Highlight on Alum, Tabitha Peck

Tabitha C. Peck is a visiting faculty member at Duke University. In the Fall, she will be taking a position as assistant professor at Davidson College in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. In the two years prior to coming to Duke, she was a post-doctoral researcher at the Event Lab in Barcelona, Spain, working in the European project, Virtual Embodiment and Robotic Re-Embodiment (VERE). While involved with the VERE project her research focused on the psychological effects of virtual body-swap illusions in fully immersive virtual environments. She received her PhD from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under the supervision of Professors Henry Fuchs and Mary C. Whitton. Her PhD research focused on locomotion interfaces in virtual environments and enabling people to physically walk in small spaces while walking in much larger virtual spaces. Her current research interests include virtual reality, virtual embodiment, human-computer interaction, 3D user interfaces, locomotion, navigation, Continued on page 5

Nancy Amato Wins the Habermann Award

The Computing Research Association (CRA) gives the A. Nico Habermann Award to a person who has made outstanding contributions aimed at increasing the numbers and/or successes of underrepresented groups in the computing research community. This year, the award goes to Nancy Amato, Unocal Professor and Interim Department Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Nancy has been a tireless and highly effective leader of programs that engage women and underrepresented minorities in computing research. In particular, she has led the CRA-W Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates (DREU) program. Nancy has an impressive breadth of work not only at Texas A&M, but also nationally with organizations including CRA-W, CDC, NCWIT and the Grace Hopper conference. Her nominators provided data showing her positive impact on the participation and success of women as well as members of underrepresented groups in computing research. She has also been an effective supporter of the Tapia conference. Nancy will become one of the next co-chairs of CRA-W in the fall.

This award honors the late A. Nico Habermann, who headed NSF’s CISE Directorate and who was deeply committed to increasing the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in computing research.
Sumita Barahmand
Grad Cohort 2010, DSW 2014
I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at the University of Southern California. My dissertation titled “Benchmarking Interactive Social Networking Actions” was the basis of my being selected as one of the 15 Ph.D. students receiving the exceptional Google 2013 fellowship in North America (one among the 39 receiving the Google Global PhD Fellowship).

As a part of my research I have developed a benchmarking tool named BG (www.BGBenchmark.org) to evaluate the processing capability of data stores for cloud service providers such as social networking websites Google+ and Facebook. This tool evaluates the many claims made by data store vendors and is being used extensively all around the world both by data store vendors to identify inefficiencies in their systems and by application developers to select the best data store for their application.

My benchmark has been used for instructional purposes in this course for master students -- in the winter term 2013. Moreover, I am a senior technical consultant at a local software company. My expertise comprises software architecture topics, safety-critical embedded systems development as well as realtime systems.

Colleen Lewis
CMU 2009
I am in my second year as an Assistant Professor of computer science at Harvey Mudd College. I was awarded an NSF grant (#1339404) in October of 2013 to curate a website of computer science teaching tips (csteachingtips.com). Teachers can use the website to find ideas on how to make CS concepts accessible and to find information about what students will find challenging about particular concepts. You can contribute CS teaching tips at csteachingtips.com/contribute and view all of the CS Teaching Tips by following the project on Twitter @csteachingtips or on Facebook at facebook.com/csteachingtips.

Sherin Abdel Hamid
DSW 2012
I’m a PhD candidate at the Telecommunications Research Lab, school of Computing, Queen’s University, Canada. Recently, I’ve received the best paper award of the Ad-hoc and Sensor Networks (AHSN) symposium of the GLOBECOM conference, one of the top telecommunication conferences. The AHSN Symposium received in excess of 400 submissions from around the world. Attending the award banquet and GLOBECOM in general was a great opportunity to get introduced to many renowned researchers and professors in my area of expertise. Besides getting the best paper award, I also got a travel grant award so the recognition and joy were doubled. I feel so motivated to pursue good work and excel more in my research.

Didem Unat
Grad Cohort 2008, DSW 2007
I recently accepted an Assistant Professorship position at Koç University in Istanbul and will be starting my position at Koç University in September 2014. I am currently a postdoctoral researcher and the recipient of the prestigious Luis W. Alvarez Fellowship at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. As part of one of three co-design centers in US, I am designing programming models and tools for future exascale supercomputers. My research focuses on data movement issues on novel multicore architectures and provides computational scientists with new programming techniques to achieve high performance and productivity. As a faculty member, I intend to continue my research in exascale computing because it brings many exciting and challenging research problems. Please check out my new research group at http://parcoselab.com.

