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# **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - KLARA NAHRSTEDT**

# For CSL, 2015 was both a year of challenges and opportunities.

While the State of Illinois continues to have an ongoing budget crisis, CSL has worked to ensure that it has had minimal impact on our research. In fact, CSL's research expenditures rose from \$28.2 million in FY14 to just over \$31 million in FY15. In addition, the Lab opened up the CSL Studio, which provides an additional 15,418 square feet of research and office space.

Much of CSL's growth has been driven by interdisciplinary research, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity; food, water, and energy; health IT; intelligent robotics; and smart cities. In the past year, the Lab has:

- Launched the Intelligent Robotics Lab to develop a new generation of robots that can seamlessly interact with humans.
- Opened new space for the Health Care Engineering Systems Center, which aims to provide more advanced, technology-based training for physicians and research in the health IT realm.
- Secured \$42.5 million in cybersecurity and cyber resiliency funding through the Information Trust Institute.
- Helped Illinois win the Midwest Big Data
   Hub, one of four national data hubs funded
   by NSF, which aims to develop new data
   sharing capabilities, build new data-cen tric communities around themes such as
   smart cities, food-water-energy, digital
   agriculture, health-care and other societal
   domains, and more.

In addition to devoting resources to attracting new grants, we are working to establish an interactive and interdisciplinary community. For example, CSL's robotics experts must work alongside agriculture researchers to develop UAVs that truly impact food production. We're actively reaching out to faculty in the liberal arts and sciences, applied health, and agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences in our quest to develop new transformative technologies.

CSL is also working to create more collaborative environments within our walls. In 2015, we opened new collaborative space in the lower level and remodeled two conference rooms on the fourth floor, which now boast state-of-the-art video conferencing capabilities. A small conference room on the second floor went online in February 2016, also featuring the latest in video conferencing technologies.

Our goal is to position CSL to lead new interdisciplinary centers, which federal agencies are increasingly looking to as they seek to solve big problems. By providing a community where researchers can collaborate, CSL aims to innovate the next generation of breakthrough technology.

# SONIC

#### SONIC TAKES FIRST STEPS IN TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF COMPUTING

It's no secret that Moore's Law is up against a society that increasingly demands devices that are smaller, less costly, and provide longer-lasting battery life.

In the past, such advances have been made possible by the frequent reduction in size of a basic building block – the transistor switch. Today, these switches are so small that their behavior is increasingly unpredictable, because of nanoscale non-idealities. But SONIC, a \$30 million multi-university center, launched in 2013 under the DOD- and SRC-funded STARnet program, is overcoming the physical limitations of the nanoscale regime.

SONIC brings together 24 faculty and more than 85 graduate student/postdoctoral researchers from nine renowned U.S. universities (see a full list at sonic-center.org). They focus on SONIC's mission of developing the foundations for statistical information processing on nanoscale device and circuit fabrics. SONIC's success relies on its ability to foster collaborations among diverse researchers, said Naresh Shanbhag, SONIC's director and the Jack S. Kilby Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Illinois.

In the last three years, SONIC's innovative research agenda has made it enormously successful by all accounts, filing six patent applications in the last year alone. Here are some highlights:

