

June 6 – 9, 2024 | Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport | Chicago, IL



the **2024**
ACADEMIC
CAREERS WORKSHOP

presented by



In collaboration with



Welcome to the 2024 Academic Careers Workshop!

The Academic Careers Workshop (ACW) organized by CMD-IT in collaboration with CAHSI and AccessComputing provides assistant- and associate-level faculty, senior doctoral students, and postdocs in computing unique and tailored experiences about academic careers. The workshop targets participants from the following communities:

African Americans / Blacks | **Native Americans / Indigenous**
Hispanics / Latinx | **People with Disabilities**

The goal of the ACW is to mentor our targeted community about the academic career ladder through panels of diverse senior faculty discussing the following:

- Tenure and promotion process
- Launching a research program
- Effective teaching strategies
- Promotion to full professor
- Effective strategies for proposal writing
- Affinity Research Group Model for effect research teams

We hope you find the workshop interesting and informative!

Academic Careers Workshop Organizers

Illya Hicks
Rice University

Daniel Garcia
UC Berkeley

Richard Ladner
University of Washington

Jeanine Cook
Sandia National Laboratory

Valerie Taylor
Argonne National Laboratory

Ann Gates
University of Texas at El Paso

Timothy Pinkston
University of Southern California



2024 Academic Careers Workshop Schedule



Thursday, June 6

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4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Workshop Check-in
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Mix and Mingle including 90 second Elevator Pitches
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Elevator Pitches Moderator: Valerie Taylor (Argonne/UChicago)

Friday, June 7

Main Session

7:30 am - 8:30 am	BREAKFAST
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Welcome and Information about Different Types of Universities; Introduction to CMD-IT, AccessComputing, CAHSI Moderator: Valerie Taylor (Argonne/UChicago)
9:00 am - 10:30 am	PANEL 1: Launching a Research Program (include undergraduate/graduate student mentoring) Moderator: Timothy Pinkston Panelists: Chad Jenkins, Ann Gates
10:30 am - 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	PANEL 2: Demystifying the Promotion and Tenure Process Moderator: Richard Ladner Panelists: Illya Hicks, Dan Garcia
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	LUNCH
2:00 pm - 4:00pm	PANEL 3: Funding Opportunities: (virtual) Moderator: Valerie Taylor Panelists: Hal Finkel (DOE), Dilma DaSilva (NSF), Kathleen Fischer (DARPA)
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	BREAK
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	PANEL 4: Effective Teaching (include graduate/undergraduate student mentoring, curriculum development) Moderator: Valerie Taylor (Argonne/UChicago) Panelists: Rob Parke, Dan Garcia
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	DINNER: Informal discussion about different career paths at the different tables

Saturday, June 8

Main Session

Parallel Session

7:30 am - 8:15 am	BREAKFAST	
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Part 1: Proposal Writing Workshop Facilitator: Timothy Pinkston	Promotion to Full Professor: Case Studies Moderator: Richard Ladner Panelist: Valerie Taylor & Illya Hicks
10:00 am - 10:30 am	BREAK	
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Part 2: Proposal Writing Workshop Facilitator: Timothy Pinkston	Promotion to Full Professor Open Discussion
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	LUNCH and NETWORKING	
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Part 1: Affinity Research Group Model Facilitators: Ann Gates and Shiva Darian	Leadership: Administrative Positions and Serving on Boards Moderator: Valerie Taylor Panelist: Chad Jenkins & Timothy Pinkston
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	BREAK	
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Part 2: Affinity Research Group Model Facilitators: Ann Gates and Shiva Darian	
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	DINNER: Downtown Chicago	

Sunday, June 9: Half Day - Mock Review Panels and Focus Groups

7:30 am - 8:30 am	BREAKFAST
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Part 1: Mock Review Panel
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Part 2: Mock Review Panel
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Mock Review Panels: Valerie Taylor and Ann Gates

2024 Academic Careers Workshop Participants





Jennifer Adorno

Software Systems Architect

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Research Area(s): Accessibility, CS-Ed, Health Informatics, Data Science

Jennifer Adorno is a recent doctoral graduate of Computer Science & Engineering from the University of South Florida (USF). Over the years, she's focused on applied interdisciplinary research across the education, health, and data science fields. Her latest collaborations include facilitating software and hardware labs for remote learning at the College of Engineering (USF CoE), developing cost-effective approaches for self-care and remote monitoring of heart failure patients with the College of Nursing (USF CN), and refining geospatial data science pipelines at the Center for Urban and Transportation Research (CUTR). Her current research interests revolve around Accessibility, CS Education, and Health Informatics.