Jean Yang
Grad Cohort 2010
I am still a Ph.D. student at MIT. For my Ph.D. thesis I have been working on a language jeeves (http://jeeveslang.org) for automatically enforcing privacy policies. We recently released an open-source implementation of jeeves as an embedded domain-specific language in Python. Outside of my research, I have become more interested in communicating about computer science. I am co-directing NeuWrite Boston (http://newriteboston.org), a collaborative working group of scientists and science writers.

Isabella Stilkerich
D3W 2007
I am interested in the efficient application of type-safe languages in embedded systems. Particularly, I am working as a software engineer on the ahead-of-time Java compiler of the open-source KESO JVM. I am also the leader of the KESO project. I have various publications at real-time and embedded systems conferences such as the LCTES (Languages, Compilers and Tools for Embedded Systems) and I am a PhD candidate at the Chair of Distributed Systems and Operating Systems of the Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU), Germany. I intend to graduate next year. I was a visiting student at Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences (University of California, Irvine). At UCI I was working in the area of mobile code and I received a full stipend from the Bavaria California Technology Center. Besides a series of teaching activities at FAU over the past nine years, I lectured “Real-Time Systems” – a course for master students – in the winter term 2013. Moreover, I am a senior technical consultant at a local software company. My expertise comprises software architecture topics, safety-critical embedded systems development as well as real-time systems.

Anima Anandkumar
I was winner of the Alfred Sloan fellowship this year. I am a fourth year faculty in the ECE department at U.C. Irvine.

Malek Ben Salem
I was recently promoted to research manager at the Accenture Technology Labs, Accenture’s R&D arm. While my promotion allows me to continue my cyber security related research work as the Co-PI on a couple of DARPA-funded projects, I will have the responsibility of tracking emerging cyber security trends and the constantly evolving cyber threat landscape as well as identifying technology trends and their security implications for Accenture’s commercial and government clients.
Alum News

Kristin Rozier

I was named by the Women in Aerospace (WIA) as the winner of its Inaugural Initiative-Inspiration-Impact Award in 2013. This prestigious award is presented to an individual in her early career, who consistently surpasses expectations from a technical, interpersonal, and management perspective, commitment to professional growth, and service as a role model or mentor that shows dedication to the advancement of women in aerospace.

The citation for this award reads:
“For exemplary achievement of formal specification, verification, and validation of a NextGen air traffic control system candidate and for dedication as a mentor and role model.”

I frequently volunteer as a public speaker, mentor, technical recruiter, and judge for activities such as science fair projects and technical writing. My accomplishments cited for this WIA award include founding an annual Intelligent Systems science and technical writing. My accomplishments cited for this WIA award include founding an annual Intelligent Systems science fair award, now in its fourth year. I was honored at the 28th annual Women in Aerospace Awards Dinner and Ceremony on October 29, 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Arlington, VA. My acceptance speech thanked the many people who have enabled my path to a fantastically interdisciplinary career path.

Alum News

2006 and am serving as PC chair for the second time this year.

I hold a position as a Research Computer Scientist in the Intelligent Systems Division of NASA Ames Research Center and a courtesy appointment at Rice University. More information about my awards and news coverage can be found at: http://ti.arc.nasa.gov/profile/krozier/. I was a member of the 2005 Grad Cohort and returned to give a talk on “Career Life Balance” at the 2008 Grad Cohort.

Mahashweta Das
Grad Cohort 2008, 2009

I completed my PhD in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Arlington in December 2013 and joined the Analytics Team in HP Labs, Palo Alto as a full-time Research Scientist. Just before graduating, I received the John S. Schuchman Outstanding PhD Student Award 2013 as well as the Graduate School Summer 2013 Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship from College of Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington. While my PhD research focused on data mining and management of social media content, my current research at HP Labs focuses on data analytics in cloud-based platforms.

Satarupa Mukherjee
Grad Cohort 2013

I am a final year PhD student in the department of Computing Sciences in University of Alberta.

My specialization is in people counting. I received a MITACS scholarship to work with the city of Edmonton on developing software to automatically count people in the LRT Transit. The software I developed has produced more than 90% accuracy on 19 publicly available datasets and on the LRT videos, for which I was featured on the University Newsletter.

