

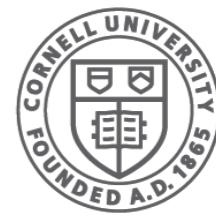
A photograph of the Cornell Computer Science building's modern, angular facade. The building is primarily grey with orange panels at the top left corner. The text "Cornell Computer Science" is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

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Computer Science

Cornell CIS
Computer Science



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Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2019

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CONTENTS

page

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 01-04. | Faculty Awards and Honors |
| 05-06. | Faculty Research |
| 07-08. | Graduate Student Research |
| 09-10. | Bright Bits |
| 11-13. | Cornell CS in the News |
| 14-15. | Event Highlights |
| 16. | New Staff |
| 17. | Contact and Stay Connected |

FACULTY AWARDS and HONORS

Deborah Estrin Named MacArthur Fellow

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INSTITUTE

MacArthur
Foundation

Deborah Estrin, the Robert V. Tishman '37 Professor of Computer Science at Cornell Tech and of Healthcare Policy and Research at Weill Cornell Medicine, has been awarded a 2018 MacArthur Foundation fellowship for her innovative work using mobile devices and data to address social challenges.

Estrin, who also serves as an Associate Dean at Cornell Tech, is one of 25 fellows to receive an award – widely known as the “genius grant.”



“I was and remain very humbled and grateful,” said Estrin, who thought at first the foundation was calling her to provide a reference for someone else. “I feel a sense of commitment to do good by it, and to live up to it.”

[Link](#)

CS Professor, and former CS department Chair (2010-14), and Joseph C. Ford Chair of Engineering, **Joseph Halpern** has been elected to full membership in the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). The admitting body of the NAE pointed out for special commendation Halpern’s work on “methods of reasoning about knowledge, belief, and uncertainty and their applications to distributed computing and multiagent systems.”

Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature” and to “the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.”

[Link](#)

Joseph Halpern Elected to the National Academy of Engineering



FACULTY AWARDS and HONORS

Lillian Lee Named ACM Fellow

Association for
Computing Machinery



Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

CS Professor **Lillian Lee** has been named one of the fifty-six new Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Fellows for 2018 noted for “pivotal achievements that underpin the digital age.” Her work is being celebrated for “contributions to natural language processing, sentiment analysis, and computational social science.” The Fellows program—“ACM’s most prestigious member grade”—“recognizes the top 1% of ACM members for their outstanding accomplishments in computing and information technology and/or outstanding service to ACM and the larger computing community.”

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Computer Science, **Éva Tardos** has been named this year’s Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) John von Neumann Medal award winner for “contributions to the field of algorithms, including foundational new methods in optimization, approximation algorithms, and algorithmic game theory.”

Tardos works in algorithmic game theory and has long-standing collaborations with different fields and faculty, including economics.

The John von Neumann Medal is granted in response to a body of work (rather than a specific or selected piece of work) and is intended to confirm and celebrate enduring contributions to scientific discovery.

[Link](#)

Éva Tardos Named IEEE John von Neumann Medal Award Winner



FACULTY AWARDS and HONORS

Dexter Kozen Honored with Stephen H. Weiss Teaching Award



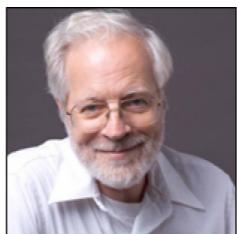
Computer Science Professor **Dexter Kozen** was one of eight faculty members honored with a distinguished Stephen H. Weiss Award announced November 2 by Cornell President Martha Pollack. Kozen, Ph.D. '77, the Joseph Newton Pew, Jr. Professor in Engineering, was named a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, given to tenured faculty members having demonstrated commitment to teaching and mentoring undergraduates.

Having taught at Cornell since 1985, Kozen receives consistently outstanding course evaluations. Highly laudatory student comments about Kozen's courses speak to his teaching abilities and his commitment to student learning. "I've watched him electrify a lecture hall with hundreds of undergraduates, and seen those same students bring their newfound passion and wonder to office hours and section," a former student and teaching assistant said.

Kozen has also earned international recognition and awards for his theoretical computer science research, including work on algorithms, computer security, the complexity of decision problems in logic and algebra, and programming language logics and semantics.

