2014 MS – PHD
New Grad Welcome

CS @ ILLINOIS Team
Welcome to CS @ ILLINOIS

Rob Rutenbar
CS Department Head
Grad Academic Staff Members

Chandra Chekuri  
*Director of Graduate Programs*

Viveka Kudaligama  
*Coordinator of Graduate Programs*

Kathy Runck  
*Office Manager*

Mary Beth Kelley  
*Grad Academic Advisor*

Kara MacGregor  
*Grad Academic Advisor*
Leadership and Community

- Get involved in activities within and outside the department.
- Network with your colleagues, faculty, alumni, and corporate partners.
- Take advantage and attend the various seminars and activities sponsored by the department.
- Take time to get to know your colleagues!
- Take advantage of the fun things to do in the community and surrounding area.
College of Engineering IT Services

Engineering IT
Shared Services

Carefully read through the handout on their services and bookmark their website for future reference.

Need technical help, email engrit-help@illinois.edu
The CS Advancement Team

Advancement Mission:

CS @ Illinois has a robust, integrated program for communications, alumni relations, and development to raise the visibility and profile of the department, to increase alumni participation in the department’s activities, and to secure substantial financial support through individual, foundation, and corporate giving.
Meet the Team (L to R):

Tom Moone
Associate Director of Communications

Michelle Wellens
Director of Advancement

Colin Robertson
Program Specialist

Erin Henkelman
Administrative Assistant

Cynthia (CJ) Coleman
Associate Director of External Relations

Julie Gustafson
Special Events Specialist

Trish Davenport
Director of Advancement (Bay Area)
Strong Network of CS Alumni Entrepreneurs

Marc Andreessen  
Founder  
Netscape, OpsWare, Andreesen Horowitz

Ping Fu  
Founder, CEO  
GeoMagic, now at 3D Systems

Jawed Karim  
Founder  
YouTube

Chris Lattner  
Director, Developer Tools, Apple  
(LLVM and Swift)

Max Levchin  
Founder and CEO  
PayPal, Slide  
Affirm, Glow

Linda Mills  
Corp. VP and President of Information Systems Sector, Northrop Grumman

Ray Ozzie  
Former Chief Software Architect, Microsoft  
HP Board; Talko

Tom Siebel  
Founder, CEO/Chair  
Siebel Systems, now leading C3 Energy

Russel Simmons  
Founder and CTO  
Yelp

Parisa Tabriz  
Chrome Security Manager, Google
Many Entrepreneurial Success Stories from CS

- **Founded by CS alum(s):**
  - PayPal
  - YouTube
  - Siebel
  - Slide
  - match.com
  - yelp
  - Inktomi
  - Mozilla
  - Zynga
  - Groupon

- **Led (now or earlier) by CS alum(s):**
Regional Alumni Engagement Events
- Targeting high CS alumni populations

On Campus Opportunities
- In classes, special lectures, events, etc.

Distinguished Awards
- At Department, College and Campus Levels
CS @ ILLINOIS 50th Anniversary Celebration

SAVE THE DATES: October 20-25, 2014
At Homecoming

To recognize and honor the amazing innovators and innovations that are part of our history.

Keynotes by: Max Levchin, Parisa Tabriz, Jeff Holden, Chris Lattner, Linda Mills and Tom Siebel.

On Friday, October 24, there will also be panels throughout the day and a luncheon reception in the atrium, with many giveaways.

For all the details, visit:

[go.cs.illinois.edu/50_10](go.cs.illinois.edu/50_10)
Communications – Tom Moone

Upgrading the CS @ ILLINOIS

The Department of Computer Science's network of alumni, faculty, students, and industry partners is extensive and incredibly powerful. We are striving to develop and improve our ability to stay connected with you, and to connect you with each other.

THE CS @ ILLINOIS WEBSITE was recently redesigned with the understanding that it is often our first impression for prospective students and faculty, and provided deep resources for our campus community and our alumni. Visit us at www.cs.illinois.edu.

