June 5 – 7, 2025 | Academic Career Workshop | Virtual

the **2025**
ACADEMIC
CAREERS WORKSHOP

A **CMD-IT** PROGRAM

presented by **CMDiT**

In collaboration with   **CAHSI** Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions — A National INCLUDES Alliance

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Welcome to the 2025 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

Timika Oridota
CMD-IT

Jeanine Cook Sandia
National Laboratory

Valerie Taylor
Argonne National Laboratory

Ann Gates
University of Texas
at El Paso

Timothy Pinkston
University of
Southern California

TRAINING

MOTIVATION

ADVICE

GOAL

CAREER
DEVELOPMENT

SUCCESS

SUPPORT

COACHING

DIRECTION

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2025 Academic Careers Workshop

Schedule

Thursday, June 5

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Day One	
11:00 pm - 12:00 pm	**Elevator Pitches** Moderator: Valerie Taylor (Argonne/UChicago)

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Friday, June 6

Main Session

Day Two	
10:00 am - 11:30 am	**PANEL 1: Launching a Research Program (include undergraduate/graduate student mentoring)** **Moderator:** Timothy Pinkston **Panelists:** Alvaro Cardenas, Ann Gates
11:30 am - 12:30 am	**BREAK**
12:30 am - 2:00 pm	**PANEL 2: Demystifying the Promotion and Tenure Process** **Moderator**: Valerie Taylor **Panelists**: Illya Hicks, Dan Garcia
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	**BREAK**
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	**PANEL 3: Effective Teaching (include graduate/undergraduate student mentoring, curriculum development)** **Moderator**: Dan Garcia **Panelists**: Rob Parke, Shani Daily

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Saturday, June 7

	Main Session	Parallel Session
Day Three		
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	**Proposal Writing Workshop** **Facilitator:** Timothy Pinkston	**Promotion to Full Professor: Case Studies** **Moderator:** Valerie Taylor **Panelist:** Alvaro Cardenas and Illya Hicks
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	**BREAK**	
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	**Affinity Research Group Model** **Facilitators**: Ann Gates, Alvaro Cardenas, and Oscar Veliz	**Academic Administration** **Facilitators:** Valerie Taylor and Illya Hicks
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	**BREAK**	
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	**Proposal Review** **Facilitators:** Ann Gates (group 1); Illya Hicks (group 2); Valerie Taylor (group 3)	

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Participants

Marjan Asadinia

Assistant Professor

California State University, Northridge

marjan.asadinia@csun.edu

Research Area(s): AI/Machine Learning, Advanced Computer Architecture, Advanced Memory Technologies

Dr. Asadinia joined California State University, Northridge, in the Department of Computer Science. Before joining Northridge, she held positions as an Assistant Professor at both Cal Poly Humboldt University and Bradley University. From 2017 to 2020, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Oregon State University and University of Arkansas.

She leads the Modern Computing and Communication Architectures (MOCCA) Lab at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Her research interests include advanced computer architecture, emerging memory technologies, machine learning, deep learning, processing-in-memory/near-memory, and Network-on-Chip (NoC) designs. She has published her work in prestigious venues such as DAC, FCCM, IEEE TVLSI, ACM TODAES, and the Journal of Supercomputing. She has also published a book in Elsevier's Advances in Computers series, focusing on Durable Phase-Change Memory (PCM) technology as a promising alternative to Dynamic Random-Access Memory (DRAM).

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Sarah Brown

PhD Student

University of Florida

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Research Area(s): Human-Centered Computing

I am a 6th-year Ph.D. student in Human-Centered Computing at the University of Florida, working as part of the Embodied Learning & Experience (ELX) Lab under Dr. Sharon Lynn Chu. My research interests lie in the transformative potential of interactive (or nonlinear) digital narratives for use in health and education, and the development of embodied creativity support tools. In my dissertation work, I am currently investigating the design of interactive narrative authoring tools for reflection to support college students' mental health. I am also the founder of the Association for Research in Digital Interactive Narratives (ARDIN) Graduate Research Committee, and have been a volunteer with ARDIN since 2020.

