MASSMUTUAL FOUNDATION GRANTS $15 MILLION FOR DATA SCIENCE AND CYBERSECURITY  | PG.3

From left: Brian Levine, director of the Cybersecurity Institute, Kum Kumble Subbaswamy, UMass Amherst chancellor, and Andrew McCallum, director of the Center for Data Science, joined government, business, and university leaders at the presentation of the award.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Isn’t it amazing what we can do when we come together? CICS funds received gifts from more alumni and friends than ever in our first year of collegelhood, providing support for student organizations, advising programs, events, and scholarships.

Our community mobilized quickly to win the “Power Hour” in the UMass Gives online campaign, and unlocked a further $2,000 in support. Current students, parents, and faculty and staff joined in providing support to help our college community thrive.

And, in a beautiful display of generosity and kindness, several members of our community stepped up to provide new scholarships to support students. As a result of this generosity, more than $50,000 in scholarships was awarded to talented, hardworking students.

Our alumni and friends give back in many ways, by actively seeking out UMass applicants when they are hiring, by advising budding student entrepreneurs, or by offering internships that will provide an on-ramp for interesting, productive careers. All of these efforts are important, and we thank you for your generous gifts of your time, expertise, and interest, as well as your philanthropy.

As you think back on your UMass Amherst experience, and the people you met here that sparked your interest in computer science and gave you the tools to build your career, I hope you will consider how you can give back.

Thank you for supporting CICS, investing in the promise of our students, and helping our college thrive.

Warm regards,

Julie Stubbs
Director of Development
stubbs@cics.umass.edu
(413) 545-1220

Thank you for your philanthropic support!

The following alumni and friends have made gifts to the College of Information and Computer Sciences from July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016. Philanthropy is vitally important to the college and helps maintain a world-class instructional and research program. Contributions from alumni and friends help to fund scholarships and important special activities that are not supported through the state budget.

Those interested in making a gift to the college should contact Julie Stubbs, director of development (stubbs@cics.umass.edu or 413-545-1220).

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DAVID MIX BARRINGTON SCHOLARSHIP

The David Mix Barrington Scholarship in Computer Science has been established in the College of Information and Computer Sciences. This endowed scholarship will provide annual support to a rising senior who is pursuing a second major in addition to a computer science major. Recipients will be excellent students, with a GPA of >3.0, and have demonstrated financial need.

Donor Quentin Clark is an undergraduate alumnus of UMass Amherst (B.S. ‘94), originally from Sherborn, MA. He completed most of the computer science undergraduate curriculum in addition to his physics major, and benefited from his academic work in both fields. Having served in senior product and leadership roles at SAP and Microsoft Corporation, Clark seeks to support talented students who will bring the perspectives and tools of multiple disciplines to their work.

As an undergraduate, Clark took a class with Professor David Mix Barrington, which he says was influential: “His class was instrumental in my learning and development in the field, and his inspiration was a key part of my journey. The challenge, the drive to find better ways, the discipline around correctness – all a core part of how I approached so many interesting software challenges over my career.”

Barrington, whom this scholarship honors, has been on the UMass Amherst Computer Science faculty since 1986. His research is in complexity theory, examining the resources needed by various abstract computing devices, both sequential and parallel, to solve various mathematical problems. In particular, Barrington has discovered new relationships between combinatorial complexity (circuits and branching programs), the theory of finite automata, and definability by first-order logic.

The David Mix Barrington Scholarship in Computer Science is the college’s fourth endowed scholarship specifically supporting undergraduate students.

David Mix Barrington Scholarship
DAVID MIX
BARRINGTON SCHOLARSHIP

Winter 2017
SIGNIFICANT BITS
11

*Current Student
CICS SCHOLARSHIPS ASSIST TALENTED STUDENTS

Fifteen CICS students were awarded scholarships and fellowships, created by generous donors this fall, and a new undergraduate scholarship will be awarded before the end of the semester.

