

pointers

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

FALL 2013

Cai Receives NSF CAREER Award



Dr. Zhipeng Cai

Assistant professor Zhipeng Cai has received a five-year, \$400,000 award from the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program. The CAREER grant, which emphasizes high-quality

research and novel education initiatives, is the most competitive and prestigious award from NSF to young faculty members in science and engineering fields.

Dr. Cai will use funding from the award to study routing in cognitive radio networks. A cognitive radio is a transceiver that attempts to optimize wireless communication bandwidth by changing its operating parameters, which include the channels that it uses for

sending and receiving. Users of a cognitive radio network are classified as either primary or secondary. Secondary users (SUs) communicate through unassigned spectrum bands without disrupting primary users (PUs). Dr. Cai is studying how SUs can take advantage of the social activity patterns of PUs to obtain more spectrum opportunities.

After joining Georgia State University in 2011 as an adjunct faculty member, Dr. Cai became an assistant professor in 2012. Prior to his arrival at GSU, Dr. Cai held research positions at Georgia Tech, Mississippi State University, and the University of Alberta. Dr. Cai holds a B.S. degree in computer science from the Beijing Institute of Technology and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in computing science from the University of Alberta. Dr. Cai's research interests include algorithm design and analysis, cognitive radio networks, social networks, and computational biology.

Dr. Cai is the sixth faculty member from the Department of Computer Science to win an NSF CAREER award. The previous winners are Dr. Raheem Beyah (2009), Dr. Xiaojun Cao (2006), Dr. Xiaolin Hu (2009), Dr. Yingshu Li (2006), and Dr. WenZhan Song (2010). Dr. Beyah left GSU in 2011 and is now an associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech.

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Wozniak Visits Georgia State

Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple, spoke at Georgia State on January 30 as part of the university's Distinguished Speaker Series. During the event, which was held in the Student Center Ballroom, he was interviewed by university president Mark Becker. Wozniak stayed afterward to pose for photographs with attendees.

Wozniak described how he designed the Apple I at night and on weekends while working as an engineer at Hewlett-Packard, and how HP turned him down when he proposed making it a product. He talked about his relationship with Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and what he thought of the upcoming films about Jobs. He also discussed his appearances on such TV shows as *Dancing with the Stars* and *The Big Bang Theory*. Finally, he offered career advice to students in the audience, recommending that they choose side projects that help develop skills.

A number of computer science faculty members and students attended the event. The officers of the GSU student chapter of the ACM were invited to a VIP reception with Wozniak.

Wozniak currently serves as chief scientist for Fusion-io. His *New York Times* best-selling autobiography, *iWoz: Computer Geek to Cult Icon*, was published in 2006 by W. W. Norton.

The Distinguished Speaker Series is administered by Campus Events, which is part of the Student-University Center. Speakers are chosen by a staff advisor and a board of student leaders. GSU's Student Activity Fee provides financial support for the series.

(see pages 4–5 for photos)

Chair's Message

I'm pleased to announce in this issue of *Pointers* that assistant professor Zhipeng Cai has received a five-year award from the NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program. He becomes the sixth member of our faculty to win a CAREER award, an impressive feat for our department.

Two other faculty members also had important accomplishments recently. Dr. Yanqing Zhang was promoted to the rank of full professor, and associate professor Ying Zhu was a co-winner of the 2013 Georgia State University Instructional Innovation Award. These accomplishments are indicative of the high quality of our faculty. On a personal note, I was honored to be appointed a Distinguished University Professor by President Becker.

Our students, current and past, have some notable achievements of their own. Three undergraduate majors won significant university scholarships: Asveen Chhabra and Kellie Tucker won Bergeron Women in Technology Leadership Scholarships, and Sheneeka Ward won a Dr. Cleon C. Arrington Scholarship in the Sciences. Our graduate program reached a milestone when Jon Preston became the first of our Ph.D. graduates to achieve the rank of full professor at an academic institution.

2014 will be another busy year for our department. In May, we will host the Second International IBM Cloud Academy Conference (ICA CON 2014) in the Aderhold Learning Center. And, as usual, we are helping organize the International Symposium on Bioinformatics Research and Applications (ISBRA). Central South University will host ISBRA 2014 in Zhangjiajie, China, in June. I hope to see you at one of these important events.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the photographs on pages 4 and 5 taken during Steve Wozniak's visit to Georgia State last January. It was a thrill for our faculty, staff, and students to meet this pioneer of personal computing. We thank Campus Events for bringing him to Atlanta and for allowing us to publish these photos.



