Angryk Joins Department
Dr. Rafal Angryk joined the Department of Computer Science in August 2013 as an associate professor. He was previously an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science at Montana State University, where he founded and directed MSU’s Data Mining Laboratory.

A native of Poland, Dr. Angryk earned an M.A. in business management from the University of Szczecin (1999) and an M.S. in computer science from the Technical University of Szczecin (2002), now known as the West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin. He received the Ph.D. degree in computer science from Tulane University in 2004.

Dr. Angryk has published over 80 journal articles, book chapters, and peer-reviewed conference papers. His research interests include big data analytics, data mining, database systems, machine learning, and information retrieval. In recent years, much of Dr. Angryk’s work has involved analyzing repositories of solar data. His research has been primarily funded by NASA, with additional funding from the National Science Foundation, RightNow Technologies (later acquired by Oracle), and Intergraph. In 2014, he was the co-recipient of a $1.5 million NSF grant, along with professor Petrus (Piet) Martens, formerly of Montana State and now a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Georgia State.

Dr. Angryk was one of 11 distinguished researchers who joined Georgia State in 2013 as part of GSU’s Second Century Initiative (2CI). The goal of 2CI is to build nationally and/or internationally recognized scholarly strength and critical mass around common research themes in order to enhance the university’s overall quality, interdisciplinary richness, and competitiveness. At least 100 faculty members are expected to be hired with 2CI funds over a five-year period.

Because of his experience with mining solar data, Dr. Angryk was one of two faculty members hired in 2013 for 2CI’s Stellar Astrophysics and Astroinformatics research cluster. (Associate Professor Sebastien Lepine of Physics and Astronomy was the other.) Dr. Martens, who has collaborated with Dr. Angryk for years, joined the cluster in 2014. The goal of this group is to learn more about stars in their environments using tools such as Georgia State’s Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy Array.

CONTENTS
1 Angryk Joins Department
1 Pan Named Interim Associate Dean and Chair of Biology
2 Chair’s Message
3 Shrestha Wins Digital Humanities 2013 Travel Award
3 Pan Documentary Available on YouTube
3 Puri Receives TCPP Travel Grant to Attend IPDPS
3 Yechuri Wins Second Place in Mobile App Competition
4 Zhu and Owen Win NSF Grant
4 Recent Ph.D. Graduates
4 Song Receives Amazon Web Services Research Grant
4 Faculty Win NSF Collaborative Research Grants
4 Cao Elected Secretary of Optical Networking Committee
5 Weeks Featured in GSU Magazine
5 Department Welcomes Visitors
5 Recent Departmental Colloquia
6 Bourgeois Wins NSF Grant
6 Ou Leaves Department for New Job
6 Prasad Named ACM Distinguished Scientist
6 Pan Participates in Accelerated Leadership Academy
7 Cai Is Program Co-Chair for IPCC 2013
7 Department Moves to 25 Park Place
8 CS Majors Win Third Place in AT&T Coding Challenge
8 Li Delivers Keynote at IIKI 2013
8 Hu Receives Dissertation Grant
Chair’s Message
We have a great deal of significant news in this issue of Pointers, starting with the fact that I’m writing the Chair’s Message instead of Dr. Yi Pan, who had been chair of our department since 2005. In late 2013, Dr. Pan was named Interim Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences as well as Interim Chair of Biology. I am currently serving as the Acting Chair of Computer Science.

Another important story is the arrival of a new associate professor, Rafal Angryk. Dr. Angryk is the first computer science faculty member to be hired under Georgia State’s Second Century Initiative. His expertise in big data will be an asset to our program, and he has already begun to win major grants. We welcome him to the department and wish him many happy years at GSU.

At the same time we gained a new faculty member, we lost a key staff member, Shaochieh Ou, who had been our system administrator for 13 years. We thank him for all his years of devoted service to our department, and we wish him well in his new position in the School of Public Health.

In August, our department completed its move to the 6th and 7th floors of 25 Park Place, formerly known as the SunTrust Building. On page 7, you can find photos of our new home. We are very happy to be located in a modern building with significantly more space. 25 Park Place is located on the east side of Woodruff Park, with a stop for the new Atlanta Streetcar directly in front of the main entrance. If you’re in the area, please stop by and say hello!