Additionally, she is interested in intersectional research focused on supporting the lives of blind and low-vision individuals and people with disabilities more generally. Through her work, Jennifer hopes to collaborate on innovations that will empower students, reduce institutional barriers and supporting marginalized populations reach their potential.



Kenya Andrews

PhD Student

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Research Area(s): Machine Learning Bias, algorithmic justice, algorithmic bias, and decision-making for just Human-Robot Interaction

Kenya Andrews is a proud graduate of the Dual Degree Engineering Program at Spelman College where earned a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science and Auburn University where earned a Bachelors of Computer Engineering. Andrews is a PhD Candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago in Computer Science in the DICE Lab guided by Mesrob I. Ohannessian. Throughout her PhD journey, she has obtained the Google + Black in Robotics (BiR) Fellowship, GEM Fellowship, NSF Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship, Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship/Fellowship. Her main research interests are in: (1) Using machine learning algorithms to mitigate injustice amongst historically marginalized groups so that they have fair access to opportunities through increased visibility of those groups, (2) Working towards just algorithmic decision-making which is comprehensive for all people and encourages growth towards a thriving society for all people, and (3) Designing just and fair decision-making algorithms that drive Human-Robot Interaction (Including roboethics).

Andrews' most recent research projects are focused on analyzing, proving, and correcting instances in which people are invisible to algorithms/machines due to various aspects, such as silencing, which prevents them from having proper access to things they need. In her spare time, Andrews is passionate about mentoring students of all ages. She dedicates her time to coaching middle and high school students in robotics, guiding high school students in college preparation, and supporting college students in their professional development.



Charles (Duke) Bickham

Research Assistant

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Research Area(s): AI in Health, Social and Information Network

As a Computer Science Ph.D. student at the University of Southern California, my passion is to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to profoundly impact people's lives, particularly by revolutionizing healthcare outcomes, focusing on diseases and illnesses such as depression, eating disorders, HIV, and cancer. My journey includes enriching internships at institutions like Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, NASA JPL, Accenture, and Farmers & Merchants Bank. These experiences have allowed me to apply my technical expertise to real-world challenges, providing a holistic perspective on AI's role in healthcare and beyond. As a Teaching Assistant for an introductory Computer Science course, I find immense satisfaction mentoring the next generation of tech enthusiasts. As a McNair Scholar and a GEM Fellow, I've strengthened my commitment to advancing education and society through AI research.

My vision extends beyond academic and career milestones; it centers on utilizing AI to catalyze positive change in healthcare and society. I am dedicated to pioneering innovations that have the potential to cure or alleviate diseases, thus enhancing the quality of life for individuals. With a diverse set of experiences and a deep passion for making a difference, I look forward to continuing my journey of using AI to create a lasting and positive impact on society.



John Businge

Assistant Professor
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Research Area(s): Software Engineering

Dr. John Businge, Assistant Professor in the Computer Science Department, College of Engineering, UNLV, possesses extensive expertise in software engineering. His global academic journey has fueled a passion for producing high-quality research in areas like empirical software engineering, software ecosystems, and large language models' application in software engineering.

In fall 2023, Dr. Businge welcomed his first PhD student, Daniel Ogenrwot, fostering collaborative research. Committed to academic excellence, Dr. Businge mentors students and conducts groundbreaking research. He aims to expand his lab and address software engineering challenges. Since 2006, Dr. Businge has excelled in teaching, currently instructing Software Product Design and Development, focusing on architectural design and development processes.