Anushree Goyal
Grad Cohort 2012

I recently graduated from University of Cincinnati with a Masters degree in Computer Science. I successfully defended my Master's thesis titled ‘A Framework for XML Index Selection’. I received my Bachelor’s degree in Computer Applications from Devi Ahilya University back in my home country (India). I am now working with IBM (U.S.A.) as a full-time software engineer. Also, I recently went from being 'single' to getting 'married'. So 2013 overall has been a year of great accomplishments and achievements for me. I am exploring new places and developing new personal skills and talents after completing my Master's degree. I love to travel to new places and try out new cuisines.

I participated in the 2012 Graduate Cohort Workshop for Women held in Seattle which was truly an amazing experience. I presented a poster about my research in the poster session conducted by CRA-W. In this conference, I got a chance to meet and interact with some experienced people from Yahoo, Google, Microsoft and others. I also interacted with many students who had come there to attend this event from different universities nationwide. It has helped me to grow my network and gain knowledge about the work being done by the women involved in research.

Continued from page 1

system design and evaluation, and human perception.

Tabitha is an alum of the DREU program, the Grad Cohort Workshops, and the Career Mentoring Workshop (CMW). She is married to David Borland whom she met in grad school.

Q: How did you become interested in pursuing a career in computer science?

I always enjoyed computers, problem solving, and mathematics. I also very much enjoyed art. Although I appreciated art, I did not have the talent to become a great artist. When I started looking at colleges and talking to faculty I was advised to consider computer science with a focus on computer graphics as this combined my mathematics skills and appreciation for art. This is something that I never considered as I really didn’t know what computer science was. Once I started my first computer science class, I was hooked.

Q: What CRA-W programs have you participated in and how did your experience with them influence your career path?

I participated in two Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates, which used to be known as the Distributed Mentor Project, after both my sophomore and junior years in undergrad. I had very positive research experiences both summers, and met a life-long mentor, Victoria Interrante, of the University of Minnesota. Vicki was my first DREU mentor, at the Female Student Leadership Conference and Kirstin Morrison at the 2007 Grad Cohort Workshop.

Continued on page 6
I attended the CRA-W Grad Cohort my first two years of graduate school, and I advise every woman who goes to graduate school to attend. The Grad Cohort got me through graduate school, or at least, got me through in fewer years.

After returning from the Grad Cohort, I mustered up the courage to meet with my advisor to tell him that I really didn't find my dissertation topic for me, but that I currently wasn't working on the correct project.

I was unhappy and frustrated with research and seriously questioning if grad school was right for me. Two days of listening to advice on how to succeed in grad school, how to find a dissertation topic, and how to choose an advisor made me very aware that grad school was not making much progress. I was unhappy and frustrated working on a project I was working on, then it may not be the right project for you. For me, I need to know the driving application. If I don't see a purpose in the research, then it is not the right fit for me. As soon as I see an application, I am eager to work on a project.

I always knew I wanted to pursue a research career in computer science. My path just may have been a little bumpier if I hadn't found so many helpful advisors along the way.

I had a great experience as a post-doctoral researcher. I was fortunate enough to work with one of the best virtual reality researchers in the world, Mel Slater, in a beautiful international city, Barcelona, Spain. As part of my post-doc, I gained many international collaborators, and expanded my training by learning new ways to approach research that were different from my graduate training. I encourage recent graduates to look into working in different labs, because increasing your experiences and your network will only make you a better researcher.

I have recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Davidson College where one of my tasks is to help develop a computer science major. I am very excited about this task and I am looking forward to developing a major that is inclusive computing once we return to Duke.

I always knew I wanted to pursue a research career in computer science. My path just may have been a little bumpier if I hadn't found so many helpful advisors along the way.

Q: What was your experience as a post-doctoral researcher and would you recommend this path to recent graduates?

Q: What are your future career plans?

Q: Are you involved in other activities supporting women in computing?

Q: What do you do for fun?
In Memory of Mary Jean Harrold

On September 19, 2013, CRA-W and the broader computer science research community lost a stellar and vibrant, researcher and leader, Mary Jean Harrold, Professor in the School of Computer Science at Georgia Institute of Technology, age 66, from cancer.

Mary Jean was a mathematics teacher after college, and then went on to earn her PhD in Computer Science at the University of Pittsburgh, advised by Mary Lou Soffa in 1988. She served on the faculty of Clemson and Ohio State Universities before joining Georgia Tech in 1999.