[Link](#)

David Gries wins “Top Ten Education Research Paper” from the Last Half-Century



CS Professor Emeritus **David Gries** has been lauded with the high distinction of writing one of the top ten computer science education research papers of the past fifty years. The award coincides with SIGCSE (Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education) celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. The press release for the occasion notes that the award "celebrat[es] the ideas that have shaped the field [of computer science] by recognizing a select group of publications."

SIGCSE Board Chair Amber Settle of DePaul University (Chicago) reflected on the significance of the award: "In 1969, the year of our first SIGCSE symposium, computing education was a niche specialty. Today, it is an essential skill students need to prepare for the workforce. Computing has become one of the most popular majors in higher education, and more and more students are being introduced to computing in K-12 settings. The Top Ten Symposium Papers of All Time Award will emphasize the outstanding research that underpins and informs how students of all ages learn computing. We also believe that highlighting excellent research will inspire others to enter the computing education field and make their own contributions."

[Link](#)

FACULTY AWARDS and HONORS

Ross Knepper receives a second Amazon Research Award



Ross Knepper, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, received an Amazon Research Award for his project “Learning High-level Robot Behaviors by Predicting State Visitation Distributions.” The current project is a collaboration with Yoav Artzi, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and part of the faculty at Cornell Tech, and CS/Cornell Tech doctoral candidate, Valts Blukis. The award extends last year's ARA award for the team's project.

[Link](#)



Bharath Hariharan receives an Amazon Research Award



Assistant Professor of CS **Bharath Hariharan** has received an Amazon Research Award for a project entitled “Recognizing Fine-Grained Fashion Elements Across Domains” (2018). This award funds research in the area of fashion understanding, including joint collaboration with fellow Cornell faculty members Kavita Bala, Professor and Chair of CS, and Denise N. Green, Assistant Professor Human Ecology, who specializes in Fiber Science and Apparel Design.

[Link](#)



Adrian Sampson Receives National Science Foundation Career Award



CS Assistant Professor **Adrian Sampson** has been given a Career Award by the National Science Foundation for his work on “Type-Driven Heterogeneous Programming.” Of the award’s significance for him, Sampson says it “feels like a real rite of passage for new faculty in our field. Of course, the award means a lot of research funding, but perhaps even more importantly, the award serves as a genuine validation of one’s work by a panel of anonymous colleagues. Most people at esteemed places, such as Cornell, eventually do receive Career awards, but it often takes a while. Obviously, I’m surprised and gratified to receive the award so early in my career. My take-away: that senior researchers, whom I deeply respect, are giving me a vote of confidence, telling me ‘you’re on the right track, Adrian.’ With this mind, I’m more excited than ever to pursue my research direction—and to meet these researchers’ high expectations.”

[Link](#)



Google Faculty Research Awards for Multiple CS & Cornell Tech Faculty



Multiple Cornell CS and Cornell Tech faculty have received coveted Google Faculty Research Awards, which “provid[e] unrestricted gifts as support for research at institutions around the world. The program is focused on funding world-class technical research in Computer Science, Engineering, and related fields.” The awards will enable the following CS and Cornell Tech faculty to continue and expand their research agendas: **Yoav Artzi, Claire Cardie, Thorsten Joachims, Daniel Lee, Vitaly Shmatikov, and Immanuel Trummer.**

[Link](#)

FACULTY RESEARCH

Eshan Chattopadhyay Makes Progress on Erdős's 60-year-old Unsolved Problem

A paper by CS Assistant Professor **Eshan Chattopadhyay** and David Zuckerman of the University of Texas at Austin was accepted for publication in the *Annals of Mathematics*, the most prestigious journal in mathematics. The paper, entitled “Explicit Two-Source Extractors and Resilient Functions,” previously won the Best Paper Award at the Symposium on the Theory of Computing (STOC) in 2016.



[Link](#)

Attention to Computational Sustainability and the CompSusNet



In the article, “Learning from the Big Picture,” Philip Ball highlights the **Computational Sustainability Network (CompSusNet)**, “an initiative sponsored by the US National Science Foundation and involving 13 US academic institutions as well as international partners, which aims to nurture this emerging field.” He notes that “the project is led by researchers at Cornell University, headed by computer scientist **Carla Gomes**, director of Cornell’s Institute of Computational Sustainability.”

