



## BCCEC Report — October 2011

This report summarizes recent developments in the University of Northern British Columbia's Computer Science Department.

**A Rose is a Rose is a Rose.** Permission to change the Master's degree designations from a "Master of Science in the Mathematical Computer and Physical Sciences (Computer Science)" to a "Master of Science in Computer Science" has been has now been verbally confirmed by the Ministry.

**Departmental Developments.** Dr Saif al-Zahir returned from a year-long sabbatical July 1. Dr Jernej Polajnar began a six-month sabbatical July 1. Dr Charles Brown retired effective December, 31, 2010, and there is still no funding for a replacement position. We are currently six tenured faculty (one cross-appointed) and one Senior Laboratory Instructor.

**Enrolment.** University enrolments are flat or down slightly bringing associated gloomy budget news. However, Computer Science enrolments are up. In majors' courses, there are approximately sixty students in first year, twenty-five in second year, ten in third year, and an indeterminate number in fourth year.

**WCCCE 2011.** WCCCE 2011 took place Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7 on the Prince George campus of UNBC in co-operation with the ACM.

**Equipment.** First and second year courses continue to be taught on Dell computers with double monitors, running Ubuntu.

**Curriculum Changes Implementation.** UNBC CPSC 377-3 (Robotics) is now being offered yearly. UNBC CPSC 260-3 (Ethics) is now mandatory and being offered for the first time this fall. The Department has just approved in principle an undergraduate Honours degree.

— David Casperson, Department of  
Computer Science, UNBC, 2011-10-19