Mary Jean’s outstanding research contributions were in the area of software testing and analysis, where she sought to automate more of the software engineering process. Mary Jean was recognized as an ACM Fellow in 2003 and an IEEE Fellow in 2011. She was the NSF ADVANCE Professor in Computing at Georgia Tech. Her foundational contributions to Software Engineering are highly cited and very influential, receiving numerous best paper awards. A study published in the Communications of the ACM in 2007 recognized her as the top software engineering scholar in the world.

In addition to her excellent research career, Mary Jean dedicated herself to the computer science community through her exemplary service. She served on the CRA Board of Directors for 9 years (2004 to 2013). She served on numerous program committees, editorial boards, and in leadership positions such as the General Chair of ACM SIGSOFT Foundations of Software Engineering 2008, Vice Chair of ACM SIGSOFT (2004-2005), Program Co-chair of the IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering 2001, and Program Chair of ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis 2000.

Mary Jean was particularly effective and energetic as CRA-W Co-Chair and Board member. She was a role model, leader, and initiator of programs to increase the number of women participating and succeeding in computer science research careers. She was CRA-W Co-Chair (2003 to 2006) and led the Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates (DREU) program for several years. Mary Jean was an inspiring speaker and mentor every year at CRA-W, CRA, and ICSE mentoring events, influencing hundreds of students and young researchers.

Mary Jean was also a disciplined and inspiring mentor for her own PhD students, training over 14 PhD students to become independent, outstanding researchers. She was also extremely effective in mentoring junior faculty, helping several members of the computing community grow to the next level. Her approach to PhD training and mentoring colleagues was highly personalized to the strengths and needs of each individual person. Below are a few remembrances from some of her students and colleagues.

- “She was a great researcher - one of the most highly cited in software engineering - and a wonderful person - she had the ability to light up any room she entered.”
- “Mary Jean was an incredible force that touched many people along the way.”
- “Not only was she an outstanding researcher, she was an inspiring person.”
- “She made her students feel her group was a home and she taught us how to be good researchers by showing her passion for research.”
- “She was a mentor, collaborator, and role model to me. I feel privileged to have known her.”

Mary Jean was devoted to her husband of 45 years, Tom (Fuzzy) Harrold; sons, Tom and Marc; daughter-in-law, Linda, and her two grandchildren, Tommy and Matt, who were an incredible delight to her. Her work and passion will last through her family, students, and collaborators.

Mary Jean Harrold was a beautiful person with a wonderful smile, a true friend, and an inspiration to many people. She will be sorely missed by her family and the computing research community.

For Research and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Director of Penn State Institute for CyberScience, and Co-Director of Scalable Scientific Computing Lab (SSCL), Padma is on the CRA-W Board and is a regular speaker at Grad Cohort workshops.

Yuanyuan Zhou, University of California, San Diego, has been named a Fellow of the ACM. Her citation reads: For contributions to software reliability and quality. YY is a former board member of CRA-W and winner of the Borg Early Career Award in 2005. She has participated in several DSWs, CMW, and been a DREU mentor.

Ellen Zegura, Georgia Tech, has been named a Fellow of the ACM for contributions to communication and computation in inter-connected networks. She has participated in the CAPP workshop and served as a DREU mentor for several years.
Interview with Carla Brodley

Carla E. Brodley is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at Tufts University and holds a secondary appointment in the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Tufts Medical Center. She received her PhD in computer science from the University of Massachusetts, at Amherst in 1994 and her BA in mathematics and computer science from McGill University in 1985. From 1994-2004, she was on the faculty of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. She joined the faculty at Tufts in 2004. Professor Brodley’s research interests include machine learning, knowledge discovery in databases, health IT, and personalized medicine. She has worked in the areas of anomaly detection, classifier formation, unsupervised learning and applications of machine learning to remote sensing, computer security, neuroscience, digital libraries, astrophysics, content-based image retrieval of medical images, computational biology, chemistry, evidence-based medicine, and personalized medicine.

She served as chair of the Computer Science Department at Tufts from 2010-2013. In 2001 she served as program co-chair for the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) and in 2006, she served as the general chair for ICML. In 2004-2005 she was a member of the Defense Science Study Group. She was a member of the CRA board of directors from 2008-2012, she was on the AAAI council from 2008-2011 and she co-chaired CRA-W from 2008-2011. Currently she is on the editorial boards of JMLR, Machine Learning and DKMD, she is a board member of the International Machine Learning Society, she is co-chairing AAAI in 2014, and she is a member of ISAT.