[Link](#)



CS Professor Carla Gomes and her team at Cornell produced a short film that provides an introduction to the emerging, dynamic, interdisciplinary field of Computational Sustainability. Watch the three-minute film to find out more.

[Link](#)

FACULTY RESEARCH

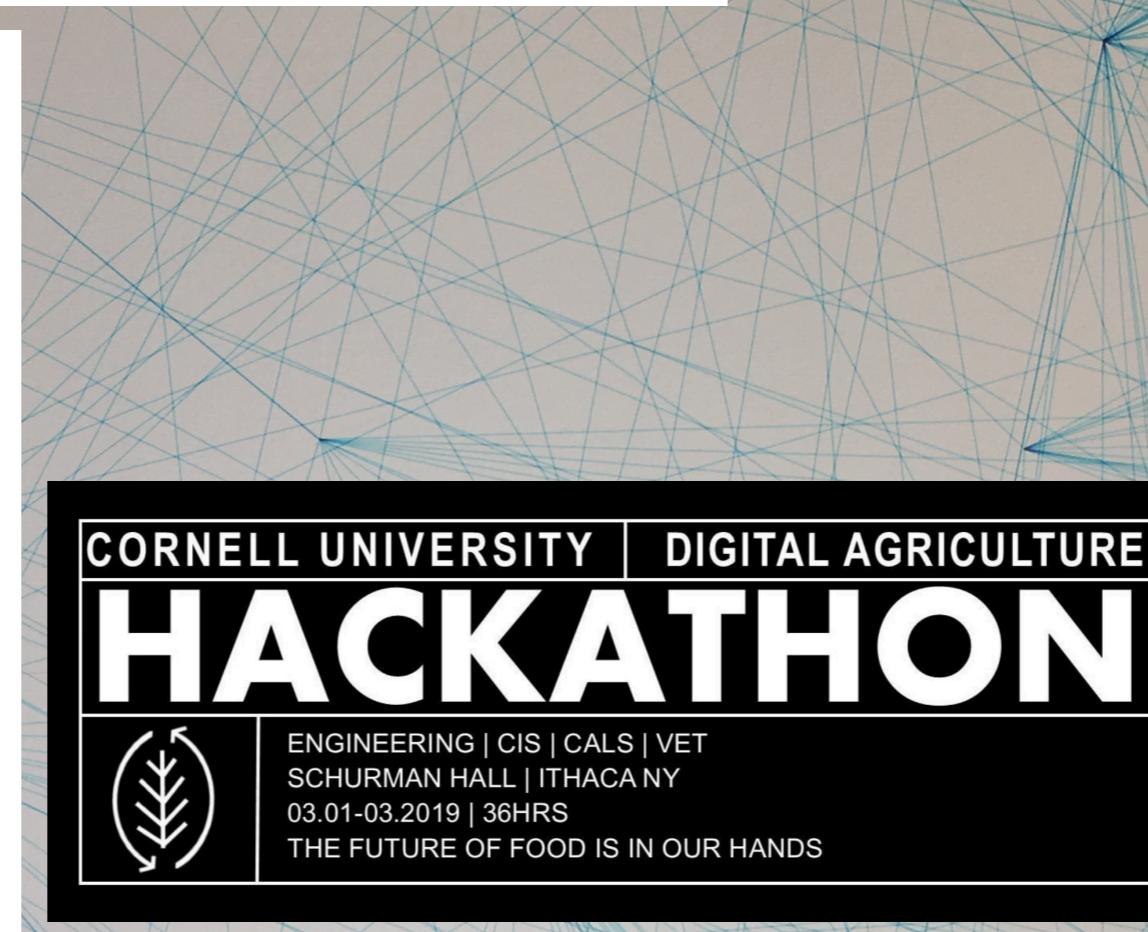
In his Cornell Chronicle article, “Digital ag is Cornell’s newest radical collaboration initiative,” (February 14, 2019), Joe Wilensky reports on how “master’s students in computer science professor **Ken Birman**’s cloud computing course are tackling challenges specific to digital agriculture—the use of technology and data systems to optimize all aspects of food production.” Wilensky adds: “Digital agriculture at Cornell—which already has been enhancing curricula such as Birman’s course, cross-college research projects and partnerships with industry—has just been seeded for robust additional growth.”