Dr. Yi Pan



Pointers is published twice a year for graduates, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the Department of Computer Science.

Send news and announcements to webmaster@cs.gsu.edu.

Editor/Designer: K. N. King

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Chair: Yi Pan

Associate Chair: Raj Sunderraman

Main office:

34 Peachtree Street
Suite 1450
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mailing address:

Department of Computer Science
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 3994
Atlanta, GA 30302-3994

Phone: (404) 413-5700

Fax: (404) 413-5717

Web: www.cs.gsu.edu

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

William J. Long, *Dean*

Charles Derby, *Associate Dean for
Natural and Computational Sciences*

We Need Your Help

These are exciting times in the Department of Computer Science. Our program is rapidly expanding. We are hiring nationally-recognized scholars who conduct state-of-the-art research, and we are attracting the best students from around the world. Your generous donation will help us continue to improve in the years ahead. For information about giving to the department, please visit www.cs.gsu.edu/?q=alumni. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. To ensure that your donation reaches us, please designate that it go to "Computer Science."

Pan Named Distinguished University Professor

Department chair Yi Pan has been appointed a Distinguished University Professor by Georgia State University president Mark Becker. Dr. Pan was nominated for the appointment by Dr. William Long, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In his letter of appointment, Dr. Becker cited Dr. Pan's "sustained and outstanding record in scholarship and instruction" as well as his "substantial contributions in service" to the discipline and to GSU, including his "sustained record of significant positive involvement in the life of the University."

Dr. Pan's appointment as a Distinguished University Professor will last for five years. He is the first faculty member from the Department of Computer Science to be honored in this way.

Cai Wins Internal Grant

Assistant professor Zhipeng Cai recently won an internal grant from Georgia State University. Three kinds of internal grants are awarded each year: Research Initiation Grants, Faculty Mentored Grants, and Scholarly Support Grants. Dr. Cai won a Research Initiation Grant for a project titled "Opportunistic Routing in Cellular Cognitive Radio Networks." Research Initiation Grants are designed to promote research, scholarly, and artistic activity and to foster academic excellence.

In the fiscal year 2014 internal grant competition, 72 applications were submitted; 24 grants with a total value of \$505,000 were awarded, including 14 Research Initiation Grants. The winners were chosen by an Internal Grant Peer Review Committee consisting of 19 faculty members from across the university.

Pan Joins IEEE Transactions on Computers Editorial Board

Department chair Yi Pan has been named an associate editor of *IEEE Transactions on Computers (TC)*, a monthly journal published by the IEEE Computer Society. *TC*, which began publication in 1952, is one of the oldest and most prestigious journals in the computer field. According to the *TC* website, the journal publishes research articles in the areas of computer organizations and architectures; operating systems, software systems, and communication protocols; real-time systems and embedded systems; digital devices, computer components, and interconnection networks; specification, design, prototyping, and testing methods and tools; performance, fault tolerance, reliability, security, and testability; case studies and experimental and theoretical evaluations; and new and important applications and trends.

2nd International IBM Cloud Academy Conference ICA CON 2014

ICA CON 2014 to Be Held in Atlanta

On May 8–9, Georgia State University will host the Second International IBM Cloud Academy Conference (ICA CON 2014).

ICA CON 2014 will give educators and researchers the opportunity to share ideas and experiences in cloud computing. Educators from both K-12 and higher education institutions are invited to participate in the conference, which will be held in Georgia State's Aderhold Learning Center.

The conference program is expected to include invited keynotes, technical papers, position papers, workshops, and a technology showcase. The technology showcase will feature poster presentations and demonstrations.

Authors are invited to submit papers and posters on the use of cloud computing for educational and research purposes. The conference is particularly interested in original research contributions and experience reports that show how the transition to cloud computing is helping to transform education.

The deadline for submissions is February 7. Authors of accepted papers and posters will be notified by March 7, with full versions of papers due on April 4. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of *International Journal of Cloud Computing*.

Department chair Yi Pan is a program co-chair for ICA CON 2014, a member of the

conference steering committee, and a proceedings co-chair.