She and George Overholser are the busy parents of three teenage sons ages 19, 17 and 16. In addition to working and spending time with her family, Carla enjoys having parties, dancing, plays, concerts, reading, hiking, cross country skiing and weight lifting.

Q: What was your path that brought you to this point in your career? What made you choose computer science in the first place? What made you choose an academic career when you started out?

I started out as an English major at McGill University because I love to read. After a semester, I decided to change to Economics because it seemed more in line with my strengths (A in Econ, B’s in English classes). In my sophomore year, one of my housemates came home after a long day and said “You - you would enjoy computer science” as she threw a stack of cards down on the table - it’s not clear if that declaration was meant as a compliment. But I thought, “well maybe I would,” so I signed up for Fortran programming, thankfully missing cards by a year. I fell in love with programming and realized that it had been efforts to get an A and decided to switch my major to a joint major in computer science and mathematics. After my undergraduate degree, I returned to Boston and worked first for an energy consulting firm and then for a benefits consulting firm programming in Fortran and COBOL. I decided to go back to graduate school for an MS in Artificial Intelligence. After being at UMass, Amherst for 2 semesters, I decided to stay for a PhD because research in machine learning was incredibly fun. I never doubted after that moment that I wanted to be a professor and continue to do research.

Q: Explain a bit about your technical interests and how your research evolved over time. What are the challenges/rewards you’ve encountered in multidisciplinary research?

I have always been interested in solving practical problems and have a strong belief that machine learning research should be driven by problems in science, engineering and medicine. Indeed, I have collaborated with researchers in diverse areas including Geography, Classics, Chemistry, Astrophysics, Radiology, Neuroscience, Neurology, Biology, Public Health, Pulumonology and Epilepsy, in addition to collaborations within the CS discipline with faculty in programming languages, architecture, security, computational biology, computer vision, and high performance computing. The reward of interdisciplinary research is learning about new areas which serve as the inspiration for new ideas in machine learning. The biggest challenge is understanding the vocabulary of a new field.

Q: What role has professional service played in your career?

I enjoy positions of leadership, and in particular positions that let me interact with a wide variety of people. I have chosen to engage in many activities both in my department and in my research community. I have served on several national boards which, in addition to the satisfaction of accomplishing interesting tasks and decision, has led me to meet a wide variety of people in other disciplines. I am currently co-chairing AAAI 2014 with Peter Stone, which gives us the opportunity to shape the conference and introduce innovations that will change the future of the conference. In my department, I served as chair for the past three years and perhaps the three aspects that I liked the best were hiring great people, mentoring our existing faculty, and providing new opportunities for our students.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your career right now? What drives you at this point in your career?

In 2008, I decided to focus my research and teaching exclusively on machine learning for predictive medicine. My goal is to use machine learning to solve hard problems in medicine.

I am currently working with physicians to understand and improve treatment in multiple sclerosis, medication-resistant epilepsy, vestibular disorders and COPD. In addition, what remains a driving force in my own career is not only the pursuit of ideas and the intellectual pleasure of problem solving, but the people that I engage with during the process. A great joy is in mentoring/advising young faculty and my own current and former PhD students.

Q: What challenges have you had to overcome as a woman leader in the field? What is the most difficult aspect of your career right now?

When I started my career as an assistant professor in the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University, I was one of three women in a department of 70 faculty. This skewed distribution was challenging both socially and with respect to feeling like a minority. I had to get used to being on committees where I was the only woman and teaching a classroom of students when I was the only female in the room. I don’t think I faced any overt difficulties other than the internal difficulty of feeling out of place. And there was the occasional stray interaction like the following when I passed a senior faculty member in the hall in my first year and he asked me “Who takes care of your children while you work?” to which I responded “My nanny, who takes care of yours?” He responded “My wife.” I smiled at him and said “Good for you.”

Q: Looking back over your entire career, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

First and foremost, I am proud of my twelve former PhD students, six of whom are women. Each and every one has found a career that they truly love. Five are professors in research institutions, and the other seven are in a variety of government and industrial research labs and consulting firms. Working with them and being a lifelong mentor has brought a huge feeling of accomplishment. I am also proud of the many contributions my students and I have made to medicine, most recently in the application of machine learning to help treat patients with medication resistant epilepsy.

Q: How have you been involved in CRA-W? What has this involvement meant to you?