Social Network

THE E-NEWS delivers the department's top stories right to your inbox. And it links you to upcoming networking events, both in your area and on campus. Subscribe at: go.cs.illinois.edu/e-news.

We invite you to JOIN THE CONVERSATION—frequently—and share your thoughts with us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK to keep our connections to you strong. To share your suggestions, latest career news, or to update your contact information, please email us at click.cs.illinois.edu or scan the QR code to use our online form.

What you have in your hands is CLICK! MAGAZINE— mailed twice yearly to showcase the breadth, depth and impact of our accomplished alumni, faculty, staff, and students.
Corporate Partners – CJ Coleman

- **The Corporate Connection**
  - Strategic recruiting and research services for 24 companies seeking CS and ECE students
  - 48 in startup program

- **Adhoc Opportunities**
  - For Tech talks, Corporate days and HACKS/competitions

- **Work with Student Groups**
  - Sponsor events with ACM, WCS, LCSC, HACKIllinois, Founders, CocoaNuts, CSGSO and PURE

- **Research Collaborations**
  - Sponsored research and technology transfer
Corporate Connections Program

The Corporate Connection is a comprehensive program created to help industry connect with faculty and students who are at the forefront of engineering.

The link to complete a student profile is https://my.cs.illinois.edu/corpconnect.

Come to the After Hours event: September 22, 4-7 PM in the Siebel 1st and 2nd floor atriums.
Faculty & Student Awards (AY13-14) – Colin Robertson

- **Distinguished Faculty Awards**
  - ACM Fellow (Forsyth); INFORMS Fellow (Jacobson)
  - IEEE CS Seymour Cray Award (Snir)
  - HPCwire Award for Best Use of HPC in Life Sciences (Kale [with Schulten, Physics])
  - Leopoldina National Academy of Sciences (Nahrstedt)
  - SIAM SIAG/SC Career Prize (Gropp)
  - Sloan Research Fellowship (Godfrey)
  - UIUC awards to Godfrey, Jacobson, Heeren, Hoiem, Rosu

- **Distinguished Student Awards**
  - ACM IEEE-CS George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship
  - IBM PhD Fellowship
  - Intel PhD Fellowship
  - Microsoft Women’s Graduate Scholarship
  - NSF Graduate Research Fellowships
  - Qualcomm Innovation Fellowships
## Awards and Fellowships

Information on CS Student Awards, Scholarships, and Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title (Link)</th>
<th>Department Deadline (6pm, unless specified)</th>
<th>External Deadline</th>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship</td>
<td>9/22/2014</td>
<td>10/7/2014</td>
<td>Students must be in the second or third year of an eligible PhD program in the fall semester of 2014. International students (non-U.S. citizens) are eligible.</td>
<td>Two year fellowship covering tuition, fees, with $28,000 stipend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Research Graduate Women’s Scholarship</td>
<td>9/29/2014</td>
<td>10/17/2014</td>
<td>Outstanding female graduate students who currently enrolled in their first year in a graduate program, or first year in a PhD program. Must be enrolled in a CS, EE, Math, Bioinformatics, or Information Science department.</td>
<td>$15,000 scholarship; $2,000 conference travel allowance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Prestigious Graduate Fellowship Information

Kevin Karsch: [Website](#)

- NSF (winner): [Personal Statement](#) [PDF]; [Research Experience](#) [PDF]; [Research Proposal](#) [PDF]
- NDSEG (winner): [NDSEG Application](#) [PDF]

Tim Weninger: [Website](#)

- NSF (winner): [Personal Statement](#) [PDF]; [Research Experience](#) [PDF]; [Research Proposal](#) [PDF]
- NDSEG (winner): [Application](#) [PDF]

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Visit: [http://wiki.cites.illinois.edu/display/studentawards](http://wiki.cites.illinois.edu/display/studentawards)
Fundraising Priorities – Michelle Wellens

- Engineering Visionary Scholarship Initiative
- Faculty Chairs & Professorships
- Graduate Fellowships & Scholarships
- Outreach Activities
- Curricular Innovation
- International Engagement
- Annual Fund
ARE YOU AWESOME (at) CS?

