

[Open in Browser](#)

Northwestern | McCORMICK SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING

Computer Science

IN THIS ISSUE // September 25, 2026 / Bulletin #1

Upcoming Seminars

CS Events

Northwestern Events

Awards

News

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 Fall 2026 Classes Begin

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Last day for full term withdrawals to receive 75% refund

Friday, October 23, 2026 Application for degree due to The Graduate School to receive a degree in Fall

Monday, November 9, 2026 Pre-registration for Winter 2027 begins

Wednesday, November 25, 2026 Thanksgiving Vacation begins at 6:00 PM

Monday, November 16, 2026 Regular registration for Winter quarter begins

Saturday, December 5, 2026 Fall classes end

Saturday, December 12, 2026 Fall exams end

Friday, December 18, 2026 Winter registration for new TGS students and most Evanston graduate programs

Thursday, December 24, 2026 Winter Recess Starts - University Closed Through January 1st, 2027

We want to hear from you!

Please send any upcoming news and events to cs-news@northwestern.edu to be included in future bulletins, on our socials and/or website.

Missed a seminar? No worries!

View past seminars via the Northwestern CS Website
(northwestern login required).

[View Past Seminars »](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

September

28 - Matt Godbolt

29 - Manuela Veloso

October

1 - Cem Subakan
5 - Brian Suchy
14 - Yuhao Zhu
21 - Anima Anandkumar
28 - Aaron Shaw

November

4 - Haoqi Zhang
9 - Mohit Bansal



What 25 Days of Optimisations Taught Me About Compilers

Matt Godbolt, Hudson River Trading

Abstract

In December last year I posted a short video every day about a different compiler optimisation. Some were obvious, some surprised me, a handful caught me out completely, and some turned out to be compiler bugs. This talk distils the most interesting into one story about where modern optimisers are scarily good, where they're stubbornly bad, and what we can do as C++ programmers to help them.

Biography

Matt Godbolt is the creator and primary maintainer of Compiler Explorer. A C++ developer based in Chicago, he works at Hudson River Trading and is one half of the Two's Complement podcast. His career has been a steady journey deeper into the machine: from writing rendering engines for video games to years of low-latency trading systems. When not hacking on Compiler Explorer, Matt likes to write emulators for the computers he grew up on, the ZX Spectrum, BBC Micro and Sega Master System.

🕒 **Monday, September 28, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT**

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208**

[More Information »](#)



AI Agents and Humans: A Continual Learning Journey

Manuela Veloso, Carnegie Mellon University

Abstract

In this talk, I will briefly set the context of the current powerful developments of the discipline of AI. I will then explain what an AI Agent is, and discuss the challenges and opportunities of systems of multiple agents and their interaction with human users. I will give examples in the robot and digital domains.

Biography For the last 8 years, Manuela Veloso was the founder and Head of JPMorganChase AI Research & Herbert A. Simon University Professor Emerita at Carnegie Mellon University, where she was faculty in the Computer Science Department and then Head of the Machine Learning Department. For the current academic year, she is a Visiting Professor at Harvard University.

At JPMorganChase, she built a team of 100+ talented members with graduate education (PhD and Masters) in AI and related disciplines. The team focused on pillar areas of AI in finance, including data-driven optimization, planning and search, multi-modal document analysis, trustworthy AI, AI and mathematical reasoning, continual learning, and multiagent systems. The team published their research in academic venues and addressed and contributed to business needs and vision.

Veloso has a licenciatura degree in Electrical Engineering and an M.Sc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, an M.A. in Computer Science from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. Veloso has Doctorate Honoris Causa degrees from Örebro University, Sweden, the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE), Portugal, Université de Bordeaux, France, and Universidade Católica of Portugal.

She served as president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), and she is co-founder and a Past President of the RoboCup Federation. She is a Fellow of the main professional organizations in her area, namely AAAI, IEEE, AAAS, and ACM. She is the recipient of the ACM/SIGART Autonomous Agents Research Award, the Einstein Chair of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, an NSF Career Award, and the Allen Newell Medal for Excellence in Research. Veloso is a member of the National Academy of Engineering with a citation "for contributions to artificial intelligence and its applications in robotics and the financial services industry." She is also a member of the Academy of Sciences of Portugal.

Her research interests are in AI, including Multiagent Systems, Autonomous Robots, Continual Learning Agents, and AI in Finance. For details and publications, see www.cs.cmu.edu/~mmv.

🕒 **Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT**

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208**

CS Department Events

CS GRADUATE WOMEN'S WELCOME BREAKFAST

Welcome back folks! Join us for our annual Computer Science Graduate Women's Welcome Breakfast this year on Tuesday, September 29th. Mix and mingle with graduate women across the department over a hot breakfast to kick off the year. Please RSVP to reserve your spot.