Xiangjue Dong

PhD Student
Texas A&M University
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Research Area(s): Natural Language Processing

Xiangjue is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University, advised by James Caverlee. Her research focuses on enhancing the trustworthiness and reasoning capabilities of large language models (LLMs). She is particularly interested in developing methods to improve the reliability, safety, and alignment of LLMs, as well as enhancing their performance on complex reasoning tasks.

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Kossi D. Edoh

Professor
NC A&T State University
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Research Area(s): Graph Neural Network and Numerical ODEs

Dr. Kossi Edoh is a professor of mathematics at NC A&T State University. Before that, he was a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at Montclair State University, New Jersey. He has taught Statistics, Mathematics, and Computer Science courses over the years. He participated in the Office of Naval Research Summer Faculty Research Program at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Rhode Island, in 2011 and 2012, and at the Space and Naval Warfare System Command Center in South Carolina in 2013 and 2014. His research areas include data science, information security, and numerical analysis. He was a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship recipient to develop an MS program in data science at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, in the summer of 2017. His current research topics in data science include graph neural network anomaly detection and determining low-dimensional structures in higher-dimensional systems. Dr. Edoh has a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Simon Fraser University, Canada, and took some graduate courses in computer science at Old Dominion University, Virginia. He was the Technical Papers' Deputy Chair and Chair for the 2022 and 2023 Tapia conference, respectively.

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Onyeka Emebo

Assistant Professor
Virginia Tech
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Research Area(s): Applied Software Engineering, Computer Science Education

Onyeka Emebo is a Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Computer Science department at Virginia Tech. He earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Covenant University, Ota, where he also completed his M.S. and B.S. degrees. His research interests include Applied Software Engineering, Requirements Engineering, Machine Learning for Software Engineering, Computer Science Education, and Inclusive Teaching.

Dr. Emebo is dedicated to advancing the field of computer science through innovative research and teaching. His work has been widely cited, reflecting his significant contributions to academia. At Virginia Tech, he is appreciated by his students for being caring, accessible, and helpful.

In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Emebo actively participates in initiatives aimed at increasing diversity in computing. He is passionate about mentoring students from underrepresented communities and fostering an inclusive environment in academia.

Dr. Emebo's current projects focus on leveraging machine learning techniques to improve software engineering practices and exploring effective teaching strategies, curriculum development, and the integration of technology in education to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. He is enthusiastic about developing and implementing inclusive teaching practices that support and engage students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities.

Yuly V. Garcia

PhD Student

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

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Research Area(s): Power System, Transactive Energy, Control System

My name is Yuly García. I'm from Pereira, Risaralda, Colombia. I earned my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira in 2017. In 2022, I completed my master's degree when I developed a methodology to implement a microgrid on a university campus, which was later summarized and published as a journal article.

Currently, I am pursuing my Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, focusing on the development of transactive energy frameworks for microgrids, optimization models for energy management, and the regulatory integration of distributed energy resources into local electricity markets. I am a member of the Sustainable Energy Center research group and have actively contributed to projects to enhance energy resilience, especially in tropical regions with weak grid infrastructures. Since arriving in Puerto Rico, I have had the opportunity to strengthen my academic and research skills through internships at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 2021, LUMA Energy in the summer of 2023, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) from June to December 2024. These experiences have allowed me to work on cutting-edge research initiatives in power systems, renewable energy integration, and energy market design.

I am passionate about using innovative research and practical applications to contribute to the transition toward more sustainable, reliable, and community-centered energy systems.

