

Spring 2026

Dear Khoury Arlington community members and friends,

As we approach the end of the 2026 spring semester, we invite you to celebrate our computer science master's graduates in AY25-26:

<b>2025 Fall</b>	<b>2026 Spring</b>
Omar Elmady	Borui Chen
Philip Fochios	Grace Chong
Guanghao Huang	Xiaotong Li
Asif-Ul Islam	Xiwei Li
Zheqi Liu	Yanyuan Mo
Xinling Wang	Arth Patel
Jiaqi Xie	Yiheng Qiu
Tianyuan Yan	Sizhu Qu
Boyang Zuo	Siddhant Saha
	Yibo Wang
	Yicheng Xiao
	Joel Xu

Congratulations to the Class of 2026, and here's wishing you all a bright future!

Our graduates have secured jobs in industry such as **Amazon, ServiceNow, and The Washington Post** or enter PhD programs to further study.

As we plan for the new year, we also reflect upon the accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty this past academic semester:

### **\*\*\* STUDENTS \*\*\***

#### **Student Awards**

- **Raissa Bakari:** Recipient of NSF DREAM Award
- **Grace Chong:** Recipient of Khoury ARL Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
- **Xiwei Li:** Recipient of Khoury ARL Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
- **Siddhant Saha:** Recipient of Khoury ARL Outstanding TA Award
- **Arth Patel:** Recipient of Khoury ARL Outstanding Leadership Award
- **Ruby Lo:** Recipient of ARL Campus Impact Award
- **Suchir Vangaveeti:** Recipient of ARL Outstanding Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant Award

- **Promise Owa:** Nominee of the 2026 Outstanding Network Student Award for Arlington.

### **Student Research**

- Raissa Bakari was selected to participate in the CRA-WP Distributed REsearch Apprenticeships for Master’s Program sponsored by the NSF in 2026 summer.
- Uryaswi Bhowmick was selected by Khoury Research Apprenticeship Program to conduct the research with Dr. Youna Jung in 2026 Spring.
- Yue Li presented a paper entitled “Decoding Gen Z Implicit Cyberbullying A STEM-Integrated Framework for Teaching Critical AI Literacy Through Real-World Data Analysis” at the 2026 IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference in March 2026 at Princeton University
- Promise Owa, Ruby Lo and Yike Li co-authored a paper entitled “A Community Joint Effort to Inspire K-12 Students to Study in Computing Disciplines in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” at the 2026 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition.
- Promise Owa presented a paper entitled “Integrating Artificial Intelligence into K-12 STEM Classrooms for Teaching Efficacy” at the IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference in March 2026 at Princeton University.
- Sizhu Qu co-authored a paper entitled “An Explainable Machine Learning Framework for K–12 Artificial Intelligence Education” at the 2026 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition.

### **Co-ops and Internships**

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Semester</b>
Swaranjali Kulbhushan Lamkane	Amazon Data Services Inc.	2026 Summer
Paul-Marie Emmanuel Tiemele-Yao	Find Me	2026 Summer
Yingzi Zhang	Amazon Web Services	2026 Summer
Marvin Nityananda	Amazon Web Services, Inc.	2026 Summer

### **\*\*\* FACULTY and STAFF \*\*\***

**Madison Barton:** In her role as Khoury’s Graduate Admissions Counselor, Madison supports students across the Khoury global network, with a primary focus on the Arlington campus, as they explore graduate study opportunities. She works closely with prospective students to help them understand program offerings, engage with the campus community, and build confidence in taking the next step toward graduate education. This year, she launched a new virtual engagement approach for Khoury Arlington, including a Lightning Talk series designed to give prospective students early insight into the program and create more meaningful opportunities to connect with faculty, students, and staff. This initiative has strengthened the connection between virtual outreach and the on-campus Arlington experience. Madison also leads Arlington’s expansion efforts into the Midwest, including Kansas City, building new partnerships with colleges and

student organizations to increase awareness of Khoury Arlington programs and opportunities for prospective students in the region. Across her work, she continues to focus on enhancing student engagement and creating clearer, more accessible pathways into the Arlington graduate community, while also exploring ways to highlight alumni experiences to help students better understand potential career paths after graduation.