Alex Cabral

PhD Candidate
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Research Area(s): Low-cost Sensor Networks, Urban Computing, Environmental Sensing

Alex Cabral is a final year PhD student in Computer Science at Harvard University, where she is co-advised by Jim Waldo and Amy Mueller. From 2020 to 2022, she was a member of the Urban Innovation group at Microsoft Research, where she helped deploy and maintain the Eclipse air quality sensor network. Her PhD thesis is focused on designing reliable, scalable, and equitable sensor networks for urban environmental sensing. After graduation, she will begin working as a Postdoctoral Researcher with the Ka Moamoia Lab at Georgia Tech.



Jazette Johnson

Post Doctoral Researcher

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Research Area(s): Aging; Accessibility;
Human Computer Interaction

Jazette Johnson, Ph.D., is a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan, exploring the intersection of caregiving and AI. Her research journey began with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Spelman College, followed by a Masters in Human-Computer Interaction from Vanderbilt University. In 2023, she earned her doctoral degree from the University of California - Irvine, where she focused on understanding how young caregivers of people living with dementia used emergent forms of online communities to provide and receive social support.

Jazette's research endeavors are devoted to bridging the realms of aging and AI, striving to demystify AI apprehensions and bolster knowledge within the dementia and aging communities.



Russ Joseph

Associate Professor

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Research Area(s):
Computer Architecture

Russ Joseph is an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and computer science at Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). His primary research interest is in computer architecture, focusing on the design and implementation of power-aware and reliability-aware computer systems. Some of his recent projects have examined microprocessor design for reliability and variability tolerance, co-designed circuit/compiler technologies to support timing level speculation, and on-line power management for multi-core systems.

Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty, Dr. Joseph completed his PhD in Electrical Engineering at Princeton University and earned his BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering with an additional major in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. He is the recipient of an NSF CAREER Award.



Luce-Melissa Kouaho

Doctoral Candidate

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Research Area(s):

Human Computer Interaction, Comp Education

Luce-Melissa is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her academic journey has been diverse, spanning from an Associate of Arts degree in science to undergraduate degrees in Business & French, and culminating in a Master's degree in Information Technology. Her research focuses on supporting underrepresented black women in STEM, aiming to make a meaningful contribution. She is eager to collaborate with fellow researchers and experts, fostering lasting friendships and connections with my cohort.

Beyond academia, she cherishes spending time with her child, her family, enjoy reading, watching movies, indulging in culinary delights, traveling, and passionately supporting my favorite sports teams. Her varied interests enrich her life and fuel her curiosity, inspiring her to make a positive impact in both academia and the broader community.



Blessing Onuwa Ojeme

Assistant Professor

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Research Area(s): Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Computer Vision

Dr. Blessing Ojeme epitomizes the essence of a computer scientist dedicated to solving real-world problems with computer technology and fostering collaborative networks. With an impressive career spanning over a decade in the field of computer science, Dr. Ojeme has displayed profound proficiency in teaching, research, and community engagement. One notable accomplishment in his career involved addressing a pressing issue within a University community struggling with depression. Dr. Ojeme assembled a diverse team of University faculty members, staff, students, psychiatrists, and psychologists, uniting their expertise to develop smart machine learning solutions for screening students for depression at regular intervals. The collaborative efforts led to quick access to depression screening tools in the University community.

Currently, Dr. Ojeme serves as an Assistant Professor of computer science at Morgan State University. His unwavering commitment revolves around building machine learning and artificial intelligence solutions for solving real-world problems.



Jasmine McKenzie

PhD Student

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Research Area(s): Human-Centered Computing, Health Equity

Jasmine McKenzie is a passionate advocate for diversity and equity in academia, driven by her belief in the transformative power of inclusive research and teaching environments. She is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Florida as a Ph.D. specializing in Human-Centered Computing. She currently works under the advisement of Dr. Juan E. Gilbert in the Computing for Social Good Lab.