Sayde King

PhD Candidate
University of South Florida
saydeking@usf.edu

Research Area(s): Applied Artificial Intelligence, Behavioral Analysis, Human-Centered AI

Sayde King is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of South Florida. She also received her M.S. and B.S. in Computer Science from the University of South Florida in 2022 and 2019, respectively. King is a member of the Cyber Identity and Behavior Research Laboratory, which studies biometric systems, smart sensing for human behavior analyses, and applied natural language processing. Her current research explores automated deception detection for non-engineering applications. King is a firm believer in user-centered design and aims to involve stakeholders throughout the design process – including the discussion surrounding whether the technology is needed in the first place. She employs a range of qualitative methods accompanied by applying artificial intelligence in empirical investigations.

She has actively contributed to the academic community by serving as a program committee member for workshops at renowned conferences such as the IEEE International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition and the IEEE/IAPR International Conference on Pattern Recognition. She is a USF Summer Dissertation Fellow, Florida Education Fund McKnight Dissertation Fellow, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minority Ph.D. Scholar, and a National GEM Consortium Employer Fellow, sponsored by the MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

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Juan Felipe Medina Lee

Assistant Professor

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

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Research Area(s): Highly automated vehicles, human factors, human-machine collaboration, decision making

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Juan Felipe Medina graduated as an Electronic Engineer from the University of Quindío, Colombia, in 2012. He received his master's degree in Engineering from the Universidad del Valle, in 2016 and his PhD degree in Automation and Robotics from the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain, in 2023. His Ph.D. thesis was awarded the distinction "Cum Laude". His research areas of interest include highly automated vehicles, human factors, human-machine collaboration, and decision-making in autonomous vehicles. He worked as a professor at the University of Quindío, teaching subjects related to digital systems area and robotics from 2012 until 2018. Then, he worked as a researcher at the Centre for Automation and Robotics in Madrid, Spain, as a member of the Autopia research group, where he participated in various European and national research projects related to autonomous driving systems. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, where he is researching about Human-AI team-based driving strategies for highly automated vehicles.

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Litany Hope Lineberry

Instructor

Hinds Community College

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Research Area(s): Cyber Security Education, Cyber Security Awareness

Litany Hope Lineberry, Ph.D. recently earned her Ph.D. in Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Education from Mississippi State University, where her dissertation explored "Cybersecurity Threat Recognition and Preparedness of Undergraduate Students."

Dr. Lineberry is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and excellence in computing education. She holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from North Carolina A&T State University and a Bachelor's degree from Voorhees College. She has taught and developed curriculum at Mississippi State University, Voorhees University, Hinds Community College, and the University of Southern Mississippi, focusing on cybersecurity, programming, and computer ethics.

An active contributor to the cybersecurity education community, Dr. Lineberry has co-authored peer-reviewed publications, presented at national conferences, and served in key leadership roles. She is a committee member for the CAE-CD New and Early-Career Faculty Members Initiative, Social Media Chair for the WiCyS Education and Training Affiliate, and former President of the Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) Student Chapter at Mississippi State University.

Her contributions have been recognized with awards such as the CAE-CD Community Service Award for Outstanding Contribution. Dr. Lineberry is passionate about empowering underrepresented students in computing through innovative, hands-on learning experiences.

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Haoran Liu

PhD Student

Texas A&M University

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Research Area(s): Graph Neural Networks, Large Language Models

Haoran Liu is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at Texas A&M University, advised by Dr.James Caverlee. Previously, she worked with Dr.Shuiwang Ji on geometric representation learning for biomedical data. Her current research focuses on graph neural networks and structured data for large language models.

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Juan O. Lopez

Assistant Professor

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Research Area(s): Bioinformatics

My name is Juan O. López and I'm an Assistant Professor at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo (UPRA). I have a PhD in Computing and Information Sciences and Engineering (CISE) from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM), and my main research area is currently Bioinformatics, although I'm looking to also branch into educational technologies to facilitate learning in Computer Science.