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Mary Moser and Issac Vawter
Dr. Stephen M. Constantine Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Brockman
John E. and Alice M. Flynn Scholarship
Anna Fariha
Jim Gray Scholarship in Computer Science

Joseph Geneva
Robert Moll Scholarship in Computer Science
David Balaban and Spencer Lane Robin Popplestone Fellowship in Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
Sainyam Galhotra
Krithi Ramamritham Computer Science Scholarship
Yang Zhou
Edward Riseman and Allen Hanson Scholarship in Computer Science
Bobby Powers
David W. Stemple Scholarship in Computing
Lisa Iudiciani
Sidney Topol Scholarship in Computer Science
Katie Keith
Paul Utgoff Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Machine Learning

First recipient will be selected in 2017
Conrad Wogrin Undergraduate Scholarship in Computer Science

“My dream now feels more attainable, and I have you to thank.”
— Lisa Iudiciani, Scholarship recipient

These prestigious awards recognize outstanding promise, assist with some of the costs associated with higher education, and provide encouragement as students pursue rigorous degree programs.

Thank you to the many alumni and friends who support our talented students! Go to cics.umass.edu/support for more information on each scholarship.

WHY I GIVE

Every single gift to CICS is greatly appreciated and put to good use. Here is why Quentin Clark (B.S. ’94) chose to give...

“My experience at UMass Amherst taught me that one gets out of education what one puts into it. For this equation to work, the school must be ready to accept, direct, and maximize that effort. Ultimately that is why I give — to help the university’s efforts in maximizing the potential of students.

I started at UMass Amherst as a physics major, but spent the extra time to take most of the courses required for a computer science major. In both colleges, I had great professors and mentors — ones that helped me on my journey of realizing what I was passionate about and could be great at, inspiring my interests and fueling my determination. Physics Professor Po-zen Wong and Computer Science Professor David Mix Barrington were crucial to my education and development.

I have been able to have a fun, challenging, and rewarding career in the software industry, and it simply would not have happened without the encouragement, education, and occasional pushes from talented professors that care.

In order for me to benefit from these professors, I had to be there — at UMass. We lose talent when students cannot muster the financial means to attend college. I give so that others can benefit from a UMass Amherst computer science education.”
CICS RESEARCH ADVANCES SELF-DRIVING CAR DESIGN

Professor Shlomo Zilberstein and doctoral students Kyle Wray and Luis Pineda, described a new approach to managing the challenge of transferring control between a human and an autonomous system in a paper they presented at the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-16).

Their research, tested in experiments in a driving simulator, should help to advance the development of safe semi-autonomous systems (SAS), such as self-driving cars. Such systems rely on human supervision and occasional transfer of control between the human and the automated systems, Zilberstein explained. With substantial support from the National Science Foundation and the auto industry, his lab is working on new approaches to SAS that are controlled collaboratively by a person and a machine while each capitalizes on their distinct abilities.

"Self-driving cars are coming," said Zilberstein, "but the world is fairly chaotic and not many autonomous systems can cope with that yet. My sense is that we're pretty far from having fully autonomous systems in cars."

This is because artificial intelligence sensing and decision-making techniques are still limited. For example, he suggested, "trains might be next as a candidate for autonomy, but even then, with a downed branch on the track during a storm, a person may be needed to judge how to proceed safely."

Zilberstein said the example highlights a significant challenge that SAS research must address—transferring control quickly, safely and smoothly between the system and the person supervising it. Most systems designed to date do not accomplish this. In their paper, the researchers establish precise requirements to assure that controlling entities can act reliably.

Their design can handle situations by stopping the vehicle, for example, when the driver does not respond to the request to take over control, Zilberstein explained. Their analysis of the integrated model shows that it provides important safety guarantees.

Zilberstein and colleagues plan to integrate their approach using a large-scale realistic driving simulator in collaboration with engineering professors Donald Fisher and Siby Samuel, as well as postdoctoral fellow Timothy Wright.

