2015 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.
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CS @ ILLINOIS Advancement Team
The CS Advancement: Meet the Team

We manage a robust, integrated program for communications, alumni relations, and fundraising 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.

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
- NETSCOUT
- match.com
- yelp
- Malwarebytes

Led (now or earlier) by CS alum(s)
- Inktomi
- mozilla
- Microsoft
- Zynga
- Groupon
- Uber
Staying Connected

Be Part of the CS @ ILLINOIS Social Network

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 is often our first impression for prospective students and faculty, and provides deep resources for our campus community and our alumni. Visit us at www.cs.illinois.edu.

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/enews.

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.
Fundraising to Support CS Students & Faculty

- Engineering Visionary Scholarship Initiative
- Faculty Chairs & Professorships
- Graduate Fellowships & Scholarships
- Outreach Activities
- Curricular Innovation
- International Engagement
- Annual Fund
Engaging CS Alumni & Students

- **Regional Alumni Engagement Events**
  - Targeting CS alumni in SF, Chicago, & NYC

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

- **Distinguished Awards**
  - At Department, College, and Campus Levels
Engaging Corporate Partners

- **The Corporate Connection**
  - Strategic recruiting and research services for 31 companies seeking CS and ECE students
  - 68 in startup program

- **Ad hoc 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
The 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. Presents many opportunities for internships and job offers.

Come to the After Hours event: September 8, 4-7 PM in the Siebel 1st and 2nd floor atriums.

REGISTER:

http://go.cs.illinois.edu/Fall2015AfterHours
Strong CS Student Community: Get Involved!

- **Student groups** that complement and enhance what happens in the classroom

- **Rich calendar** of events that connect students, faculty, sponsors, alumni

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**Watson wins on Jeopardy (Sponsored by IBM)**
Recent Faculty & Student Awards

- **Distinguished Faculty Awards**
  - ACM Fellow (V. Adve); AAAS Fellow (Roth); IEEE Fellow (Smaragdis)
  - SIAM/ACM Prize in Computational Science and Engineering (Gropp)
  - IEEE CS Harry H. Goode Memorial Award (Padua)
  - IEEE CS Technical Achievement Award (Torrellas)
  - PAMI Young Researcher Award (Hoiem)
  - ACM SIGIR Test of Time Award (Zhai)
  - UIUC research awards to Sinha, Xie, Godfrey

- **Distinguished Student Awards**
  - ACM IEEE-CS George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship
  - NSF Graduate Research Fellowships
  - IBM PhD Fellowship
  - NDSEG Fellowship
  - VMware Graduate Fellowship
  - CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award
## Awards and Fellowships

Information on CS Student Awards, Scholarships, and Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title (Link)</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>External Deadline</th>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Travel Grants (Fall 2015)</td>
<td>9/17/2015</td>
<td>9/28/2015</td>
<td>Conference travel awards are intended to support graduate students who will be presenting papers, posters, or creative work at the conferences they attend.</td>
<td>Five grants to CS students, up to $350 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Research Ph.D. Fellowship</td>
<td>9/25/2015</td>
<td>10/9/2015</td>
<td>Students must be in the second or third year of an eligible PhD program in the fall semester of 2015. International students (non-U.S. citizens) are eligible.</td>
<td>Two year fellowship covering tuition, fees, with $28,000 stipend.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prestigious Graduate Fellowship Information

Kevin Karsch: [Website](http://example.com)

- NSF (winner): [Personal Statement](http://example.com) [PDF]; [Research Experience](http://example.com) [PDF]; [Research Proposal](http://example.com) [PDF]
- NDSEG (winner): [NDSEG Application](http://example.com) [PDF]

Tim Weninger: [Website](http://example.com)

- NSF (winner): [Personal Statement](http://example.com) [PDF]; [Research Experience](http://example.com) [PDF]; [Research Proposal](http://example.com) [PDF]
- NDSEG (winner): [Application](http://example.com) [PDF]

Visit: [http://wiki.cites.illinois.edu/display/studentawards](http://wiki.cites.illinois.edu/display/studentawards)
Advancement: Awesomeness Management...

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!

awesomed@cs.illinois.edu
College of Engineering IT Services
Palmer Buss & Glen Rundblom

Engineering IT Shared Services
Pick up the handouts on their services and bookmark their website for future reference.

Need technical help? Email engrit-help@illinois.edu
CS Grad Contact Information

CS graduate students’ (except those excluded by FERPA privacy protections) email address, primary research interest and thesis advisor can be found in the campus 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
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Student Groups and Current Student Perspectives
Women in Computer Science (WCS)

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

Website: www.illinoiswcs.org
Contact Person: Namrata Prabhu nprabhu2@illinois.edu
General Contact: contact@illinoiswcs.org
Member Sign Up: http://bit.ly/1JSkAuf
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:
Michael Robson, Jon Calhoun, Pranjal Vachaspati
mprobso@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: Sujay Khandekar

acm@illinois.edu
Mary Pietrowicz

“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.**
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/
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!
Imani Palmer

“Campus Activities/Clubs"
THE ORIGIN OF THE THESIS

STARE BLANKLY
AT SCREEN

ABSENTLY CHECK
SMALLER DEVICE

OPEN NEWS SITE

GET BORED

START READING

PROBABILITY YOU'LL COME UP
WITH A BRILLIANT IDEA

ANY... MINUTE...
NOW...