I hold an M.S. in Pure Mathematics from UPRM, and a dual B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics from Western New England University (Springfield, MA). I have been living in Arecibo, PR for almost 20 years now, but I lived in Springfield, MA for 10 years and then Poughkeepsie, NY for 3 years before returning to PR.

I'm finishing my 5th year at UPRA, where I was Interim Chair of the Computer Science for 4.5 years, although I only started tenure track 2 years ago. During this time I've been able to teach some great courses, including Data Structures, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Graph Theory, Intro. to Web Design, Advanced Web Development, Artificial Intelligence, and Discrete Mathematics. I've also had the pleasure of guiding undergraduate students in research. Last year our work was published in a peer-reviewed journal, and since then I've started working with a new batch of students with whom I hope to publish by the end of the year.

I'm really grateful for the opportunity provided by ACW and I look forward to the workshop.

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Wilfredo Lugo-Beauchamp

Assistant Professor

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Research Area(s): Edge Computing, Edge ML

Dr. Wilfredo Lugo Beauchamp is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. He brings over 25 years of industry experience, primarily from Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) and Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI), where he led projects at the intersection of data science, quality, diagnostics, and machine learning.

During his tenure at HPE, he held a variety of roles in research and development, culminating in the position of Distinguished Technologist in Data Science. His work contributed to advancements in hardware diagnostics and large-scale data analytics. In 2022, he joined JCI as a Senior Data Scientist, focusing on industrial automation and the compression of machine learning models for deployment on edge devices—a critical area for enabling intelligent systems in resource-constrained environments.

In January 2024, Dr. Lugo transitioned to academia to pursue his passion for research and mentorship. His academic efforts build on his industry expertise, with ongoing research in sustainable edge AI and multi-disciplinary collaborations in agriculture, healthcare, and environmental monitoring. He holds several industry patents in sensor data processing and has published peer-reviewed work on streaming data optimization and algorithm design.

He was recently awarded seed funding to create his Edge Computing Lab, acquiring a wide range of edge platforms to support research and student-led projects. He continues to foster partnerships between academia and industry to advance practical, scalable computing solutions.

Omar Felipe Rodriguez Martinez

PhD Student

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

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Research Area(s): Microgrids, Renewable Energies, Control, Power Quality, EMS, Batteries

Omar Felipe Rodriguez Martinez is an accomplished electrical engineer specializing in power systems, control strategies, and microgrid technologies. He earned his B.S. in power systems from the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia, followed by an M.Sc. in power systems from the university of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. He is currently pursuing a PhD. at the same institution, focusing on advanced secondary control methods for islanded and unbalanced microgrids.

During his graduate studies, Omar collaborated with Sandia National Laboratories on feasibility analyses under PREB regulation rule 9028, developing and validating regulation requirements for microgrid integrations. He also develop and validate ramp-rate control algorithms for photovoltaic integrations and battery degradation. His work has yielded multiple peer-reviewed publications in MDPI and IEEE conferences. In the PhD, he also collaborate with Oak ridge National Laboratories to design control architectures for a community microgrids in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, leading both system modeling and field-data collection initiatives.

Omar's professional experience includes internships at Luma Energy and ORNL, where he managed microgrid projects and authored technical reports. He has also improved his leadership, communication, and coordination skills through roles as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and adjunct professor.

Fluent in MATLAB/Simulink, PowerWorld, Neplan, LabVIEW, dSPACE, and Opal-RT, Omar combines deep technical expertise with a passion for community engagement. In five years, he aspires to serve as a research engineer at a national laboratory, advancing resilient, equitable energy solutions that leverage synergies between power electronics, control theory, and renewable integration to address climate change and enhance quality of life worldwide.