As you’ll notice in this issue, our students—both graduate and undergraduate—continue to win awards. They are also much in demand with top employers. In 2013, we accomplished a major feat when four of our students (Xiao Chen, Yueming Duan, Guangming Wang, and Zhiyi Wang) joined Amazon after finishing their graduate studies.

Finally, I would like to mention that we are trying to fill two faculty positions. Please see the announcement on page 3 and help us spread the word. As our department continues to grow and improve, hiring top-notch faculty is paramount.

We Need Your Help
These are exciting times in the Department of Computer Science. Our program is rapidly expanding. We are hiring nationally-recognized scholars who conduct state-of-the-art research, and we are attracting the best students from around the world. Your generous donation will help us continue to improve in the years ahead. For information about giving to the department, please visit www.cs.gsu.edu/?q=alumni. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. To ensure that your donation reaches us, please designate that it go to “Computer Science.”
Shrestha Wins Digital Humanities 2013 Travel Award

Ph.D. student Ayush Shrestha won a travel award worth £500 to attend Digital Humanities 2013 (DH2013), which was held on July 16–19 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Shrestha was a co-presenter of the paper “Digging into Human Rights Violations: Phrase Mining and Trigram Visualization,” which he authored with Ben Miller (an assistant professor in Georgia State’s Department of English), Fuxin Li (a research scientist in Georgia Tech’s School of Interactive Computing), and Karthikeyan Umapathy (an associate professor in the University of North Florida’s School of Computing). Associate professor Ying Zhu is Mr. Shrestha’s Ph.D. advisor.

Pan Documentary Available on YouTube

A Chinese documentary about professor Yi Pan is available on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=DmOqWoLSlkU). The documentary was shot over a five-day period in 2011 and later broadcast in China’s Jiangsu province, where Dr. Pan grew up.

The documentary spans Dr. Pan’s career, from his student days at Tsinghua University and the University of Pittsburgh to his time as a faculty member at the University of Dayton and at Georgia State, where he has served since 2000. It also discusses his work with Chinese community organizations and his interest in poetry.

Several GSU computer science faculty members and students are interviewed in the documentary, including professor WenZhan Song and professor emeritus G. Scott Owen.

Dr. Pan was chair of the Department of Computer Science at the time the documentary was created. He is currently serving as interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and interim chair of the Department of Biology.

Puri Receives TCPP Travel Grant to Attend IPDPS

Ph.D. student Satish Puri was awarded a $1,000 travel grant to attend the 27th IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS 2013), which was held in Boston on May 20–24, 2013. He also received travel support from Georgia State’s Brains and Behavior program.

Mr. Puri gave a presentation on “Efficient Parallel and Distributed Algorithms for GIS Polygonal Overlay Processing” at the conference’s Ph.D. forum. He also presented “MapReduce Algorithms for GIS Polygon Overlay Processing” at the High-Performance Grid and Cloud Computing Workshop, which was held in conjunction with IPDPS. The workshop paper was co-authored with Ph.D. students Dinesh Agarwal and Xi He along with professor Sushil Prasad, Mr. Puri’s Ph.D. advisor.

IPDPS is the flagship conference of the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Parallel Processing (TCPP). It is held annually at locations around the world, with an average attendance of about 600.

TCPP awarded a limited number of travel grants to student authors of papers in the IPDPS 2013 conference, workshops, and Ph.D. forum. Funding for the grants was provided by the National Science Foundation.

Yechuri Wins Second Place in Mobile App Competition

M.S. student Priyanka Tejaswi Yechuri has won second place in the Charleston Defense Contractors Association (CDCA) 3rd Annual Mobile Application Development Competition. The competition was conducted in conjunction with CDCA’s annual C5ISR Government and Industry Partnership Summit, which was held in Charleston, South Carolina, on November 12–15, 2013.

Ms. Yechuri received $1,000 for her second-place finish. A check for $500 was also presented to Georgia State to be used for STEM education. Associate professor Ying Zhu was Ms. Yechuri’s advisor for the project.