ICA CON 2014 is sponsored by the IBM Cloud Academy, which helps K-12 schools and higher education institutions integrate cloud technologies into their infrastructures. Georgia State is a charter member of the Academy.

Faculty Members Win Tech Fee Awards

Three computer science faculty members have won Student Technology Fee awards totaling \$113,288. The winners, along with their project titles and amounts awarded, are:

- **Yingshu Li**, "Wireless Sensor Nodes for Course CSc 8223," \$7,440
- **Sushil Prasad**, "Upgrading Linux Heterogeneous Cluster to Support Introduction of Parallel and Distributed Computing Topics into Undergraduate Curriculum," \$90,000
- **Michael Weeks**, "Tablet and Embedded Computing," \$15,848

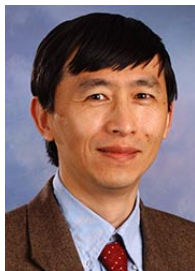
Money from GSU's Tech Fee is used to equip student laboratories and to purchase technology that will help students meet the educational objectives of their academic programs. In fiscal year 2013, Georgia State funded 94 Tech Fee awards with a total value of \$6.78 million.

Faculty Position Available

The Department of Computer Science is searching for a tenure-track faculty member who can perform research in the interdisciplinary area of transcultural conflict and violence. Applicants should specialize in fields such as visual analytics, semantic image processing, semantic web data mining, natural language processing, and multimedia database management. The faculty rank is open, but the successful candidate must have an established track record of securing external funds. For more information, please visit www.cs.gsu.edu/?q=faculty_positions.

Funding for the position will be provided by Georgia State's Second Century Initiative (2CI). The goal of 2CI is to build nationally and/or internationally recognized scholarly strength and critical mass around common research themes in order to enhance the university's overall quality, interdisciplinary richness, and competitiveness. At least 100 faculty members are expected to be hired with 2CI funds over a five-year period.

Zhang Promoted to Full Professor



Dr. Yanqing Zhang

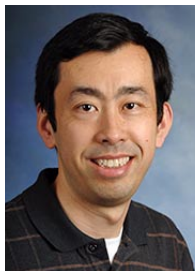
Dr. Yanqing Zhang was recently promoted to the rank of full professor. Dr. Zhang joined the Department of Computer Science in 2000 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2004.

Dr. Zhang received a B.S. degree in computer science in 1983 and an M.S. in computer science in 1986, both from Tianjin University in China. He earned a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of South Florida in 1997. His research areas include computational intelligence, data mining, bioinformatics, web intelligence, and intelligent parallel/distributed computing.

Dr. Zhang is the director of a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) site that Georgia State is hosting during the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2014. He was a program co-chair for the 2013 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence (WI 2013), which was held in Atlanta in November.

Dr. Zhang has been the advisor or co-advisor for nine Ph.D. graduates, including Dr. Zejin (Jason) Ding, who made international headlines in 2012 because of a Twitter study that he performed for Barracuda Labs.

Zhu Receives Instructional Innovation Award



Dr. Ying Zhu

Associate professor Ying Zhu is a co-winner of the 2013 Georgia State University Instructional Innovation Award, along with Eric Friginal, an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language.



Georgia State president Mark Becker interviews Steve Wozniak.



Dr. Saeid Belkasim, Dr. Martin Fraser, Dr. Anu Bourgeois, Dr. Raj Sunderraman, Dr. Yi Pan, Steve Wozniak, Dr. Michael Weeks, Dr. K. N. King, Shaochieh Ou.

(Photos courtesy of Campus Events)

The Instructional Innovation Award, which comes with a stipend of \$1,500, honors outstanding innovations in teaching that result in improved learning. Dr. Zhu and Dr.

Friginal won the award for developing an on-line text visualizer called Text X-Ray that helps students with vocabulary and grammar.

The Instructional Innovation Award is one of five faculty awards granted by Georgia State, along with the Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award, Exceptional Service Award, and Instructional Effectiveness Award. The winners of the 2013 faculty awards were honored on April 17 at the "Celebrating Faculty Excellence" dinner, held at The Biltmore's Georgian Ballroom.

Dr. Zhu is the first computer science faculty member to win the Instructional Innovation Award in ten years. Associate professor Michael Weeks was the 2003 winner.