Krystal Maughan

PhD Student
University of Vermont
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Research Area(s): Quantum-Safe Cryptography

Krystal Maughan is a PhD student who is working on Quantum-safe cryptography, specifically isogeny-based cryptography, at the University of Vermont. She is advised by Christelle Vincent, PhD (Department of Mathematics) and Joe Near, PhD (Department of Computer Science). She is originally from Trinidad and Tobago and earned her undergraduate degree from Ithaca College, New York in Film, Photography and Visual Arts. She then worked in Los Angeles and the Bay area (via Research and Development companies and startups) in various technical positions while taking classes part-time before subsequently starting graduate school. She is very passionate about research and in engaging with students who come from non-traditional paths and under-recruited groups like herself.

Iggy Monsalve

PhD Candidate

Florida International University

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Research Area(s): Computer Science Education, Special Education, Teaching and Learning

Iggy Monsalve, a McKnight Scholar and Project InCLUDE Fellow, is a Latina of Venezuelan descent. She is a Ph.D. candidate at Florida International University, where she advocates for inclusive education in STEM fields. Her research focuses on making computer science education more inclusive for students with disabilities, especially those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, ensuring they have meaningful access and opportunities to succeed. With over a decade of experience as a K-12 educator, she has worked to expand equitable access to education, particularly for students historically excluded from STEM fields. Her passion for this work is deeply personal, shaped by both her experiences as a mentor and her lived experience supporting loved ones with disabilities. She understands firsthand the importance of creating spaces where all students feel seen, valued, and empowered. She has presented at national conferences on the challenges faced by historically underrepresented students in advanced academic programs, advocating for policies that promote greater inclusion and equity. As an adjunct professor, she has mentored and guided students, helping them navigate academic and professional pathways. As a Latina in STEM, she actively contributes to national initiatives aimed at increasing the representation and success of Hispanic and underrepresented students in computing and higher education. As a mother and an advocate, she believes in the power of storytelling, shared knowledge, and collective action to drive meaningful change. She remains dedicated to expanding opportunities for historically excluded students, ensuring that future generations can thrive in education.

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Cassidy Pyle
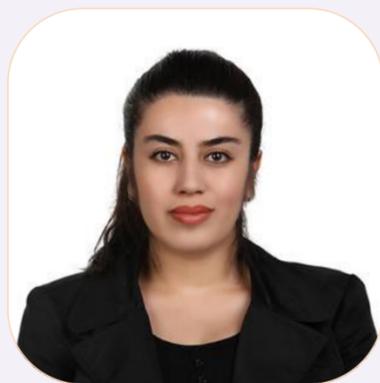
PhD Candidate/Incoming Postdoctoral Fellow

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Research Area(s): social media, algorithms, AI, identity, higher education, well-being

Cassidy Pyle is a Ph.D. Candidate and incoming Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan School of Information, affiliated with the Marginality in Socio-Technical Systems (MiSTS) Lab, Social Computing Research Lab (SCRL), and Ethics, Society, & Computing (ESC) group. Her interdisciplinary research explores how new media technologies (e.g., social media, AI) inform minoritized emerging adults' experiences of support and harm in ways that shape their access to and persistence in higher education environments. Her dissertation work draws on a large-scale qualitative analysis of over 38,000 social media posts and interviews with minoritized college students to understand the landscape and socio-emotional impacts of affirmative action discussions on social media platforms. This work charts dominant social media framings and how such framings contribute to students' experiences with racial battle fatigue.

Cassidy's work has been featured at Association for Computing Machinery conferences like CHI, CSCW, GROUP, and DIS, the International Communication Association conference, and journals like Social Media + Society. Before her Ph.D., she earned a Bachelor's degree in Film & Media Studies and Communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she worked to support first-generation college students. Her research has been supported by the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School Merit Fellowship and Anti-Racism Graduate Research Grant.

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Chiman Salavati

Ph.D. Student
University of Connecticut
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Research Area(s): Artificial Intelligence, Bias Detection, AI Fairness, Natural Language Processing, Transformers

Chiman Salavati is a Ph.D. student in School of Computing at the University of Connecticut, advised by Dr. Shiri Dori-Hacohen. Her research focuses on artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on bias detection, fairness in machine learning, and bias mitigation in medical and health-related documents. She has published at the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES) and has worked on projects addressing inappropriate use of language in medical curricular content.