#### Designing Shannon-inspired systems

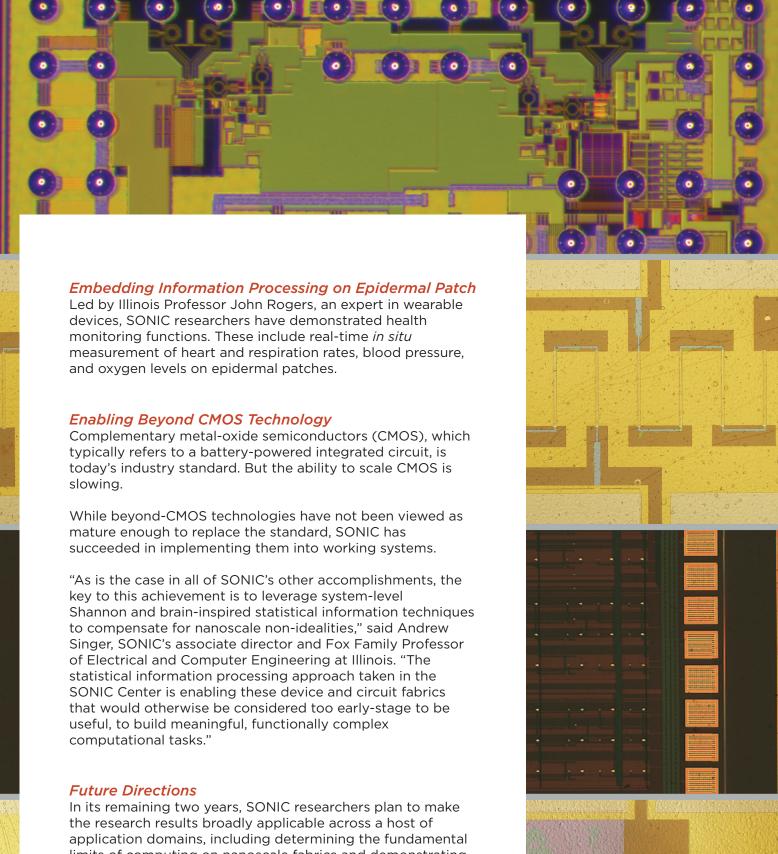
SONIC's promise to overcome the physical limitations of transistors is based on applying the work of Claude Shannon, the father of information theory, to integrated circuits. However, using information processing, instead of data processing, to extend scaling of nanoscale devices requires a complete paradigm shift in computing--no easy task.

One of SONIC's greatest accomplishments to-date, Shanbhag said, is proving that it is possible to build such Shannon-inspired and brain-inspired chips. The center has successfully developed new algorithms that have since been mapped to architectures and to functioning chips.

#### Ten-times improvement in energy efficiency and density

As a result of the new models, SONIC researchers have reached new world records in power efficiency and power density of information processing systems. It did so with the work of Associate Professor Pavan Hanumolu, who achieved a 10-times improvement in quiescent power efficiency and the smallest controller area via time-based signal representation, and Assistant Professor Robert Pilawa, whose switched capacitor DC-DC converter 10-times volume reduction in the power conversion stage.

"SONIC is pioneering the concept of *in situ* information processing," Shanbhag said. "This is the idea of embedding information processing in the same substrate that senses data. We want devices, such as the FitBit or Google Glasses, that not only collect data, but also process the data."



In its remaining two years, SONIC researchers plan to make the research results broadly applicable across a host of application domains, including determining the fundamental limits of computing on nanoscale fabrics and demonstrating the realization of statistical information processing systems by developing an in-sensor and in-memory computing platform.

"The goal of the STARnet program is to conduct research with impact in 10-plus years," Shanbhag said. "However, quite a few of the concepts that we have come up with have potential to be implemented in the near-term. They can be built into today's emerging applications."

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Over the past year, the Lab has made a concerted effort to apply fundamental strengths in communications, control, and computing to interdisciplinary applications that will transform the way we live, work, and play.

These themes include healthcare technology; intelligent robotics that assist us in our day-to-day lives; protection of our confidential information and precious resources; intelligent and secure technology for food, water, and energy; and smart cities. Take a closer look:

#### Health IT

More advanced health care technology will result in better patient outcomes and preventive care. The Health Care Systems Engineering Center (HCSEC), a collaboration between the University of Illinois and OSF Healthcare, established a new space in the CSL Studio this year, providing a place to develop new technologies and cyber-physical systems to advance medical simulation and training, and to drive a transformation in the practice and quality of health care.

T. (Kesh) Kesavadas, director of HCSEC, is working on new technology that will help doctors and physical therapists treat remote therapy patients. In addition, the center installed the Raven II, an open-source surgical robot that will allow future doctors to acquire hands-on training in robotic surgery without the use of a patient.