Recent Ph.D. Graduates

Dinesh Agarwal. *Dissertation:* Scientific High Performance Computing (HPC) Applications on the Azure Cloud Platform. *Advisor:* Dr. Sushil Prasad. *Current position:* Co-founder and CTO, Bookup LLC. (May 2013)

Ming Fang. *Dissertation:* Maintaining Integrity Constraints in Semantic Web. *Advisor:* Dr. Raj Sunderraman. *Current position:* Software development engineer, Ericsson. (May 2013)

Mingsen Xu. *Dissertation:* Collaborative Communication and Storage in Energy-Synchronized Sensor Networks. *Advisor:* Dr. WenZhan Song. *Current position:* Senior engineer, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. (May 2013)



Nick Mancuso, chair of GSU's student chapter of the ACM, gets Steve Wozniak's business card.



ACM officers Zhiyi Wang, Weston Hopkins, Andrew Rosen, Nick Mancuso, Olga Glebova, Haidong Xue, and Dinesh Agarwal with Steve Wozniak.

(Photos courtesy of Campus Events)

ISBRA 2014 to Be Held in China



On June 28–30, Central South University will host the 10th International Symposium on Bioinformatics Research and Applications (ISBRA 2014) in Zhangjiajie, China. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 8th International Frontiers of Algorithmics Workshop (FAW 2014).

Faculty members from Georgia State's Department of Computer Science have helped organize ISBRA since it began in Atlanta in 2005 as the International Workshop on Bioinformatics Research and Applications.

The conference was held on the GSU campus in 2007 and 2008. It has also been held in Reading, UK (2006), Fort Lauderdale (2009), Storrs, Connecticut (2010), Changsha, China (2011), Dallas (2012), and Charlotte (2013).

Authors are invited to submit papers that present original research in all areas of bioinformatics and computational biology, including the development of experimental or commercial systems. The deadline for submission of extended abstracts (up to 12 pages) is February 1. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by March 15, with final versions due on April 15.

Authors have two submission options. One is to submit an extended abstract to be published in the conference proceedings, with a longer version to appear in a special issue of *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics*, *IEEE Transactions on NanoBioscience*, *Advances in Bioinformatics*, or *International Journal of Bioinformatics Research and Applications*. The other option is to publish a one-page abstract in the conference proceedings, with a full-length version to appear in a special issue of *BMC Bioinformatics*, *BMC Genomics*, or *BioMed Research International*. The conference proceedings will be published in the Springer Verlag Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics series.

A highlight of ISBRA 2014 will be keynote talks by distinguished computer scientists, including Dr. John Hopcroft (Cornell University), Dr. Ming Li (University of Waterloo), and Dr. Ying Xu (University of Georgia). Dr. Hopcroft was a 1986 winner of the A. M. Turing Award, ACM's most prestigious technical award.

The members of the steering committee for ISBRA 2014 are Dr. Dan Gusfield (University of California, Davis), Dr. Ion Mandoiu (University of Connecticut), Dr. Yi Pan (GSU), Dr. Marie-France Sagot (INRIA), Dr. Xu, and Dr. Alex Zelikovsky (GSU), with Dr. Pan serving as committee chair. The general chairs are Dr. Albert Zomaya (University of Sydney) and Dr. Li. The program chairs are Dr. Mitra Basu (Johns Hopkins), Dr. Pan, and Dr. Jianxin Wang (Central South University). Four GSU faculty members (Dr. Zhipeng Cai, Dr. Pan, Dr. Raj Sunderraman, and Dr. Zelikovsky) are on the program committee.

ISBRA 2014 is sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the National Science Foundation, Central South University, and Georgia State University.

Recent Departmental Colloquia

February 27. "Towards Search Engines That Help People Learn: Models, Algorithms, and Large-Scale Analysis," *Dr. Kevyn Collins-Thompson*, Microsoft Research

April 5. "Cyber Transportation Systems: Safety First, Infotainment Second," *Dr. Chunming Qiao*, University at Buffalo

June 28. "Building and Mining a Database of Unusual RNA Secondary Structures," *Dr. Stephen C. Harvey*, Georgia Institute of Technology

Graduate Fellowship Winners Announced

Twenty-five computer science Ph.D. students have won fellowships from GSU for the 2013–2014 academic year, including Second Century Initiative (2CI) fellowships, Molecular Basis of Disease (MBD) fellowships, and Brains & Behavior (B&B) fellowships.



