



Department of Computer Science Master's Programs Newsletter

Fall 2015

A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies...

To our new students, welcome to the department and to our returning students, welcome back! As much as summer is enjoyable, there is something about the start of the school year that brings excitement (and, soon, cooler weather). I hope you will find your classes this semester to be fascinating, enjoyable and, yes, challenging. Once you have taken the required courses in the program, I hope you will branch out and take courses in areas that you've never studied before.

If you enjoy the practical areas of computer science, take a theory class! If theory is what you're here to study, learn about computer systems as well. Part of the joy of being in school, and especially in our MS program, is having the flexibility to delve into a diverse set of technical topics. Such flexibility is rarely found in the working world, so take advantage while you can! If you have any questions about the program, we are very lucky to have a wonderful pair of advisors, Jen Darlington and Katie Laugel. Also, please feel free to make an appointment to speak with me -- I enjoy meeting as many of our students as possible.

Finally, to our alumni: I hope you will come back for our alumni events, which are announced elsewhere in this newsletter. These events are great opportunities to meet current students whom you may want to recruit and to meet other alumni whom you may find to be valuable resources for your own career. Have a great semester!

- Benjamin Goldberg

NYU Student Resource Center

The NYU Student Resource Center is designed to help answer students' questions and to provide information about NYU and New York City. They are a valuable resource to help students navigate university resources and services, as well as to provide academic referrals and to help students find ways to get connected and stay informed at NYU.

The Student Resource Center produces several NYU traditions, such as [Welcome Week](#), [Breakfast for Dinner](#), [Back to the Square](#), [Spring at the Square](#), and [Commuter Appreciation Week](#).

They want to help students make the most out of their NYU experience so be sure to utilize them. You can visit their office to ask questions or to get involved. Their office is in the Kimmel Center, Suite 210. They are open Mondays through Thursdays from 9am-9pm and Fridays from 9am-5pm. You can also call them at (212) 998-4411. Be sure to put their resources to good use!

GSAS 2015 Fall Soiree

Join the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) Master's College, the Master's College Program Board and the Master's College Alumni Association as they raise a glass to the new academic year. Overlooking Washington Square Park and the Empire State Building, enjoy a wine and cheese soiree with students from across the Graduate School. This is a great opportunity to not only spend time with your friends in the department, but also to make new friends with those from other disciplines.

The event takes place at:
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center
60 Washington Square South
Friday, September 18th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

To RSVP, send an email to gsas.masterscollege.rsvp@nyu.edu with your name and the name of this event.



NYU Wasserman

The Center for Career Development

The Wasserman Center for Career Development offers a wide variety of services and events to help students with their professional development and career placement. Students are encouraged to start utilizing the services at Wasserman as soon as possible. The events below are especially well-suited for our graduate students. All events take place at the Wasserman Center for Career Development (133 E. 13th St., 2nd Floor), unless otherwise noted.

Acting the Case Interview Grad Edition: Tech Consulting: Wednesday, October 7th, 4:30pm - 6pm. *Wasserman Center- Brooklyn location.* Are you interested in tech consulting? Learn more about the case interview process, the kinds of questions that will be asked and how best to prepare. This session will be facilitated by a guest speaker.

Alumni/Grad Networking Event/Reception: Thursday, October 8th, 6pm - 8pm. A panel event with NYU alumni sharing both their experiences and "best practices" for career development and the career transition process for graduate students interested in changing careers, as well as career advancement. A networking reception will follow.

Grad Networking Breakfast: Technology: Thursday, November 3rd, 9am -11am. This event will be a great opportunity for graduate students to meet and network with each other and employers representing a variety of technology companies. A light breakfast will be served.

Career Fairs

Fall Job and Internship Job Fair: Thursday, September 10th, 11am -3pm *Kimmel Center*

Engineering & Technology Fall Fair: Thursday and Friday, September 17th and 18th, 11am-3pm *Wasserman Center- Brooklyn Location*



Faculty Spotlight: Randy Shepherd



The Department of Computer Science is happy to welcome Randy Shepherd as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Computer Science. Not only is Randy a member of the faculty, but also he is an alumnus of NYU, receiving his M.S. in Computer Science from the NYU in 2012. Randy is also an alumnus of Boston University, where he received his B.A.