TIME SPENT STARING AT YOUR
COMPUTER
does not increase

PROBABILITY YOU'LL COME UP
WITH A BRILLIANT IDEA

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
Exercise!

Like many geeks, I got a lot more interested in exercise once I made the connection to leveling up.

One more point to STR, then I'll run to work on CON.

Amount of exercise I get over the year:

- New Year's Resolution: Get more exercise!
- Valentine's day
- Sudden obsession with working out (procrastinates from doing work)
- Crunch time before deadline!
- Emerging from the work hell
- Sore for two weeks
- That one time I'll be really into it and have to run for it
- Sore for two weeks
- That crazy hike (up a mountain/in the desert)
- I'm always peer-pressured into friends/lmates
- Last ditch attempt at keeping New Year's Resolution
- Forget it, it's too cold outside
- Holiday Family drame doesn't count as exercise.

Repeat!
What about Off-Campus?

- **DO YOU REMEMBER BEFORE THE INTERNET?**
  - OH YEAH, TOTALLY.

- **WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**
  - NOT HAVING A PHONE OR COMPUTER TO DISTRACT YOU?
  - YEAH.

- **IT WAS SO. BORING.**
  - ALL THE TIME.
  - I JUST SAT THERE.
  - IT WAS THE WORST.

- **BUT WASN'T IT, LIKE, MORE FULFILLING? ENGAGING?**
  - WASN'T WORTH IT.
  - I STILL GET BORED.
  - NOT LIKE WE DID.
Student Organizations & MTD

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

- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD)
  http://www.cumtd.com/
  - Safe Rides
An incomplete list of nice things to see in one day or less
Perspective

- Chicago
  - 2:15
  - 2:45
  - ($20-$40)
- St. Louis
  - 2:45
- Indianapolis
  - 2:00
- Springfield
  - 1:30

150 mi
~ 180 mi
- **Chicago**
  - 2:15
  - 2:45
  - 2:30
    ($20-$40)

150 mi
~ 180 mi
Chicago

- Architecture River Tour
- Millennium Park
- Museums
  - Museum of Science and Industry
  - Museum of Contemporary Art
  - Art Institute of Chicago
- Navy Pier
- Lake Michigan
- Food!
- St. Louis
  - 2:45

150 mi
~ 180 mi
St. Louis

- Awesome FREE things!
  - Zoo
  - Art Museum
  - Science Center
  - Busch Brewery Tour
- The Arch
- City Museum
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Cahokia Mounds State Historic Cite
- Indianapolis
  - 2:00

150 mi

~ 180 mi
Indianapolis

- Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
- Indy 500
- Museums
  - Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
  - Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art
  - Indianapolis Museum of Art
- Trendy Neighborhoods
Between Cities

- Kickapoo State Park
- Clinton Lake
- Starved Rock State Park
- Turkey Run State Park
- Shawnee National Forest

150 mi

~ 180 mi
Between Cities

- Canoeing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Camping

- Rent outdoor equipment at the ARC!
Between Cities

- Stargazing
- Skydiving

- Meetup.com is your friend!
And much more!

(but they only gave me 5 minutes)
Photo credits

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U of I logo - http://identitystandards.illinois.edu/assets/images/i_mark_bold.png
all Chicago photos - unknown (previous version of this presentation)
St. Louis Art Museum -
http://api.ning.com/files/I0fvYV0V5N4Yt9EIEE1LmUiwLmdtJ3NNsYLUERsXJKTfF6eLS5icCKCqwQLPF7ljun5Awwovx*HMVdlXdONDsRJ9pagKrGCh/SLAM2.jpg
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Children's Museum -
Eiteljorg - http://ltf15.parkteam.de/04/05/a057fae80bb3121f-Eiteljorg_Museum_of_American_Indians_and_Western_Art.jpg
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stargazing - photos by James Stevens jdsteve2@illinois.edu
Lincoln home - https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/87/Lincoln_Home_1.jpg
old state capitol - http://www.painetworks.com/photos/ib/ib0859.JPG
cave - https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/ff/08/Illinois_Caverns_State_Natural_Area.jpg
Upcoming Events...

• **Quad Day:** Sunday, August 23rd, from noon to 4 p.m. on the Illinois Quad

• **Classes Start:** Monday, August 24th

• **Grad College Welcome Reception for All New Grads:** Monday, August 24th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Illini Union, South Lounge.

• **CS “Meet and Greet” BBQ:** Thursday, August 27th, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Siebel Courtyard.

• **Sweet Corn Festival:** August 28th-29th, Downtown Urbana
“Local Places to Shop for Food”
Champaign Farmers Market
Urbana Farmers Market
Curtis Orchards