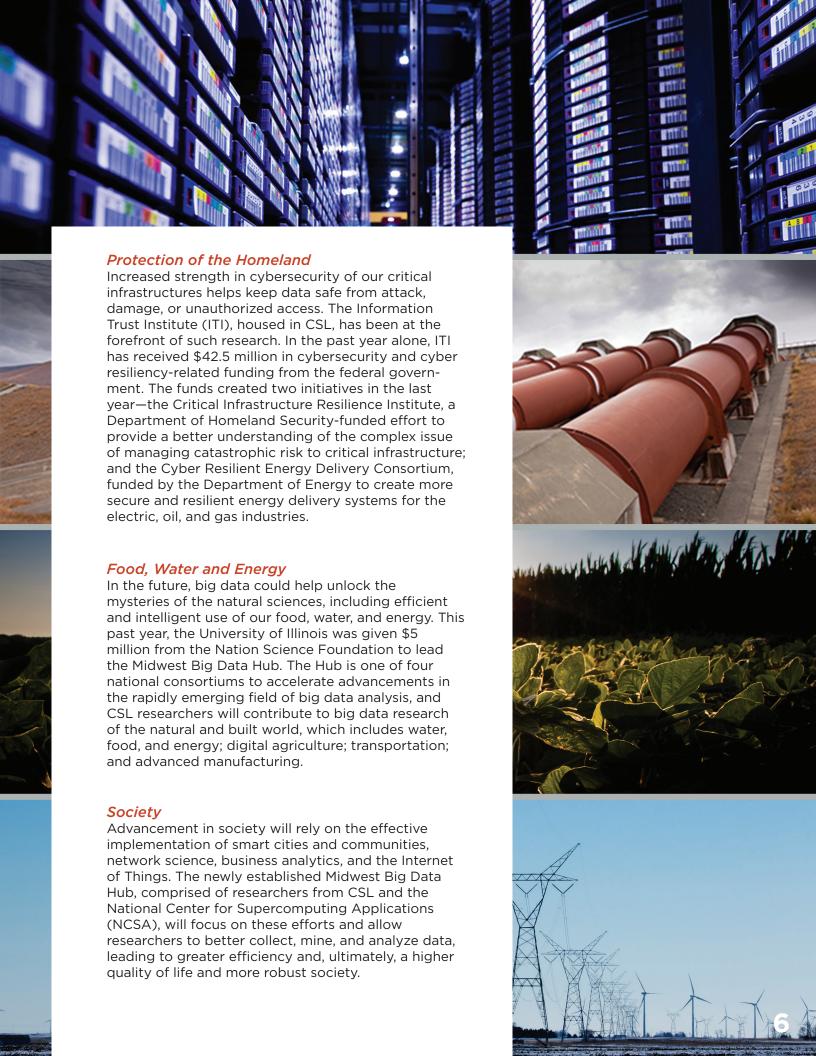


# **Intelligent Robotics**

In the future, robots will play an important role in everything from military applications to commercial applications, including areas such as precision agriculture, public safety, construction sites, elderly care, and remote package delivery.

In order to advance the intelligence and decision-making processes in robotics, CSL launched a new Intelligent Robotics Lab, under the leadership of Director Naira Hovakimyan and Associate Director Tim Bretl, to create a new generation of smart unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and robots that can seamlessly interact with humans. Additionally, Hovakimyan has received multiple grants for her work designing "friendly" robots that could assist an aging population. Bretl is collaborating with colleagues in civil and environmental engineering on technology that will improve the safety of mobile cranes, and is working with Soon-Jo Chung and Seth Hutchinson to build robotic bats for monitoring construction sites.





## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

#### START-UP CULTURE

Within the University's vibrant culture of innovation, several CSL faculty have translated research in the lab into entrepreneurial opportunities in the past year. These four start-ups are using advanced technology developed at CSL to make significant and visible impacts on society.



#### *IntelinAir*

CSL and MechSE Professor Naira Hovakimyan leads research in the next generation of unmanned aerial system platforms, and in the past year, her start-up company, IntelinAir, licensed the technology. With advanced aerial drones, IntelinAir aims to assist farmers with data that can help improve crop yield and reduce costs with support for weed identification, nutrient prescription, and weather damage. To gain data insight, IntelinAir employs advanced precision flight technology, high resolution image capture with a variety of sensors, and comprehensive data analytics, including image stitching and pattern matching. They also provide support for other commercial applications, such as forestry management, cell tower and wind farm inspections, and crop and farm insurance assessments.

