

## Fifth Annual Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy Awards

The School celebrated the accomplishments of this year's Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy (OAA) Award winners along with undergraduate and graduate student award recipients during a banquet held at the Mullins Center on Friday, May 3, 2013. Prior to the banquet, OAA events included building tours, a reception, and a panel discussion in which our alum award recipients spoke about their careers, their experiences as students at UMass Amherst CS, and how those experiences prepared them for their successful careers.

During the banquet, School Chair Lori Clarke and Steve Goodwin, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, welcomed the attendees. Professor Leon J. Osterweil presented awards to the 2013 OAA award recipients.

### The 2013 OAA Award Recipients are:



• Outstanding Achievement in Education: **Laura K. Dillon** (UMass Amherst CS MS '81, Ph.D. '84), Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan State University. Dr. Dillon's research interests center on specification and analysis of concurrent software systems, formal methods in software engineering, and programming languages.



• Outstanding Achievement in Management: **Wayne W. Duso** (UMass Amherst CS BS '85), General Manager, AWS New Cloud Initiatives at Amazon.com. He is heading a team developing next generation cloud services as well as opening Amazon.com's AWS (Amazon Web Services) Boston development center.



• Outstanding Contributions to Society: **Arthur I. Karshmer** (UMass Amherst CS MS, '74, PhD '78), a Professor and Department Chair in the School of Management's Department of Analytics and Technology at the University of San Francisco. Dr. Karshmer's research interests are in the system-architecture interface, metropolitan area networking, and computer interfaces for people with disabilities.



• Outstanding Achievement in Technology Development: **Rakesh (Teddy) Kumar** (UMass Amherst CS Ph.D. '92), Director of the Vision Technologies Center at SRI International. Dr. Kumar directs projects in computer vision, augmented reality, robotics, video surveillance, 3D modeling, and medical image analysis. Dr. Kumar pioneered 3D vision in the form of high accuracy localization of mobile cameras. He has led the development of world-class technologies with applications in augmented reality, geolocation, and precision 3D.



• Outstanding Achievement by a Young Alum: **Jennifer Neville** (UMass Amherst CS BS '00, MS '04, Ph.D. '06), Associate Professor of Computer Science and Statistics at Purdue University. Dr. Neville's research focuses on machine learning and data mining, particularly the development and analysis of algorithms for relational domains, including social networks, citation analysis, and fraud detection.



• Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship: **Aaron St. John** (UMass Amherst CS BS '03, MS '05), Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of HitPoint Studios. HitPoint Studios is the largest independent game development studio in Massachusetts. Regularly featured in top-ten lists across major gaming portals, HitPoint has in only four years produced over 130 games for over 50 million players.



• Outstanding Achievement in Research: **Richard S. Sutton** (UMass Amherst CS MS '80, Ph.D. '84), Professor and iCORE Chair in the Department of Computing Science at the University of Alberta. Dr. Sutton pioneered the field of reinforcement learning, an approach to artificial and natural intelligence that emphasizes learning and planning from sample experience. Dr. Sutton played a crucial role in the development of the very influential Temporal Difference algorithms.

More details on the careers of the OAA award recipients, along with photos of the event, are posted at [www.cs.umass.edu/oa2013](http://www.cs.umass.edu/oa2013).

During the evening's celebration, current students and recent alums were also recognized. The undergraduate and graduate awards were generously sponsored by Yahoo!, a member of the School's Industrial Affiliates Program.



Grad winners (l. to r.): T. Billings, J. Newman, A. Mishra, A. Seetharam, G. Huang, and M. Bendersky

## Nominate a fellow alum

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy Awards. Nominations should be sent by email to Jean Joyce ([jean@cs.umass.edu](mailto:jean@cs.umass.edu)). The information below would be appreciated with your nomination:

- The name, title, email, phone number and organizational affiliation of the nominee,
- The name(s), email(s), and phone number(s) of the nominator(s),
- A brief biography summarizing the nominee's career (no more than one page),
- A statement of the nominee's outstanding achievements in the award category,
- A very brief (no more than 25 word) suggested citation to be written on the OAA winner's award plaque.

Next year's OAA events are planned for Friday, May 2, 2014. Details will be on [www.cs.umass.edu/oa2014](http://www.cs.umass.edu/oa2014).