2013 is the third year in which 2CI fellowships have been awarded. The goal of Georgia State's **Second Century Initiative** is to build nationally recognized scholarly strength and critical mass around common research themes in order to enhance the university's overall excellence, interdisciplinary richness, and competitiveness. During each year of the five-year program, 20 new faculty members will be hired. Each faculty position comes with three 2CI fellowships for Ph.D. students.

Eight computer science students won 2CI University Doctoral Fellowships this year in four interdisciplinary research areas (the name of each student's advisor is in parentheses):

Astroinformatics

Debraj De (Song)
Xi He (Prasad)
Andrew Rosen (Bourgeois)

Bioinformatics

Nicholas Mancuso (Zelikovsky)

New and Emerging Media

Ayush Shrestha (Zhu)

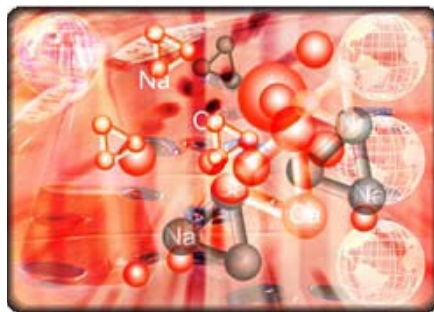
Trans Cultural Violence

Janani Chathapuram Krishnamani (Sunderraman)
Semra Kul (Belkasim)
Yanjun Zhao (Belkasim)

All of these students held a 2CI fellowship last year.

2CI doctoral fellowships are very prestigious. Obtaining a fellowship in a particular research area is a competitive process, with winners chosen by a committee containing faculty members from departments that participate in the area. Although the annual stipend for a 2CI fellow is \$22,000, the same as for an MBD or B&B fellow, winners of 2CI fellowships are allowed to hold additional fellowships and assistantships.

Molecular Basis of Disease is a program in computational biomedicine that includes



faculty in six departments engaged in interdisciplinary research: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics and Astronomy, Mathematics and Statistics, and Computer Information Systems. The program provides both graduate and undergraduate fellowships as well as support for state-of-the-art facilities in these departments.

New MBD fellowships were awarded to the following students:

Alexander Artsiomenka (Zelikovsky)
Brendan Benshoof (Harrison)
David Brodeur (Harrison)
Ekaterina Nenasteyeva (Zelikovsky)

The following students hold MBD fellowships that were awarded in prior years:

Olga Glebova (Zelikovsky)
Xuan Guo (Pan)
Bismita Jena (Sunderraman)
Yunmei Lu (Zhang)
Yvette Tiagueu (Zelikovsky)
Chinua Umoja (Harrison)
Yun Zhu (Zhang)



Brains & Behavior is a Georgia State initiative that unites a wide variety of researchers who bring unique perspectives about how nervous systems produce behavior. B&B research groups foster collaboration among faculty from Biology, Chemistry, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, Philosophy, Physics and Astronomy, and Psychology. The B&B program is administered by GSU's Neuroscience Institute.

New B&B fellowships were awarded to the following students:

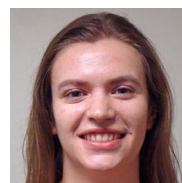
Badrinath Jayakumar (Sunderraman)
Sanghoon Lee (Belkasim)
Michael McDermott (Prasad)
Yu Meng (Pan)
Sanish Rai (Hu)

One student holds a B&B fellowship from last year:

Satish Puri (Prasad)

Glebova Wins Poster Award at MBD Research Day

Ph.D. student Olga Glebova won a first-place poster award at the 2013 Molecular Basis of Disease Graduate Research Day, which was held on June 21 in the Student Center Ballroom.



Olga Glebova

Awards were given to the best Interdisciplinary poster and to the top two posters in each of three subject categories: biology, chemistry, and computer science/physics and astronomy. Ms. Glebova's poster was judged to be the best of the nine posters in the third category. She received a prize of \$150 for her winning poster. A total of 45 posters were presented at the event.

Ms. Glebova's poster, "Estimation of Editing Distance Between DNA Sequences Using Network Flows and Mass Spectrometry," was co-authored by Pavel Skums, Zoya Dimitrova, David Campo, Lilia Ganova-Raeva, Yury Khudyakov, and professor Alex Zelikovsky, her Ph.D. advisor.