The Initiative “task force” includes **Hakim Weatherspoon**, associate professor in Computer Science and associate director of CIDA. Radical Collaboration Drives Discovery has a page dedicated to Digital Agriculture.

[Link](#)



Hakim Weatherspoon & Ken Birman Develop the Cornell Initiative for Digital Agriculture (CIDA)



In early March, Hakim Weatherspoon organized and hosted the Cornell Digital Agriculture Hackathon.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

C.S. Ph.D. candidate Rediet Abebe admitted to the Harvard Society of Fellows



CS Ph.D. candidate **Rediet Abebe** has been admitted to the 2019 class of Junior Fellows at the Harvard Society of Fellows. The Society is a group of scholars recognized for exceptional ability, originality, and resourcefulness. The fellowship is regarded as one of the most prestigious honors early-stage scholars can receive. Abebe will be the fifth computer scientist to win this honor since the inception of the fellowship in 1933. During her three-year appointment, she will work on Mechanism Design for Social Good—a research initiative she co-founded and co-organizes.

[Link](#)

Forbes “30 under 30” Names CS Ph.D. candidate Maithra Raghu to its List

Forbes



The 2019 class of Forbes “30 under 30” includes fifteen Cornellians and one of them is **Maithra Raghu**, who earned her M.S. last year and is currently working toward her doctorate under Jon Kleinberg. Forbes heralded the 2019 class as featuring some of today’s “bravest entrepreneurs [...] shaking up some of the world’s stodgiest industries.”

On her Forbes profile, Raghu’s work is described this way: “Deep neural networks are being used for a number of applications, but how they arrive at their results can sometimes be a black box. Maithra Raghu’s research is aimed at understanding that black box and applying it to healthcare problems. In particular her work is aimed at determining whether a patient is likely to be misdiagnosed for a particular condition and thus in need of a second opinion.”

[Link](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Google Ph.D. Fellowship Awarded to Saksham Agarwal



Google AI
Research at Google

First year doctoral student, **Saksham Agarwal**, has received a Google Ph.D. Fellowship with a focus on Systems and Networking. When announcing the award, Google noted: “These awards have been presented to exemplary PhD students in computer science and related disciplines. We have given these students unique fellowships to acknowledge their contributions to their areas of specialty and provide funding for their education and research. We look forward to working closely with them as they continue to become leaders in their respective fields.”

Agarwal's research “mainly focuses on network designs for faster, more scalable and efficient datacenters.” Before arriving at Cornell, Agarwal studied at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK), where his work “largely involved wireless communication systems, in particular various problems pertaining to Large MIMO systems at Mobile Communications Lab.”

[Link](#)

Haobin Ni, CS Ph.D. candidate, Wins Code Kerfuffle Competition



Haobin Ni, a doctoral candidate in the Computer Science department, recently competed in the Code Kerfuffle coding competition hosted by Lucidchart. He was one of the top thirty-two performers from the online round, and subsequently traveled to Lucidchart headquarters in South Jordan, Salt Lake City, for further competition. After three hours of focused coding, where the contestants built bots that competed in bracket-style tournaments, Haobin prevailed over rivals and claimed first prize: \$10,000.



Haobin is currently coaching the Cornell ACM Programming competition team, and also co-teaching a seminar with Robbert Van Renesse, “Competition Programming and Problem Solving” (CS 51999), where students learn about applied algorithms and techniques.

[Link](#)

BRIGHT BITS

Anne Bracy Wins Tau Beta Pi Professor of the Year Award

Anne Bracy, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, has won the Tau Beta Pi Professor of the Year Award presented by the Cornell Engineering Alumni Association (CEAA). The award will be presented to her at the annual CEAA Awards dinner on April 12.