#### Reconstruct Inc.

Conceived by CSL Professor Tim Bretl (aerospace engineering) and his cofounders Mani Golparvar-Fard (civil and environmental engineering) and Derek Hoiem (computer science), Reconstruct Inc. focuses on visual analytics for the construction industry. After incorporating in December 2015, Reconstruct Inc. plans to employ small, computer controlled aerial robots that autonomously navigate both indoor and outdoor construction job sides, conduct visual inspection with onboard cameras, and more. The team is working to use these robots to measure construction progress and provide detailed and continuous performance data on workers and equipment.





#### OceanComm

This Illinois start-up is commercializing the first video-capable wireless underwater acoustic modem, which enables wireless video streaming underwater and wireless remote control of underwater machines and vehicles. Current methods to install, maintain, or repair infrastructure for offshore resources, like oil and gas, requires vehicles that are tethered all the way to the surface—an expensive undertaking. Developing a wireless solution will help cut costs and provide more freedom for operators to explore and operate well beneath the ocean's surface. Named one of the oil and gas industry's most promising technology startups, OceanComm is located at Research Park in Champaign and was co-founded by CSL and ECE Professor Andy Singer and CSL alumnus Dr. Thomas Riedl.

#### Network Perception's new tool

Illinois cybersecurity start-up Network Perception, led by CSL researchers Robin Berthier, David Nicol, and William Sanders, is preparing to launch a new software solution, called NP-Live, in the marketplace next year. NP-Live provides continuous monitoring of a company's network and can be used in many sectors, including energy. The tool makes it easier to detect vulnerabilities that can lead to security breaches. It helps analyze how traffic moves from a trusted zone (e.g., networks that support critical infrastructure) to an untrusted zone (e.g., a corporate network that connects to the Internet), and it can alert IT professionals if the traffic flow patterns deviate from the baseline.



### **ROUND UP OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

#### 2015 CSL Student Conference

The tenth annual CSL Student Conference was held Feb. 26-27, 2015 and focused on the areas of robotics and control; privacy and security; machine learning; big data; and smart cities. With a mix of student presentations and posters, talks by invited speakers, and panel discussions, the student conference showcased the breadth of student work at CSL and provided opportunities for interactions amongst many areas of research. Additionally, two Best Student Talk Awards and one Best Poster Award were given.

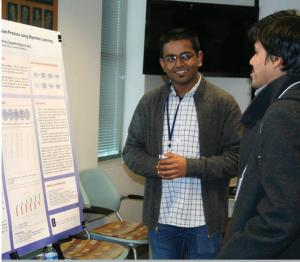
#### Social Hour & Video of the Month

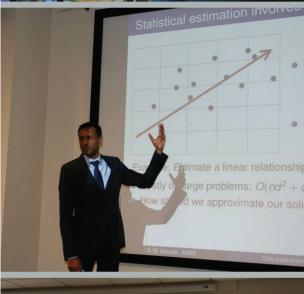
CSL Social Hour occurs each Friday during the academic year and features a short talk from a CSL researcher or special guest. It is an opportunity for researchers to network and learn more about the wide variety of research at CSL. Additionally, each month, students are invited to submit a video of their research, and a Video of the Month is selected and announced at the last Social Hour of the month.

#### Engineering Open House

Every year, the student-led Engineering Open House (EOH) features two days of more than 250 exhibits and competitions throughout campus that showcase the work of engineering students at the University of Illinois. In 2015, CSL opened many labs for families, students, and community members to explore, including exhibits in CSL and the CSL studio space featuring mobile augmented reality, aircraft safety and automation, swarm robot navigation, and video super-resolution. An estimated 20,000 visitors attend EOH every year.



















