Jennifer Brana

PhD Student, Carnegie Mellon University

jbrana@cs.cmu.edu | jenniferbrana.github.io | JenniferBrana | jenniferbrana

Research Interests

I am interested in the intersection of hardware and software systems, particularly in the area of parallel computing and heterogeneous systems. My aim is to increase the scalability and sustainability of future computing systems.

Research areas: computer architecture; computer systems; memory systems; sustainability.

Education

Carnegie Mellon University — *Pittsburgh, PA*

PH.D IN COMPUTER SCIENCE — *Beginning June 2023*

Advisor: NATHAN BECKMANN

University of Portland — *Portland, OR*

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (3.9 GPA), *Cum Laude* — *Aug. 2019 - May 2023*

MINOR IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING.

Publications

Kobold: Simplified Cache Coherence for Cache-Attached Accelerators — *IEEE CAL 2023*

Jennifer Brana, Brian C. Schwedock, Yatin A. Manerkar, Nathan Beckmann — *to appear*

Kobold: Simplified Cache Coherence for Cache-Attached Accelerators — *WDDSA @ MICRO 2022*

Jennifer Brana, Brian C. Schwedock, Yatin A. Manerkar, Nathan Beckmann

Talks and Presentations

Kobold: Simplified Cache Coherence for Cache-Attached Accelerators — *WDDSA @ MICRO, 2 Oct. 2022*

Kobold: Simplified Cache Coherence for Cache-Attached Accelerators — *SRC @ MICRO, 3 Oct. 2022*

Comparison of Computer Architecture Specialization Methods for Performance and Power Efficiency — *University of Portland Founders' Day, 12 April 2022*

Professional Experience

Carnegie Mellon University — *Pittsburgh, PA*

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT — *June 2023 - Present*

- Researching in computer architecture.

Computer Organization Research Group (CORGi) — *Carnegie Mellon University*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT — *May 2022 - Present*

- Research methods to design cache coherence protocols for cache-attached accelerators.

Team Lift — *Portland, OR; Karonga, Malawi*

SENIOR CAPSTONE — *Aug. 2022 - May 2023*

- Deployed a connected network of sensors and computation nodes in an infrastructure-limited environment in Malawi, Africa.

University of Portland — *Portland, OR*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER — *Jan. 2022 - May 2022*

- Investigated CPU specialization methods to increase the performance and efficiency of Viterbi Decoding.
- Simulated processor architecture using gem5 and modeled processor power consumption using McPat.

Intelligent, Complex, Adaptive, and Networks Lab — *University of Portland*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT — *May 2021 - August 2021*

- Researched EEG-based view of comprehension of truth statements to understand how humans process undefined statements.

Honors & Awards

2023 **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship,** GRFP *NSF*

2023 **CS Outstanding Student Award,** For combination of coursework, research, and service. *U of Portland*

2020 **Tau Beta Pi Induction,** National engineering honor society. *U of Portland*

2019-2023 **President's Scholarship** *U of Portland*

2019-2023 **FIRST Robotics Scholarship** *U of Portland*

Service & Leadership

Tau Beta Pi *University of Portland*

Oregon Gamma Chapter President *2021 - 2022*

- Responsible for planning meetings and activities to engage club members ranging from career development to design competitions.

Society of Women Engineers *University of Portland*

Mentor *2020 - 2023*

- Mentored freshman girls in the engineering program.

Tutoring Working Group *University of Portland*

Student Representative *2021*

- Worked with faculty members to redesign the tutoring program for the Shiley School of Engineering following the Covid-19 pandemic to increase freshman and sophomore retention rates.

Teaching

University of Portland

Theory of Computation (CS 357) *Grader, Fall 2022*

Digital Systems Design (EE 332) *Tutor, Spring 2022*

Signals & Systems (EE 262) *Tutor, Spring 2022*

Logic Design (EE 231) *Grader and Tutor, Fall 2021*

Electrical Circuits (EE 261) *Tutor, Fall 2021-Spring 2022*

Electrical Circuits Lab (EE 271) *Lab Assistant, Spring 2021*

Skills

Programming Languages C, C++, Python, Java, Assembly, MATLAB, Haskell, Verilog HDL, LaTeX

Parallel Programming Experience in parallel/GPU computing using CUDA C/C++, OneTBB

Computer Architecture Tools Experience using gem5, SLICC, McPat, Murphi model checker, CACTI, ProtoGen/HieraGen

Other Proficiency with Unix, SSH, Git/Github, Xcode, VSCode. Experience in Agile