Past winners include CS Professors Robert Kleinberg (A.B., '97) in 2012, and Daniel Huttenlocher in 1993.

link

Ellen Chen named Rhodes Scholar

Ellen Chen (CS)—along with Sean King (MSE), Kelsy Kurfurst (MAE), and Junlan Lu (AEP)—has been selected as a 2018-2019 Frank and Rosa Rhodes Scholarship recipient.

link

Euisen Yoon and Isay Katsman Receive honorable mentions by CRA

Euisen (Irene) Yoon and **Isay Katsman** received honorable mentions in the 2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Awards given by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and sponsored by Microsoft.

link

CS & COE Majors, and Twin Brothers, Innovate Global Swim Education

Cornell undergraduates **Chris Hales** (Computer Science) and twin brother, **Matt Hales** (Electrical and Computer Engineering), have founded a company—Goggles for Guppies (GFG)—that has provided swim equipment (goggles, of course, but also swim suits) to humanitarian programs in Haiti, Guatemala, and Benin, among other places.

link

Cornell CS Ph.D. alumnus, Stefano Ermon helps found Atlas AI

Atlas AI, a new start-up recently funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, is aimed at generating “actionable intelligence on global development challenges;” it has been founded “to give decision-makers in developing countries access to low-cost, cutting-edge data.” **Stefano Ermon** is among the coterie of “experts in artificial intelligence, data science, and development economics” who “had already shown that satellite imagery can be used to map poverty and crop yields in Africa with a combination of economic data, space technology, and machine learning algorithms.”

link

Research Night: Getting Undergraduates Involved in Research

About a hundred undergraduate students visited Gates Hall on February 28, 2019 to learn about graduate research in Computer Science from current CS doctoral candidates. **Research Night**, like the BOOM [Bits on our Minds] event and multiple High School Programming contests, continues to expand the CS department’s commitment to a broad initiative to engage and enlist students across age and research area.

link

BRIGHT BITS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Awarded



National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships have been awarded to several Cornell Computer Science and Cornell Tech Ph.D. candidates, including:

Ryan Benmalek (for Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing), advised by Serge Belongie and Claire Cardie

Eric Hayden Campbell (for Formal Methods, Verification, and Programming Languages), advised by Nate Foster

and

Cody Freitag (for Algorithms and Theoretical Foundations), advised by Rafael Pass

Incoming CS doctoral candidate, **Sloan Nietert**, also won a National Science Foundation award. He will arrive at Cornell CS having spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar at the Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics in Hungary.

[link](#)

Cornell CS alumna, **Megan Eileen Leszczynski**, now a second year doctoral candidate at Stanford, where she focuses on machine learning, received a National Science Foundation award.

CORNELL CS in the NEWS

Bart Selman on Defining the Research Agenda for AI in the Coming Decades

VentureBeat



In his article for *VentureBeat*, “The AI Research Agenda for the Next 20 years is Being Made Now,” (February 8, 2019), Khari Johnson discusses the recent meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), which convened in Hawai’i this February: “and among topics discussed was the roadmap for AI research in the United States for the next 20 years.” Johnson tells us that a report with recommendations for the future of AI is being prepared and “[t]he priorities set in the report could shape government policy and funding, national security, and people’s personal lives through health care, personalized education, and evidence-based social policy.” When asked about the notion of a national AI platform, CS professor **Bart Selman**—who has recently been appointed President-elect of the AAAI—replied: “If you want to do common sense knowledge, if you want to do true natural language semantics, you need a good knowledge base; a good, large knowledge graph in a sense, but the knowledge graph, for example, that Google is developing is in house and not accessible to academic research. So we need a very large, shared resource that will be developed across the country, then shared via some institute or center that would manage that.”

[Link](#)

Uncertain AI as Moral Ethical AI? Carla Gomes responds



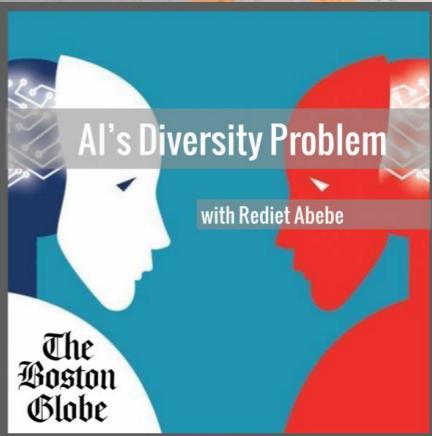
MIT Technology Review

In her article in *The MIT Technology Review* —“Giving Algorithms a Sense of Uncertainty Could Make Them More Ethical” (January 18, 2019)—Karen Hao reached out to Cornell CS Professor **Carla Gomes** to ask if Peter Eckersley (and his Partnership on AI) is onto something in his approach to considering partial orders of solutions with respect to multiple, often conflicting, objectives, and possibly introducing uncertainty into AI systems, especially those addressing decision making and moral dilemmas.