Prior to her Ph.D., Chiman earned a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Kurdistan, where her research involved machine learning, optimization, and graph mining. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering (Software) from Payam-e Noor University.

Chiman has mentored undergraduate students through the Senior Design Program at UConn, leading a project that integrates machine learning models with user-centered design to assist medical experts in bias identification and mitigation. She was selected as a finalist for the 2025 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Collegiate Award, recognizing her contributions to advancing diversity and equity in computing. She is passionate about developing fair and transparent AI systems and aspires to pursue a research-oriented academic career.

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Cheryl Swanier

Dean and Professor
Voorhees University
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Research Area(s): HCI, AI, and Computer Science Education

Litany Hope Lineberry, Ph.D. recently earned her Ph.D. in Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Education from Mississippi State University, where her dissertation explored "Cybersecurity Threat Recognition and Preparedness of Undergraduate Students."

Dr. Lineberry is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and excellence in computing education. She holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from North Carolina A&T State University and a Bachelor's degree from Voorhees College. She has taught and developed curriculum at Mississippi State University, Voorhees University, Hinds Community College, and the University of Southern Mississippi, focusing on cybersecurity, programming, and computer ethics.

An active contributor to the cybersecurity education community, Dr. Lineberry has co-authored peer-reviewed publications, presented at national conferences, and served in key leadership roles. She is a committee member for the CAE-CD New and Early-Career Faculty Members Initiative, Social Media Chair for the WiCyS Education and Training Affiliate, and former President of the Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) Student Chapter at Mississippi State University.

Her contributions have been recognized with awards such as the CAE-CD Community Service Award for Outstanding Contribution. Dr. Lineberry is passionate about empowering underrepresented students in computing through innovative, hands-on learning experiences.

Maria Teleki

PhD Student
Texas A&M University
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Research Area(s): Natural Language Processing, Speech

Howdy! I'm a third-year PhD Student in Computer Science at Texas A&M University (gig em!), advised by Prof. James Caverlee. My research focuses on algorithms for natural language processing, with a special focus on spoken contexts. I work with large language models, automatic speech recognition systems, and psycholinguistic theories. My work is supported by an Avilés-Johnson Fellowship.

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2025 Academic Careers Workshop
Speakers & Organizers

Alvaro A. Cardenas

Speaker

University of California, Santa Cruz

Alvaro A. Cardenas is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Before joining UCSC he was the Eugene McDermott Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas, a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and a research staff member at Fujitsu Laboratories. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a B.S. from Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia. His research interests focus on security and privacy of emerging technologies and cyber-physical systems, including autonomous vehicles, drones, and SCADA systems controlling the power grid and other critical infrastructures. He is the recipient of the NSF CAREER award, the 2018 faculty excellence in research award from the Erik Johnson School of Engineering and Computer Science, the Eugene McDermott Fellow Endowed Chair at UTD, and the Distinguished Service Award from the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Security and Privacy. He has also received best paper awards from various venues, including the ACM CPS & IoT Security Workshop, IEEE Smart Grid Communications Conference, and the U.S. Army Research Conference. Cardenas' research has been funded by NSF, ARO, AFOSR, NSA, NIST, MITRE, DHS, DoT, Google, Phoenix Technologies, and Intel.

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Shaundra 'Shani B' Daily

Speaker

Duke University

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Shaundra 'Shani B' Daily is the Cue Family Professor of the Practice in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Duke University. Her research focuses on analyzing, designing, and building sociotechnical systems - the complex interactions between people, technology, and social structures - to support meaningful participation and success in STEM fields. Before joining Duke, she was an associate professor with tenure at the University of Florida in the Department of Computer & Information Science & Engineering. She previously served as an associate professor and interim co-chair in the School of Computing at Clemson University. Having garnered over $40M in funding from public and private sources to support her collaborative research activities, Daily's work has been featured in USA Today, Forbes, National Public Radio, and the Chicago Tribune. Daily earned her B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University – Florida State University College of Engineering and an S.M. and Ph.D. from the MIT Media Lab.

