

## Master's and Ph.D programs exceed expectations *continued from page 1*



*Kincaid*

College of Engineering and Computer Science.

In the driver's seat since 2002, Kincaid turns over the chair to Reilly in August but will continue to assist with program operations.

According to Kincaid, virtually every student in the program was attracted by the wide variety of courses and research options available.

Some faculty and heads of more traditional, departmentalized degree programs, however, did not share the students' enthusiasm—at least initially.

A few academics who were more comfortable with the single-discipline



*Goldiez*

approach to a graduate degree expressed their reservations, but initial resistance has been replaced by enthusiasm as the program finds its legs.

While the program's multidisciplinary nature gets a lot of credit for its success, that very nature has made managing the program a real challenge. "It has helped immeasurably to have an efficient program administrator," Kincaid said. "Bala Jaganathan, MD, a UCF alumnus with a master's degree in administration and excellent managerial skills, has attended to the the myriad of 'interdisciplinary details' of keeping the program running smoothly."

A reflection of its multidisciplinary nature, the program is co-chaired by Dr. Peter Kincaid, a professor and senior scientist at the institute, and Dr. Charles

Reilly, a professor in the university's

Brian Goldiez is among the students looking forward to one of those first Ph.D. degrees. Goldiez earned a master's degree in computer engineering from UCF in 1979 and has been deputy director of the Institute for Simulation & Training since 1988.

"The multi-discipline nature of the program has been very rewarding," said Goldiez. "It provides insights into and an appreciation for the various aspects of M&S while allowing me to concentrate in my own area of interest."

Goldiez is researching the effects of computer augmentation on a series of tasks while navigating through a maze (see "Amazing experience..." page 1).



*Whitmire*

James Whitmire II, came into the program with a background in electronics and a degree in psychology.

"I've been extremely pleased with exposure to multiple disciplines," said Whitmire, who also felt encouraged by the mix of instructors, scientists and students in the program.

Specializing in training systems and curriculum design, Whitmire has worked on projects with the human patient simulator and helped develop interactive courseware for endoscopic examination of the vocal folds in a patient's throat.

His current project for NAVAIR Orlando requires evaluating how best to replace the Navy's fleet of aging high-end simulators with less costly and more flexible PC-based simulators.

UCF's modeling and simulation PhD program is driven by central Florida's ever-growing M&S industry. It is now possible for a student to begin M&S studies while in high school, take advantage of M&S technical degrees offered by two-year colleges or continue on through the doctoral level.

## of special note...

UCF's psychology department is the '04 American Psychological Association of Graduate Students "Department of the Year." Grad student and IST staffer Renee DeRouin put the winning application package together. IST and the department share a number of students and faculty members, primarily in human factors and cognitive learning research.

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Peter Hancock was appointed historian for the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

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Simiosys, a start-up technology company was created by the Media Convergence Lab to bring a lab-developed mixed reality product to the marketplace.

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IST's Information Systems Technology Department licensed its Enterprise Resource Scheduler to a major aircraft manufacturing company.

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IST faculty members serving on editorial boards include Peter Kincaid, associate editor, Ergonomics in Design; Eduardo Salas, editor, Human Factors; Peter Hancock, associate editor, Theoretical Issues in Ergonomic Science.

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Construction of the second building in the "Partnership" series is in its final months, with occupants preparing for a late '04 move-in. Tenants include Navy, Army, Advanced Distributed Learning Labs, Cognitive Science and IST.

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IST's transportation research team is working with the Florida DoT on commercial driver license examiner training and check ride projects that could result in major savings and safety improvement.