I have been involved in CRA-W for the past six years. My role has generally been as a volunteer, providing some guidance and support to the day-to-day operations of CRA-W. My involvement has been an important part of my career and I have been able to develop many valuable relationships and make many contributions through my work with CRA-W.
Interview with Carla Brodley (cont.)

I started my job as an assistant professor with a three month old son. In the middle of my pre-tenure period, I had a second son and, when my sons were 6 and 2, I became a single parent. I started my job as an assistant professor with a three month old son. In the middle of my pre-tenure period, I had a second son and, when my sons were 6 and 2, I became a single parent. I served in the board of CRA-W from 2002 to 2013, and in 2012 we eliminated the non-majors course. At the same time, I increased the number of undergraded students to ensure that all students had the needed support. The enrollment of women (tracking under-represented minority students at Tufts is not easy) in our intro course for majors grew from 25% in 2011/12 to 41% in 2012/13, and in our second majors course grew from 18% in 2012 to 31% in 2013—the largest percentage in years (note that we have had the same course and instructor in the intro course for several years). Additionally, each semester as department chair I emailed all women in our two introductory courses to invite them to have coffee in small groups with female juniors and seniors and to talk about majoring in our program.

Q: How do you balance work and family life?

I have several times in my own career. But most importantly, I enjoy mentoring women, and in particular individual interactions with women through CRA-W’s programs. I stepped off the board in 2013 partially to pursue other professional activities and partially because I thought it was time for someone else to enjoy being on the board. I still hope to regularly participate in mentoring activities such as the graduate cohort and career mentoring workshops.

Q: Do you have any involvement in other volunteer organizations that support women in computing.

Q: What activities do you pursue outside of work?

In addition to raising our sons, George and I enjoy having parties, and going out to plays, concerts, and dancing. We live right in the city and like to walk everywhere. What made me be an English major is still there and I love to read both fiction and non-fiction. I like to swim, lift weights, cross-country ski and hike. But mostly I love being with friends and family.

Q: Do you have any advice for women at any stage of their careers?

Don’t do your own laundry unless you like doing it! More seriously, my advice would be to follow your heart in terms of your intellectual interests and that switching research areas is doable and exciting. In terms of family and work, I would give the advice to think creatively about how to fit in a work/life balance that works for you. About 4 months ago, my 19 year old son mentioned that he thought women still had to choose between family and work. I said “No they don’t, look at me.” He responded with “But Mom, you chose to put us first” - for someone who has focused on building a career this was a moment of pure joy.

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The next CMW-E workshop will coincide with SIGCSE 2015.

CRA-W holds similar mentoring workshops for women starting out in research on either the academic track (Assistant Professors), called CMW-R and for women in industry and labs at a similar level, called CMW-L. In addition, CRA-W holds a mentoring workshop, called CAPP; for women at the Associate Professor level (research or teaching focused) and the equivalent level in industry and labs.

The next CMW-R and CAPP will be held in 2015 (pending funding); the two workshops will be co-located (with a few combined sessions, but mostly separate sessions) at ACM FCRC 2015. Information about all these workshops are on the CRA-W website: www.cra.org.
Continued from page 15

1st CRA-W/CDC Broadening Participation in Visualization (BPViz) Workshop (cont.)

Poster/Visualization Showcase. Presentations reflected the range of visualization knowledge among the participants: from those very experienced to the novice. The aforementioned Fast Forward event succeeded in advertising the showcase.

BPViz Broadens Participation in STEM. Visualization incorporates techniques and methods applied and refined in science, technology and engineering fields and as such the field of visualization is subject to the same diversity deficiencies found in STEM fields. We were motivated by the same disparities that exist in STEM fields: little to no representation of women and underrepresented groups in visualization. To address the lack of awareness of opportunities in visualization, and understanding of visualization principles, the BPViz Information website is under construction. Eventually this website will serve as a starting point (for beginners) and as a resource for persons with interests in visualization. The website will feature visualization news, notices of upcoming visualization events, visualization challenges and participant spotlight as an avenue for sharing success stories and milestones. Workshop participants are encouraged to continually contribute to the development of this site.

In addition to the heroic effort to publicize the workshop, considerable efforts were made to recruit applicants from historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) as well as to invite speakers from HBCUs. Based on the response to this workshop we plan to continue our efforts for recruitment to presenters from historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and co-host workshops with them.

Care was taken to have a good representation of experience, disciplines, and underrepresented groups participating as students and presenters.