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Dan Garcia

Speaker & Organizer

University of California, Berkeley

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Dan Garcia (UC Berkeley MS 1995, PhD 2000) is a Teaching Professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (CS) department at UC Berkeley. Selected as an ACM Distinguished Educator in 2012 and ACM Distinguished Speaker in 2019 and 2022, he has won all four of the department's computer science teaching awards, as well as the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award in 2025.

He is a national leader in the "CSforALL" and "A's for All (as time and interest allow)" movements, bringing engaging computer science to students normally underrepresented in the field, and supporting them to achieve proficiency. 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 1,000 high school teachers! He is delighted to regularly have more than 50% female enrollment in BJC, with a high mark of 71% in the Spring of 2023, 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 UC Berkeley Unsung Hero award, the UC Berkeley Leon A. Henkin Citation, the NCWIT Undergraduate Research Mentoring award, the LPFI Lux award, the SAP Visionary Member award, and was chosen as a Google CS4HS Ambassador for his work to diversify computing. He has served on the CRA-WP Board, ACM Education Board, College Board CS Principles Development Committee, was the ACM SIGCSE Program co-chair in 2017, and the ACM SIGCSE Symposium co-chair in 2018. He was voted ACM SIGCSE Vice-Chair from 2019-2022, and Secretary from 2022-2025. In 2019 it was announced he was the most frequent SIGCSE author in their 50-year history, with *61* submissions of all kinds: papers, panels, workshops, posters, etc.

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Ann Quiroz Gates

Speaker & Organizer

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 AI Institute for Community-Engaged 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.

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Illya Hicks

Speaker & Organizer

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 the Trustee Professor and Chair of the Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research 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, the National Association of Mathematicians, the 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 is an INFORMS fellow and was recently awarded the Blackwell-Tapia Prize for 2024.

Timika Oridota

Speaker & Organizer

University of Chicago/CMD-IT

Timika Oridota is the Senior Program Manager in Consortium of Advanced Science and Engineering at The University of Chicago and Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in IT (CMD-IT). She is also a Baker University Instructional Design and Performance Technology (IDPT) Doctoral candidate with a research emphasis in virtual reality training tools impacting the self-awareness of empathy in nursing students. Timika is a Board Certified Master Mental health Coach and focuses on the use of technology to inform healthcare training and provide essential impact to survivors of traumatic experiences.

Prior to joining The University of Chicago, she was an EPIC Software Consultant with The University of Kansas Health System and a Learning Design Strategist with the American Academy of Family Physicians.

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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.

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Timothy M. Pinkston
Speaker & Organizer
University of Southern California

Timothy M. Pinkston is a Professor and George Pfleger 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 AAAS Fellow, ACM Fellow, and IEEE Fellow.

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Valerie Taylor

Speaker & Organizer

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.

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.

Oscar Veliz

Speaker
Northeastern University

Oscar Veliz is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University. He earned his bachelor's and PhD degrees in Computer Science from the University of Texas at El Paso. He is also on the teaching faculty hiring committee and the network teaching faculty hiring subcommittee on diversity and inclusion. Prior to joining Northeastern, Dr. Veliz was a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Carnegie Mellon University, a lecturer at the University of Texas at El Paso, and a research assistant at the University of Texas at El Paso. He received the Google CAHSI Dissertation Award. He currently runs a YouTube channel with over 12 thousand subscribers where he creates and posts lessons on various CS topics. Outside of the work, he volunteers to teach CS with the Microsoft Philanthropies Technology Education and Literacy in Schools TEALS program.

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