Jasmine's research endeavors are deeply rooted in her commitment to addressing societal disparities and promoting equity. Her current research focuses on leveraging technology to tackle pressing societal challenges, particularly in underserved communities. Her research interests span various topics, including utilizing technology to address health education, social determinants of diseases, culturally relevant computing, and disease risk management.

Jasmine's dedication to diversity and equity extends beyond her research endeavors. Her teaching experiences, both as a teaching assistant at the University of Florida and as a mentor at Claflin University, reflect her commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments and supporting underrepresented groups in academia. As she aspires to become a professor, Jasmine sees herself as an agent of change, striving to create opportunities for underrepresented scholars and advocating for inclusive research practices. Jasmine believes that by cultivating diverse and collaborative research environments and empowering future generations of researchers from diverse backgrounds, she can contribute to a more equitable and inclusive academic landscape.



Elizabeth Ondula

PhD Student
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Research Area(s): Artificial Intelligence/Reinforcement Learning

Elizabeth is a PhD student of Computer Science at the University of Southern California. Her research interest are in reinforcement learning, multiagent systems and safety of AI systems. Her current work focuses on developing evaluation frameworks that can be used to demystify how decisions are made, assess reliability and safety, and ensure that they are interpretable and explainable.

Prior to starting her Ph.D. journey at USC, Elizabeth worked in Software Engineering, Product Development, IoT and Blockchain Applications and prototyping. Her foundational academic background is a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, which she obtained from the Technical University of Kenya.



Naba Rizvi

PhD Student
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Research Area(s): Human-AI Alignment, Ethical AI, Neurodiverse AI

Naba Rizvi is a fourth-year PhD student advised by Dr. Imani Munyaka who has previously interned as a researcher at Google, Microsoft, and Adobe. Her work focusing on responsible and ethical AI for historically marginalized users has earned her numerous awards including the NCWIT Collegiate Award, the CSTA CS Hero designation, and a commendation letter from the White House. Her thesis work on improving human-AI alignment for autistic people has been featured in national and international media and has been published at top conferences such as CHI. She has served as an invited panelist and speaker at both academic and professional conferences such as NeurIPS, SigCSE, and Tapia.

Through her involvement with Girls Who Code in Toledo, she obtained 2 years of experience teaching the fundamentals of programming to students. Her academic experience also includes mentoring a diverse group of students, co-creating the human-centered AI course at UCSD, and TAing for graduate-level computer science classes.



Obianuju Okafor

Lecturer

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Research Area(s): Software Engineering, Human Computer Interaction

Obianuju Okafor is a Research and Development Software Engineer at Microsoft and a Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin. She holds a master's and Ph.D. in computer science from the University of North Texas and a bachelor's degree in software engineering from Eastern Mediterranean University. With expertise in software engineering, human-computer interaction, accessibility, and machine learning, she has also contributed her skills to companies such as IBM and Salesforce.

She is passionate about creating user-centric and accessible software applications. During her Ph.D. program, her area of research was on improving the accessibility of programming environments for individuals with disabilities, resulting in the development of Voice-enabled Blockly—a groundbreaking programming tool empowering those with upper-limb motor impairments to code using their voice. In her role as a lecturer, she imparts her knowledge to students, emphasizing the creation of accessible, easy-to-use, and aesthetically pleasing web applications.

Beyond her professional roles, Obianuju is zealous about increasing the participation of underrepresented minorities in computing. She engages in volunteer work, advocating for increased minority participation in computing. Her efforts span giving impactful talks, organizing and participating in outreach programs, publishing articles championing stem education, mentoring aspiring female engineers, and instructing coding workshops. Also, she serves as a board member of organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers and Girl's Start. Through these endeavors, Obianuju actively works towards a more inclusive tech industry, striving to create opportunities for all individuals, regardless of background or ability, to excel in the field of computing.



Jorge Aurelio Silveyra

Associate Professor
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Research Area(s): Modeling and Simulation, Machine Learning

Dr. Jorge Silveyra completed his undergraduate work in computer engineering at the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de México in Toluca, Mexico, his country of birth. Afterward, Dr. Silveyra attended the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, where he received both his Master's and Ph.D. in computer science. Dr. Silveyra's research predominantly involves speech analysis, computational epidemiology, and modeling and simulation.

