Department of Computer Science’ News

2017 (January – June)

- **REU program**

The Department of Computer Science hosts its fifth Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program funded by the National Science Foundation. The program started on May 15 and will end on July 21. The research theme is on software testing and software analytics. 10 students including 3 students from ECU were selected from 101 applicants nationwide. The home colleges of these students include Wake Forest, Elon, UNC Chapel Hill, NC State, Shaw, Elizabeth City State, University of Alabama, and ECU. Six faculty members from CS serve as research mentors of REU students. These faculty mentors are Drs. Junhua Ding (PI), Nasseh Tabrizi (Co-PI), Qin Ding, Venkat Gudivada, Mark Hills, and Sergiy Vilkomir. ECU students are John Baptista, Zachary Catalano, and Justin Whitaker. The details can be found at [http://www.cs.ecu.edu/reu](http://www.cs.ecu.edu/reu)

- **Awards**

  - The **MSSE program** was ranked #6 overall in the list of the best US online master’s degree programs in Software Engineering according to BestColleges.com: [http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-software-engineering-degree-graduate-programs/](http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-software-engineering-degree-graduate-programs/)

  - Dr. **Venkat Gudivada** was conferred as an International Academy, Research, and Industry Association (IARIA) fellow in Spring 2017. This fellowship recognizes his outstanding scientific research, exceptional scientific contribution to the IARIA events, and continuous leadership roles in IARIA conferences. [https://www.iaria.org/fellows/VenkatNGudivada.pdf](https://www.iaria.org/fellows/VenkatNGudivada.pdf)

  - Dr. **Sergiy Vilkomir** was a recipient of the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award (April 2017). The award is designed to recognize and support excellent teaching. [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/University-Teaching-Awards.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/University-Teaching-Awards.cfm)

- **Grants**

  **Dr. Mark Hills** is a co-investigator on two projects funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard: “Recreational Boating Data Acquisition through Crowdsourcing: A Complementary Prototype to the National Recreational Boating Safety Survey” (sub-contract from the National Safe Boating Council) and “Evaluating Alternatives to Traditional Probability Based Survey Techniques for Unregistered Boater Data Capture” (sub-contract from the American Canoe Association).
The role of Dr. Hills on these projects is to create a mobile survey mechanism that can be used to securely capture and further process the required data.

- **Student awards**

The following students were recognized during the Computer Science Awards Ceremony on April 26:
- William R. Spickerman Award: Zachery James and Shawn Kelly.
- Lucille Moore Award: Jakayla Alston and Sophia Armstrong.
- Robert C. Rogers Memorial Graduate Award: David Anderson.
- Robert C. Faircloth Memorial Scholarship: Ryan Summerlin.
- James F. Wirth Award: Seaver Thorn and Justin Whitaker.
- John Crammer Award: Jordan Carter and Zachary Catalano.
- Outstanding Senior in Computer Science: Christian Colglazier.
- Outstanding Graduate Student: Seyedfaraz Yasrobi.
- Outstanding Graduate Assistant: David Hoffman.
- Frankford M Johnson Scholarship: Jordan Rivera and Joshua Bowen.
- Computer Science General Scholarship: Seaver Thorn and Matthew Bent.
- Angela William Allen Scholarship: Jakayla Alston and Brandon Underwood.

- **ACM Student Chapter**

The ACM Student Chapter has selected the student leaders for 2017-2018 year:
- **Seaver Thorn**: Chair
- **Tiffany Nguyen**: Vice Chair
- **David Anderson**: Treasurer
- **Jakayla Alston**: Secretary
- **Justin Whitaker**: Webmaster

- **Published books**


- **Published journal papers**


- Published conference papers

    The paper is co-authored by an ECU MS student.


- **Julian Brinkley, David Hoffman, Nasseh Tabrizi**, “A semantic social media portable profile system for assistive technology users,” the 1st IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Computing, June 25-30, 2017, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The paper is co-authored by ECU MS students.

- **Service for international conferences**

  - **Dr. Qin Ding** served as a Program Co-Chair for the 9th International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICOB), March 20-22, 2017, Honolulu, HI, USA, http://sce.uhcl.edu/bicob17/

  - **Dr. Junhua Ding** served as a PC Co-Chair and **Drs. Mark Hills and Sergiy Vilkomir** served as PC members for the 12th IEEE/ACM International Workshop on Automation of Software Test (AST 2017), in conjunction with the 39th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE’17), Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 20-28, 2017, http://tech.brookes.ac.uk/AST2017/index.html


  - **Drs. Junhua Ding** and **Sergiy Vilkomir** are serving as PC members for the 29th International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering (SEKE 2017), July 5-7, 2017, Pittsburgh, USA, https://ksiresearchorg.ipage.com/seke/seke17.html

  - **Dr. Sergiy Vilkomir** is serving as a General Chair and **Dr. Junhua Ding** is serving as a Program Chair for the IEEE International Workshop on Combinatorial Testing and its Applications (CTA 2017), Prague, Czech Republic, July 25-29, 2017, in conjunction with the IEEE International Conference on Software Quality, Reliability and Security (QRS 2017), http://paris.utdallas.edu/cta17/
- **Dr. Sergiy Vilkomir** is serving as a PC member for the 12th International Conference on Software Technologies (ICSOFT 2017), July 26-28, 2017, Madrid, Spain, [http://www.icsoft.org/](http://www.icsoft.org/)


- **Dr. Qin Ding** is serving as a Program Co-Chair for the 10th International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICOB), March 19-21, 2018, Las Vegas, NV, USA, [http://sceweb.uhcl.edu/bicob18/index.html](http://sceweb.uhcl.edu/bicob18/index.html)

- **ECU Compute Science Seminars in 2017:**

  - February 10, 2017: Dr. Tamer Omar, Department of Technology Systems, College of Engineering and Technology, East Carolina University. Title: Broadband Wireless Networking in the Era of Big Data
  - April 7, 2017: Dr. Sambit Bhattacharya, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Fayetteville State University. Title: Deep Learning Integrated with AI Techniques to Solve Visual Surveillance.
  - April 13, 2017: Dr. Kemafor Ogan, Department of Computer Science, NC State University. Title: Dealing with Semantic Heterogeneity- The Often-Overlooked Challenge in Big Data & Data Science
  - April 21, 2017: Dr. George Rouskas, Department of Computer Science, NC State University. Title: Network-Aware Virtual Request Partitioning Based on Spectral Clustering.


- **Invited talks**

  Dr. Mark Hills, “Meta-Programming for Program Analysis & Comprehension,” at ABB Corporate Research in Raleigh, NC on April 7, 2017.