

CCC ANNOUNCES 2011 COMPUTING INNOVATION FELLOWS: CIFELLOWS PROJECT CONTINUES TO SEEK TO RETAIN RECENT PHDS IN COMPUTING RESEARCH



WASHINGTON, DC, Oct. 14, 2011

The Computing Community Consortium (CCC) - a standing committee of the Computing Research Association (CRA) - today named 20 exceptional recent Ph.D. graduates in computer science (and allied fields) to its 2011 class of Computing Innovation Fellows (CIFellows; <http://cifellows.org/>). These 20 talented researchers have been competitively awarded postdoctoral positions of up to two years at academic institutions and industrial research laboratories throughout the U.S. Made possible by a \$6.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to CRA - the third grant in as many years - the 2011 CIFellowships are a continuation of the highly successful effort begun in 2009 to forestall a permanent loss of research talent likely to occur as a consequence of the financial crisis and subsequent economic downturn.

The new cohort of CIFellows is comprised of 20 individuals from 18 different Ph.D.-granting colleges and universities within the U.S., and, collectively, the CIFellows are assigned to mentors at 17 unique host organizations. They were selected from a pool of 177 applicants, spanning 76 different Ph.D.-granting colleges and universities.

With support from the NSF, CRA provides each organization hosting a CIFellow a one-year subaward, to include a 12-month salary plus fringe benefits to the CIFellow as well as an allowance to be used at the CIFellow's discretion for the purchase of a computer and laboratory equipment, conference travel, relocation expenses, and other discretionary expenses in support of his or her research plan. (Those CIFellows who wish to continue for a second year are provided a new subaward covering that period, contingent upon a positive mid-year evaluation and the availability of funds.) Like the 2009 and 2010 CIFellows that came before them, it is intended that these subawards will enable the 2011 CIFellows to have uniquely independent research experiences that will help them sharpen their skills and enhance their credentials over the next one to two years.

To ensure broad participation in the program and to cultivate bridges between diverse institutions via the CIFellows, no more than two awardees earned their Ph.D.s from the same university, and no more than two awardees were assigned to the same host organization. Diversity of other forms - including research areas and individuals, etc. - were also encouraged. About 30 percent of the 2011 CIFellows are women.

The awarding of a third cohort of CIFellows follows very positive and beneficial experiences for the 2009 and 2010 CIFellows and their mentors. Of the 60 CIFellows who started in the fall of 2009, 39 have taken permanent research positions in academia, industry, and government. In addition, roughly halfway through their two-year CIFellowships, five of the 47 2010 CIFellows have announced plans to depart the program early following offers of permanent research opportunities. In most of these cases, the postdoctoral experiences markedly enhanced the CIFellows' skills, credentials, and stellar resumes. As one hiring officer wrote, "I can attest that [the CIFellow's] postdoctoral experience... enhanced [the CIFellow's] attractiveness to us as a candidate."

While it remains too early to provide an authoritative assessment of the impact of the CIFellows Project in the long term, an independent evaluation by SRI International commissioned in fall 2010 concluded in part, "The results of this evaluation suggest that the design of the program helped to provide the CIFellows with the foundations for productive careers as research leaders and principal investigators... The CIFellows Project appears to have achieved its short-term objectives of providing interim employment to early-career computing researchers, at least some of whom might have left the field without such support."

Like the inaugural class, the 2011 CIFellows were selected through an intensive review process that considered applicants' research backgrounds, proposed research projects, and proposed mentors. A Selection Committee evaluated each application and recommended a slate of finalists to a Steering Committee. The latter - comprising co-principal investigators (PIs) of the three NSF grants supporting the CIFellows Project since 2009 - provided administrative, financial, and technical oversight, and was ultimately responsible for all award decisions. The PI of the 2011 NSF grant, **M. Frans Kaashoek** (MIT), chaired both committees.

