

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

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OUTSTANDING NEW FACULTY



Professor Mohsen Lesani

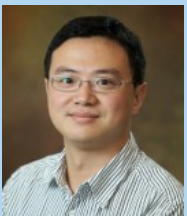
Professor Mohsen Lesani joined the Computer Science department at UCR in

January 2017. In the first nine months of his position, he received two NSF grants: a two-year CRII grant and a three-year SaTC grant. [Read more](#)

Professor Vagelis Papalexakis



Professor Vagelis Papalexakis joined the Computer Science department at UCR in July 2016. Since he began his position, he has received three grants through the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, the National Science Foundation, and Adobe. [Read more](#)

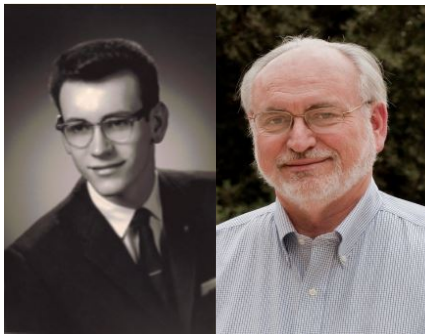


Professor Heng Yin

Professor Heng Yin joined the department in July 2016. Since he began his position, he has received a

three-year NSF award and a five year \$4.6 million grant sponsored by Office of Naval Research (ONR). [Read more](#)

50 YEARS WITH UCR



Fifty years ago, Professor Thomas Payne was a brand-new assistant professor at UCR. Today he is a Professor Emeritus in the Computer Science and Engineering department. This year we celebrate his 50th year at UCR!

WELCOME TO UCR

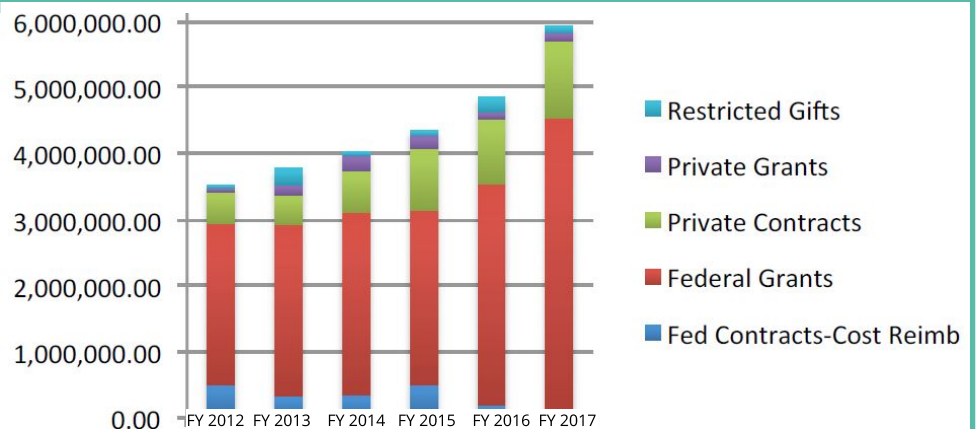
This Fall we welcome the largest cohort into our program. With over 80 new Ph.D. and M.S. students, our program increases to over 240 students!

Congrats to all of our incoming students, we cannot wait to see what your future holds!



New students at the CSE orientation on September 25, 2017

RESEARCH FUNDING - EXPENDITURES OVER THE YEARS



ALUMNI FEATURE

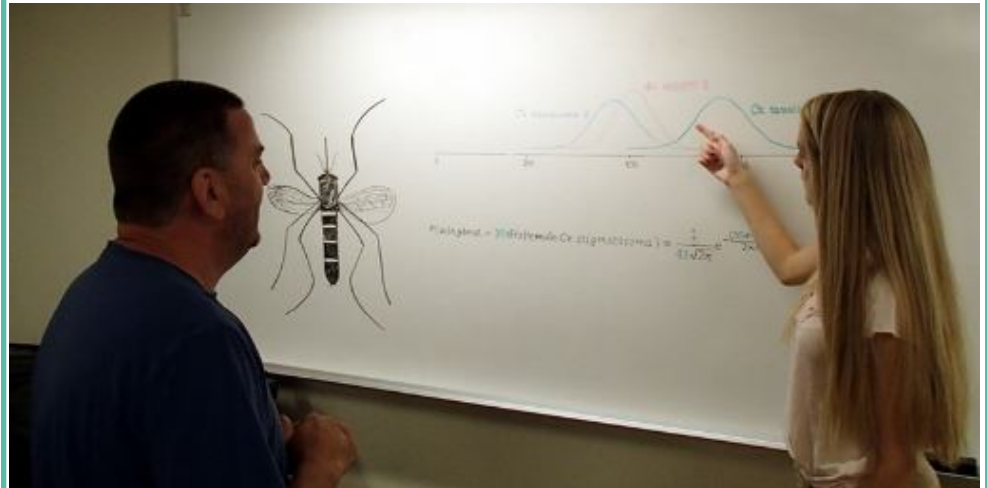
Andres Figueroa



Dr. Andres Figueroa is an associate professor in the computer science department at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos in 1998 and his doctorate degree in Computer Science at the University of California, Riverside in 2004 (advisor: Prof. Tao Jiang). His research area fits in the field of bioinformatics, and his contribution ranges from practical applications to theoretical results. Dr. Figueroa's work has been published in high quality refereed journals and refereed conference proceedings with the same high quality as journal publications. His early research work was focused on developing efficient algorithms for microarray data analysis, phylogenetic analysis, and clustering and classification analysis for agriculture applications. Most recently, his work has been concentrated on statistical genetics, genetic epidemiologic studies, family and case-control studies using haplotype blockers, and identification of multiple genetic markers influencing heritable traits.