Dr. Silveyra is a passionate educator who empowers students to become independent thinkers and problem solvers. He creates engaging classroom environments where students actively participate, share their insights, and collaborate with their peers. For him, teaching is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about fostering curiosity and inspiring lifelong learning.



Alaina Smith

PhD Student
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Research Area(s): Human-Centered Computing/Interaction, Health Education Technologies

Alaina Smith is a Human-Centered Computing Ph.D. student at the University of Florida in the Computing for Social Good Lab under the advisement of Dr. Juan Gilbert. Combining her research interests in health education with technology, she aims to design and create culturally relevant technologies tailored to educate minorities about health-related topics.

This intersection of health education and technology is vital for addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes within minority communities. By leveraging technology to deliver culturally relevant health education, she seeks to empower individuals with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



Angelique Taylor, PhD

Assistant Professor

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Research Area(s): Human-Robot Interaction, Robotics, AI, Computer Vision

Angelique Taylor is an Assistant Professor in the Information Science Department at Cornell Tech and Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Lab (AIRLab) focusing on research at the intersection of robotics, computer vision, and artificial intelligence. The AIRLab designs intelligent systems that work alongside groups of people in real-world, safety-critical environments. These systems are realized through multi-robot systems, robot vision systems, AI, and extended reality devices.

Before joining Cornell, Angelique was a Visiting Research Scientist at Meta Reality Labs Research working on AI to support multi-user collaboration in AR/VR. She received her Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of California San Diego in 2021. She has received the NSF GRFP, Microsoft Dissertation Award, the Google Anita Borg Memorial Fellowship, the Arthur J. Schmitt Presidential Fellowship, a GEM Fellowship, and an award from the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT). More information on her research can be found at angeliquemtaylor.com.



Dr. JaCoya Thompson

Post-Doctoral Researcher

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Research Area(s): Data Science, Data Science Education, HCI

Dr. JaCoya Thompson is a data scientist, educator, and researcher, currently serving as a post-doctoral fellow at Clemson University's Department of Education and Human Development. The recipient of the NSF STEM Education Post-doctoral Fellowship, she currently researches ways to leverage technology to enhance data-driven learning and comprehension of data visualizations.

Having earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Northwestern University, her academic journey also includes a M.S in Earth and Planetary Science and a Certificate in Integrated Data Science from the same institution. Prior to her doctoral studies, she attained an M.S. in Mathematics and a B.S. in Computer Science from Fayetteville State University. Some professional achievements include being a GEM University Fellow, IDEAS Fellow, and a Ronald E McNair Scholar.

Her research includes data science projects, ranging from examining socio-environmental influences on COVID-19 cases in Chicago, IL, to scrutinizing patterns in Chicago police misconduct investigations through the Invisible Institute's Citizen's Police Data Project. She has also been involved in citizen science initiatives, where she explored seismic activity detection through user-submitted data.

She employs data science methodologies and educational initiatives to foster transparency, accountability, and equity within communities. Beyond her scholarly pursuits, she is engaged in education and community outreach, having taught mathematics, computer science, and data science courses across various academic levels. Thompson's mentorship extends to students from diverse backgrounds, facilitated through her active involvement in Women in STEM and HBCU School Incentives. Leveraging her expertise in data science, she remains steadfast in advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Sunday David Ubur

Ph.D. Candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant

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Research Area(s): HCI, Accessibility, User Experience

Sunday Ubur is a Ph.D. candidate in computer science at Virginia Tech, where he also serves as a Teaching Assistant. Prior to joining Virginia Tech, Sunday earned a Bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Abuja, Nigeria, and a Master's in Software Development from Coventry University, UK. His passion lies in enhancing communication accessibility and user experience for speech-to-text technology users.

At the 2024 IEEE VR Doctoral Consortium in Orlando, Florida, Sunday presented his Ph.D. research plan titled: "Enhancing Accessibility and Emotional Expression in Educational Extended Reality for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: A User-centric Investigation."

