The Sentinel: April 5, 2021
News and events happening in the [Computer Science Department](#)

CS Tea Talks - Spring Term:
Tea Talks take place via Zoom on most Thursdays during the academic year. To receive the zoom link signup for the **[cs-interest mailingslist](#)** then join us **via Zoom 4:00-4:45pm**. Watch for emails from Professor Rafferty highlighting details about our talks and the Zoom link; also check for details on the CS department [website](#)

April 8: CS Tea: **Professor Eric Alexander** will speak about "**Perceptual and cognitive biases reading word cloud visualizations**." Eric conducts interesting interdisciplinary work in data visualization, and this is a great chance to learn about some of that work. You've probably seen [a word cloud](#) at some point and may have wondered "is this really a good way to get a sense of a text?" Eric's talk will help us to understand what we might be gaining or missing when we look at these visualizations! This talk promises to give insight into the human side of making sense of visualizations. Zoom link is in Professor Rafferty's email.

April 15: CS Tea: Welcome new majors! Come join us if you're a new major or someone who wants to welcome new CS majors! There will be time for questions and discussions.
April 22: CS Tea: Professor Beth Trushkowsky (Harvey Mudd College) will be speaking about her research.

Congratulations! The CS Department received great news about our very own Layla Oesper, Assistant Professor of Computer Science. Professor Oesper has been awarded a very prestigious five year grant from NSF, the National Science Foundation. Professor Oesper will study *Algorithmic Approaches for Phylogenetic Analysis of Tumor Evolution*. In order to improve clinical diagnosis and treatment of patients afflicted with cancer, there is a need for an improved understanding of how tumors grow and develop over time. This work seeks specifically to understand what order genetic alterations occur, and what alterations occur together or in separate cell lineages. Such knowledge will be fundamental towards lessening the impact of this disease on those affected. The entire department is very proud of Layla's hard work and dedication in achieving this grant.

Restoration of The Hub and Colleague:
As you all know, we received emails regarding critical failures of The Hub and Colleague. Your last email from Emy Farley, Registrar, is copied below.

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Please follow the Emy's instructions to ensure accuracy of your academic records:
"Students, please review your schedules for accuracy. If your schedule is incorrect, you can make adjustments via The Hub. If you cannot make such a correction via the Hub, please contact a staff member in the Registrar's Office right away to describe your issue. Previously-granted waitlist permissions, overloads, and independent studies can't be added in the Hub. We will work to review and re-grant waitlist permissions and overloads when we hear from you, so please be in touch after the Hub has re-opened for registration. We anticipate adding independent studies and music lesson sections throughout the week. Some changes to Progress Toward Degree records, such as waivers or exceptions, will also need to be redone, and those will take throughout the week to complete."

The **Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC)** is an annual meeting that occurs every fall (Sept 26 - Sept 29, 2021). The meeting, including the career fair where many of our students have found internships or jobs in the past, will be happening virtually in 2021. CS Department Asst. Professor Layla Oesper has announced availability of Grace Hopper Conference Scholarships! There are a number of scholarships for students interested in attending to offset the registration fees that have an **application date of April 28**. The CS department also has funding available to help students attend the meeting, but to be eligible, you *must* also apply for outside funding. If you are interested in attending GHC this fall, you should complete the following steps:

1. Apply for one of the scholarships available here.
2. You will need a faculty recommendation if you apply for the scholarships listed above. Please talk to any faculty member you plan to ask for a recommendation early (I'd suggest talking with your faculty recommender **before April 14** to give them time to write the letter).
3. Fill out this form to let Layla Oesper know that you are wanting to go to GHC this fall.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Whether, Why, and How to Get a Ph.D. in Computer Science
Thinking about getting a Ph.D. in Computer Science? Join MyCSPhd.org for a free online information session about getting a Ph.D. in computer science!

Hear from current Ph.D. students and faculty at leading Ph.D. programs. Get real, honest answers from professors and Ph.D. students from across North America to questions like:
- What is grad school like for Ph.D. students?
- How can I use a Ph.D. to make the world better?
- Am I qualified to get a Ph.D.? Would I do well?

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- How would a Ph.D. affect my future job and earnings?
- Do I need a Ph.D. to get the job I want?
- What is a Ph.D. program like? Stressful? Fun? Fulfilling?
- How is getting a Ph.D. different than undergrad?
- What is research? What is doing research like?
- ... or any other question you have!

The sessions will be held on Zoom. Here's the schedule:

Date/Time	Topics (parallel tracks)
April 13, 12:30-1:30 PDT	Ph.D. Student Life
	What is Research?
April 21, 12:00-1:00 PDT	Applying to Ph.D. Programs
	Should I get a Ph.D.?