With a 15-year long career developing software across a variety of industries, such as gaming, finance, advertising and media, Randy brings a great deal of experience with him into the classroom. He has worked in a variety of types of companies, ranging from very small start-ups to international corporations. He also previously worked as an adjunct instructor at NYU in a part-time capacity.

Randy's research interests include software engineering, agile and lean start-up methodology, functional programming (specifically Scala) and computer science education and teaching methods. One of his interest areas is managing complexity in large software projects. Most recently he has dealt with functional programming, which from his firsthand experience is a powerful tool when battling the complexity of large systems.

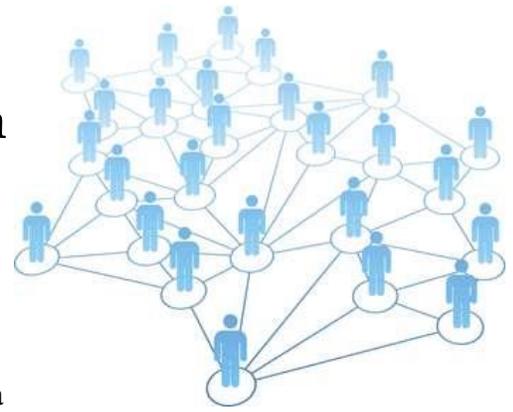
Randy is also an organizer of the NY Scala Meetup, which boasts hundreds of members. If you are interested in giving a talk on FP or Scala, please contact him. He would like to help connect practitioners and academics here at NYU and in NYC. You can contact Randy at shepherd@cs.nyu.edu.

Enjoying teaching, Randy finds it rewarding to work with novices and experienced students alike. He hopes to help students navigate the computer science field and the industry associated with it. As students choose courses, make career decisions, look for internships, interview, review job offers, etc., he can serve as a valuable resource. He has a lot of experience with hiring and running engineering internship programs. He is also connected with the start-up community in New York City. He can give students valuable insight and is eager to help so be sure to utilize this amazing resource!

The Computer Science Master's Programs at The Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

<http://cs.nyu.edu/web/Academic/Graduate/index.html#MS>

MSCS & MSIS Alumni Networking Event & Panel Discussion



The Department of Computer Science is partnering with MACS (Master's Association of Computer Science) to hold our annual Department of Computer Science MSCS & MSIS Alumni Networking Event and Panel Discussion. The event will be held on Friday, November 6th from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the 13th Floor Lounge of Warren Weaver Hall.

We invite all of our MSCS and MSIS alumni to attend this event. It will be a great opportunity to network with fellow alumni, as well as to share some guidance and perspective to current students. If you are interested in participating in the panel discussion, please e-mail Katie Laugel at laugel@cs.nyu.edu or Jennifer Conlan Darlington at darlington@cs.nyu.edu.

Not all of our alumni are on our department alumni mailing list so we ask that alumni please share the details of this event with fellow alumni. If you know of alumni who would like to be added to our mailing list, please tell them to e-mail Jennifer.

All current MSCS and MSIS students are invited to attend this event to mingle with our MSCS & MSIS alumni. Our alumni will be there to provide guidance and share their experiences after graduation. We encourage students to prepare some questions for the Q & A panel.

Refreshments will be served.

HELLO
my name is

I'm Afraid
of Networking!!

Top Tips for Successful Networking

1. **Embrace it Early**- Ideally, it is best to have a network of contacts within one's industry of interest when beginning an internship or job search, so start getting to know people in your field as early as possible. Focus on gathering information about their job, company or industry, rather than on actual job opportunities.
2. **Stay Strategic (and organized)**- One of the keys to successful networking is having a plan. Think about whom you would like to meet and what you would like to gain from these conversations. Do you have a particular industry you would like to learn more about or a dream company for your first internship? Create a target list and focus on identifying people to connect with who make sense for your individual goals and strategy.
3. **Begin Basic**- Networking can start extremely simple: family, friends, professors, classmates, former colleagues. This is where having a target list comes in handy. Let your contacts know who it is you are looking to meet and see how they can help. You might be surprised by how many new connections you can gain using those you already know!
4. **Lear to Love LinkedIn**- LinkedIn is a key partner in your networking journey. Use it to identify people you would like to connect with who you can't find through your existing network. Don't underestimate the power of the NYU Alumni Network. Be sure to use the "Find Alumni" tool, where you can search for alumni by area of study, company, position, geographical area and more!
5. **Frequent Follow Up**- Networking is not a moment in time. In order to make the most of a positive conversation or exchange, it is important to stay connected. Letting someone know how the advice given was helpful, sharing relevant articles or using LinkedIn to stay aware of and acknowledge career milestones are all great ways to stay in touch

For more information on networking, check out the Wasserman Center for Graduate Career Development's Networking 101 for Graduate Students seminar, offered regularly throughout the semester. Dates and times are available on Careernet.