The two days were packed with events and sessions, which were condensed into a single day due to the weather. The events making the most dramatic impact on the student participants included: First Impressions, Meet the Panelists, Fast Forward, and Poster/Visualization Showcase.

First Impressions. When participants first arrived, we asked them: 1) how do you define visualization? 2) what is the purpose of visualization? 3) why is visualization important? The responses indicated there was a real need to define and explain what visualization is and provide examples of its applications.

Meet the Panelists. This was key in the success of our workshop wherein participants were given the opportunity to meet and talk with panelists one-on-one. This proved to be appreciated by all participants but even more so by those who described themselves as beginners to visualization.

Fast Forward. Each presenter had one minute to articulate the key points of their research and convince the audience to visit their poster or audio-visual presentation. This event preceded the poster/visualization showcase session.

The conference began and ended with student workshops (resumes, cybersecurity, mobile application development, and workplace insider tips). One student commented, “I attended one of the workshops, and it really did help me out a fair bit. I think I finally have a more solid plan of action for my future!”

Lake Guntersville State Park in north Alabama was the beautiful setting for the First Southeast Women in Computing Conference (SEWiC) on November 15-17, 2013 (Friday-Sunday).

SEWiC is the successor to 2011’s TNWIC (Tennessee Celebration of Women in Computing). Jennifer Whitlow (Georgia Tech) joined TNWIC co-chairs Martha Kosa and Ambareen Siraj (Tennessee Tech) to co-organize SEWiC, a full weekend for Southeast technical women. Like TNWIC, SEWiC mixed Southern hospitality with inspirational speakers and approximately 225 registered participants to spark the computing flame in the region.

The conference began and ended with student workshops (Technical talks, panels, lightning talks, and Birds of a Feather sessions were next, with topics such as “Using the Raspberry Pi in Education” and “Pay No Attention to the Man in the Power Suit.” A career and college fair, including a Graduate School FAQ booth, followed, along with a faculty workshop on security.

IBM Master Inventor Valentina Salapura keynoted Saturday evening with “Cloud Computing: 24/7.” Saturday ended with a bonfire and s’mores by the lake.

In addition to the keynote speakers, “Using the Raspberry Pi in Education” and “Pay No Attention to the Man in the Power Suit.” A career and college fair, including a Graduate School FAQ booth, followed, along with a faculty workshop on security.

The eclectic and extensive Sunday morning menu included Emergencies.” Friday ended with an exciting “Truth or Dare” game focusing on CS student life.

Michele Weigle keynoted Saturday morning with “Tell Stories with Web Archives,” where her research reconstructed Hurricane Katrina’s harrowing story.

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IBM Master Inventor Valentina Salapura keynoted Saturday evening with “Cloud Computing: 24/7.” Saturday ended with a bonfire and s’mores by the lake.
The 2014 ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference was held in Seattle, WA, February 5-8, 2014. The conference is the premier event for the Coalition to Diversity Computing (CDC) and presented by CMD-IT. The conference is now in its eighth year and it is now on a yearly cycle. The goal is to bring together a diverse group of technical leaders to lead discussions in the state-of-the-art in computing and technology. The Tapia conference has a tradition of providing a supportive networking environment for under-represented groups of students and professionals, across the broad range of computing and information technology, from science to business to the arts to infrastructure.

This conference is also quite possibly the most diverse conference to ever be held in the country; and the number of applications for scholarships, company sponsorships, and even undergraduate participation. Overall, it was a successful offering and part of a great trend for this group.

This year’s conference featured keynote speakers including Chieko Asakawa (Fellow, IBM Japan), Dan Garcia (University of California, Berkeley), Latanya Sweeney (Harvard University) and James McLarkin (Rice University). Kathryn McKinley (Microsoft) gave the Ken Kennedy Distinguished Lecture and Marcus Mitchell (Google) was the banquet speaker. Jan Cuny (NSF) was awarded the Richard Tapia Award in recognition for her career-long efforts to make computing more inclusive. Overall, the list of speakers and other participants reflected the diversity of our community, with excellent representation of both men and women, African Americans, Hispanics, and people with disabilities.

In addition, conference attendees participated in panel discussions, workshops, student-based research posters, birds-of-a-feather (BoF) sessions, a code-a-thon, doctoral consortium and even a high school teacher’s workshop.