All are welcome!

🕒 **Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM CT**

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208**

[Register »](#)

IDEAL FALL 2026 KICKOFF EVENT

Reinforcement learning (RL) is a fundamental approach for addressing how agents learn and make decisions over time from observed data in dynamic and uncertain environments. RL is rooted in work on Markov Decision Problems (MDPs), dynamic programming, and optimal control which have a long history of trans-disciplinary applications in areas such as engineering, economics and operations research. It extends the simpler bandit framework that captures the explore-exploit dilemma in a non-changing environment, where the theoretical foundations are better understood. While the more recent integration of deep learning into RL (so-called deep RL) has led to remarkable successes, theoretical foundations for these approaches are often lacking and needed, in particular as one seeks to expand the application of RL to new settings such as those involving multiple agents or human-in-the-loop control.

This special program will host a series of events addressing both areas seeing recent theoretical advances and areas with strong practical impact in need of firmer foundations. It will draw on topics such as the challenges of RL and control in robotics, theoretical challenges such as efficiency, operating in continuous time, and distinctions between offline and online learning, recent ideas and advances in decision transformers, goal conditioned RL, and world models, and agentic systems and other applications of MARL such as wireless

networking, power systems, industrial process control, and understanding algorithmic collusion.

🕒 **Friday, October 9, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 05:00 PM CT**

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208**

[More Information »](#)

Other Events

2026 FALL TECH CAREER FAIR

Northwestern 2026 Fall Tech Career Fair

Co-hosted by Department of Computer Science, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Engineering Career Development Office

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Norris University Center - 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

Audience: The Northwestern Tech Career Fair is open to all Northwestern undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni in computer science, data science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, machine learning, and similar programs.

Registration:

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, but walk-in attendance will be permitted.

All attendees must present a valid Northwestern Wildcard for entry.

Participating Employers: Check back regularly to view the latest list of participating organizations. Employer attendance is subject to change.

Questions?

Engineering Career Development (ECD) Office

Ford Motor Engineering and Design Center, First Floor, 1.200

847.491.3366

ecd@northwestern.edu

🕒 **Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT**

📍 **Norris University Center, Louis Room, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208**

[More Information »](#)

OMBUDS DAY BREAKFAST OPEN HOUSE

Hosted by **Office of the Ombus**

Join the Office of the Ombudsperson in celebrating its 5th anniversary! Meet the Ombuds team, enjoy food and community, hear about the impact of five years of confidential support at Northwestern, and get a first look at what's coming next. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Dine in or take it to go!

Location: Ombus office.

🕒 **Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM CT**

📍 **555 Clark Street, Suite 209, Evanston, IL 60208**

[More Information »](#)

Awards



Congratulations Mike Rubenstein

Selected for inaugural Chief of Naval Research Fellowship program.

Award Detail



Congratulations Manling Li

RAGEN-2 received the Best Paper Award at CVPR workshop on Multimodal Reasoning for Agentic Intelligence.

[*Award Detail*](#)

CS News



Northwestern Computer Science Recognizes Promotion of Aravindan Vijayaraghavan

Vijayaraghavan was promoted to full professor of computer science.

[*Read Full Article*](#)



Postdoc Jeremy Vollen Wins Distinguished Paper Award at IJCAI-ECAI 2026

Vollen and the research team introduced incentive ratios to public decision problems and the design of fair collective decision-making algorithms.

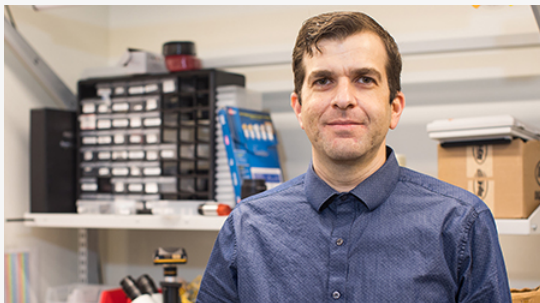
[*Read Full Article*](#)



CS + LS PhD alum Natalie Araujo Melo Wins Doctoral Dissertation Award

Melo (PhD '26, MS '25) earned the 2026 Network of the Learning Sciences in Canada Doctoral Dissertation Award for Excellence

[***Read Full Article***](#)



Michael Rubenstein Selected for Chief of Naval Research Fellowship

Launched this year, the program brings highly accomplished academic researchers into the naval science and technology enterprise, giving them the opportunity to apply their expertise to critical US Navy and US Marine Corps challenges.

[***Read Full Article***](#)



Northwestern Department of Computer Science
Mudd Hall, 2233 Tech Drive, Third Floor
Evanston, Illinois 60208

[**Manage My Preferences**](#) [**Unsubscribe**](#)