College Media Network

- Search
- Web

- 2008 Woodie Awards
- Jobs
- Top College News

Baltimore Weather
37°F / 29°F

News & Features

Intersession class teaches the art of Facebook applications

By Ming Wen
Issue date: 2/5/09
For Computer Science graduate students Carol Reiley and Daniel Mirota, Facebook provided an ideal forum to teach about computer programming.

The two-credit Intersession course, titled Developing Photo and Video Apps for Online Social Networks, engaged students in hands-on programming to design their own Facebook applications.

Thirteen students designed Facebook applications as part of this new course.

"I really wanted to work on a class where students get really excited about the class. I wanted a project where students could work together and show their friends and feel a value of ownership in their work," Reiley said.

In addition, many of the photos are tagged with identification information, which could be used to facilitate automated computer interaction. This process draws upon Reiley's and Mirota's experience in computer vision, which aims to allow computers to see and interpret images around them, at the Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics.

Although initially envisioned as a graduate level course, the course was opened to undergraduates due to high demand. Seventeen out of 18 students who expressed interest were undergraduates, and students from majors outside of computer science were involved as well.

The course required the previous completion of undergraduate courses such as Intro to Programming, Linear Algebra and Matlab.

"We noticed there is a lack of face recognition on Facebook. We wanted to combine computer vision with cool web 2.0 [technology]. We wanted to see how far they [students] got in three weeks," Reiley said.

Among the objectives for the three-week course were, "to experience the software process of defining product release, designing a product, release and marketing." Class time was split between informational lectures designed to enhance student's broad understanding while also teaching specific skills. During laboratory time students were given free reign to develop their own applications.
Continued...

Page **1** of 2 [next >](#)

Article Tools

Share:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Blogger](#)
- [del.icio.us](#)
- [digg](#)
- [newsvine](#)

Subscribe:

- [My Yahoo!](#)
- [Google](#)

Be the first to comment on this story

- Name: (required)
- Email: (required)
-                      NOTE: Email address will not be published
- Website:

☐ Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

☐ **I am not posting spam.** I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post