Professor Sridhar Mahadevan, Graduate Program Director, presented these **Outstanding Graduate Student Awards**:

- Outstanding Dissertation Award: **Michael Bendersky** (Ph.D. '12)
- Outstanding Dissertation Award: **Gary B. Huang** (Ph.D. '12)
- Outstanding Synthesis Award: **Aditya Kumar Mishra**
- Outstanding Synthesis Award: **Anand Seetharam**
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: **William T. Billings**
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: **Jessica Newman**

Professor Roderic Grupen presented the following **Outstanding Undergraduate Awards** to students in this year's graduating class:

- Exemplary Achievement in Computer Science: **Caleb Raitto**
- Achievement in Artificial Intelligence: **Nicolas Ioannou**
- Achievement in Computer Science: **Priscilla Briggs**
- Achievement in Computer Science: **Gal Shenar**
- Achievement in Information Management: **Jeffrey Pezzone**
- Achievement in Interdisciplinary Study: **Anthony Battaglia**
- Achievement in Interdisciplinary Study: **Steven Tenaglia**
- Achievement in Systems: **Andrey Izotov**
- Achievement in Theory: **Alexander Bristol**



Undergrad winners (l. to r.): A. Bristol, A. Izotov, S. Tenaglia, A. Battaglia, J. Pezzone, P. Briggs, N. Ioannou, and C. Raitto; not pictured: G. Shenar



**Timothy Wood** (Ph.D. '11), Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at The George Washington University, received a 2013 NSF CAREER Award for "Application-Agnostic, Distributed-Aware Cloud Platforms."

The May 1, 2013 issue of *ACM Tech News* highlighted the work of University of Oklahoma Computer Science Associate Professor **Amy McGovern** (Ph.D. '02) on tornado prediction.

Dr. **Akshat Kumar's** (Ph.D. '13) dissertation was selected as a Runner-Up for the IFAAMAS-12 Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award. The award recognized outstanding dissertations completed in 2012 in the area of Autonomous Agents or Multiagent Systems. Advised by Prof. Shlomo Zilberstein, Kumar's thesis was titled "Exploiting Domain Structure in Multiagent Decision-Theoretic Planning and Reasoning." He is a Research Scientist at IBM Research in India.

Starting in 2014, **Matthew Dwyer** (Ph.D. '95) will be the Editor-in-Chief of the *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*. Dwyer is the Interim Department Chair and Henson Professor of Software Engineering at the University of Nebraska Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

**Sharad Jaiswal** (Ph.D. '05) and his colleagues have developed a mobile radio app, CommunityWeb, that can be used on low-end cellphones to provide region-specific news to people across India. Their development is detailed in an article on [livemint.com](http://livemint.com). Jaiswal is a Researcher at Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs in India.

**Anita Raja** (Ph.D. '03) was the moderator and **Hala Mostafa** (Ph.D. '11) was a panelist of a mentoring panel session at the CRA-W/CDC Discipline-specific Workshop during AAMAS '13. Raja is an Associate Professor at UNC Charlotte and Mostafa is a Research Scientist at BBN Technologies. Both were advised by Victor Lesser.

## CS Scholarships established

**T**he School is pleased to announce that two endowed scholarships have been established, thanks to generous contributions from our CS alums.

### The Jim Gray Scholarship in Computer Science

This scholarship was established in 2013 by CS alum Hanuma Kodavalla to pay tribute to renowned computer scientist, Jim Gray, who was lost at sea in 2007. Hanuma works at Microsoft and received a Ph.D. in Computer Science at UMass Amherst in 1988. The scholarship will provide support to first year CS graduate students pursuing research in the area of systems.

### The Sudha and Rajesh Jha Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Sudha Mishra and Rajesh Jha in 2013. Rajesh graduated from UMass Amherst in 1990 with an M.S. in Computer Science and works at Microsoft. Sudha and Rajesh chose to establish

a scholarship out of appreciation for the support Rajesh received while a CS student. Their scholarship will benefit first year graduate students studying Computer Science.

