FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Maryland Introduces iPhone Programming Course

COLLEGE PARK, MD (February 4, 2010) – As a part of the University of Maryland’s Mobility Initiative, a new computer science class that will teach students how to effectively program software for the iPhone and iPod touch began last week. Instructors of the three credit course, “CMSC498I: Selected Topics in Computer Science: Programming the iPhone,” will teach fundamental programming principles focusing on the mobile environment and the iPhone operating system while providing an opportunity for students to apply the course’s academic concepts to practical situations.

“What makes this course unique is its tie to the university’s Mobility Initiative,” said Ellen Yu Borkowski, Director of Academic Support in the Office of Information Technology at the University of Maryland. “For a little over a year, Maryland has been studying whether incorporating mobile technology enhances the student educational experience. Today, the desire is to have the student projects from this course be focused on applications that can be deployed and used across the university as part of our efforts to support mobile devices on campus,” Borkowski said.

The Mobility Initiative began in fall 2008. Now in its second year, the pilot study has expanded to include additional students, professors, and learning opportunities. Each of the 280 freshmen in the Banneker/Key Scholarship and Maryland Incentive Awards programs has been given an iPhone or iPod touch to test inside and outside of class. Participants use the mobile devices to substitute for student response devices, also known as clickers, in class; to access the mobile versions of the university’s portal and learning management system; and to take part in varied special activities, such as research scavenger hunts.

An upper-level computer science offering, the new course will cover topics such as iPhone development tools and fundamentals; user interface design; media considerations related to gaming, audio, and video; and usability and quality assessment. The course will be taught by Dr. Adam Porter and Dr. Evan Golub of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland, along with Chuck Pisula, Senior Applications Engineer. Students will complete weekly individual programming assignments in addition to their work during class time. Macintosh laptops and iPod touch devices will be provided during lab times.

“We’re very excited to be offering this course,” said Dr. Porter. “One of the great benefits of working and studying at the University of Maryland is that we’ve got the kinds of resources, institutional support, and industrial partners that allow us to constantly work cutting-edge technology into our undergraduate curriculum.”
“This new course exemplifies the excellent curriculum available to Maryland students,” said Dr. Jeffrey Huskamp, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at the University of Maryland. “We are pleased to contribute to our students’ ability to be innovative in useful ways,” Huskamp said.

The Department of Computer Science is part of the highly ranked College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the University of Maryland.

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About the University of Maryland

The University of Maryland is the state’s flagship university and one of the nation’s preeminent public research universities. Ranked No. 18 among public universities by U.S. News & World Report, it has 28 academic programs in the U.S News Top 10 and 78 in the Top 25. The Institute of Higher Education (Jiao Tong University, Shanghai), which ranks the world’s top universities based on research, puts Maryland at No. 37 in the world and No. 28 among U.S. universities. The university has produced six Nobel laureates, seven Pulitzer Prize winners, more than 40 members of the national academies and scores of Fulbright scholars. The university is also recognized for its diversity, with one-third of the student population being students of color. For more information about the University of Maryland, visit www.umd.edu.

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