TELL US ABOUT IT!

We want to know if you are working on an awesome project—in class or out—or building a startup, receiving awards, taking part in awesome competitions, challenges, or events, so we can tell the world how awesome CS students are!

awesome@cs.illinois.edu
CS Graduate Students contact information is located in the CS Internal Portal System my.cs.illinois.edu under “Directory”.

CS graduate students’ (except those excluded by FERPA privacy protections) email address, primary research interest and thesis advisor can be found in the directory.
Student Employment

Stop by and see Kim Bogle in 2222 Siebel Center if:

- You’re a new employee at the university
- You need to update work authorization (1-9 employment form)
- You have paycheck or tuition waiver questions
- You have any employment related questions

You can also contact Kim at kbogle@illinois.edu
Women in Computer Science (WCS)

WCS facilitates technical projects, organizes tech talks and professional workshops, and participates in outreach activities. WCS also provides a mentoring program, social gatherings, and scholarship opportunities.

www.illinoiswcs.org

Contact Person: Leila Fuladi lfuladi2@illinois.edu
New member sign-up: www.illinoiswcs.org/members
WCS Graduate Symposium
CS Grad Student Organization (CSGSO)

CSGSO is a group dedicated to improving the lives of graduate students in CS. We host FEs (Friday Extravaganza), provide coffee, organize Siebel sport events (foosball, ping-pong), and other social events.

http://twitter.com/csgso

Contact Persons:
Ryan Musa & Robert Deloatch

csgso@cs.illinois.edu
Association for Computing Machinery

ACM is both a undergraduate and graduate student organization providing many different services and events throughout the year. Their office is located across from the Academic Office.

http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/

Contact Person: Cole Gleason
Presenter: Carl Evans

acm@illinois.edu
Carl Evans

“Finding a Thesis Advisor and Faculty/Staff”
Choosing a Thesis Advisor*

- The most important decision of your life?!
- Perhaps more than or equally important to that of choosing a spouse:
  - Because your choice affects everything you will do in your career.
  - It is making a long-term commitment.

Choosing a Thesis Advisor

- Take a course with a potential advisor, possibly individual study.

- Ask for description of research projects of possible interest to you.
  - States research problems,
  - Explains the importance of the problems,
  - Includes references to journal articles and books that you can look up.

- Consider working with two advisors, if you are interested in an interdisciplinary project.

- Interview with a potential advisor.
  - Before the interview, read some articles written by the professor so that you can ask intelligent questions about the professor's research interests.

- Interview former students.
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.*

- Matt Might: “Every fall, I explain to a fresh batch of Ph.D. students what a Ph.D. is. It's hard to describe it in words. So, I use pictures.”

- Imagine a circle that contains all of human knowledge:

* Retrieved from Matt Might article at [http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/](http://matt.might.net/articles/phd-school-in-pictures/)
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- By the time you finish elementary school, you know a little:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- By the time you finish high school, you know a bit more:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- With a bachelor's degree, you gain a specialty:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- A master's degree deepens that specialty:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- Reading research papers takes you to the edge of human knowledge:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- Once you're at the boundary, you focus:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- You push at the boundary for a few years:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- Until one day, the boundary gives way:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- And, that dent you've made is called a Ph.D.:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- Of course, the world looks different to you now:
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

- But, don't forget the bigger picture:

- and Keep Pushing...
People in our Department

- People here in our department and even in the city are really nice.
  - Professors
  - Staff
  - Students

- Meet professors, ask them questions, talk to staff and make new friends
Ryan Musa

“Coursework, Seminars, and Networking”
Courses

- Will have some core classes.
- Take the courses that interest you!
  - Aid your research
  - Tie course projects into your research
  - Explore other departments too
- Talk to your advisor and other students in your research area.
  - They can provide insight on proper courses to take.
Seminars - 591s