In addition to posters, MBD Research Day featured a keynote address by professor Binghe Wang, the chair of the Department of Chemistry. There were also oral presentations by eight MBD Fellows, including two from Computer Science. Adrian Caciula gave a talk on "MCReg: Monte-Carlo Regression Method for Isoform Expression Estimation from RNA-Seq Data," and Temate Yvette Blanche spoke on "Accurate Differential Gene Expression Analysis for RNA-Seq Data without Replicates."

Several CS faculty members assisted at the event, including professors Raj Sunderraman and Yanqing Zhang, who served as oral presentation judges.

Molecular Basis of Disease is an interdisciplinary research program that involves faculty in six departments: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics and Astronomy, Mathematics and Statistics, and Computer Information Systems. The program provides both graduate and undergraduate fellowships as well as support for state-of-the-art facilities in these departments.

Agarwal Featured on HPCwire



Dr. Dinesh Agarwal

Recent Ph.D. graduate Dinesh Agarwal was featured in an article posted on the HPCwire website on May 10. The article, titled “Research Roundup: Toward a More Efficient Cloud,” covers three of the latest developments in high-performance computing, including Dr. Agarwal’s dissertation work with Windows Azure, a cloud computing platform and infrastructure created by Microsoft. HPCwire, one of several computing news sites owned by Tabor Communications, is a leading web portal for professionals interested in high-performance and data-intensive computing.

Dr. Agarwal received his Ph.D. in May. His dissertation, written under the direction of professor Sushil Prasad, discusses the creation of new frameworks and runtime environments to assist developers who are using Windows Azure to write scientific high-performance computing applications. The goal of his work was to provide developers with tools like those available in traditional parallel and distributed computing environments.

Dr. Agarwal is the co-founder and chief technical officer of Bookup, a website that directly connects students who want to buy or sell textbooks, allowing them to bypass online retailers and university bookstores.

Preston Promoted to Full Professor at SPSU

Jon Preston, who received his Ph.D. from Georgia State University’s Department of Computer Science, has been promoted to full professor with tenure at Southern Polytechnic State University.

Dr. Preston is a member of SPSU’s Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, where he is the coordinator of the undergraduate program in Computer Game Design and Development as well as coordinator of the Center for Applied Gaming and Media Arts. He joined SPSU in 2008 as an associate professor after holding faculty positions in Clayton State University’s Department of Information Technology from 2000 to 2008.

Dr. Preston earned his Ph.D. in 2007 under the supervision of professor Sushil Prasad. Prior to attending Georgia State, he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in computer science from Georgia Tech.

Georgia State’s computer science Ph.D. program awarded its first degrees in December 2004. As of August 2013, the program has produced 73 graduates. Dr. Preston is the first graduate to achieve the rank of full professor.

Computer Science Major Wins Arrington Scholarship

Sheneeka Ward, a Georgia State University senior majoring in computer science, has won the Dr. Cleon C. Arrington Scholarship in the Sciences.

Ms. Ward is one of the first winners of the Arrington Scholarship, which was recently created to honor the late Cleon C. Arrington. Dr. Arrington, who passed away in 2010, was a former Georgia State vice president for research and sponsored programs.

The Arrington Scholarship is awarded to full-time students in good academic standing majoring in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, with a focus on African-American students and students belonging to other groups that are underrepresented in the sciences.

In 2012, Ms. Ward was one of ten students chosen for Georgia State’s National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, which lets undergraduates gain research experience in high-performance data mining.

Ms. Ward attended a second REU program in 2013, this time at Iowa State University. She was one of 12 students selected to participate in SPIRE-EIT, a 10-week summer program focusing on emerging interface technologies.

During the fall of 2013, Ms. Ward is working as an intern at NASA’s John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Mississippi.

Two CS Undergrads Win Bergeron Scholarships

Two undergraduate computer science majors, Asveen Chhabra and Kellie Tucker, have won a Bergeron Women in Technology Leadership Scholarship.

The Bergeron Scholarship, one of the largest scholarships available to Georgia State



Sheneeka Ward

University students, is awarded annually to undergraduate women who demonstrate high potential for leadership careers in technology. Thirty-one students have received the scholarship since its inception in 2007. A unique feature of the scholarship is that it pairs each recipient with a mentor in the information technology field.

