NSF funds cyber study

By Chelsea Toledo (AB ’07)

Nicholas T. Berente, an assistant professor of management information systems, has received a $500,000 National Science Foundation grant to provide practical support to a cross-disciplinary community of researchers and center directors interested in managing large collaborative scientific research centers.

The Office of Cyberinfrastructure grant builds on Berente’s previous NSF-funded study on how to successfully design and manage large-scale science and engineering centers.

“These collaborative centers represent organizations of the future,” says Berente, who came to Terry in 2010. “They are dealing with some of society’s most intractable problems, including climate change, disasters, and global health. To address these problems, such centers are bringing together cross-disciplinary teams of specialists that collaborate remotely and contribute their specialized knowledge to a number of different projects simultaneously. The big question is, ‘how do you manage this sort of complex collaboration?’”

Berente’s earlier NSF award explored the technical and organizational challenges faced by massive projects in computational science. With the new funding, he will hold a series of workshops with a network of project managers in such areas as bioinformatics and computational chemistry.

Ken Gaver, an accounting professor at Terry from 1990 until his retirement in 2005, died June 16. He was 70.

His distinguished career included faculty positions at Rochester, Vanderbilt, Montana State, Arizona, and Oregon, but his longest tenure was at UGA. He was a beloved mentor to graduate students and an admired academic researcher by his colleagues. Gaver is survived by his wife of 30 years, accounting professor Jennifer Gaver, and their two children.