# **2015 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Allerton

CSL co-hosted the 53rd Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing on Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The international conference drew 477 people from industry, academia, and government to discuss innovation in the fields of communication, control, and computing to the Allerton Park and Retreat Center. Professor Martin Vetterli, of Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, delivered the keynote address. This year, 173 papers were presented across 55 sessions, as well as two tutorial talks.





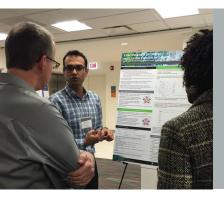
#### **SONIC Annual Meeting**

In its third year, the SONIC Center—which designs robust, energy efficient, and intelligent computing platforms for nanoscale devices—has posted some impressive achievements, including setting a world-record in the energy-efficiency of a chip-to-chip interconnect. The Center, directed by Naresh Shanbhag, celebrated its achievements at its annual review meeting Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Champaign. More than 120 faculty, students, and sponsors attended, and six students received Student Research Awards based on work presented at the poster session.

#### Chien Lecture

The Robert T. Chien Distinguished Lecturer Series has been bringing eminent researchers from all over the world to speak at CSL since 1979. It is just one of the lasting legacies of the former CSL director who started the lecture series. This past year, CSL welcomed Paolo Pirjanian on September 9. Pirjanian is the chief technology officer at iRobot, and he spoke of his experiences in starting a robotics company, developing technologies, building products, and selling the products.





#### **CCBGM Planning Meeting**

On March 2-3, the Center for Computational Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine (CCBGM) Planning Meeting welcomed 100 participants to the University of Chicago Gleacher Center. Prospective industry members from 28 companies attended, along with research teams from Illinois, Mayo, and the University of Chicago, to ensure that the new Center's research portfolio aligns with the needs of industry. The research teams presented proposed computational biotechnology, agritech, and genomic medicine research projects, soliciting feedback for level of interest and industrial relevancy.

#### CAEML Planning Meeting

More than two dozen companies sent representatives to the Center for Advanced Electronics through Machine Learning (CAEML) Planning Meeting on Nov. 2-3 at Illinois. Led by Elyse Rosenbaum, CAEML is a proposed NSF I/UCRC that aims to apply emerging machine-learning techniques to microelectronics and micro-systems modeling. Ten project opportunities were presented, providing a summary of CAEML's projected research in areas such as modular machine learning, power delivery networks, and high-speed circuits.



# **NEW FACULTY AND STAFF**

#### Georgios Fellouris

An assistant professor of statistics, Georgios Fellouris holds a PhD in statistics from Columbia University. He joined Illinois from the University of Southern California, where he was a postdoctoral research assistant. Fellouris' research interests include sequential hypothesis testing; quickest change detection; sequential parameter estimation; sequential design; decision making under communication constraints; educational measurement and cognitive assessment; and epidemic detection.

#### Nam Sung Kim

Nam Sung Kim is an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering whose research incorporates devices, circuits, and architecture for power-efficient computing. He holds a PhD in computer science and engineering from the University of Michigan Ann-Arbor. Before joining Illinois, he was tenured at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a position he held after working as a senior research scientist at Intel from 2004 to 2008. He was recently named an IEEE Fellow.

#### Victoria Stodden

Victoria Stodden joined the Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science in 2015. Her research interests center on the multifaceted problem of enabling reproducibility in computational science. She is the developer of the "Reproducible Research Standard," a suite of open licensing recommendations for the dissemination of computational results, and winner of the Kaltura Prize for Access to Knowledge Writing. She received a PhD in statistics and a law degree, both from Stanford University.

#### Tandy Warnow

Tandy Warnow is the Founder Professor of Engineering, joining the Illinois faculty in 2014 and CSL in 2015. She is a professor of computer science and bioengineering and an ACM Fellow. Her research combines mathematics, computer science, probability, and statistics, in order to develop algorithms with improved accuracy for large-scale and complex estimation problems in phylogenomics (genome-scale phylogeny estimation), multiple sequence alignment, and metagenomics. She holds a PhD in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley.

