

Sara McAllister

PhD Candidate, Carnegie Mellon University

✉ sjmcalli@cs.cmu.edu | 🏠 saramcallister.github.io | 📧 [saramcallister](#) | 🌐 [sara-mcallister](#)

Education

Carnegie Mellon University

PHD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, ADVISORS: NATHAN BECKMANN AND GREG GANGER

Pittsburgh, PA

Aug. 2019 - Present

Harvey Mudd College

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, GRADUATED WITH HIGH DISTINCTION

Claremont, CA

Aug. 2015 - May 2019

Publications

Kangaroo: Caching Billions of Tiny Objects on Flash

SOSP 2021 (Best Paper)

[Sara McAllister](#), Benjamin Berg, Julian Tutuncu-Macias, Juncheng Yang, Sathya Gunasekar, Jimmy Lu, Daniel S. Berger, Nathan Beckmann, Gregory R. Ganger

Acceptance Rate: 16%

External-memory Dictionaries in the Affine and PDAM Models

ACM ToPC

Michael A. Bender, Alex Conway, Martin Farach-Colton, William Jannen, Yizheng Jiao, Rob Johnson, Eric Knorr, [Sara McAllister](#), Nirjhar Mukherjee, Prashant Pandey, Donald E. Porter, Jun Yuan, Yang Zhan

September 2021

The CacheLib Caching Engine: Design and Experiences at Scale

OSDI 2020

Benjamin Berg, Daniel S. Berger, [Sara McAllister](#), Isaac Grosof, Sathya Gunasekar, Jimmy Lu, Michael Uhlar, Jim Carrig, Nathan Beckmann, Mor Harchol-Balter, Gregory R. Ganger

Acceptance Rate: 18%

Small Refinements to DAM Can Have Big Consequences for Data-Structure Design

SPAA 2019

Michael A. Bender, Alexander Conway, Martin Farach-Colton, William Jannen, Yizheng Jiao, Rob Johnson, Eric Knorr, [Sara McAllister](#), Nirjhar Mukherjee, Prashant Pandey, Donald E. Porter, Jun Yuan, Yang Zhan

Acceptance Rate: 40%

Talks and Posters

Kangaroo: Caching Billions of Objects on Flash

Microsoft Research, 22 Nov 2021

Kangaroo: Caching Billions of Objects on Flash

CMU 18-746, 17 Nov 2021

Kangaroo: Caching Billions of Objects on Flash

SOSP, 27 Oct 2021

Building a Stronger, More Just Academic Community Through Mandatory Anti-bias Learning

UPitt Diversity Forum, 28 Jul 2021

Kangaroo: Caching Billions of Objects on Flash

Cache@Scale, 4 Mar 2021

Modeling Parallelism in SSDs

NVMW, Poster, 10 Mar 2019

Measuring Stride Intervals using Wearable Devices for Solo and 3-legged Walking

MSSE, Poster, 2 Jun 2017

Honors & Awards

2021 **Best Paper Award**

SOSP

2021 **Graduate Fellowship**, NDSEG

DoD

2021 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, GRFP (declined)

NSF

2019 **Class of '94 Award**, Outstanding CS graduate in a combination of course work, research, and service

Harvey Mudd

2019 **Departmental Honors**, Computer Science Department

Harvey Mudd

2019 **Clinic Team Award**, Outstanding performance on a team

Harvey Mudd

2019 **Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award**, Honorable Mention

CRA

2019 **Best Malware**, Most creative malware during capture the flag (CTF) competition

Yelp

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant

Carnegie Mellon University

NATHAN BECKMANN AND GREG GANGER

Aug. 2019 - Present

- Researched systems that decrease cost of providing internet services at scale
- Analyzed traces from various caching workloads to identify important commonalities between workloads
- Mentored a masters and an undergraduate student on research project

Undergraduate Research Assistant

UNC Chapel Hill

DON PORTER

May 2018 - Aug. 2018

- Investigated the effects of parallelism in SSDs on data-structure design
- Engineered extended attributes on BetrFS, a write-optimized research file system
- Completed theoretical and experimental analysis of node size's effect on write-optimized dictionaries

Research Assistant

ANNA AHN

- Led analysis of data and comparison of three-legged walking to solo walking
- Constructed and tested an analysis package for gait in Matlab from wearable device data
- Mentored both a high school student on research project

Harvey Mudd College

May, 2016 - Jun. 2017

Industry Experience

Microsoft Research

RESEARCH INTERN WITH DANIEL BERGER

- Researched in-kernel disaggregated memory solutions

Remote

Summer 2021

Yelp

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN

- Designed and implemented a Python library to track and update MySQL users and privileges
- Planned and started gradual roll out system, fully rolled out after internship across production

San Francisco, CA

Summer 2019

Pure Storage

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE COMPUTER SCIENCE CLINIC

- Designed and implemented consistency mechanisms on top of NFS for a two controller environment
- Provided failover protocols for both VM and controller failure
- Technical lead on team of 4 in the areas of file systems and network partitioning solutions

Claremont, CA

Aug. 2018 - May 2019

Facebook

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN

- Developed and tested a Python library to restart and repair development servers
- Created a React and Hack PHP user interface to receive and store user inputs

Menlo Park, CA

Summer 2017

Service and Outreach

PhD Admissions Committee - Systems Area

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Carnegie Mellon University

2021 - 2022

Inclusivity Initiatives

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, PhD PROGRAM

- Spearheaded grass-roots development of inclusivity initiatives with 2 other PhD students
- Developed mandatory course about diversity, equity, and inclusivity for incoming CMU CSD PhD students
- Created report with student experiences and 8 concrete action items to improve diverse student experience within department

Carnegie Mellon University

July 2020 - Spring 2022

Faculty Search - Student Committee

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Harvey Mudd College

Spring 2019

Science Bus

VOLUNTEER AND TREASURER (APRIL 2016 - MAY 2017)

- Instructed 4th and 5th graders in hands-on science activities at local underserved elementary schools
- Managed about \$3000 of grant money to ensure funding for supplies through entire year

Harvey Mudd College

Aug. 2015 - May 2018

STEAM:coders

SITE COORDINATOR AND VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR

- Led fun activities for 25 middle-school aged students while students learned basic computer science concepts
- Helped students create Scratch projects
- Coordinated parent contact including sign-in/out, admittance into program, and make-up work reminders

Harvey Mudd College

Summer 2016

Teaching Experience

2022	15-418/618 Spring , Parallel Computer Architecture and Programming, TA	CMU
2021	15-996 Spring , Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Computer Science and Society, Course Co-Creator and TA	CMU
2019	CS 131 Spring , Programming Languages, Grader and Tutor	Harvey Mudd
2018	CS 105 Spring and Fall , Introduction to Computer Systems, Grader and Tutor	Harvey Mudd
2017	CS 70 Fall , Data Structures and Programming Development, Grader and Tutor	Harvey Mudd
2017	CS 60 Spring , Principles of Computer Science, Grader and Tutor	Harvey Mudd
2016	CS 5 Green Fall , Introduction to Biology and Computer Science, Grader and Tutor	Harvey Mudd
2016	CS For All , Introduction to CS on edX, Content development and production assistant	Harvey Mudd