In the past, only women majoring in computer information systems were eligible for Bergeron Scholarships. Starting in 2013, computer science majors could apply as well. Four scholarships were awarded this year, with two going to CS majors and two to CIS majors. In another change this year, the scholarship is now a two-year award instead of a one-year award.

Bergeron Scholarships are funded by a \$1 million endowment established in 2006 by Sandra and Douglas Bergeron. Sandra Bergeron is one of the most highly regarded female technology leaders in Silicon Valley, serving on the boards of Sophos, Qualys, F5 Networks, and TraceSecurity. She previously held a number of key executive positions at McAfee, Inc. Ms. Bergeron earned a B.B.A. degree from Georgia State in 1982. Douglas Bergeron is the president of DGB Investments. From 2001 to 2013, he was the chief executive officer of VeriFone Systems, a leading provider of technology for electronic payment transactions.

ACM Chapter Elects New Officers

The Georgia State University student chapter of the ACM recently elected officers for the 2013–2014 academic year. The new officers are:

Chair: Nick Mancuso

Vice Chair: Haidong Xue

Secretary: Olga Glebova

Treasurer: Andrew Rosen

Program Chair: Lei Zhang

Publicity Chair: Zhiyi Wang

Membership Chair: Dhara Shah

Webmaster: David Gibbs

Computer Science Students Receive Awards

The Department of Computer Science recently gave awards to six outstanding undergraduate and graduate students:

Outstanding Senior Award: Mackenzie Bechtel-Hall

Undergraduate Research Award: Djuan Blue

Service Award: Piyaphol Phoungphol

Graduate Teaching Award: Haidong Xue

Graduate Research Award: Qian Hu

Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Dinesh Agarwal

Djuan Blue and Dinesh Agarwal received their awards at the annual Arts and Sciences Honors Night ceremony, which was held on April 18 in the Student Center.

Tan Awarded Summer School Scholarship

Ph.D. student Song Tan was awarded a scholarship to attend the TCIPG Summer School held on June 17–21, 2013, in St. Charles, Illinois. TCIPG (Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the Power Grid) is a joint project of five major universities. Researchers from these universities are studying ways to improve the infrastructure of the nation's power grid to make it more secure, reliable, and safe. TCIPG is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, with support from the Department of Homeland Security.

Last June's summer school, the third to be offered by TCIPG, was open to utility and industry practitioners, researchers, and students. The school's goal was to give participants a background in the basics of security and resiliency for cyber infrastructure in power and smart grids.

Mr. Tan's scholarship covered registration fees, lodging, and travel expenses. His Ph.D. advisor is associate professor WenZhan Song.

ISBRA 2013 Held in Charlotte

In May, the Department of Computer Science helped organize the 9th International Symposium on Bioinformatics Research and Applications (ISBRA 2013), which drew researchers, developers, and practitioners working on all aspects of bioinformatics and computational biology and their applications. Georgia State hosted ISBRA in 2007 and 2008. This year, the conference was held at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

ISBRA 2013 featured 25 papers (selected by the program committee from 46 submissions) and a poster session. The proceedings were published as volume 7875 of the Springer Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics series.

Five distinguished scientists gave keynote talks at the conference: Dr. Tanya Berger-Wolf (University of Illinois at Chicago), Dr. Martha Bulyk (Harvard University), Dr. Luonan Chen (Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Dr. Steve Harvey (Georgia Tech), and Dr. Bin Ma (University of Waterloo).

The members of the steering committee for ISBRA 2013 were Dr. Dan Gusfield (University of California, Davis), Dr. Ion Mandoiu (University of Connecticut), Dr. Yi Pan (GSU), Dr. Marie-France Sagot (INRIA), and Dr. Alex Zelikovsky (GSU), with Dr. Pan serving as committee chair. The general chair was Dr. Cynthia Gibas (UNC Charlotte). The program chairs were Dr. Zhipeng Cai (GSU), Dr. Oliver Eulenstein (Iowa State), Dr. Daniel Janies (UNC Charlotte), and Dr. Daniel Schwartz (University of Connecticut). Six GSU faculty members (Dr. Cai, Dr. Robert Harrison, Dr. Pan, Dr. Raj Sunderraman, Dr. Zelikovsky, and Dr. Yanqing Zhang) were on the program committee.

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Department of Computer Science
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ATLANTA, GA 30302-3994

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