



Department of Computer Science Master's Programs Newsletter

Fall 2012

Message from the DGS, Professor Chee Yap

On behalf of the Computer Science Department, I want to extend a warm welcome to our incoming class of Master's students. Like you, I am also incoming as your Director of Graduate Studies. I am taking over from Professor Ben Goldberg, who is taking a well-deserved research sabbatical.

As your DGS, I want to hear your ideas and feedback: how can we better serve you? I invite you to freely drop in during my office hours in Warren Weaver Hall, room 301 on Mondays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm to chat on any topic on your mind.

Let me bring your attention to our department-funded student organization, [Master's Association for Computer Science](#) (MACS). It is dedicated to building a vibrant student community in your midst. Take a look at some past events (<http://cs.nyu.edu/~macsweb/past-events/>): socials, Tech Events, alumni night, visits to local companies, networking events, startup activities, etc. But future events are yours to imagine. Become involved in MACS, run for its offices, suggest and help organize your favorite events. I will be 100% behind you in this endeavor.



Congratulations to our Students



The department would like to congratulate the following master's students on their achievements.

- Wenhui Chen was named the 2011-2012 Joann and Stanley Benson Master's Fellow.
 - Brandon Reiss was named the 2011-2012 Hedwig Kurzbart Master's Fellow.
 - Gordon Woodhull was named the 2011-2012 M. Michael Waller Master's Fellow.
 - These fellowships are awarded for outstanding performance in the Master's program.
 - Erica Wolfe was awarded an NYU President's Service Award for her work as President of both the Graduate Student Government and the Masters Association for Computer Science (MACS).
 - Paul Gazzillo and Matthew Rathbone were awarded the 2012 Matthew Smosna Prize.
 - The Matthew Smosna Prize is given each year to the master's student(s) with the highest level of academic achievement.
 - Merve Keles, Aye Sandar Moe, Elena Petrashen, "Athena" Lin Shi and Suzanne Zopf were selected as participants for the 2011 Grace Hopper Conference.
 - The department congratulates all of our recent graduates and wishes them success in all of their future endeavors.
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The Computer Science Master's Programs at The Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

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

Let's Talk...English Conversation Groups for International Graduate Students

Many of our master's students participate in off-campus internships. At the end of those internships, we ask supervisors to provide feedback on the students' performance, their strengths and their areas for improvement. Consistently, the most noted area that students need to improve on is their communication skills. To succeed professionally, you not only need to have the right answer, but also the ability to convey it! We encourage students to work on their communication skills. Whether it's during an interview or in the workplace, the results of such work will reap benefits. If you are interested in improving your English conversation skills, NYU's English Conversation Groups for International Graduate Students provide a perfect opportunity to do so in an informal group setting, while meeting new people.

- Groups will be facilitated by NYU faculty or staff who are native English speakers
- Individual groups will meet once a week throughout the semester
- You may attend one group or as many sessions as your schedule allows
- Sessions are free and open to all NYU graduate students
- Please arrive on time

Fall 2012 Sessions are offered weekly from September 10th through November 15th. The schedule is as follows:

Mondays

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Palladium Hall, Seminar Room B
140 East 14th Street, 3rd Floor

Tuesdays

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Kimmel, LGBTQ Student Center Lounge
60 Washington Square South, Suite 602

Thursdays

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hayden Hall Library
33 Washington Square West, 2nd Floor



Fall 2012 Showcase

Mark your calendar! Join the Computer Science Department at an event showcasing projects that have been completed in various computer science graduate and undergraduate courses from the fall 2012 semester. The showcase will take place on Wednesday, December 12th from 5:00pm – 8:00 pm in the 13th floor lounge of Warren Weaver Hall. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the creativity and industry of NYU's Computer Science Department.



Graduate Reception

The Computer Science Graduate Student Reception will be held on Thursday, September 27th from 5:30 pm 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 CS Department. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to join us for this festive kick off to the fall semester!



Faculty Spotlight: Mohamed Zahran



In this issue, we will highlight a recent addition to our clinical faculty, Dr. Mohamed Zahran, who likes to go by "Z". He has always been in academia and likes to be among students, both graduate and undergraduate. He loves research and teaching equally and thinks that they have to be connected.