Developing reliable ways to transfer control back to the driver when an anomaly is detected is a crucial component of deploying self-driving cars. This work will allow the researchers to validate the new approach with human drivers controlling a self-driving car while performing a variety of tasks.

CENTER FOR DATA SCIENCE HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On Friday, April 22, 2016, the Center for Data Science held its first annual Data Science Research Symposium. With over 75 attendees, the Symposium offered presentations on ten cutting-edge data science industry-university research collaborations, a student poster session with 37 posters, and six facilitated breakout sessions that highlighted some of the most urgent technical challenges to be tackled by data science research.
**FACULTY RECOGNITION**

**KUROSE: ACM SIGCOMM LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

Jim Kurose, distinguished professor, was recognized for his contributions to the field of data and computer communications with a prestigious ACM Special Interest Group on Data Communications (SIGCOMM) Award for Lifetime Contribution “for his sustained excellence in networking research, education, mentoring, and service to the SIGCOMM community.”

UMass Amherst joins the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University as the only schools to have two SIGCOMM Award recipients on their faculty. CICS Distinguished Professor Donald Towsley received the SIGCOMM Award for Lifetime Contribution in 2008.

**CROFT: 5 ACM SIGIR TEST OF TIME AWARDS**

Bruce Croft, distinguished professor and dean, was awarded five 2016 ACM Special Interest Group in Information Retrieval (SIGIR) Test of Time Awards in recognition of his lasting contributions to the field of information retrieval (IR).

Croft’s five papers, co-written by CICS Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval (CIIR) researchers, were published in 1990, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 2001. A 1998 paper by James Allan, professor and chair of the CICS faculty, and CIIR co-authors was also chosen for a Test of Time Award. One of Croft’s papers was also chosen for a recent SIGIR Test of Time Award Honorable Mention.

**BERGER: SIGPLAN PLDI MOST INFLUENTIAL PAPER**

Professor Emery Berger received an ACM Programming Languages Design and Implementation (PLDI) Most Influential Paper Award for his 2006 paper, “DieHard: Probabilistic Memory Safety for Unsafe Languages,” co-written with Benjamin Zorn of Microsoft Research. The focus of the paper, DieHard, is an error-avoiding system that automatically prevents crashes, security vulnerabilities, and unpredictable behavior in programs written in languages prone to memory errors like C and C++.

**SHENOY: SIGMETRICS TEST OF TIME AWARD**

Professor Prashant Shenoy was awarded the ACM SIGMETRICS 2016 Test of Time Award for his 2005 research paper “An Analytical Model for Multi-Tier Internet Services and Its Applications,” which he co-wrote with Bhuvan Urgaonkar (‘02 M.S., ’05 Ph.D., now an associate professor at Pennsylvania State University) and researchers at IBM.

**MELIOU, TRIM RECOGNIZED BY INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT**

The UMass Amherst Institute for Teaching Excellence & Faculty Development (TEFD) has awarded Alexandra Meliou, assistant professor of computer science, a prestigious 2016-2017 Lilly Fellowship, and selected Michelle Trim, a member of the CICS teaching faculty, as a 2016-2017 Teaching for Inclusiveness, Diversity and Equity (TIDE) Ambassador.

Established in 1986, the Lilly Fellowship program enables promising junior faculty to cultivate teaching excellence in a special yearlong collaboration. Each year, eight to ten teaching fellows are selected to work closely with the TEFD on individual projects which typically involve developing or redesigning a course. Meliou’s fellowship will allow her to redesign her course, "Practice and Applications of Data Management.”

In its inaugural year, the TIDE Ambassadors Fellowship is a competitive awards program that recognizes faculty who create an “inclusive and equitable college experience for all students.” As an ambassador, Trim will design a diversity-focused workshop to share her expertise with CICS colleagues with CICS and university colleagues. She will also participate in the program’s yearlong community of practice.