The 2014 conference counted 47 supporters including our Platinum Supporters -- NSF, TRUST, Microsoft, Georgia Tech, IAMCS; our Gold Supporters -- Motorola Solutions Foundation, Google, XSEDE, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University, the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech, and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at University of California at Berkeley; and many Silver and Bronze Supporters.

News of Affiliated Groups
2014 Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference
Breaks Attendance Records
by Manuel Pérez-Quíñones, Jamika Burge, and Nancy Amato

The Coalition to Diversify Computing Conference was held in Seattle, WA, February 5-8, 2014. The conference is the premier event for the Coalition to Diversity Computing (CDC) and presented by CMD-IT. The conference is now in its eighth year and it is now on a yearly cycle. The goal is to bring together a diverse group of technical leaders to lead discussions in the state-of-the-art in computing and technology. The Tapia conference has a tradition of providing a supportive networking environment for under-represented groups of students and professionals, across the broad range of computing and information technology, from science to business to the arts to infrastructure.

For the third conference in a row, the Tapia Conference broke attendance records. We had 700 registered participants and closed registration early. This continues a trend of steady growth for this conference and its attendees. We also had record numbers in applications for scholarships, company sponsors, and even undergraduate participation. Overall, it was a successful offering and part of a great trend for this group.

This conference is also quite possibly the most diverse conference in the ACM series. Making this year’s conference theme, “Strength of Diversity,” a reality, the conference had 47% female participation, 38% African Americans, 30% Hispanics/Latinos, and 11% Asian/Southwest Asian. The strength of diversity at the conference was evidenced by the collegiality among these groups and the closeness of engagement and discussion that resulted. There was also a flurry of activity over social media (Twitter in particular, search for #Tapia2014) from the attendees at the conference, extending the reach and impact of this conference to other followers around the nation.

This year’s conference keynote speakers included Chieko Asakawa (Fellow, IBM Japan), Dan Garcia (University of California, Berkeley), Latanya Sweeney (Harvard University) and James McLarkin (Rice University). Kathryn McKinley (Microsoft) gave the Ken Kennedy Distinguished Lecture and Marcus Mitchell (Google) was the banquet speaker. Jan Cuny (NSF) was awarded the Richard Tapia Award in recognition for her career-long efforts to make computing more inclusive. Overall, the list of speakers and other participants reflected the diversity of our community, with excellent representation of both men and women, African Americans, Hispanics, and people with disabilities.

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2014 Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference (cont.)
Continued from page 18

The Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC) collaborated with The Computing Research Association Committee on Women in Computing Research (CRA-W) to provide professional development activities for Tapia Conference participants. The mentoring workshop was offered to undergraduate students, graduate students, and mid-career professionals to support the goals of the CDC and CRA-W, which include increasing the degree of success for women, people of color, and persons with disabilities who are pursuing careers in computing. 2014 marked the first year for the CRA-W/ CDC workshops to be offered at Tapia. The workshop is designed to give student and professional conference attendees an opportunity to participate in hands-on training relating to career development. Speakers were professors, tech entrepreneurs, and research scientists representing industry, academia, and government, and participants were able to learn tips for how to be successful in computing at all levels. Speakers represented a host of organizations – more information about this year’s dynamic program and speakers can be found at http://googgle.org/AGrat5.

This year’s Conference General Chair was Annie Anton (Georgia Tech), and the Program Committee Chair was Manuel A. Pérez-Quíñones (Virginia Tech). The 2015 Tapia conference will be held in Boston, MA on February 18-21, 2015. The Conference General Chair will be Charles Isbell (Georgia Tech) and the Program Committee Chair will be Ron Medoyev (Oregon State University). Join us next year in Boston!

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**About CRA-W**

CRA-W is an action-oriented committee of the Computing Research Association dedicated to increasing the access, retention, and advancement of women in computer science and engineering research and education, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and industry and government research labs. See more about CRA-W and its activities at http://www.cra-w.org.

CRA-W has received funding from the National Science Foundation, Google, Henry Luce Foundation, Microsoft Research, Usenix, General Motors-Canada, NSERC, IBM, Yahoo!, and ACM Special Interests Groups. We thank them for their support.

CRA-W encourages individual contributions from alums of our programs and other CRA-W friends. Because CRA-W programs have touched so many lives, this initiative is an outlet for alums and friends to make contributions toward reaching the next generation of women computer scientists and engineers. To donate to CRA-W, visit http://www.cra.org/crawgiving.