The Selection Committee included:

- Philip Bohannon, Yahoo! Research
- Henrik Christensen, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Prem Devanbu, University of California at Davis
- Bill Feiereisen, Intel Corporation
- Lisa Fleischer, Dartmouth College
- James Fogarty, University of Washington
- Stephanie Forrest, University of New Mexico
- Lance Fortnow, Northwestern University
- Greg Ganger, Carnegie Mellon University
- Darren Gergle, Northwestern University
- Gregory Hager, Johns Hopkins University
- Eric Horvitz, Microsoft Research
- Frans Kaashoek, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Chair)
- David Kaeli, Northeastern University
- Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Jim Kurose, Microsoft Research
- John Mitchell, Stanford University
- Rob Miller, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Robin Murphy, Texas A&M University
- Hanspeter Pfister, Harvard University
- Ion Stoica, University of California at Berkeley
- Jim Waldo, VMware

The Steering Committee included:

- Greg Andrews, University of Arizona
- Lance Fortnow, Northwestern University
- Erwin Gianchandani, Computing Research Association
- Susan Graham, University of California at Berkeley
- Gregory Hager, Johns Hopkins University
- Anita Jones, University of Virginia
- Frans Kaashoek, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Ed Lazowska, University of Washington
- Ran Libeskind-Hadas, Harvey Mudd College
- Bobby Schnabel, Indiana University
- Bob Sproull, Oracle Labs (ret.)

The 2011 class of CIFellows and their mentors includes:

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CIFellow	Ph.D.-granting university	Research area	Mentor	Host organization
Amin Ansari	University of Michigan	Hardware/architecture	Josep Torrellas	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ferhat Ay	University of Florida	Scientific/medical informatics	William Noble	University of Washington
Selina Chu	University of Southern California	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Thomas Dietterich	Oregon State University
Shay Cohen	Carnegie Mellon University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Michael Collins	Columbia University
Travis Deyle	Georgia Institute of Technology	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Matt Reynolds	Duke University
David Feil-Seifer	University of Southern California	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Brian Scassellati	Yale University
Lakshmi Ganesh	Cornell University	Networks/operating systems	Michael Dahlin	University of Texas at Austin
Jonathan Huang	Carnegie Mellon University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Leonidas Guibas	Stanford University
Mohit Tiwari	University of California at Santa Barbara	Hardware/architecture	Krste Asanovic'	University of California at Berkeley
Hemanta Maji	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Information systems/information science	Amit Sahai	University of California at Los Angeles
David Mimno	Univesrity of Massachusetts at Amherst	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	David Blei	Princeton University
Ankur Moitra	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Theory/algorithms	Avi Widgerson	Institute for Advanced Study
Rohan Murty	Harvard University	Networks/operating systems	Hari Balakrishnan	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Joshua Reich	Columbia University	Networks/operating systems	Jennifer Rexford	Princeton University
Suchi	Stanford University	Scientific/medical	Kenneth	Children's Hospital

Saria		informatics	Mandl	Boston
Erin Solovey	Tufts University	HCI/CSCW	Mary Cummings	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ian Stevenson	Northwestern University	Other -- computational neuroscience	Bruno Olshausen	University of California at Berkeley
Kalliopi (Kelly) Tsota	Purdue University	Software engineering	Jason Cong	University of California at Los Angeles
Lirong Xia	Duke University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	David Parkes	Harvard University
Hong-Sheng Zhou	University of Connecticut	Information systems/information science	Jonathan Katz	University of Maryland

And the 2010 CIFellows who are continuing for a second year include:

CIFellow	Ph.D.-granting university	Research area	Mentor	Host organization
Jae-wook Ahn	University of Pittsburgh	Information systems/information science	Ben Shneiderman	University of Maryland at College Park
Alvin AuYoung	University of California-San Diego	Networks/operating systems	Partha Ranganathan	HP Labs
Aruna Balasubramanian	University of Massachusetts at Amherst	Mobile/ubiquitous/embedded computing	David Wetherall	University of Washington
Robert Bocchino	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Programming languages/compilers	Jonathan Aldrich	Carnegie Mellon University
Lillian Chang*	Carnegie Mellon University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Joshua Smith	Intel Corporation
Yanhua Chen	Wayne State University	Scientific/medical informatics	Peter Song	University of Michigan
Marc Chiarini	Tufts	Networks/operating systems	Margo	Harvard