[Link](#)

The Boston Globe

Rediet Abebe’s Contributions to Correct AI’s Diversity Problem Highlighted



In her article on “AI’s Diversity Problem,” (Boston Globe, February 8, 2019), Swathi Meenakshi Sadagopan interviewed CS graduate student and recent inductee into the next class of Junior Fellows at Harvard’s Society of Fellows, **Rediet Abebe**, to ask about the way AI may be insufficiently developed to handle assessments of race and gender. Sadagopan notes: “Rediet Abebe, a Cornell University PhD student who has been active in the push to diversify AI, says broader representation could head off unintended bias in AI.” As Abebe told Sadagopan: “[In AI applications] discrimination rarely happens through malice. A lot of the time it happens through neglect.”

[Link](#)

Rediet Abebe, cofounder of the Black in AI (BAI) initiative and cofounder of Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG), offered a rousing, candid set of remarks on the state of AI and its impact—real and potential—on the communities we hope it might serve. Bobbie Johnson covered Abebe’s talk for *MIT Technology Review* (March 25, 2019) and summarized her presentation at EmTech Digital this way: “Technologists need to be prepared to get out of their comfort zone and engage more with the experts and communities affected by AI algorithms—or the systems they build will reinforce and exacerbate social problems.”

[Link](#)

Rediet Abebe on AI, Algorithms, and the Promotion of Social Good

MIT Technology Review

CORNELL CS in the NEWS

The Cornell Daily Sun
INDEPENDENT SINCE 1880

Women in Science: Celebrating Advances by Cornell CS Professors



WOMEN IN SCIENCE
Celebrating Advances by Cornell CS Professors

The Cornell Daily Sun has recently featured an article celebrating advances by female scientists at Cornell, highlighting for special commendation CS Professor **Carla Gomes** and CS Professor **Éva Tardos** (March 8, 2019 by Sophie Reynolds, Catherine Cai, and Caroline Chang).

The recipient of two ten-million-dollar Expeditions in Computing grants from the National Science Foundation and founder of the Institute for Computational Sustainability [ICS and CompSusNet], Carla Gomes is at the forefront of advances in artificial intelligence and computational sustainability, offering computational solutions to questions involving a range of vital matters concerning sustainable development ranging from poverty mitigation and wildlife conservation to clean renewable energy.

In addition to her research, Gomes is a steadfast proponent of finding ways to encourage women to participate in and practice science. “When we automate systems,” she notes, “we are implicitly making the machines make decisions, and so it is good to have a variety of perspectives.” Adding: “Of course, women have very interesting and different perspectives.”

Éva Tardos, meanwhile, works in algorithmic game theory and has long-standing collaborations with different fields and faculty (including economics) and scientific communities, such as the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Economics and Computation, which was held last year at Cornell and this year will convene in Phoenix.

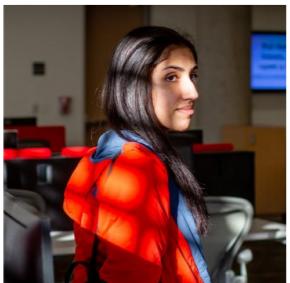
Tardos points out that over the history of our field “the number of women getting involved in computer science has not steadily risen like in many other STEM fields.” But the trend has now reversed, she adds, “and we are doing much better in attracting women to the field.” And Cornell is ahead of the national trend: for example, the engineering freshmen interested in computer science now have one-to-one ratio of men-to-women ratio, matching Engineering’s overall ratio.

As the authors report: “Tardos hopes that this generation of women does not underestimate the excitement of being a computer scientist at a research university.”

[Link](#)

CORNELL CS in the NEWS

CS Professors in High Demand as CS Students Scramble for Classes; Dean Morrisett comments



The New York Times

An article in The New York Times—“The Hard Part of Computer Science? Getting Into Class” (January 24, 2019)—by Natasha Singer tries to account for the current stage of strained enrollment in Computer Science programs across the nation. Cornell CIS Dean **Greg Morrisett** was interviewed for the article and when reached for comment, he focused on how the issue pertains to Cornell CIS in particular: “I’d like our students to understand that this isn’t just a local phenomenon and that we can’t easily solve the huge classroom and advising problems overnight, but that we are working to address the issues, that the university has been super supportive, and that the faculty are really giving it their all to make sure that we serve as many students as we possibly can.” Morrisett also underscored a further special attribute of Cornell CS: “One thing that distinguishes us from other programs is a high degree of commitment to serving any student who wants to major in CS, no matter his or her background. In turn, that commitment has led to a level of diversity that makes Cornell really stand out.” There is evidence of Cornell CS not only preserving diversity in the representation of women and underrepresented minorities, but also pursuing it as a top priority.