Sunday is a Mandela Washington Fellow, having participated in a six-week leadership and entrepreneurship program at the University of Texas at Austin in 2017. He is also a Chevening Scholar, having received a fully funded one-year scholarship to study at Coventry University. In the community, Sunday is active in youth empowerment programs and serves as one of the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED) ambassadors at Virginia Tech. Recently, he was selected as one of the 2024 NextGen Disability Leaders.

Beyond academics and work, Sunday enjoys watching movies, biking, playing chess, and socializing at events.



Oscar Veliz

Assistant Teaching Professor

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Research Area(s): Game Theory, CS
Pedagogy, Numerical Analysis

Jason M. Grant, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Computing Sciences at Villanova University. His research interests include biometrics and computer vision. He earned his BS from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is currently the president of the Chapter of Meyerhoff Alumni and its governing board. Dr. Grant completed his MS and PhD from the University of Notre Dame and previously taught at Middlebury College.

An advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM, he has served on program committees for the ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference and Supercomputing Conference, and he has been a keynote speaker and panelist at several national conferences including the Black Data Processing Associates National Conference, National Society of Black Engineers National Convention, and the National Society of Blacks in Computing.

2024 Academic Careers Workshop Speakers & Organizers





Shiva Darian

Speaker

University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Shiva Darian is an Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at El Paso. She received her PhD in Information Science from the University of Colorado Boulder. Dr. Darian's research is focused on understanding how communication practices influence the world around us. Her current research focuses on how advocacy organizations use data when addressing the public. Dr. Darian had dual BAs in philosophy and international politics from Penn State University. She has spent time exploring the nonprofit sector and is passionate about data ethics, logic and rhetoric within social movements, and exploring new places.



Dr. Dilma Da Silva
Speaker
National Science Foundation

Dr. Dilma Da Silva is the current Acting Assistant Director for the Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) Directorate at the National Science Foundation. She holds the Ford Motor Company Design Professorship II and Regents Professor at Texas A&M University, where she has been since 2014. She has been on leave from Texas A&M University to the National Science Foundation since June 2022. She is known for her work in cloud computing. She earned her BS and MS degrees from University of Sao Paulo, and PhD from Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon completion of her PhD, she became an assistant professor at University of Sao Paulo. In 2000, she moved to IBM Research at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center in New York, where she worked in the Advanced Operating System Group. At IBM, her contributions included work on the file system of the K42 experimental operating system. In 2012 she moved to Qualcomm, where her work centered on cloud computing.



Hal Finkel

Speaker

Department of Energy

Hal is a program manager for computer-science research in the US Department of Energy Office of Science's Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) program. Prior to joining ASCR, Hal was the Lead for Compiler Technology and Programming Languages at Argonne's Leadership Computing Facility.

As part of DOE's Exascale Computing Project (ECP), Hal was a PathForward technical lead and PI/Co-PI of several multi-institution activities. Hal serves as vice chair of the C++ standards committee. He also helped develop the Hardware/Hybrid Accelerated Cosmology Code (HACC), a two-time IEEE/ACM Gordon Bell Prize finalist. Hal graduated from Yale University in 2011 with a Ph.D. in theoretical physics focusing on numerical simulation of early-universe cosmology.



Kathleen Fisher

Speaker
DARPA

Dr. Kathleen Fisher assumed the role of office director for DARPA's Information Innovation Office (I2O) in May 2022. In this position, she leads program managers in the development of programs, technologies, and capabilities to ensure information advantage for the United States and its allies, and coordinates this work across the Department of Defense and U.S. government.

Fisher was previously the deputy office director for I2O from October 2021 to April 2022. This is Fisher's second tour at DARPA, having previously served as a program manager in I2O from 2011 to 2014. Fisher joined DARPA from Tufts University, where she was a professor in the Department of Computer Science, and served as chair of the department from 2016 to 2021. Earlier in her career, she was a principal member of the technical staff at AT&T Labs Research. She is a AAAS fellow, an ACM fellow, and a Hertz Foundation fellow.