Donations of any amount are helpful to the CS community and are greatly appreciated. Scholarships not only help students defray the cost of attending, but help attract the very brightest students to study here at UMass Amherst. If you are interested in learning about how you can contribute to the School or to an existing scholarship, or establish one of your own, please contact Jenn Cooper at 413-545-2771 or [jcooper@cns.umass.edu](mailto:jcooper@cns.umass.edu). Or, you can make a gift online at [www.cs.umass.edu/donate](http://www.cs.umass.edu/donate), or by check made out to UMass Amherst Computer Science and mailed to the School of Computer Science, UMass Amherst, 140 Governors Drive, Amherst, MA 01003-9264.



# Celebrate the (new!) School of Computer Science: Broadening the Impact of Computing

October 17 - 19, 2013

**I**N CELEBRATION OF THE CREATION of the new School of Computer Science and the 50th anniversary of the founding of our Department, the School of Computer Science is hosting a series of events, October 17-19, 2013, that will explore the more expansive and outward looking view of the computing discipline and its broadening impact across the campus and state, and in society. The events, aimed at a diverse audience of students (undergrads, grads, majors and non-majors alike), alumni, campus and community members, are open to all. Come and learn about the many exciting directions in which computing is heading!

## Highlights:

- Visit with current and former faculty and students
- Talks and panel discussions with distinguished guests, faculty, and alums
- Alum Social and Dinner (50th Anniversary Celebration)
- Career and Internship Fair - CS alums promoting their companies
- BBQ lunch
- Family-friendly Activities
- Campus Homecoming Events (Parade, Concerts, Tours, Sports, and more)

See celebration website [www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration](http://www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration) to register and for more details on the schedule of events

## Looking for recruits for your CS-related positions and internships?

As part of the celebration, an informal career/internship fair and panel session will be held on Thursday, October 17 for our alums to showcase their organizations to UMass Amherst students.

Contact Jean Joyce at [jean@cs.umass.edu](mailto:jean@cs.umass.edu) or 413-545-6310 if you are interested in having a booth in our CS building for the career fair. Limited space is available.

[www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration](http://www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration)

# Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 17

- 1:00-3:30** **Career and Internship Fair**  
Meet informally with UMass-SCS alumni representatives now working in industry who develop or use leading-edge computing technology, applications, and services.
- 3:30-6:00** **Careers in Computing Panel**  
Alumni reflect on their UMass experience and offer advice on preparing and applying for jobs and internships. Refreshments/networking follow panel.

Friday, October 18

- 8:15** **Registration** *Location: Computer Science Building atrium*
- 9:00** **Welcoming Remarks**
- 9:15-10:30** **Expanding Horizons in Computing**  
Join leadership from key federal research agencies, the state, and industry in a discussion of how computing, communications, and information systems increasingly touch our lives, impacting/accelerating discovery and innovation across many disciplines and contributing to economic development and growth in a knowledge-based society.
- 11:00-12:15** **Computing as a Core Subject in a 21st Century Education**  
Students (K-12 and higher education) from diverse backgrounds should be provided an opportunity to gain the solid grounding in computing and computational thinking required for them to prosper in a 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge-based economy. Explore the opportunities and challenges posed as computing becomes a core subject in a 21<sup>st</sup> century education.
- 12:15** **Lunch: BBQ under the tent**  
Be our guest for lunch under the tent! Meet friends, faculty, students, and alumni, and find out more about the new School of Computer Science.
- 2:00** **Computing Across the Campus**  
Computing infuses many disciplines across campus. To encourage and enable UMass Amherst students to employ interdisciplinary uses of computing, the School of Computer Science has been collaborating with other departments across campus to formulate a new, highly interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Informatics. Explore how computing is changing disciplines across the campus and learn about our plans for the Informatics program.
- 3:45** **Panel: Computing Research**  
This panel focuses on computing research involving faculty, students, alumni, and collaborators in the School of Computer Science, emphasizing the world-class nature of the research and its impact, and showcasing interdisciplinary efforts. Lab tours and posters available throughout the day allow in-depth exploration of a myriad of research topic.
- 6:00** **Computer Science Social and 50th Birthday Party Dinner with Alumni, Faculty, and Friends**  
Celebrate SCS – past, present and future. *Registration required in advance.*

Saturday, October 19

- 9:00** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 10:00** **Hands-on Computing**  
A family-oriented, hand-on morning of activities in robotics and wearable computing. For kids of all ages! *Registration required in advance.*

[www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration](http://www.cs.umass.edu/SCScelebration)