[Link](#)

Cornell Tech featured in The New York Times with comments by Cornell Tech Professor Deborah Estrin



In his article on the origins of the current ascendency of Tech in New York City, Steve Lohr homes in on the initiative begun in the Bloomberg administration to encourage “applied sciences” to create “the new digital world here instead of someplace else.” And, as Lohr underscores, “the biggest single step in the city’s applied sciences campaign was the creation of a new graduate school focused on technology and entrepreneurial innovation.” Cornell Tech was born. **Deborah Estrin**, who was “the first non-Cornell computer scientist to join the Cornell Tech faculty in 2012,” and is currently Associate Dean and Robert V. Tishman '37 Professor, notes that “New York’s advantage is its concentration of people in other industries working on problems that require technology to solve.” For this reason, she concludes, “if you’re doing pure tech—a superfast chip or advanced software—Silicon Valley is still the place to be, but when it comes to everything else, New York really has a chance to be the place to be.”

[Link](#)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

First Ever CIS and Cornell Tech High School Girls Programming Night to Foster Talent

Read the story in the Cornell Chronicle (February 28, 2019) that describes the scene on February 23, 2019 when teams of high school girls in Gates Hall (Ithaca) competed against high school girls at Cornell Tech's Bloomberg Center (on Roosevelt Island, New York City). There were sixty-four participants in all and First Prize went to the team of Zoe Marschner of Ithaca High School and Jessica Tang of Pittsford Mendon High School. Second place was earned by a team from New York's Stuyvesant High School.

CS Research Professor **Robbert van Renesse**, who coordinated the first-of-its-kind event for CIS and Cornell Tech, said: “Our goal is to increase diversity in the general high school programming contest that we run each year [...]. Programming contests tend to be unbalanced, and we are looking for ways to encourage participation from every high school student.”

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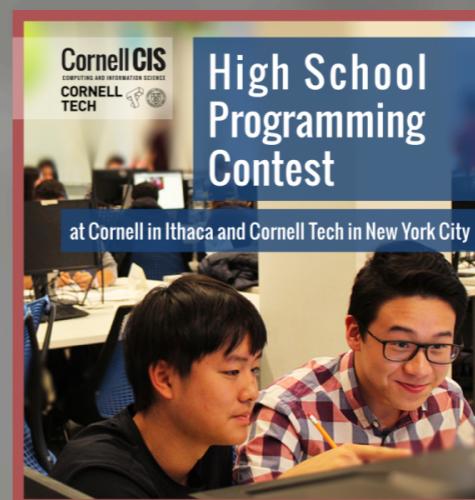


High School Programming Contest Hosted by Cornell CS and Cornell Tech Continues to Grow

As interest in computer science and coding continues to grow nationwide so does the **High School Programming Contest** hosted annually—now in its sixth year—by the Computer Science Department at Cornell University and at Cornell Tech in New York City. Composed of high school students from across the Northeast, more than fifty teams competed simultaneously on the Ithaca and New York City campuses on April 5th.

During this year's contest, as in prior years, teams compete to solve programming problems in a limited time. The team that solves the most problems in the allotted three hours is declared the winner. The challenge is more than mere time management, but also one of strategy and especially programming skill, as each team must decide which problems it can solve most rapidly and effectively.

[Link](#)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CSV19 event with the President of Cornell University

In its nineteenth year, **CSV—Cornell Silicon Valley**—is the premiere engagement event for Cornell University alumni living in the Bay Area. Outside of the New York City metropolitan area, the Bay Area has the highest density of Cornell alumni—with more than fifteen thousand graduates. This year's featured guest was **Martha E. Pollack**, President of Cornell University and Professor of Computer Science, and the Keynote Speaker was **Kavita Bala**, Chair of Cornell's Department of Computer Science. Dean of Computing and Information Science (CIS), **Greg Morrisett** also spoke. Moreover, several members of the CS faculty addressed those gathered as well as prominent alumni, including Amit Singhal (MS CS, '95, Ph.D. CS '97; former Google Fellow and ex-senior Vice President at Google) and Ilya Sukhar (BS CS '07, MEng '09; General Partner at Matrix Partners).