The competition was open to high school and full-time college students (undergraduate or graduate). Students were asked to submit safety, quality of life, or financial apps running on iOS, Android, Blackberry OS, or Windows Mobile devices. They were also required to make a one-minute video that described the functions of their app and showed how to use it. Judges tested the apps on smartphones provided by Verizon Wireless. Scoring was based on complexity of technology components, marketability, video, value to customer, and ease of use.

The Charleston Defense Contractors Association was formed in 2002 as an advocacy group for the Charleston defense industry. It serves as a liaison with government agencies and elected officials, works to improve business opportunities, and fosters interaction among local defense contractors.

Digital Humanities

Digital Humanities is the annual international conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO), which promotes and supports digital research and teaching in arts and humanities disciplines. ADHO granted a small number of travel awards to promising students and young scholars who had a submission accepted for presentation at DH2013.

DH2013 was hosted by the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Faculty Positions Available

The Department of Computer Science is seeking to fill two faculty positions. One position is for a lecturer to teach a variety of undergraduate courses. This position requires a Ph.D. and will start in January 2015.

The other position, which will start in August 2015, is for a tenure-track faculty member who can perform research in the interdisciplinary area of transcultural conflict and violence. Applicants should specialize in fields such as visual analytics, semantic image processing, semantic web data mining, natural language processing, and multimedia database management. The faculty rank is open, but the successful candidate must have an established track record of securing external funds.

Funding for the second position will be provided by Georgia State’s Second Century Initiative (2CI). The goal of 2CI is to build nationally and/or internationally recognized scholarly strength and critical mass around common research themes in order to enhance the university’s overall quality, interdisciplinary richness, and competitiveness. At least 100 faculty members are expected to be hired with 2CI funds over a five-year period.

For details about these positions, visit cs.gsu.edu/?q=faculty_positions.
Zhu and Owen Win NSF Grant

Two computer science faculty members have won a $174,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Associate professor Ying Zhu is the principal investigator for the grant, and professor emeritus G. Scott Owen is the co-principal investigator. Funding for the grant came from NSF’s Division of Undergraduate Education, which is part of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

Dr. Zhu and Dr. Owen will use the three-year grant to develop educational materials that will help undergraduate computer science students improve their debugging skill in GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) programming. GPU programming is an important part of multi-core parallel programming, but it requires learning special programming languages and new debugging skills.

The project involves four steps: (1) collecting and analyzing common mistakes made by novice GPU programmers; (2) developing teaching materials such as debugging checklists, tutorials, and exercises; (3) evaluating these materials in parallel and distributed computing courses and computer graphics courses; and (4) sharing the materials online with students and instructors.

Song Receives Amazon Web Services Research Grant

Professor WenZhan Song has received a $5,000 research grant from the Amazon Web Services in Education program. The funding is in the form of credit that can be applied to Amazon Web Services (AWS) charges over a two-year period.

Dr. Song is using the grant to develop cloud-based smart grid emulators for an NSF-funded joint project with researchers from Cornell and the University of California, Berkeley. The multidisciplinary research team is studying foundational issues related to the development of smart grids.

Amazon Web Services is Amazon.com’s cloud computing platform. AWS services include Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud), which provides scalable virtual private servers, and Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service), which provides Web-Service-based storage. The AWS in Education program allows educators, academic researchers, and students to apply for free AWS usage credits. Award recipients are chosen four times a year.

Applications for research grants are judged on the uniqueness and usefulness of the project, the use of AWS within the project, and the potential to attain matching funds from other organizations.

Faculty Win NSF Collaborative Research Grants

Professor Yi Pan, along with several other computer science faculty members, has been awarded two collaborative research grants by the National Science Foundation.

One grant, which runs for three years, provides $60,000 for the development of laboratory work that will introduce students to security threats on mobile devices and let them practice implementing protection solutions. Dr. Pan is the principal investigator, with professor Yanqing Zhang and associate professor Michael Weeks as co-principal investigators. The work will be done in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati, which also received an NSF grant. Both grants were funded by NSF’s Division of Undergraduate Education.

