

HIGHLIGHTS 2019-20

MEMPHIS.EDU/CS

The University of Memphis Department of Computer Science offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as an accelerated bachelor's/master's program and two graduate certificates (cybersecurity and data science). Our 21 faculty members are highly productive researchers. With over \$23 million in active research grants, the department has been ranked 55th nationally among CS departments in federally funded research expenditures. Our faculty includes two IEEE Fellows, an ACM Distinguished Speaker and two Chairs of Excellence in Computer Science.

FALL 2020 NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY HIRES

WEIZI LI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

PhD, UNC at Chapel Hill, 2019
 Michael Hammer Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT, 2019-20
 Research Areas | Intelligent transportation systems, multi-agent simulation, virtual environments, machine learning, robotics



CHRISTOS PAPADOPOULOS, PROFESSOR AND SPARKS FAMILY CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

DSc, Washington University in St. Louis, 1999
 Previously a professor of Computer Science at Colorado State University
 Research Areas | Computer networks, network security, multimedia communication, distributed systems



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **DR. THOMAS WATSON** received an NSF CAREER award for his project entitled “Structural Communication Complexity.”
- **NIH** awarded a \$5.9 million grant for establishing the mHealth Center for Discovery, Optimization and Translation of Temporally-Precise Interventions (mDOT). mDOT will be headquartered at the MD2K Center of Excellence at the UofM, under the direction of Dr. Santosh Kumar.
- **DR. VASILE RUS AND DR. SCOTT FLEMING** are co-PIs (with Dr. Andrew Olney from the UofM’s Institute for Intelligent Systems) on a new \$3.4 million grant from the NSF’s Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program.
- **DR. VASILE RUS AND DR. DEEPAK VENUGOPAL** received \$2.58 million in NSF funding to begin a Learner Data Institute to investigate how people learn and improve instructional systems accordingly.
- **A JOINT EFFORT OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (DR. JAMES MCGINNIS) AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (DR. DIPANKAR DASGUPTA)** was awarded a \$318,000 grant from the Department of Defense to incorporate cybersecurity into the ROTC program.
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION** signed an agreement with cybersecurity startup i2Chain to license a U.S. patent for an Adaptive Multi-Factor Authentication System invented and developed by a team led by Dr. Dipankar Dasgupta.
- **PI DR. LAN WANG** is leading the new mGuard project with co-PIs Dr. Santosh Kumar and Dr. Lixia Zhang from UCLA. Supported by an \$826,000 NSF grant, mGuard aims to address data access challenges encountered by the MD2K Center of Excellence.
- **DR. DEEPAK VENUGOPAL (PI) AND DR. VASILE RUS (CO-PI)** were awarded a \$413,000 NSF grant entitled “Investigating Techniques that Couple Markov Logic and Deep Learning with Applications to Discovering Strategies to Improve STEM Learning.”

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- **RESEARCHERS AT THE MD2K CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**, headquartered at the UofM under the direction of Dr. Santosh Kumar, launched a free mobile app called mContain to help track social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **ALUM MAHBUB RAHMAN (PHD '16)** received the Industry Track Best Paper Award at IEEE PerCom 2020. The paper was based on his work at Samsung Research America’s Digital Health Lab on lung health.
- **ALUM SARAH LEE (PHD '11)** was named director of the School of Computing Sciences and Computer Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi.