

## Hariri Institute Names First Junior Faculty Fellows

Pursuing a BU trustee's mission of interdisciplinary research

STUDYING HOW MICE use their whiskers to explore their surroundings. Hunting eventual treatments for

epilepsy. Analyzing your privacy protections on Facebook. These have been the work of some of the newly named junior faculty fellows of the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering.

The fellows' projects epitomize the institute's mission: using computation across a range of academic disciplines to spur collaborative, pathbreaking research and training. The six junior fellows—a management scholar, two computer scientists, a mathematician, and two engineers—will serve two-year terms. The goal is to appoint junior fellows each year to maintain a roster of a dozen at any given time.

Fellows receive a stipend, use of institute facilities, and the chance to seek funding for new research projects, particularly in the institute's targeted areas of biology and medicine, physical science and engineering, social and management sciences, arts, communication, and education.

### 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. **RB**

### 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 schol-



ars 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 bio-

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.

→ Students interested in BU, and their parents, tour the Charles River Campus.



CYDNEY SCOTT

## 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

Most competitive year to date

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.

Accepted 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 many universities and colleges are experiencing, Walter says, although it may be more pronounced at BU. AS

## Kilachand Professorship for Charles Dellheim

Historian **Charles Dellheim's** book-in-progress will explore a largely ignored aspect of the plunder of great art by Hitler's henchmen. "I am less interested in how and why Nazis ransacked Jewish-owned collections—a tragic but well-known story—as in how Jewish outsiders acquired so much great art in the first place," he says.

Honors College director is first holder of new chair

Illuminating history's murkier corners requires financial support, and finishing the book just got a

little easier, says Dellheim, thanks to a gener-

ous research stipend accompanying his appointment in March as the University's first Arvind and Chandan Nandlal Kilachand Professor. The newly created academic chair recognizes his status as the founding director of the Kilachand Honors College.

"I am thrilled to receive this honor, which recognizes the tremendous collaborative effort that has gone into creating" the college, says Dellheim, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of history.

Like the college, the chair is named for the parents of BU trustee Rajen Kilachand (GSM'74), whose \$25 million gift supports the Honors College. RB



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.



← Margaret Beck

Beck (GRS'06), an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, studies partial differential equations, which are used to mathematically model a wide array of phenomena.

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.

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

← Tulika Bose