

Why I Give

No matter how large or how small, every single gift to CICS is greatly appreciated and put to good use. Here is why Andrew Merlino (B.S. '85) chose to give...

"In the early 80s, I was a computer science student who studied math and science and found computers useful. CICS computer science professors like Michael Arbib, Andrew Barto, Nico Spinelli, Lori Clarke, and Robert Moll helped to make me aware of all the possible avenues within computer science. Because of their teachings, I've been able to work in areas of electrical design, computer vision, database management systems, speech and language processing, and multimedia processing systems. Today, I am fortunate to be co-founder and president of Pixel Forensics, a software company. I'm happy that I can still work with and cross paths with current CICS Professors Erik Learned-Miller and James Allan as well as graduate students through project collaborations, student sponsorships, and hiring.

Why do I give? Because I'll never be able to pay back what UMass Amherst has given to me."



Andrew Merlino ('85)

Alumni Networking Night

CICS alumni gathered at Amazon's Cambridge, MA facility on November 5, 2015 for the annual CICS New England Networking Evening. Attendees learned about the new college, reconnected with CICS faculty and friends, and expanded their professional network. Special thanks to Wayne Duso ('85), general manager for Amazon Web Services, for providing the venue.



Lifetime Alumni Email

Email forwarding addresses are now available for any of our UMass Amherst computer science alumni. Although you might change employers or Internet providers, your alumni 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 cics.umass.edu/lifetime-email-forwarding.

Shaun Kane (B.S. '03, M.S. '05) and David Mimno (M.S. '09, Ph.D. '12) are 2016 recipients of the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships. The fellowships honor early-career scientists and scholars whose achievements and potential identify them as the next generation of scientific leaders. Dr. Kane, assistant professor of computer science at the University of Colorado Boulder, directs the Superhuman Computing Lab. Mimno is an assistant professor in the Department of Information Science at Cornell University.

Panos K. Chrysanthis (Ph.D. '91), a University of Pittsburgh professor of computer science, received the 2015 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring. The award recognizes faculty "who have nurtured their doctoral students' professional and personal development, providing a strong foundation for the students' careers." He is the founder and director of the Advanced Data Management Technologies Laboratory, and he holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Dr. Michael Franklin (B.S. '83) has been appointed chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Chicago. Franklin will also serve as senior advisor to the provost on computation and data science. In 2009, he was recognized by CICS with an Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy (OAA) Award for Research.

Alexander Wolf (M.S. '82, Ph.D. '85) has been named dean of the University of California Santa Cruz's Baskin School of Engineering. Wolf currently serves as the president of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). In 2010, Wolf received a CICS OAA Award for Research.

Rukmini Vijaykumar (Ph.D. '89) joined CICS as a Visiting Lecturer. She is currently teaching a machine learning graduate level course at UMass' new Boston academic center located on Beacon Street. She is an independent consultant in the Greater Boston area and previously served as senior member of technical staff at Verizon Communications developing automated systems for network fault diagnosis.



In Memoriam: **Arthur I. Karshmer** (1940-2015). We are saddened to announce that CICS alum Arthur I. Karshmer (M.S. '74, Ph.D. '78) passed away on November 11, 2015 at the age of 75. Karshmer, professor emeritus in the School of Management's Department of Analytics and Technology at the University of San Francisco, received a CICS OAA Award for Contributions to Society in 2013.

In Memoriam: **Steven Levitan** (1950-2016): It is with sadness that we also announce the passing of Steven Levitan (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '84) on March 8, 2016. He was the John A. Jurenko Professor of Computer Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

Recent Computer Science Ph.D. Graduates (September 2015)



Abhigyan Sharma; *Content Placement as a Key to Infrastructure Service Design for a*

Content-Dominated, Highly Mobile Internet; Arun Venkataramani and Ramesh Sitaraman, Advisors; Sept. 15; Researcher, AT&T Labs Research



Hannah Blau; *Automated Style Feedback for Advanced Beginner Java Programmers;*

W. Richards Adrion and Robert Moll, Advisors; Sept. 15



John Bowers; *Skeleton Structures and Origami Design;* Ileana Streinu, Advisor; Sept. 15;

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, James Madison University

See details on the graduates' research at: cics.umass.edu/phdgrads_sept15



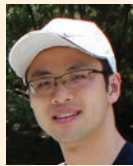
Ethem Can; *Exploiting Concepts in Videos for Video Event Detection;* R. Manmatha,

James Allan, Advisors; Sept. 15; Senior Software Developer, SAS



Thomas Helmuth; *General Program Synthesis from Examples using Genetic Programming with Parent Selection Based on Random Lexicographic Orderings of Test Cases;*

Lee Spector, Advisor; Sept. 15; Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Washington and Lee University



Bo Jiang; *Network Characteristics and Dynamics: Reciprocity, Competition*

and Information Dissemination; Donald Towsley, Advisor; Sept. 15; Postdoctoral Research Associate, UMass Amherst



Yoonheui Kim; *Application of Techniques for Map Estimation to Distributed*

Constraint Optimization Problem; Victor Lesser, Advisor; Sept. 15



Chia-Jung Lee; *Exploiting Social Media Sources for Search, Fusion and Evaluation;*

W. Bruce Croft, Advisor; Sept. 15; Applied Scientist, Microsoft



Vimal Mathew; *Energy-efficient Content Delivery Networks;*

Prashant Shenoy and Ramesh Sitaraman, Advisors; Sept. 15; Self-employed



Aditya Mishra; *Energy Optimizations for Smart Buildings*

and Smart Grids; Prashant Shenoy, Advisor; Sept. 15; Assistant Professor, Seattle University



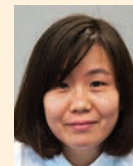
Brian Taylor; *Informed Search for Learning Causal Structure;*

David Jensen, Advisor; Sept. 15; Machine Learning Engineer, Amazon



Philip Thomas; *Safe Reinforcement Learning;* Andrew Barto, Advisor; Sept. 15;

Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University



Sookhyun Yang; *Forensic and Management Challenges in Wireless and Mobile Network Environments;*

James Kurose, Advisor; Sept. 15; Senior Performance Engineer, Akamai Technology

College Welcomes New Director of Development

UMass Amherst fundraiser Julie Stubbs has joined CICS as director of development. Stubbs brings 12 years of experience in heading the philanthropic efforts at nonprofits and UMass Amherst. Her initial position on campus was in the College of Natural Sciences, where she supported the then-named Department of Computer Science in creating scholarship funds. Stubbs transitioned to director of development for the College of Education (CoE) in 2012.

Over three and a half years in the CoE, Stubbs partnered with leaders and donors to bring philanthropic support to critical areas such as faculty research, student scholarships, and buildings and infrastructure. Her work resulted in the college surpassing its campaign goal of \$8.5 million one year prior to the conclusion of the UMass Rising campaign.

"We are very pleased to welcome Julie to CICS," said Bruce Croft, distinguished professor and dean. "She will be leading the college's efforts in fundraising and donor relations, strengthening our financial foundations, and building

new, lasting relationships with those who support our mission. Julie is an exceptionally capable leader for our efforts in these areas."

Stubbs added, "When alumni, whether undergraduate or graduate, are involved members of the CICS community, amazing things happen—networks develop between students and alumni, alumni from different years connect with one another, industry-sponsored research bolsters faculty research and student support, and volunteers step forward to help guide the college and bring new opportunities to the forefront. This is the environment in which philanthropy lives."

Stubbs welcomes contact with all members of the CICS community and can be reached at 413-545-1220 or stubbs@cics.umass.edu.



Julie Stubbs