Hariri Institute Names First Junior Faculty Fellows

THE NEW FELLOWS ARE:

Jonathan Appavoo, a College of Arts & Sciences assistant professor of computer science. He researches systems for large-scale on-demand computing and those that combine traditional computing with the statistical inference capabilities of the brain.

Ayse Coskun, a College of Engineering assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, who researches energy efficiency and thermal challenges to computer systems, with an eye toward continued development of energy-efficient computational power. The institute is partially funding work by Coskun and Appavoo at the Massachusetts Green High-Performance Computing Center, in which BU is a collaborator.

Mark Kramer, a CAS assistant professor of mathematics and statistics. He studies mathematical neuroscience; for example, he is working with Massachusetts General Hospital researchers to apply math and computation techniques to improve the characterizing, and ultimately, treatment, of epileptic seizures.

Benjamin Lubin, a School of Management assistant professor of information systems, specializing in game theory, grid computing, and e-commerce. His work includes applying game theory to optimize market rules.

Jason Ritt (GRS’03), an ENG assistant professor of biomedical engineering. His work with mice is part of his research into how organisms use information from their environments, work that relies on computation to analyze high-speed video and other data.

Evimaria Terzi, a CAS assistant professor of computer science. She has studied Facebook as part of her research into data mining, particularly by social networks.

BU trustee Bahaa Hariri (SMG’90) pledged $15 million to launch the institute two years ago.

Rising Stars Receive Sloan Fellowships

Three CAS faculty among this year’s recipients

THREE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES faculty members, Robinson Fulweiler, Margaret Beck, and Tulika Bose, are among the 126 recipients of a 2012 Sloan Research Fellowship. The two-year fellowships are given to young academic scholars who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their fields of science, mathematics, economics, or computer science. This year, the fellowships were expanded to include ocean sciences. Each winner receives $50,000.

“These fellowships acknowledge the outstanding scientific accomplishments of our early-career scientists and scholars and are a great honor for Boston University,” says Virginia Sapiro, dean of Arts & Sciences.

Fulweiler, an assistant professor with a joint appointment in earth sciences and biology, is associate director of the BU Marine Program and runs the Fulweiler Laboratory, which focuses on geochemistry and ecosystem ecology. Her research includes how the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill has affected the Louisiana wetlands along the Gulf of Mexico, as well as how humans and climate change are impacting coastal erosion at various locations in New England.

14 BOSTONIA Summer 2012

DIGEST NEWS FROM BU AND BEYOND
Introducing the Class of 2016

IT’S BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO GAIN ADMISSION TO BU, AS THE STUDENTS ACCEPTED TO THE Class of 2016 make clear. This year, a record-breaking 43,979 students applied for 3,900 spots, and the University offered admission to only 45.5 percent, the lowest percentage in BU’s history. (Last year’s admission rate was 49 percent.)

“It’s been an extraordinarily competitive year,” says Kelly Walter, an assistant vice president and executive director of admissions. “This class is obviously quite impressive.”

In many ways the Class of 2016 looks much like the Class of 2015. In both, students finished in the top 9 percent of their high school class and had a GPA of 3.7. But this year’s accepted freshmen have slightly higher SAT scores—an average of 2005—than last year’s, which averaged 1993.

Walter says that what makes this group stand out is the applicants’ wide-ranging accomplishments. One student has performed at the Kennedy Center, another volunteered at a school for autistic children in China, while yet another interned at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Several students have started their own nonprofits.

“These students are not only accomplished academically,” Walter says, “but they’ve made significant contributions to the world at large.”

The Class of 2016 is 5 percent African American, 10 percent Hispanic, and 20 percent Asian. That last figure is down slightly from last year despite the fact that the majority of BU’s international students come from China, followed by Korea and India. In total, international students account for 11 percent of the admitted students, and they hail from 103 countries.

Acceptor applicants come from all 50 states, with the highest number from New York, followed by California and Massachusetts.

One thing that hasn’t changed about this year’s class is the ratio of women to men: 62 percent are women and 38 percent men. It is a trend that continues with the majority of BU’s international students, which are used to mathematically model a wide array of phenomena.

She plans to use her fellowship award to hire another graduate assistant and to buy equipment for her lab to study the DNA of bacteria found in these different areas.

She plans to use her award to pay for travel expenses to visit with collaborators around the country and in England.

Bose, an assistant professor of physics, has been working since last fall in Switzerland at the Large Hadron Collider, located outside Geneva. An experimental particle physicist, she is among a number of physicists at the world’s largest collider, many from BU, pursuing fundamental questions about how the world is constructed. Her research examines how particles gain mass and why some are heavier than others. She will use her fellowship to help fund travel expenses to Geneva during the next year.

The fellowships are granted by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which was founded in 1934 to support research in science, technology, and economics. As of 2016, the fellowships have gone on to win a total of 38 Nobel Prizes. Past recipients of Sloan Research Fellowships have gone on to win a total of 38 Nobel Prizes. Past recipients of Sloan Research Fellowships have gone on to win a total of 38 Nobel Prizes. Past recipients of Sloan Research Fellowships have gone on to win a total of 38 Nobel Prizes.

The fellowships are granted by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which was founded in 1934 to support research in science, technology, and economics. As of 2016, the fellowships have gone on to win a total of 38 Nobel Prizes.