[Link](#)



Cornell Blockchain Conference: The Future and Potential of Cryptocurrencies



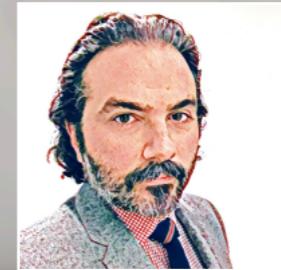
On April 12th, CS and Cornell Tech Professors **Emin Gün Sirer**, **Ari Juels**, and **Elaine Shi**—joined the proceedings of the Cornell Blockchain Conference held at the New York City campus. The event was convened to debate blockchain and “its potential revolutionary impacts on other fields.” The day before the conference began, event organizers rang the bell at Nasdaq (see photo below). Cornell’s own CS and Cornell Tech professors—Ari Juels, Emin Gün Sirer, and Elaine Shi—spoke at the international conference devoted to four key topics: platforms, regulation, security tokens, and lastly, growth and adoption. Several of the speakers are active members of the Initiative for CryptoCurrencies and Contracts (IC3). Also in attendance were Cornell alumni who have founded firms that take part in the cryptocurrency business, including Kathleen Breitman '12, Michelle Gitlitz '98, and Jae Kwon '05.

[Link](#)

NEW STAFF

Welcome from the Director of Administration, Tammy L. Gardner

On behalf of the Computer Science department, it's my pleasure to welcome the latest incoming staff members. Erin, David, Lacey, Sarah, and Stacey bring a wealth of deep experience in administration and other skills that will contribute to our dynamic CS department. We feel lucky to have them on our team and are already benefiting from their dedicated service.



Sarah Winters

Chair's Assistant

Sarah comes to us with eighteen years of Cornell experience working in a number of roles supporting academic departments. She has experience as an Undergraduate Coordinator, Graduate Field Assistant, and Program Coordinator. Her most recent role was with the department of Romance Studies where she held the position of Chair's Assistant for the past four years.

Sarah is working on her B.S. in Business Management from Empire State College. She has an A.A. in Business Administration from Tompkins Cortland Community College.

Erin Hargett

Administrative team in support of the CompSusNet research group

She comes to us with over ten years in the medical field providing support for the disabled, recovery groups, Catholic Charities and most recently St Joseph's Hospital where she was a health home care manager. She even spent a summer working with our very own Johnson School in Alumni Affairs. Through all her roles she has gained valuable people, organizational, problems solving, and leadership skills.

Erin has Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from SUNY Oswego.

Lacey Lucas

Administrative Assistant

Lacy is coming to us with experience working in the medical field as an Access Associate and most recently a Patient Services Representative and Health Information Specialist at Cayuga Medical Associates. Lacy has a great deal of customer service experience and working with confidential records and data.

She has a Bachelors degree in Science, Innovation & Entrepreneurship with a Minor in Project Management and Psychology from Clarkson University.

Stacey Stone

Accounts Representative

Stacey has been at Cornell since 2005. She began her career with Science & Technology Studies (STS) as a General Administrative support person and then Course Coordinator. Since 2014 she simultaneously worked in STS as their Undergraduate Coordinator, Graduate Field Assistant, and Administrative Assistant for Finances. Stacey has a very good understanding of an academic department and brings a wealth of knowledge of processes and systems to her new role.

Stacey has a Bachelors degree in Science in Community Health and Education from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

David LaRocca

Communications Specialist

David focuses on communications for the CS department, including the website, social media, and this newsletter. David works closely with the CIS Communications Director, other comm staff, and the *Cornell Chronicle* to create and amplify news of the CS department's research, teaching, and ongoing initiatives. Moreover, David reaches out to Cornell Engineering and Cornell Tech to emphasize the overlap and integration familiar to the Cornell faculty across disciplines, research areas, and geographic location.

David earned a doctorate in philosophy, taught at colleges and universities, and worked as a photographer, documentary filmmaker, writer, and editor.

For **Staff Contact Information**, please visit [this link](#).

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