Dan Garcia
Organizer and Speaker
UC Berkeley

Dan Garcia (UC Berkeley MS 1995, PhD 2000) is a Teaching Professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department at UC Berkeley. Selected as an ACM Distinguished Educator in 2012, he has won all four of the department's computer science teaching awards, and holds the record for the highest teaching effectiveness ratings (6.7/7) in the history of the department's introductory courses. He is a national leader in the "CSforALL" movement, bringing engaging computer science to students normally underrepresented in the field. Thanks to four National Science Foundation grants, the "Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC)" non-majors course he co-developed has been shared with over 500 high school teachers. He is delighted to regularly have more than 50% female enrollment in BJC, with a high mark of 65% in the Spring of 2018, shattering the record at UC Berkeley for an intro computing course, and is among the highest in the nation! He is humbled by the national exposure he and the course have received in the New York Times, PBS NewsHour, NPR's All Things Considered, USA Today, and the front pages of the San Jose Mercury News and San Francisco Chronicle. He has won the NCWIT Undergraduate Research Mentoring award, the UC Berkeley Unsung Hero award, the LPFI Lux award, and the SAP Visionary Member award for his work to diversify computing. He has served on the ACM Education Board, the College Board Computer Science Principles Development Committee, and was the SIGCSE Symposium co-chair in 2018.



Ann Quiroz Gates
Organizer and Speaker
University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Ann Quiroz Gates is the Senior Advisor to the Provost on Strategic STEM Initiatives at the University of Texas at El Paso. She holds the AT&T Distinguished Professorship and served as the Chair of the Computer Science Department (2005-2008 and 2012-2020) and Associate VP of Research and Sponsored Projects (2008-2012). Gates is the Executive Director of the Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI), one of NSF's eight National INCLUDES Alliances that promote the importance of inclusion and equity in advancing innovation and discovery. She also directs the NSF-funded CyberShARE Center of Excellence that advances interdisciplinary education and research.

Gates was a founding member of the NSF Advisory Committee for Cyberinfrastructure and served on the Board of Governors of IEEE-Computer Society 2004-2009. Gates was a member of the Naval Research Advisory Committee (2016-2018), AAAS Board appointed Committee on Opportunities in Science (2014-2017), and past member of the Computer Science Accreditation Board (2011-2013). Gates received the 2015 Great Minds in STEM's Education award, the CRA's 2015 A. Nico Habermann Award, the 2010 Anita Borg Institute Social Impact Award, and the 2009 Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing. She was named to Hispanic Business magazine's 100 Influential Hispanics in 2006 for her work on the Affinity Research Group model.



Illya Hicks
Organizer and Speaker
Rice University

Illya Hicks joined the Rice Faculty in 2007 after spending six years in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University and is currently a full professor in the Computational and Applied Mathematics Department. He is a member of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), the Minority Issues Forum of INFORMS, the Mathematical Optimization Society, National Association of Mathematicians, American Mathematical Society, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. His research interests are in operations research, combinatorial optimization, integer programming, graph theory, graph algorithms, machine learning and artificial intelligence. He was recently named an INFORMS fellow and will be the chair of the Computational and Applied Mathematics Department in July 2021.



Chad Jenkins
Speaker
University of Michigan

Dr. Chad Jenkins is the founding Chair of the Michigan Robotics Undergraduate Program. He is a Professor of Robotics at the University of Michigan. Dr. Jenkins was a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, where he now holds a courtesy appointment, and leader of the Laboratory for Progress (Perceptive RObotics and Grounded REasoning SystemS). His work and collaborations aim to discover methods for computational reasoning and perception that will enable robots to effectively assist people in common human environments. Dr. Jenkins' research pertains primarily to robot learning from demonstration, semantic perception, and mobile manipulation towards enabling the usability of technology by people in real situations. He was Editor-in-Chief for the ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction (2016-24). He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the CNA Corporation and Vice President for Educational Activities for the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society. Recently, Dr. Jenkins was elected Member-At-Large for the Association of Computing Machinery.