For more information or to register (it's free), go here.   (cont. next page)
MyCSPhd.org hosts a variety of other resources about getting a Ph.D. in CS. Prior information sessions are on YouTube.
MyCSPhd.org is part of the Computer Science Department at UC San Diego, but the information is about getting a Ph.D. in computer science generally. It is applicable to most (or all) Ph.D. programs in North America. Contact swanson@cs.ucsd.edu if you have questions.

Summer REU at East Carolina University:
ECU is hosting an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates from May 17 to July 26. The topic of the REU is Software and Data Analytics. This is a great opportunity for students interested in research (or think they may be!) but aren't really sure what it entails, or if they would enjoy it, to get hands-on experience. Feel free to contact Mark Hills hillsma@ecu.edu or Dr. Nasseh Tabrizi tabrizim@ecu.edu, PI for the grant for more details. Check here for student residency and academic requirements. Application deadline is April 15, 2021

Looking for a fun and challenging weekend? UIOWA Hackathon is happening online April 17-18, 2021. The event is free, and all college students to participate in this online weekend full of coding, games, and swags. Participating students will compete to win prizes worth more than $20,000 and will have the opportunity to connect with amazing sponsors including 3M, Collins Aerospace, State Farm, and John Deere.
Date: April 17-18, 2021
Venue: Online
Register at https://hack.uiowa.edu

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HackDartmouth is back! Despite the challenges of 2020, the HackDartmouth team is gearing up to host a fantastic ~virtual~ hackathon this Spring! **HackDartmouth VIrtual** will be happening virtually on April 16-18th, 2021. You'll have the opportunity to create something cool with a team of hackers. Create something big and also have the chance for swag, and prizes! The sign-up application is now open. Like years prior, the event features 24 hours of coding, swag, and amazing prizes! Before the event, feel free to check out some of our past projects. Any undergraduate or graduate student may participate. Questions? Email mailto:questions@hackdartmouth.io

The **Computer Science Department at the University of Iowa** is proud to announce a new NSF-funded REU site: **Computing for Health and Well-being**. A ten-week program will run from May 24 to July 30, 2021 in-person (if the pandemic renders an in-person experience infeasible, we will hold the site virtually). We would appreciate your help with sharing this information with undergraduate students. Candidates from populations underrepresented in STEM fields or from academic institutions with limited research opportunities are encouraged to apply as well as students with disabilities. *Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.*
If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Kleiman at uicsreu@gmail.com or visit our website.

Midwest Interdisciplinary Symposium for Scientific Thought (MISST) takes place Saturday, April 24. This symposium, hosted by St. Olaf College faculty and students, will include an undergraduate poster symposium, a faculty keynote speaker, and a graduate school panel. For more information on MISST, please refer to this link.
If students are interested in registering, the first step is completing MISST registration form and we will be in touch shortly. **Registration deadline is April 10** Questions? Contact Jason Engbrecht (engbrech@stolaf.edu) or student coordinator, Lucia Wagner (wagner10@stolaf.edu)

NSF CSGrad4US Graduate Fellowship and CRA Mentoring Program
The recently announced NSF CISE Graduate Fellowships (CSGrad4US) program provides an opportunity for bachelor's degree holders to return to academia and pursue research-based doctoral degrees. The fellowship will provide 3-year fellowship opportunities for new Ph.D. students in the computing disciplines. The CSGrad4US Fellowship recipients will participate in the CSGrad4US Mentoring Program developed by the Computing Research Association's Education (CRA-E) and Widening Participation (CRA-WP) committees.
The goals of the mentoring program are (1) to guide returning students through the application process towards a successful CS Ph.D. admission and school selection and (2) mentor them through the transition to Ph.D. graduate study during the first year. The CSGrad4USCS Mentoring Program will include both a group mentoring component addressing general aspects of the graduate application process and an individual coaching component.

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Fellowship Eligibility

CSGrad4US Fellowship applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- o Be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident;
- o Intend to apply for full-time enrollment in a research-based doctoral degree program in a CISE field (computer science, computer engineering, or information science) no later than Fall 2023;
- o Have graduated with a bachelor's degree in a CISE field between July 1, 2016, and June 31, 2019;
- o Not be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree-granting program for a CISE discipline at the time of the application (other than a professional master's degree program); and
- o Have never previously accepted a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Applications for the CSGrad4US Graduate Fellowship are due **April 13, 2021** by 5:00 pm submitter local time. Please visit https://www.nsf.gov/cise/CSGrad4US/ for additional details and deadlines.

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This program applies to alumni who graduated with a bachelor's degree between July 1, 2016, and June 31, 2019

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Read more here.

Reminder - Important Dates

Apr 08: CS Tea – featuring Eric Alexander, 4:00pm via Zoom