Dr. Figueroa says that he loves teaching, "Teaching, in my opinion, is one of the greatest career choices. I care very much about the quality of my teaching. I try to make my lectures fun and interactive for students. I am also involved in student learning beyond regular classes." Outside of teaching, Dr. Figueroa's passion is racquetball. He plays racquetball regularly with colleagues and friends. His game is very competitive; and he has participated and won some local and regional racquetball tournaments in the valley.

NICE: NRT Integrated Computational Entomology



The NRT Integrated Computational Entomology (NICE) is a five year program that will establish a formal training and research paradigm for a new generation of scholars grounded in both entomology and computer science, disciplines unable to address these critical issues alone, but powerful in combination. Entomology students will gain understanding of computer science and statistics for data mining, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and databases. Computer Science and Engineering students will learn insect and host biology, experiment design, and modeling of natural phenomena, as well as gain an appreciation for entomological theory and methods. These NICE trainees will be pioneers, with the cross-disciplinary capabilities needed to solve complex insect-mediated problems, including those emerging alongside changes in climate, the environment, and human technologies and behavior.

To apply, students must be accepted into a UCR program in any major. Separately, students must apply and be accepted to the NICE program. For more information and to apply, please visit: cs.ucr.edu/~eamonn/NICE/.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Manuel Blum

Carnegie Mellon
October 13, 2017
11:10am-12:00pm
Bourns A125

Nick McKeown

Stanford University
October 17, 2017
11:10am-12:00pm
Bourns A125

Jim Kurose

National Science Foundation
October 27, 2017
11:10am -12:00pm
Bourns A125

Moti Yung

Snapchat, Inc.
January 19, 2018
11:10am -12:00pm
Bourns A125

RECENT GRADS RECEIVE TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS

Congratulations to our recent graduates and post-doc for accepting tenure track Assistant Professor positions this year!



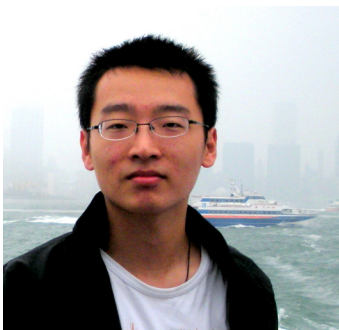
Israat Tanzeena Haque

Post-doc
Advisor: Prof. Nael Abu-Ghazaleh
Position: Assistant Professor
Location: Dalhousie University



Keval Vora

Graduated: Spring 2017
Advisor: Prof. Rajiv Gupta
Position: Assistant Professor
Location: Simon Fraser University



Panruo Wu

Graduated: Fall 2016
Advisor: Prof. Zizhong Chen
Position: Assistant Professor
Location: University of Houston

CSE IN THE COMMUNITY



For the past several years, alumnus Dr. Jeffrey McDaniel (pictured right) and current Ph.D. candidate

Brian Crites (pictured left) have been working on several projects related to increasing the amount of computer science and computational thinking material currently being taught in K-12 education. These efforts started several years ago when the two developed curricula aimed at using Python to reinforce Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum in high schools and taught it as an afterschool program at an LA charter high school. They also worked with the UC Riverside Extension center on developing the syllabus and content for a new supplemental authorization for computer science in K-12. These experiences led them to be invited to give talks at the Regional Engineering Education Learning (REEL) and CS4All conference, where they met Steve Kong and Steven Dunlap of Riverside Unified School District's (RUSD) department of Innovation & Learner Engagement. Working with Mr. Kong, Mr. Dunlap, and RUSD; Dr. McDaniel and Mr. Crites helped win a \$30,000 Google CS4HS grant to develop a 12-year curriculum path that integrates computational thinking and computer science into existing curriculum and create a cohort of teachers with the computer science supplemental authorization. Currently, both Dr. McDaniel and Mr. Crites are starting the fourth of five courses that will provide 20 teachers with their supplemental authorization. In addition to this work, Dr. McDaniel and Mr. Crites have served as mentors for a FIRST Robotics team at Western Center Academy, a Hemet middle school. Dr. McDaniel is also a co-chair for the local IEEE Young Professionals group represented in the Foothill section at the sections congress in Sydney, Australia and is involved with several entrepreneurial efforts at UCR and in the community.

STAY CONNECTED

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Alumni Connect

The CSE department wants to know what is happening in your professional life. Send us a message and tell us about your accomplishments!

gradconnect@cs.ucr.edu



Donate