Richard E. Ladner

Organizer and Speaker
University of Washington

Richard E. Ladner is a Professor Emeritus in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. After a long career in theoretical computer science research he moved to the area of accessible computing research which is an important subarea of human-computer interaction (HCI). Over his career he has supervised or co-supervised 30 Ph.D. students. His research continues, but he also leads projects to bring more people with disabilities into computing fields. He is the PI for the NSF-funded AccessComputing Alliance that helps computing students at all levels complete their degrees in computing fields. He is also a PI for the NSF-funded AccessCSforAll that helps prepare K-12 teachers to include students with disabilities in their computing courses.

For his work in broadening participation in computing, he is a recipient of the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), the 2008 A. Nico Habermann Award, the 2015 Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing, and the 2020 National Science Board Public Service Award. For his research in accessible computing, he is the winner of the 2014 SIGCHI Social Impact Award and the 2016 SIGACCESS Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computing and Accessibility. He is an ACM Fellow and an IEEE Fellow. He is a member of the Board of the Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in Information Technology (CMD-IT).



Rob Parke

Speaker

University of Southern California

Rob Parke is an Associate Professor of Information Technology Practice in the Information Technology Program in the Viterbi School of Engineering and has previously held a joint appointment in Iovine / Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation. He established the Connected Devices and Making minor to teach non-engineering students to create internet-enabled, hardware devices. He also created an Android development course for the Mobile App Development minor and serves as lead faculty for the introductory Python programming course. He has a strong interest in inclusive teaching practices and has been actively involved in addressing issues of inclusion and equity, both within USC and externally.

Outside of academia, Rob has a lifelong love of technology from the technical to the creative, with professional experience in software development, information technology, web design, audio engineering, film / TV post-production, and digital media.



Timothy M. Pinkston

Organizer and Speaker

University of Southern California

Timothy M. Pinkston is a Professor and George Pflieger Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Southern California (USC). He also is the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. He earned a B.S.E.E. degree from The Ohio State University in 1985, and he earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1986 and 1993, respectively. Prior to joining USC in 1993, he was a Member of Technical Staff at Bell Laboratories, a Hughes Doctoral Fellow at Hughes Research Laboratory, and a visiting researcher at IBM T. J. Watson Research Laboratory. He founded the SMART Interconnects Group at USC where he conducts research on computer systems architecture. He has received prominent national awards, including the NSF Minority Research Initiation Award and NSF CAREER Award, and is the proud recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Ohio State University's College of Engineering and Minority Engineering Program. He served three years (2005-2008) as an NSF Program Director in the CISE Directorate, serving the last year of his stint as the inaugural Lead Program Director for the newly established Expeditions in Computing Program. Dr. Pinkston is a Fellow of the ACM and Fellow of the IEEE.



Valerie Taylor

Organizer and Speaker

Argonne National Laboratory/University of Chicago/CMD-IT

Valerie Taylor is the Director of the Mathematics and Computer Science Division and a Distinguished Fellow at Argonne National Laboratory. Her research is in the area of high-performance computing, with a focus on performance analysis, modeling and tuning of parallel, scientific applications.

Prior to joining Argonne, she was the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering and a Regents Professor and the Royce E. Wisenbaker Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University. In 2003, she joined Texas A&M University as the Department Head of CSE, where she remained in that position until 2011.

Prior to joining Texas A&M, Valerie Taylor was a member of the faculty in the EECS Department at Northwestern University for eleven years. She is also the CEO & President of the Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in IT (CMD-IT). Valerie Taylor is an IEEE Fellow, ACM Fellow, AAAS Fellow and has received numerous awards for distinguished research and leadership, including the 2001 IEEE Harriet B. Rigas Award for a woman with significant contributions in engineering education; the 2002 Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni from the University of California at Berkeley; the 2002 CRA Nico Habermann Award for increasing the diversity in computing; the 2005 Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing; the 2018 Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineering Award from Purdue University; and the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Valerie E. Taylor earned her B.S. in ECE and M.S. in Computer Engineering from Purdue University in 1985 and 1986, respectively, and a Ph.D. in EECS from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1991.

Thank You!



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