

# Meet the new faculty

Ten CS faculty join school in first year of Destination Vanderbilt

Ten of the 14 new professors Vanderbilt University School of Engineering has hired are computer science faculty members recruited during the first year of Destination Vanderbilt: Computer Science.

Eight of the new faculty are in tenured or tenure-track positions. Two are professors of the practice and will help balance the teaching load in a rapidly growing department.

Destination CS is part of Destination Vanderbilt, a \$100 million university excellence initiative to recruit new faculty launched in December 2020. The multi-year recruitment and hiring process in computer science will add at least 20 tenured and tenure-track positions at the Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor levels.

The 10 new computer science faculty members are Jonathan Sprinkle, Yu Huang, David Hyde, Forrest Laine, Kevin Leach, Meiyi Ma, Soheil Kolouri, Jie Ying Wu, Shervin Hajjamini, and Peng "Dana" Zhang.

The other new faculty are Xiaoguang Dong in mechanical engineering; Andrea Locke and Marc C. Moore in biomedical engineering; and Ahmad F. Taha in civil and environmental engineering.



**Jonathan Sprinkle**, professor of computer science

- Autonomous vehicles, modeling, cyber-physical systems
- PhD in Electrical Engineering, Vanderbilt University, 2003

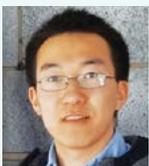
*Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Sprinkle was the Litton Industries John M. Leonis Distinguished Associate Professor with tenure and the Interim Director of the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Arizona.*



**Ahmad Taha**, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering

- Dynamic networks and cyber-physical systems
- PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University, 2015

*Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Taha was an assistant professor in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio.*



**Xioguang Dong**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering

- Miniature robotics, soft robots, biomedical devices, magnetic actuation
- PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, 2019

*Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Dong was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems.*



**Andrea Locke**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and assistant professor of chemistry

- Nano-biosensors, paper- and micro-fluid design, optical spectroscopy, analytical chemistry
- PhD in Biomedical Engineering, Texas A&M University, 2016

*Locke has been a postdoctoral scholar at the Vanderbilt Biophotonics Center and starts her new position in January 2022.*



**Yu Huang**, assistant professor of computer science

- Software engineering and human factors
- PhD in Computer Science and Engineering, University of Michigan, 2021

*Huang will join Vanderbilt in January 2022. Her research interests are primarily at the intersection of software engineering and cognitive science.*



**David Hyde**, assistant professor of computer science

- Computational physics, graphics, machine learning
- PhD in Computer Science, Stanford University, 2019

*Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Hyde was a postdoctoral scholar and an assistant adjunct professor in the mathematics department at UCLA.*



**Soheil Kolouri**, assistant professor of computer science

- Machine learning and computer vision
- PhD in Biomedical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, 2015

*Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Kolouri was a Principal Machine Learning Scientist at HRL Laboratories, LLC, Malibu, California, focusing on aspects of deep learning.*



**Forrest Laine**, assistant professor of computer science

- Computational game theory, numerical optimization, robust autonomy
- PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, UC Berkeley, 2021

*Laine's primary interests are multi-agent interaction, multiple-object tracking, trajectory optimization, and robust machine learning.*



**Kevin Leach**, assistant professor of computer science

- Systems security and dependable autonomous systems
- PhD in Computer Science, University of Virginia, 2016

*Leach will join Vanderbilt in January 2022. He is a Senior Research Fellow in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan.*



**Meiyi Ma**, assistant professor of computer science

- Machine learning, formal methods, cyber-physical systems
- PhD in Computer Science, University of Virginia, 2021

*Ma has developed novel formal logic-based learning frameworks to verify and guide deep learning models, as well as decision support systems for integrated IoT services in areas of smart cities and health care.*



**Jie Ying Wu**, assistant professor of computer science

- Medical robotics and machine learning
- PhD in Computer Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2021

*Wu focuses on using machine learning techniques to transform surgical robots from a teleoperated tool to an intelligent assistant. She will join Vanderbilt in January 2022.*



**Marc Moore**, associate professor of the practice of biomedical engineering

- Regenerative medicine, biomaterials and biomedical design
- PhD in Biomedical Engineering, University of Florida, 2013



**Shervin Hajiamini**, assistant professor of the practice of computer science

- Green engineering
- PhD in Computer Science, Washington State University, 2018



**Dana Zhang**, assistant professor of the practice of computer science

- Data Science and blockchains
- PhD in Computer Science, Vanderbilt University, 2018