- Features professors from other universities discussing their research.
- Paper discussion classes.
- Independent seminars
Networking

- Talk with guest speakers if you are interested in what they present
- Opportunities to meet with them one-on-one
- Internships, jobs, scholarships
- Make friends here and at conferences
  - These people will be important in the field!
Kristen Vaccaro

“Campus Activities/Clubs and Bus Transportation”
Activities on Campus

- **ARC/CRCE:** Rock climbing, fitness classes, pools, courts, weights
- **Sports:** Intermural, NCAA
- **Cultural and Religious Organizations**
- **Krannert Center for Performing Arts:** plays, symphonies, dance
- **Museums:** Spurlock History and Culture Museum, Krannert Art Museum

Activities in Champaign-Urbana

- **Music:** Pygmalion Music Fest (Sept 25-28), Ellnora guitar festival (in 2015)
- **Film:** Roger Ebert’s Film Festival (in April)
- **Outdoors:** Curtis Orchard, parks, bike trails
- **Nightlife:** 2 downtowns and campus town (bars, restaurants, cafes)
- **Cultural:** Urbana Sweetcorn Festival (Aug 22, 23)

Activities in Illinois

- **Outdoor:** Starved Rock State Park, Allerton Park
- **Chicago:** Museums, festivals, sports, nightlife, shopping
Student Organizations & MTD

- Registered Student Organizations
  [http://union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-registered-organizations](http://union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-registered-organizations)

- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD)
    - Safe Rides
Ryan Musa

“Local Places to Shop for Food”
Champaign Farmers Market
Urbana Farmers Market
Curtis Orchards
Carl Evans

“Day Trip Ideas”
I picked 5, and I have about 45 seconds for each

Just out of C-U

A incomplete list of nice things to see in day or less
On the north

Chicago

Too much to talk about

Architecture river tour

Millennium Park

Lake Michigan

Art institute of Chicago

Museum of Science and Industry

Museum of contemporary art
How do I get there?

By car
2.30 hours

www.amtrack.com
2.50 hours
20$ - 40$

us.megabus.com
greyhound.com
2.30 hours
20$ - 40$ with wifi
(sometimes much less)
On the East

- Kickapoo is about 45 min, Turkey Run about 1.30 hours
Kickapoo State Park

**Canoeing** (13 miles)
Kickapoo Landing
About 30-40$ per canoe
Check water levels!

**Mountain Biking**
About 10 miles of trail
You can rent bikes at the ARC
Turkey Run State Park

**Hiking:** Several trails, not too long (from 1 to 3 miles) but fun to do in a Sunday afternoon

**Canoeing:** different excursions, but about 30-50$ per canoe
Shawnee National Forest

A place with hills!
About 3 - 4 hours driving

For people biking, tourdeshawnee in Oct

(implicit) courtesy of shawneeforest.com
Enough with nature: a little on the West

St Louis, MO

Arc: you can get up to the top

City Museum: crazy random collections of fun things

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site: remains of an ancient civilization
No more time to talk ... but a lot of other things to do

Cycling around C-U
Pretty much with no cars

Sailing at Clinton Lake
Illinois Sailing Club

Strolling at Allerton Park
(cross-country skiing in winter)

BBQ at Homer Lake

Day at the Indianapolis speedway
Upcoming Events...

• **Sweet Corn Festival:** August 22\textsuperscript{nd}-23\textsuperscript{rd}, Downtown Urbana

• **Quad Days:** Sunday, August 24\textsuperscript{th}, from noon to 4 p.m. at Illinois Quad

• **Taste of Nevada Street block party:** Sunday, August 24\textsuperscript{th}, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. between S. Matthew & S. Goodwin

• **Classes Start:** Monday, August 25\textsuperscript{th}

• **Grad College Welcome Reception for All New Grads:** Monday, August 25\textsuperscript{th}, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Illini Union, Room C and South Lounge

• **CS “Meet and Greet” BBQ:** Thursday, August 28\textsuperscript{th}, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Siebel Courtyard