

## CS alum social event held in Cambridge

In October, the School of Computer Science welcomed CS alumni and friends to a social event held at Amazon's Cambridge, MA facility. The event was at capacity with 150 registered to attend. CS Chair Lori Clarke welcomed attendees and provided a short update on the CS happenings. Professor James Allan gave an overview of his information retrieval research, and CS alum speakers Renu Chipalkatti ('87), Aaron St. John ('05), and Irene Ros ('06) provided brief remarks about their work. Guests spent the evening networking with faculty and alumni and enjoying the food and drinks.

Special thanks to Wayne Duso ('85) for hosting the event and to our alumni organizing committee: Carla Brodley ('94), Carol Broverman ('91), Duso, Marisa Pacifico ('10), Mary-Ellen Prescott ('84), Ros, John Woods ('80), Steve Vinter ('85), and Steve Willis ('78). Visit [www.cs.umass.edu/alumnievent](http://www.cs.umass.edu/alumnievent) for details on upcoming alum social events.



After 11 years at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, first as an assistant professor and then as a tenured associate professor, **Anita Raja** (Ph.D. '03) is now the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs in the Albert Nerken School of Engineering in The Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Arts in lower Manhattan. She is also a tenured professor in Computer Science at Cooper Union. While at UMass Amherst, Raja was advised by Distinguished Professor Victor Lesser.

Two Ph.D. alumni from Professor Prashant Shenoy's Laboratory for Advanced Systems Software were recently promoted. **Peter Desnoyers** (Ph.D. '08) was promoted to Associate Professor at Northeastern University and **Purushottam ("Puru") Kulkarni** (Ph.D. '07) was promoted to Associate Professor at IIT Bombay.

**Peter Chikov** (BS '07), current Western New England University School of Law student, and teammate Jean Derderian were selected as semi-finalists in the American Bar Association National Law Student Tax Challenge.

CS is saddened to announce the passing of alum **Thomas Probert** (Ph.D. '81) who died at the age of 66 on November 14, 2014 in Natick, MA. For the past seven years, he was President of Stegosystems, Inc., a cybersecurity business that he established.

## Join us on May 1, 2015

The seventh annual Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy (OAA) Awards banquet will be held on the evening of Friday, May 1st, 2015 in the Marriott Center of the UMass Amherst Campus Center. During the banquet, awards will be presented to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of graduates of the School's degree programs and to acknowledge the support of important friends of the School. Current student awards will also be presented. For details and to register for the event, go to: [www.cs.umass.edu/oa2015](http://www.cs.umass.edu/oa2015).

## Lifetime email addresses for Computer Science alums

We are pleased to announce that CS alum email forwarding addresses are now available for any of our UMass Amherst CS alums. Although you might change employers or Internet providers, your CS alum email address will always stay the same and will forward your email to whatever address you choose. The email address will generally be **firstname.lastname@alum.cs.umass.edu**. To sign up for your email forwarding address, go to [www.cs.umass.edu/lifetime-email-forwarding](http://www.cs.umass.edu/lifetime-email-forwarding).

## Recent Computer Science Ph.D. graduates (September 2014)



**John Altidor;** *Subtyping with Generics: A Unified Approach*; Yannis Smaragdakis, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Researcher, BBN Technologies

2014; Researcher, BBN Technologies



**Sean Barker;** *Model-Driven Analytics of Energy Meter Data in Smart Homes*; Prashant

Shenoy, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Bowdoin College



**Michael Crouch;** *Streaming Algorithms via Reductions*; Andrew Mc-Gregor, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Member of Technical Staff, Bell Labs, Ireland

2014; Machine Learning Scientist, Amazon.com



**William Dabney;** *Adaptive Step-Sizes for Reinforcement Learning*; Andrew Barto, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Machine Learning Scientist, Amazon.com

2014; Machine Learning Scientist, Amazon.com



**Junghee Jo;** *Defining, Evaluating, and Improving the Verification of Patient Identifiers*

During Medication Administration; Lori A. Clarke and Jenna Marquard, Advisors; Sept. 2014; Senior Researcher, Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI)



**Youngho Kim;** *Searching Based on Query Documents*; W. Bruce Croft, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Postdoctoral Research Scientist, IBM Watson Research

2014; Postdoctoral Research Scientist, IBM Watson Research



**Wentian Lu;** *Privacy-preserving Sanitization in Data Sharing*; Gerome Miklau, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Software Engineer, Google Inc.

2014; Software Engineer, Google Inc.



**Marc Maier;** *Causal Discovery for Relational Domains: Representation, Reasoning, and Learning*; David Jensen, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Data Scientist, MassMutual

tion, Reasoning, and Learning; David Jensen, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Data Scientist, MassMutual



**Trek Palmer;** *Using Formal Methods to Verify Transactional Abstract Concurrency Control*; J. Eliot B. Moss, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Chief Engineer at NuoDB Inc.

2014; Chief Engineer at NuoDB Inc.



**Abhinav Parate;** *Designing Efficient and Accurate Behavior-Aware Mobile Systems*; Deepak Ganesan, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Researcher, HP Research Labs

2014; Researcher, HP Research Labs



**Jae Hyun Park;** *Retrieval Models based on Linguistic Features of Verbose Queries*; W. Bruce Croft, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Software Engineer, Nuance Communications, Inc.

2014; Software Engineer, Nuance Communications, Inc.



**Anand Seetharam;** *Efficient Routing and Scheduling in Wireless Networks*; James F. Kurose, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Assistant Professor, California State University, Monterey Bay

2014; Assistant Professor, California State University, Monterey Bay



**Robert Walls;** *Inference-Based Forensics For Extracting Information From Diverse Sources*; Brian Levine, Advisor; Sept. 2014; hPostdoctoral Researcher, Department of Computer Science, Pennsylvania State University

2014; hPostdoctoral Researcher, Department of Computer Science, Pennsylvania State University



**Xiaoxi Xu;** *Computational Communication Intelligence: Exploring Linguistic Manifestation and Social Dynamics in Online Communication*; Beverly Woolf, Advisor; Sept. 2014; Data Scientist, Rovi Corporation

2014; Data Scientist, Rovi Corporation

See details on the September graduates' research at: [www.cs.umass.edu/news/recent-computer-science-phd-graduates-september-2014](http://www.cs.umass.edu/news/recent-computer-science-phd-graduates-september-2014).

## ImmermanFest held during LCC 2014

In honor of Professor Neil Immerman's 60th birthday, an "ImmermanFest" Workshop was organized as part of the Fifteenth International Workshop on Logic and Computational Complexity (LCC 2014) held in Vienna, Austria. During the daylong ImmermanFest Workshop, six leading researchers who were influenced by Immerman's work presented lectures of their research. Immerman's former student, Kousha Etessami (CS Ph.D. '95), was the primary organizer of the event, with assistance from Anuj Dawar, Mooly Sagiv, and CS Professor Shlomo Zilberstein. Event organizers noted that Immerman "has been one of the leading figures in the development of descriptive complexity, which has elucidated intimate and beautiful connections between complexity theory and finite model theory." At the end of the ImmermanFest program, participants were invited to a dinner to celebrate Immerman's birthday. After dinner, the group celebrated with a cake decorated with a picture of the cover of Immerman's book. ImmermanFest was affiliated with the "Vienna Summer of Logic," two weeks of meetings that included twelve large conferences and numerous workshops related to logic and computer science.