#### New Staff

Suma Pallathadka Bhat - Research Assistant Professor of ECE, CSL

Pramod Chembrammel - Research Scientist, HCESC

**Steve Granda** - Research Programmer, ITI

Armgard Haken - Research Program Manager, CSL

Valerie Head - Account Technician I, CSL

Steven Konstanty - Senior Research Programmer, CSL

Linda Meccoli - Office Manager, CSL

Todd Nicholson - Research Programmer, CSL

Michelle Osborne - Office Support Specialist, HCESC

Zacharia Reed - Coordinator of Research Programs, ITI

Brenda Roy - Office Support Specialist, CSL

August Schiess - Coordinator of Communications, CSL

Matthew Smith - Research Programmer, CSL









# **RESEARCH AWARDS**

#### Vikram Adve

ACM Fellow, 2015; University Scholar, 2015

#### Mohamed Ali Belabbas

Faculty Early Career Development Award, National Science Foundation

#### Roy Campbell

Selected to represent University of Illinois as a member of the Governor's Technology Advisory Board, Subcommittee on Security

#### Scott Carney

Fellow, Optical Society of America

#### Ben Chidester

CompGen Fellowship, 2015

#### Soon-Jo Chung

Associate Editor, AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics; AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference Best Paper Award

#### Venanzio Cichiella

2015 Ross J. Martin Award

#### Ryan Corey

SONIC Claude Shannon Award for his work entitled "Speech Enhancement for Resource-Constrained Listening Devices" at the SONIC Annual Review Meeting in October 2015

#### John Criswell

Honorable Mention, 2015 ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award; UIUC David Kuck Doctoral Dissertation Award

#### Minh Do

Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

#### Henry Duwe

Best in Session in Reliable Systems Design I at the 2015 TECHCON in September 2015

#### Gary Eden

Appointed to the Naval Studies Board, National Academy of Sciences; Appointed to the Panel on Ballistics Science and Technology of the Army Research Laboratory, National Academy of Sciences; Named associate editor of *Applied Physics Reviews*; Member of the editorial board of *Scientific Reports* 

#### Motahhare Eslami

Facebook PhD Fellowship Finalist; Best Paper Award at ACM CHI 2015; Google PhD Fellowship Nominee; Invited to participate in MIT Rising Stars in EECS

#### Jonathan Freund

Secretary Treasurer of the Division of Fluid Dynamics of the American Physical Society; Associated Editor for APS Journal: Physical Review Fluids

#### Grace Xingxin Gao

College of Engineering Everitt Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Best Paper Award, ION GNSS+ 2015 conference; Elected satellite division officer (treasurer), Institute of Navigation; IEEE Senior Member

#### William Gropp (with Tarun Prabhu)

Best Paper award at EuroMPI'15

#### Naira Hovakimyan

W. Grafton and Lillian B. Wilkins Professor of Mechanical Science and Engineering, UIUC; Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award; 2015 Engineering Council Outstanding Advising Award, UIUC; 2015 Plenary Speaker, 55th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences

#### Wen-mei Hwu

Ramakrishna Rau Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Computer Society; Faculty Award, IBM Corporation

#### Peter Kairouz

SIGMETRICS 2015 Best Paper Award and 2016 Harold L. Olesen Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

#### Namsung Kim

**IEEE Fellow** 

#### Negar Kiyavash

Center for Advance Study Associate for year 2016-2017; Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, 2015

#### Philip Krein

Chair of the IEEE Transportation Electrification Community; Chair of the IEEE/ PSMA Workshop on Power Electronics and Electrical Challenges for Engineering Energy-Efficient Buildings

#### John L. Larson

Life Membership, IEEE, 2015

#### Jean-Pierre Leburton

Recognized as an IEEE Nano Technology Council Distinguished Lecturer

#### Yanjun Li

Best Student Paper Award at SPARS 2015, with former CSL student/postdoc Kiryung Lee, and Yoram Bresler

#### Joseph Lyding

2014 Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Award for Outstanding Research, American Vacuum Society Prairie Chapter

#### Jonathan Makela

Delivered Prize Lecture, 2015 Coupling, Energetics, and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions

# RESEARCH AWARDS CONTINUED

#### Thiago Marinho

Focal Point Grant, Graduate College, UIUC

#### Sayan Mitra

C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teaching Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Eta Kappa Nu

#### Elham Mohimi

**Outstanding Graduate Student Award** 

#### Pierre Moulin

Elected member Board of Governors of the IEEE Information Theory Society 3-year term

#### Klara Nahrstedt

Named to the "10 women in networking/communications that you should know" selected by the Networking Networking Women (N2Women); selected to represent University of Illinois as a member of the Governor's Technology Advisory Board, Subcommittee on Data

#### Angelia Nedich

Best Paper Award at WiOpt 2015 (with Kobi Cohen and Rayadurgam Srikant; Member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS); IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) Liaison for INFORMS

#### Seewong Oh, Pramod Viswanath and Peter Kairouz

Best Paper Award at SIGMETRICS 2015

#### Robert Pilawa-Podgurski, Yutian Lei and Wen Chuen Liu

Best Paper Award at the IEEE Workshop on Control and Modeling for Power Electronics

#### Robert Pilawa-Podgurksi

Air Force Office of Scientific Research Young Investigator Award; Google/IEEE Power Electronics Society Little Box Challenge Academic Award; Associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Power Electronics; Richard M. Bass Outstanding Young Power Electronics Engineer Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Power Electronics Society

#### Elyse Rosenbaum

Best Paper Award, 2014 EOS/ESD Symposium

#### Romit Roy Choudhury

2015 ACM Sigmobile Rockstar Award; 2015 IBM Faculty Research Award; OverLay Best Demo at ACM HotMobile 2015; Chaired ACM HotMobile 2015

#### Rob Rutenbar

Member, Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Computing and Information Sciences (CISE) Directorate; Keynote Speaker, 2015 ACM International Symposium on Physical Design (ISPD'15)

#### Srinivasa Salapaka

Fellow of American Society of Mechanical Engineers

#### William H. Sanders

Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; appointed a member of the National Research Council's Forum on Cyber Resilience

#### Pete Sauer

PES Prabha S. Kundur Power System Dynamics and Control Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

#### Lui Sha

Member of NASA Advisory Council's Aeronautic Committee; Co-recipient of IEEE Simon Ramo Medal with John Lehoczky and Ragunathan Rajkumar

#### Naresh Shanbhag and Mingu Kang

2015 ISCAS Best Paper Award

#### Naresh Shanbhag

Associate editor for the IEEE Journal of Solid-State Explaoratory Computational Devices and Circuits; Associate Editor, IEEE Journal of Solid-State Exploratory Computational Devices and Circuits

#### R. Srikant

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2015; IEEE INFOCOM Achievement Award, 2015; IEEE INFOCOM Best Paper Award, 2015 (coauthors: Lei Ying and Xiaohan Kang); Best Paper Award, WiOpt, 2015 (coauthors: Kobi Cohen and Angelia Nedich)

#### Lav Varshney

NYC Media Lab - Bloomberg Data for Good Exchange Paper Award, 2015

#### Shobha Vasudevan

Early Career Award, IEEE Council of Electronic Design Automation; Outstanding New Faculty Award, Association for Computing Machinery, Special Interest Group on Design Automation

#### Pramod Viswanath

ACM Sigmetrics, 2015 Best Paper Award; Microsoft Women Graduate Research Fellowship, Jiaqi Mu, 2015-16

#### Zhangyang (Atlas) Wang

Baidu Research Scholarship

#### Tandy Warnow

ACM Fellow

#### Martin Wong

2nd Place, ACM TAU 2015 CAD Software Contest on Timing Analysis; 2015 Synopsys EDA Research Award; 3rd Place, ACM CADathlon Programming Contest at IEEE/ACM ICCAD-2015