The second grant, which is also for three years, is valued at $153,000. Dr. Pan is the principal investigator for this grant as well, with professor WenZhan Song serving as co-principal investigator. The grant will fund the construction of an integrated simulation environment that will let students learn techniques for protecting the cyber-security of the smart grid. Additional NSF grants were awarded to researchers from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Texas A&M University, who will collaborate with Dr. Pan and Dr. Song. Funding for the project comes from NSF’s Division of Graduate Education.

Cao Elected Secretary of Optical Networking Committee

Associate Professor Xiaojun Cao has been elected secretary of the IEEE Communications Society’s Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC). He was one of four nominees for the position. Dr. Cao will serve as secretary for two years alongside the new chair (Dr. Admela Jukan) and vice chair (Dr. George Rouskas). He will then be promoted to vice chair for two years and then to chair for two more years.

ONTC is one of 23 technical committees organized by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc). One of ONTC’s responsibilities is to organize optical networking symposia, workshops, sessions, and tutorials at major networking conferences such as the IEEE International Conference on Communications, IEEE GLOBECOM, and OFC (Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exposition). ONTC also assists ComSoc with journal and magazine publications, including online publications at the ComSoc portal. Finally, ONTC
works with groups that develop standards for optical networking.

ComSoc has existed as an independent society of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) since 1972. With over 8,800 members, ComSoc is the premier international forum for the exchange of ideas on communications technologies and information networking. IEEE is the world’s largest technical professional association, with 425,000 members in 160 countries.

Weeks Featured in GSU Magazine

Associate professor Michael Weeks and one of his students, Djuan Blue, were recently featured in an article in Georgia State University Magazine. The article, titled “Beer Automated,” was about a project done by Blue, an undergraduate computer science major. William Inman wrote the story, which appears on page 12 of the Fall 2013 issue.

Blue built a system that automates the process of homebrewing beer using an Arduino-based embedded system controlled by an Android application. Dr. Weeks got the idea for the project while brewing a batch of beer at home and suggested it to Blue, who had previously taken his embedded systems class.

Blue graduated from Georgia State in 2013 and is now an associate software developer at General Motors. He presented his homebrewing project at the seventh annual Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference, a showcase for scholarly and creative projects produced by Georgia State undergraduates.

Department Welcomes Visitors

The Department of Computer Science hosted nine visiting scholars and Ph.D. students during the 2013–2014 academic year.

- **Siyao Cheng.** Ms. Cheng is a postdoctoral fellow with a Ph.D. from the School of Computer Science and Technology at Harbin Institute of Technology in China. Her research areas include sensor networks, the Internet of Things, and computation and management algorithms for big data. During her visit, which lasted from August 2013 to August 2014, she collaborated with Dr. Zhipeng Cai on approximate computation algorithms for big sensory data. Dr. Cheng was supported by a grant awarded to Dr. Cai.

- **Sung Woon Lee.** Dr. Lee is an associate professor in the Department of Information Security at Tongmyong University in South Korea, where he performs computer security research. During his visit, which will last from March 2014 to February 2015, he is collaborating with Dr. Xiaojun Cao on cryptography protocols. Dr. Lee is supported by Tongmyong University.

- **Ling Tian.** Dr. Tian is an associate professor in the School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC). Her research areas include video coding and video communication. During her visit, which lasted from January 2013 to December 2013, she collaborated with Dr. Xiaojun Cao on video communication research. Dr. Tian was supported by UESTC.

- **Yingjie Wang.** Ms. Wang is a Ph.D. student in the School of Computer Science and Technology at Harbin Engineering University in China. Her research areas include social networks, trust software, and Internetware. During her visit, which lasted from September 2013 to September 2014, she collaborated with Dr. Zhipeng Cai on recommendation models in social networks and crowdsourcing. Ms. Wang was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

- **Huawei Zhang.** Dr. Zhang is an associate professor in the School of Computer Science and Technology at Wuhan University of Technology in China. His research areas include databases and artificial intelligence. During his visit, which lasted from October 2013 to October 2014, he collaborated with Dr. Xiaojun Cao on wireless sensor network research. Dr. Zhang was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

- **Lichen Zhang.** Dr. Zhang is an assistant professor in the School of Computer Science at Shanxi Normal University in China. His research areas include social networks and delay-tolerant networks. During his visit, which lasted from September 2013 to September 2014, he collaborated with Dr. Zhipeng Cai on routing algorithms for delay-tolerant networks. Dr. Zhang was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

- **Yuan Zhang.** Dr. Zhang is an associate professor of computer science in the School of Information Science and Engineering at the University of Jinan in China. His research areas include wireless sensor networks and mobile phone sensing. During his visit, which lasted from October 2013 to October 2014, he collaborated with Dr. Xiaojun Cao on wireless networking and mobile computing research. Dr. Zhang was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

- **Hong Zhao.** Dr. Zhao is a professor in the School of Computer and Communication at Lanzhou University of Technology in China. His research areas include parallel and distributed processing and embedded systems. During his visit, which lasted from September 2013 to September 2014, he collaborated with Dr. Zhipeng Cai on embedded systems and crowdsourcing. Dr. Zhao was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

- **Jinghua Zhu.** Dr. Zhu is an associate professor in the School of Computer Science and Technology at Heilongjiang University in China. Her research areas include databases and wireless sensor networks. During her visit, which lasted from August 2013 to August 2014, she collaborated with Dr. Yingshu Li on uncertain spatial-temporal data management in wireless sensor networks. Dr. Zhu was supported by the China Scholarship Council.

Recent Departmental Colloquia

**July 19, 2013.** “An OpenMP Library for Java,” Dr. Robert Cook, Georgia Southern University

**September 16, 2013.** “Middleware for Pervasive and Cyber-Physical Systems,” Dr. Gurdip Singh, Kansas State University


Photo courtesy of Georgia State University Magazine
Bourgeois Wins NSF Grant

Associate professor Anu Bourgeois, along with three other Georgia State faculty members, has won a $250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The two-year grant will be used to improve the educational experience of GSU students majoring in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines by encouraging faculty members to make evidence-based changes in their pedagogy. Dr. Bourgeois and her collaborators are planning to use four strategies:

• Assess the faculty’s data “dashboard”
• Assess the current pedagogical knowledge, educational goals, and career motivations of GSU instructors.
• Assess the faculty’s data “dashboard” needs and create readily accessible quantitative data sets that allow rapid assessment of changes in teaching practices.
• Provide ideas, expertise and pedagogical help to faculty via outside mentors.
• Create four Faculty Learning Communities focused on peer-led team learning, the hybrid classroom, training and support of graduate teaching assistants, and integration of science concepts into the mathematics curriculum.

Professor Dabney Dixon is the principal investigator for the grant, with Dr. Bourgeois, professor Kyle Frantz, and assistant professor Suazette Mooring as co-principal investigators. Dr. Dixon and Dr. Mooring are faculty members in the Department of Chemistry; Dr. Frantz is a faculty member in the Neuroscience Institute. Dr. Dixon is also the STEM programs coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The grant was awarded under NSF’s Widening Implementation & Demonstration of Evidence-Based Reforms (WIDER) program. Funding came from NSF’s Division of Undergraduate Education, which is part of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources.

Ou Leaves Department for New Job

Long-time system administrator Shaochieh Ou has left the Department of Computer Science for a new job in Georgia State’s School of Public Health.

Mr. Ou came to Georgia State in 1994 as a student, earning an M.S. in Computer Science in 1995. After graduation, he worked as a communication analyst in the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts & Sciences. In 2000, he became the system administrator for the Department of Computer Science. He was originally hired as a PC Systems Specialist Lead and was later promoted to Software System Engineer, Lead.

Mr. Ou is now the College Technology Manager for the School of Public Health. In his new job, he is responsible for the school’s IT systems and services, as well as its computer labs and classrooms. Mr. Ou began transitioning into his new job on December 16, 2013, and started full-time on January 7, 2014.

A reception for Mr. Ou was held in December 2013, where he was honored by Acting Chair Raj Sunderraman for his many years of service to the department.