Z's field of expertise is the interaction of hardware and software. He wants to write software that is efficient, secure, reliable, and power efficient. This requires proper integration with the underlying hardware. He brings this expertise to the classroom, which he feels also feeds back into his research. What he cares about most is teaching students and how to think and acquire knowledge. He notes that the specific knowledge students gain in class may be obsolete in few years. However, the ability to think critically and the skills needed to acquire new knowledge are what stay with students. He takes great pride in helping be a part of that critical development.

Z has a PhD in computer architecture from the University of Maryland at College Park. He served as a faculty member at City University of New York before coming to NYU. In addition to his previously stated research interests, he is also interested in the history of science, chess, and self-development practices. If you are interested in research, teaching, or would simply like to have a technical chat, he invites you to stop by his office, Warren Weaver Hall room 320.



Are you ready to get whipped into professional shape? If so, make sure you sign up for the Wasserman Center for Career Development's Career Boot Camp. It is a one day on-campus conference, which will focus on all the tools you need to successfully transition from academia to working life. Hear from experts about career dos and don'ts, networking strategies and successfully navigating real-world workplace situations. The event takes place on Friday, November 2nd. If interested, apply through NYU CareerNet (Job ID # 862478). The application deadline to apply is October 5th. Space is limited so be sure to apply early. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to meet with employers from prestigious companies, such as Morgan Stanley, Ernst & Young, Teach for America and more!

GSAS Master's College

The GSAS Master's College was founded in 2007 as an innovative initiative in higher education, focusing on NYU's commitment and dedication to master's education and students. The Master's College provides access to information, advisement and resources for current and prospective master's students. The goal is to help students grow in their scholarly, professional and personal lives.

Throughout the year they host a variety of events, including career planning seminars, grant writing workshops and social events. These events provide a great opportunity to enhance one's development, while meeting colleagues from other departments. You can refer to their [website](#) for their upcoming events. Events are planned by the Master's College Program Board, a group of current master's students from various departments. If you are interested in joining the Program Board, please contact the Master's College.

Introducing: Katie Hughes

The Computer Science Department is pleased to announce that Katie Hughes has joined the department as a Program Administrator for our graduate programs. Katie will be serving as the primary advisor for all MSIS students in the program and all incoming MSCS and non-degree students with last names that begin with letters A-D.

Katie received her BA in English from SUNY New Paltz and her Master of Library Science from CUNY Queens College. Katie previously worked at Hunter College in the department of Special Education Alternative Certification Programs.

Katie's office is in Warren Weaver Hall room 326. She can be reached at hughes@cs.nyu.edu or at (212) 998-3061. Please join us in welcoming Katie to the department!



Reminder: Engaging with the Faculty

In the American educational system, students are highly encouraged to talk to their professors. Engaging with the faculty will help foster student learning and enhance students' ability to master the class material. To get the most out of the courses, it is vital for students to take an active role and to engage with their instructors.

If a student is having difficulty in a course or has a question, the student should speak to the instructor of the course. The faculty are here to help and are eager to work with students to enhance their knowledge. Do not hesitate to reach out to your instructors. It is not considered rude or inappropriate to explain to an instructor that you do not understand something. They would much rather hear that and help you understand the material than for students to be silent and not learn.

All instructors hold [office hours](#) during the week. Take advantage of these opportunities to meet with the instructors to get extra assistance. Sometimes students wait until the week of finals to reach out for help. Often, it is too late at that time. As soon as you are having a problem or have a question, reach out.

Wasserman Professional Skills Series for International Students

Often, international students find it a struggle to understand how the American hiring process works. The Wasserman Center for Career Development offers a wide range of programs for international students to assist them in navigating the American job market. Below is a sampling of some of their upcoming events. Students are encouraged to utilize these free services to gain a competitive advantage in their job search. Space is limited so be sure to RSVP through NYU CareerNet immediately.

- ❖ How to Write a U.S. Resume and Cover Letter: Monday, October 8th 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- ❖ Getting the Job: Job Search Techniques that Work: Tuesday, October 9th 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- ❖ How to Stand Out in the U.S. Job Market: Wednesday, October 10th 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- ❖ Marketing Your International Education for Your Job Search: Thursday, October 11th 12:30pm - 1:30 pm
- ❖ Interviewing for U.S. Positions: Friday, October 12th 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- ❖ Introduction to Career Services for International Students: Tuesday, October 16th 12:30pm – 1:30pm

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 conlan@cs.nyu.edu