#### Shashank Yaduvanshi

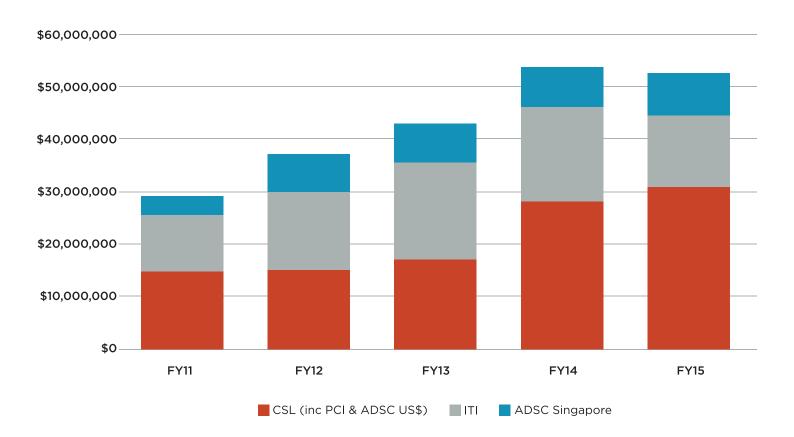
Siebel Scholar Class of 2016

#### Pengkun Yang

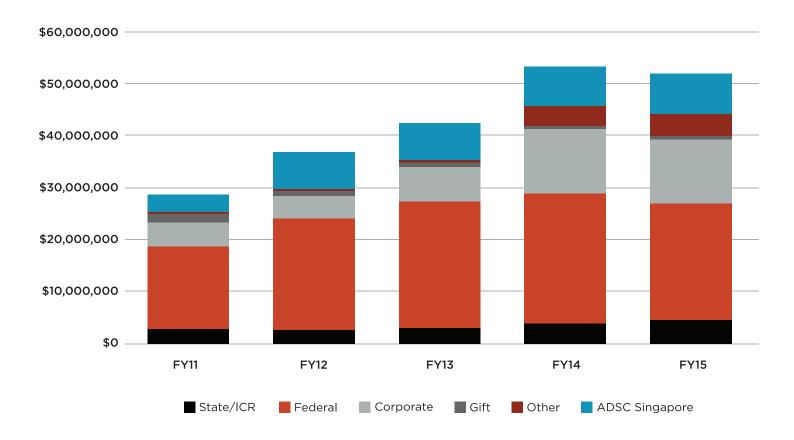
Jack Keil Wolf Student Paper Award, IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)

# **BY THE NUMBERS**

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY FISCAL YEAR

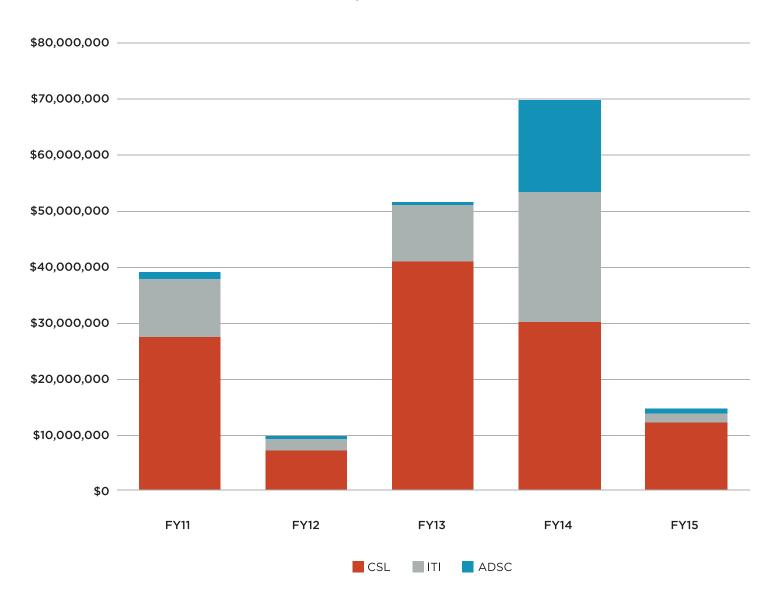


### **CSL & INSTITUTE EXPENDITURES BY TYPE**



# BY THE NUMBERS CONTINUED

### **NEW CONTRACTS/GRANTS AWARDED BY FY**





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