Graduate Student Reception

The Computer Science Department cordially invites our master's and PhD students, alumni, faculty and staff to the Fall 2015 Computer Science Graduate Student Reception. The reception will be held on Wednesday, September 16th from 5:30pm until 7:30pm in the 13th floor lounge of Warren Weaver Hall. It will be a wonderful opportunity to mingle with students, alumni, faculty and staff in the Computer Science Department. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to join us for this festive kick off to the fall semester!

Did you know...

that NYU's Graduate Student Life, at the Student Resource Center, distributes a biweekly newsletter for all graduate students. The newsletter is designed to let graduate students know what's happening on campus and around the city.

If you would like to receive the Graduate Student Life newsletter, e-mail src.grads@nyu.edu with your full name and e-mail address.

You can also visit their [events and programs page](#) for a full list of Graduate Student Life offerings.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS!

Congratulations to the 2015 graduates! The department wishes you the best in your future endeavors and hopes you will keep in touch with the department, Courant and NYU. If you haven't already, please fill out the [Courant Exit Survey](#). We value your thoughts! Also, filling out the survey will add you to our departmental mailing list, used to invite alumni to upcoming departmental events. The department, especially the current students, loves to see alumni at our events!

We would also like to congratulate the following students on their achievements.

- ❖ Jose Cambroner, Prasoon Goyal, Yunzhe Jia and Zi Wang were awarded a 2015 M.S. Thesis/Research Fellowship.
- ❖ Crystal Butler and Stephanie Michalowicz were awarded a 2015 M.S. Innovation Fellowship.
- ❖ Ye Ji was named the 2015 NYU Courant Institute Hedwig Kurzbart Master's Fellow.
- ❖ Christopher Rohlf's was named the 2015 NYU Courant Institute M. Michael Waller Master's Fellow.
- ❖ Katherine Erickson was named the 2015 NYU Courant Institute Joann and Stanley Benson Master's Fellow.
- ❖ Arpit Jain, Yiwei Li and Miaomin Zhu received a 2015 M.S. in Computer Science Fellowship.
- ❖ Tarang Dawer, Abhishek Jathan and Haoran Jia received a 2015 M.S. in Information Systems Fellowship.
- ❖ Weihang Kong was awarded the 2014-2015 Master's Thesis Prize.
- ❖ Yunzhe Jia was awarded the 2014-2015 Matthew Smosna Prize.
- ❖ Andrei Petrut Dinu-Ionita and Xiaocong Wang were awarded the 2014-2015 Master's Innovation Prize.
- ❖ Stephanie Michalowicz, Martha Eleanor Poole, Deepti Verma and Qinhua Yan were selected as participants for the 2015 Grace Hopper Conference.



MACS Update

The Master's Association of Computer Science (MACS) works to enhance the community for master's students in the Department of Computer Science. They do this through professional development, networking, interdisciplinary interactions and social events. Examples of past events include company visits, panel discussions and happy hours. They are already busy on working on some great events for Fall 2015.

MACS will be looking for new officers to join the board. If you are interested in getting involved, be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming information regarding elections. They will also be having a logo contest. Details regarding that will be sent out soon as well.

If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for the [MACS Mailing List](#). Also, you can join the MACS Facebook group, as well as visit their [website](#) for new information and upcoming events. If you have event ideas, concerns with schoolwork or career development or anything else, email them at macs@cs.nyu.edu.



The Computer Science Master's Programs at The Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

<http://cs.nyu.edu/web/Academic/Graduate/index.html#MS>

Comments or suggestions for this newsletter can be addressed to Jennifer Conlan Darlington at darlington@cs.nyu.edu