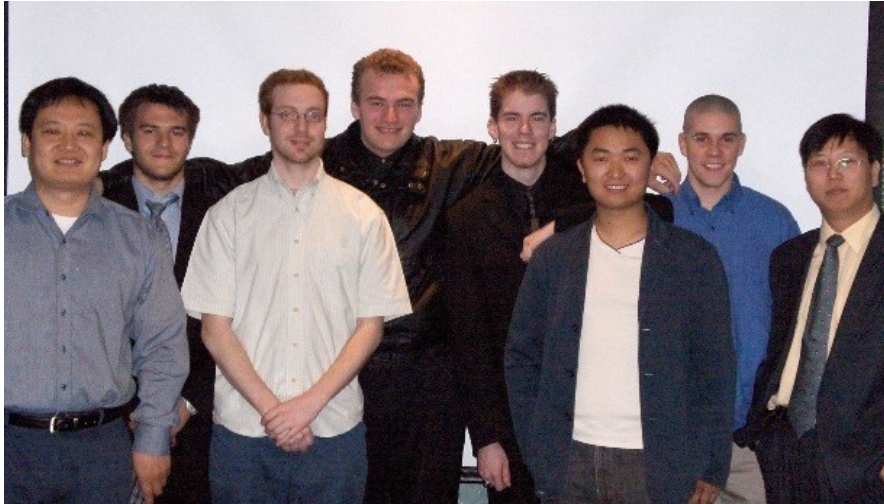


Heritage College to Launch its Alumni Online Community



3rd-year Computer Science team: (left to right) Zhi Hua Zhang, Mladen Dekic, Mathieu Fortin, Jim Perry, Matthew Lafrance, Yan Li, Jonathan Jones and Hong Gang Guo.

Within the next few weeks, Heritage College will be launching a highly-anticipated addition to its web site, a new interactive Alumni Online Community. This comprehensive and sophisticated system was developed exclusively by Heritage's own third-year Computer Science students, under the direction of Computer Science teacher, Susan Turanyi.

The Alumni Online Community will give Heritage graduates an opportunity to enter a secure internet environment in which they can share information about themselves with their fellow graduates, receive the latest alumni news and keep in touch with their former classmates. The system also will allow the College to track and to communicate with graduates using data which they provide on a voluntary basis.

All members of the third-year Computer Science team were involved in developing the data reports which are produced by the online alumni system. Each member of that team was also responsible for specific portions of the project as follows:

- Edit profile for graduates and for the College system administrator—**Mladen Dekic**
- Database administrator, subscription maintenance for graduates
and for the College system administrator—**Hong Gang Guo**
- Search features for all users—**Matthew Lafrance**
- Profile views, student number requests, program maintenance—**Jim Perry**
- Graduate survey, user maintenance—**Mathieu Fortin**
- Member registration, password routines, personal news maintenance—**Jonathan Jones**
- College news, Tell-a-Friend feature—**Zhi Hua Zhang**
- Login, graduate contact feature for College staff and for the system administrator—**Yan Li**

As an additional component of the academic requirements for successful completion of this project, each member of the team created and delivered a portion of an audio-visual presentation and practical demonstration of the Alumni Online Community to members of the Heritage College administration, Heritage Computer Science teachers, and other College staff. This well-received presentation concluded with sections on “Development Project Lessons Learned” and recommendations for “Future Technical Advancements.”

With web graphics design help from Heritage College webmaster, Alain Beauparlant, the 2006 Computer Science graduating class is putting the finishing touches on this innovative network, and plans are already underway for next year’s graduating class to work on enhancements to the system. The Alumni Online Community currently concentrates on graduates of Heritage College, but future expansion of the system to include all Heritage alumni is being planned as part of the project for next year’s Computer Science third-year group.

The task of realizing such a project by bringing it from initial concept and planning, through design, development, programming and debugging to successful launch is typical of the challenging, real-life situations that are featured in the curriculum for graduating Computer Science students at Heritage. This practical experience approach is one of the reasons why Heritage Computer Science graduates are in demand with area employers.

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