	University		Seltzer	University
David Choffnes	Northwestern University	Networks/operating systems	Tom Anderson	University of Washington
Tamara Clegg	Georgia Institute of Technology	CS education/educational technology	Allison Druin	University of Maryland at College Park
Jyotirmoy Deshmukh	University of Texas at Austin	Software engineering	Rajeev Alur	University of Pennsylvania
Xiaoning Ding	Ohio State University	Networks/operating systems	Phillip Gibbons	Intel Corporation
David Doty	Iowa State University	Theory/algorithms	Erik Winfree	California Institute of Technology
Samuel Gordon	University of Maryland at College Park	CS education/educational technology	Tal Malkin	Columbia University
Elena Grigorescu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Theory/algorithms	Chris Peikert	Georgia Institute of Technology
Haryadi Gunawi	University of Wisconsin at Madison	Networks/operating systems	Joseph Hellerstein	University of California at Berkeley
David Harmon	Columbia University	Graphics/visualization	Denis Zorin	New York University
Timothy Havens	University of Missouri at Columbia	Databases/information retrieval/data mining	Anil Jain	Michigan State University
Michael Hay	University of Massachusetts at Amherst	Databases/information retrieval/data mining	Johannes Gehrke	Cornell University
Houman Homayoun	University of California at Irvine	Hardware/architecture	Dean Tullsen	University of California at San Diego
Shaili Jain	Harvard University	Social computing/social informatics	Joan Feigenbaum	Yale University
Saket Joshi	Tufts	AI/machine	Prasad	Oregon State

	University	learning/robotics/vision	Tadepalli	University
Thomas Kiehl	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Other -- systems biology, evolutionary computing	Scott Tenenbaum	University of Albany
Samantha Kleinberg	New York University	Scientific/medical informatics	George Hripcsak	Columbia University
J. Zico Kolter	Stanford University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Russ Tedrake	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lukas Kroc	Cornell University	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Allon Percus	Claremont Graduate University
Vijay Kumar	Ohio State University	Numerical computing/HPC/data-intensive scalable computing	Jay Wylie	HP Labs
Homin Lee	Columbia University	Theory/algorithms	Adam Klivans	University of Texas at Austin
Yuliya Lierler	University of Texas at Austin	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Miroslaw Trzuszczynski	University of Kentucky
Xiaojuan Ma	Princeton University	HCI/CSCW	Jodi Forlizzi	Carnegie Mellon University
Amon Millner	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	CS education/educational technology	Lynn Stein	Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
Arifa Nisar	Northwestern University	Numerical computing/HPC/data-intensive scalable computing	Ethan Miller	University of California at Santa Cruz
Amit Pande	Iowa State University	Mobile/ubiquitous/embedded computing	Prasant Mohapatra	University of California at Davis
Sharoda Paul*	Pennsylvania State University	HCI/CSCW	Peter Pirolli	Palo Alto Research Center
Brian Price	Brigham Young	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Scott Cohen	Adobe Systems, Inc.

	University			
Dustin Reishus	University of Southern California	Other -- self-assembly/self-organization	Nikolaus Correll	University of Colorado at Boulder
Ricky Sethi	University of California at Riverside	AI/machine learning/robotics/vision	Yolanda Gil	University of Southern California
Saurabh Srivastava	University of Maryland at College Park	Programming languages/compilers	Rastislav Bodik	University of California at Berkeley
Erin Walker	Carnegie Mellon University	CS education/educational technology	Winslow Burleson	Arizona State University
Susan Wyche	Georgia Institute of Technology	Hardware/architecture	Steve Harrison	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Yinglong Xia	University of Southern California	Numerical computing/HPC/data-intensive scalable computing	Anshul Gupta	IBM Research
Yang Xiang	Kent State University	Scientific/medical informatics	Kun Huang	Ohio State University
Cem Yuksel	Texas A&M University	Graphics/visualization	Doug James	Cornell University
Caroline Ziemkiewicz	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Graphics/visualization	David Laidlaw	Brown University

**Continuing for a partial second year after accepting a permanent research position.*

About the CCC: The CCC (<http://cra.org/ccc>) was established in fall 2006 under a cooperative agreement between the CRA and the NSF. A standing committee of the CRA, the CCC seeks to mobilize the computing research community to debate long-range challenges and build consensus around specific research visions. The CCC specifically pursues the next big computing ideas that will define the future of the field, attract the very best talent, and catalyze research investment and public support in the long term.

About the CRA: The CRA (<http://cra.org/>) was established nearly 40 years ago and has members at more than 250 research entities in academia, industry, and government. Its mission is to strengthen research and advance education in computing fields, expand opportunities for women and minorities, and improve public and policymaker understanding of the importance of computing and computing research in society.

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