Dr. Shayok Chakraborty will join the department in Fall 2017 as an Assistant Professor. Prior to joining FSU, Dr. Chakraborty held a research faculty position at Arizona State University, where he was an Associate Director of the Center for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing (CUbiC) laboratory. He received his PhD in Computer Science from Arizona State University in 2013. He has worked as a Post-doctoral researcher at Intel labs, Oregon and in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department at Carnegie Mellon University. He also had a collaboration with the machine learning department at Microsoft Research, Redmond. Dr. Chakraborty’s research interests include machine learning and computer vision.

Dr. Jiawei Zhang will join the department in Fall 2017 as an assistant professor. Dr. Zhang received his PhD degree in Computer Science from University of Illinois at Chicago in August 2017. Dr. Zhang’s research interests span the fields of Data Science, Data Mining, Network Mining, and Machine Learning. Dr. Zhang’s research works focus on fusing multiple large-scale information sources of diverse varieties together, and carrying out synergistic data mining tasks across these fused sources in one unified analytic. Dr. Zhang also has industrial research experiences working at Microsoft Research in 2014, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center in 2015, and Yahoo! Research in 2016.

Our department is pleased to welcome Sharanya Jayaraman, a graduate of our own department, as a member of our specialized faculty. Sharanya obtained a Bachelor of Engineering in CS from Anna University, India, in 2010. She obtained industry experience with Tata Consultancy Services working on a project for Target. She received a Master of Science degree in Computer Science in 2014 from FSU and the guidance of Prof. Michael Mascagni. Sharanya’s interests include High Performance and Scientific Computing, Monte Carlo Methods, Computer Architecture, and Operating Systems.
The Department extends its congratulations to Dr. Andy Wang and Dr. Weikuan Yu on their promotion to Full Professor starting August 2017.

Melina Myers Wins University Teaching Award

First Teaching Award for the Department since 2003. Throughout the university, only 18 faculty members won the Undergraduate awards. The University Teaching Award recognizes teaching excellence as multi-faceted, involving areas such as providing a positive role model to students, imparting a respect for truth and a love of learning, challenging students’ thinking and assumptions, showing respect for all persons, and innovative instructional techniques.

Melina joined the department in 2013. She has taught a number of courses including COP3014 Introduction Programming, COP3502 Introduction to UNIX, COP3502 Introduction to Computer Science, CGS3416 Java Programming for Non-Specialists, and CGS2100 Microcomputer applications for Business/Economics.

CS Department Awarded Large Allocation of FSU Technology Fee

The Computer Science Department has been awarded $122K Technology Fee to upgrade its instructional technology infrastructure in six projects:

1. Improve Wireless Coverage for Computer Labs & Offices
2. Upgrade Network Lab Computers
3. Upgrade Data Center Server Switch
4. Update Projection Systems
5. Update Majors Lab Computers
6. Upgrade Department-Wide SSH Software.

Systems group manager Yu Wang and member Sigrun Ahlquist developed proposals for the six projects which were accepted by the IT Governance Council. The funds will significantly enhance the department’s instructional technology resources for students and faculty.

Dr. Andy Wang and Dr. Weikuan Yu Promoted

The Department extends its congratulations to Dr. Andy Wang and Dr. Weikuan Yu on their promotion to Full Professor starting August 2017.

- **Andy Wang** received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Computer Science from UCLA in 2003 and 1998, and his B.S. from UC Berkeley in 1995. He joined the Department of Computer Science at FSU in 2003. His research interests include file systems, optimistic peer replication, performance evaluation, ad hoc network routing, operating systems, and distributed systems.

- **Weikuan Yu** has been an Associate Professor at Florida State University since 2015. Prior to that, he held positions in Auburn University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Dr. Yu’s areas of specialization include big data, high-performance computing, computer architecture, file and storage systems, and interdisciplinary research on computational genomics. He earned his PhD in Computer Science and MS in Neurobiology from the Ohio State University.

Peixiang Zhao Receives Big Graph Computation Grant

The NSF awarded a 2 year $200,000 grant to Peixiang Zhao for his research in big graph management, computation and Mining. The project titled “Facilitate Graph Computation by Graph Sparsification”, was awarded from the NSF directorate CISE:IIS:III. In the past decade, modern science and technology have witnessed an explosive growth of networked systems giving rise to a vast ocean of data with completely transformed scale, structure, and complexity, which are often modeled and interpreted as graphs. However, real-world graphs are voluminous and exhibit unprecedented complexity and challenges, rendering them extremely hard to manage, costly to ingest, and complicated to analyze. In this project, Zhao and his students will systematically investigate the principles, methodologies, and algorithms of graph sparsification. The objective of this project is to simplify large-scale graphs into structure-enriched, quality-preserving graph summaries moving toward facilitating and optimizing a wide range of graph-based computations in real-world big graphs.
The new BA program provides a broad-based background sufficient for entry to a career in computing. It provides an applications view of computing, emphasizing the interdependence of programming, object orientation, and software design and engineering. This major develops core competencies in programming, data structures, software engineering, and computer organization. It allows opportunities to study a range of other aspects of computer and information science, such as web programming, mobile programming, cybersecurity, digital forensics, databases and data engineering, data communication and networks, computer and network systems administration, computer systems, and theoretical computer science. This major is also intended to give students flexibility in combining computing with other interests. For more information, please visit the new major’s webpage at http://www.cs.fsu.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/bacpa/.

National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security designated FSU as a National Center of Academic Excellence in both Information Assurance/Cybersecurity Education and Research. The program was awarded a $4.6 million grant last year from the National Science Foundation that will help dozens of cybersecurity students finance their education.
David Whalley Named IEEE Fellow

David Whalley has been elevated to IEEE Fellow effective January 1, 2017 “for contributions to architectural and compilation techniques to meet embedded system constraints.” The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one-percent of the total voting membership. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognized by the technical community as a prestigious honor and an important career achievement. David Whalley is the second member of the department elevated to the IEEE fellow status after Ted Baker.

Computer Science Honors Day Awards Ceremony 2017

The FSU Department of Computer Science hosted its annual Honors Day Ceremony in late April. Many students in the department were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments, whether as students or as Teaching Assistants, and many were recognized for receiving fellowships and scholarships. Students were also recognized for their achievements in the bi-annual programming competition held by ACM, a favorite departmental event.

Outstanding TA Awards: Javier Escobar-Avila, Jacob Katampilly, Michael Stokes, William (John) Thrasher, Zachary Yannes.

Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Woohyeong Kim, William McCall Parker, Ian Terry, Erin Wiggins, James Picker, Joshua Williams, Emilio Figueroa

Carl and Ermine Owenby Sr. Scholarship: Grace Bunch (not pictured)

Harris Scholarship Graduate Fellowship: Luis Penagos

Harris Scholarship Undergrad Scholarship: Michael Mullings, Zach Siroto, James “Dustin” Moody


Hall Family Endowment Scholarship: Daniel Kane

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Inductees: James Bach, Yunior Batista, Nicholas Feanny, Thai Flowers, Marvin Mallari, Austin Medina, Redden Money, Michael Mullings, AJ Nahapetian, Abigail Perry, Xiangzhen Sun, Adam Taylor, Alexis Taylor, M. Shakil Usman, Joshua Williams, Matthew Harrison

Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Woohyeong Kim, William McCall Parker, Ian Terry, Erin Wiggins, James Picker, Joshua Williams, Emilio Figueroa

Carl and Ermine Owenby Sr. Scholarship: Grace Bunch (not pictured)