Pan Participates in Accelerated Leadership Academy

Professor Yi Pan recently participated in the Accelerated Leadership Academy (ALA), an executive training program conducted by the University System of Georgia (USG). He was one of 25 University System employees—and the only person from Georgia State—chosen to be a 2013–2014 ALA Scholar.

ALA is one of three training programs offered by USG’s Center for Leadership Excellence. Dr. Pan previously participated in one of the other programs, the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI), where he was a scholar in 2011–2012. Although ELI has been around since 2009, ALA was offered for the first time in 2013–2014.

ALA is aimed at ELI alumni, with a goal of providing executive-level leadership development and certification that builds on
ELI experiences. The ALA program began in September 2013 and ended in April. Training experiences included assessments, development and career path planning, executive coaching, mentoring by a leader in the scholar’s desired career path, learning forums, action learning, peer mentoring, and networking.

**Cai Is Program Co-Chair for IPCC 2013**
Assistant professor Zhipeng Cai recently served as one of two program co-chairs for the 32nd IEEE International Performance Computing and Communications Conference (IPCCC 2013). The conference, which was sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, was held in San Diego on December 6–8. IPCC serves as a forum for theoretical and experimental research on the performance of computer and communication systems.

**Department Moves to 25 Park Place**
In early August, the Department of Computer Science moved to the seventh floor of the former SunTrust Bank building at 25 Park Place. Offices for the department’s Ph.D. students have been on the sixth floor since December 2012. 25 Park Place is just across Woodruff Park from the department’s old offices at 34 Peachtree Street, where it had been located since 2003.

The Georgia State University Foundation purchased the 26-story SunTrust Bank building in 2006, along with several adjoining buildings and a parking deck. 25 Park Place was built in 1971 to house the Trust Company of Georgia, the predecessor of SunTrust Bank.
CS Majors Win Third Place in AT&T Coding Challenge

A team of three Georgia State undergraduate computer science majors won third place in the 2013 AT&T Coding Challenge. The members of the team—Derrill Hoover, Robert Owuor, and Lionel Sanou—were seniors at the time of the competition. Their team, Smart-AppTechnology, took home a cash prize of $5,000.

The Coding Challenge was open to undergraduate students at U.S. colleges, who were allowed to form teams with one to seven members. Teams were asked to design and build an Android application that supported AT&T’s “It Can Wait” campaign, which encourages people not to text and drive at the same time. The Georgia State team developed an app named ICare that reduces the chance of a driver becoming distracted by locking their phone when their vehicle is traveling at a speed over 15 mph.

Twenty-five teams participated in the 12-week competition, with the top five receiving cash awards. The winning team was from the University of Texas at Arlington; the second-place team was from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

Li Delivers Keynote at IIKI 2013

Associate professor Yingshu Li was one of five keynote speakers at the International Workshop on Identification, Information and Knowledge in the Internet of Things (IIKI 2013). The title of her talk was “Management of Big Sensory Data.”

IIKI is an annual forum for presenting the latest research findings about the emerging Internet of Things, in which physical objects are accessed through the Internet using technologies such as radio-frequency identification (RFID), sensor networks, and near field communication (NFC).

IIKI 2013 was held in Beijing, China on October 18–20. The workshop was sponsored by Beijing Normal University in collaboration with the IEEE Communications Society, Postscapes, and Brunel University.

Hu Receives Dissertation Grant

Ph.D. student Qian Hu has won a Georgia State University Dissertation Grant. Dissertation Grants are awarded annually to full-time doctoral students in a campus-wide competition. Ms. Hu was one of just 16 students to win a Dissertation Grant for fiscal year 2014. Each grant provides up to $1,000 that can be used for expenses associated with conducting dissertation research.

Grants are made by the Associate Vice President for Research based on the recommendations of a review committee. The committee ranks student proposals based on the importance of each project, its significance and potential impact within the field of study, the quality and soundness of the research design and methodology, and the feasibility of the project. The committee also takes into account the student’s qualifications and the letter of support written by their dissertation director.

In the award letter, the review committee stated that it was “particularly impressed” with Ms. Hu’s proposal, titled “Network Virtualization: The Path Towards an Agile Future Internet.” Associate professor Xiaojun Cao is Ms. Hu’s Ph.D. advisor.