**Dr. Elizabeth Hawthorne:** Dr. Hawthorne is in her second year as Professor and Program Director of Cybersecurity Programs for Khoury College on the Arlington, VA campus. She welcomed our first cohort of cybersecurity graduate students to Arlington and has enjoyed getting to know each cyber student during the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters! She is also the faculty advisor to the newly formed Women in Cybersecurity student chapter at Arlington and the newly formed first ACM graduate student chapter at NU. She is an ACM Distinguished Educator and currently serves as the immediate past chair of the ACM Education Board. She also serves on the Computing Science Accreditation Board (CSAB). CSAB is the leading ABET member society for accreditation of degree programs in Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Information Systems, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning, and Software Engineering. She also secured an NSF grant as the NU PI for the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot Expansion project for Community Colleges. Her research interests lie at the convergence of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (CyAI) with the following most notable CyAI publications/presentations with her colleagues.

(1) Hawthorne, E. and Sabin, M. 2025. *Towards Convergence of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (CyAI)*. In Proceedings of the 26th ACM Annual Conference on Cybersecurity and Information Technology Education (SIGCITE '25). ACM, New York, NY, USA, <https://doi.org/10.1145/3769694.3771119>.

(2) Hawthorne, E., Sabin, M., and Dark, M. 2025. *AI Implications for Cybersecurity Education and Future Explorations* book chapter in *AI For Cybersecurity: Research and Practice*. IEEE Press and Wiley, ISBN: 978-1394293742.

**Dr. Youna Jung:** Dr. Jung currently serves as Chair of the ACM-W DC Professional Chapter and as faculty supervisor to the Northeastern University Arlington ACM-W Student Chapter. She is also the President of the Korean Women Professors Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports Korean women faculty members in the United States. Recently, she received a \$4,000 grant from the U.S. Society for Augmentative and Assistive Communication for her proposal titled “Exploring AAC Users’ Experiences, Needs, and Gaps in Current AAC Systems to Inform User-Driven AAC Design,” and has submitted an additional grant proposal to the Spencer Foundation for \$100K. In 2025, Dr. Jung delivered an invited speech, “Ethics in the AI Era,” at the 8th International Conference on Information Science and Systems (ICISS 2025) as a distinguished scholar. She has published six research papers in ICISS 2025, CyberBay 2025, ICITS 2025 (acceptance rate: 17%), and CCWC 2026. She has also served as a session chair at ICISS 2025, ICITS 2025, and CCWC 2026. In addition, she continues to serve as a reviewer for

more than 10 peer-reviewed journals, conferences, and grant programs, including the NSF, and as a research mentor through the Khoury Research Apprenticeship program and the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA).

- [1] Youna Jung, Yoosun Chung, Chanhee Choi, Sunmee Lee, and Songyon Shin. SOFTAT: Towards Socially-Aware, Fair, and Trustworthy Assistive Technology. IEEE 16th Annual Computing and Communication Workshop and Conference (CCWC), IEEE, Las Vegas, USA. January 5-7, 2026 (In Press).
- [2] Elizabeth Hawthorne, Youna Jung, and Caitlin Kidder. CyAI Curricular Convergence. 1st CyberBay 2025, Poster presentation, Tampa, USA. October 14, 2025.
- [3] Youna Jung, Sujeong Park, and Songyon Shin. Student Perspectives on Generative AI in Interdisciplinary Education. 8th International Conference on Information Science and Systems (ICISS 2025), Oxford, UK. September 14-16, 2025 (In Press).
- [4] Youna Jung and Pengwen Zhu. Analysis of Privacy on Large Language Models. 8th International Conference on Information Science and Systems (ICISS 2025), Oxford, UK. September 14-16, 2025 (In Press).
- [5] Youna Jung, Songyon Shin, and Sujeong Park. GAITE: Generative AI for Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Education. 10th International Conference on Information and Communication Technology for Intelligent Systems (ICITS), New York, USA. May 26, 2025 (In Press). (Acceptance Ratio: 17%).

**Dr. Katherine Socha:** Dr. Socha teaches courses in the Align bridge program, Algorithms, Data Science, and Machine Learning, supporting students in their chosen fields of study with a particular emphasis on understanding the mathematical foundations of algorithmic approaches to problem solving. Building on successful external work in the summer and fall of 2025, she is currently a co-organizer of SIAM-ED26, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Conference on Applied Mathematics Education, taking place July 9-10, 2026 in conjunction with the SIAM annual national meeting. She also continues her service on the editorial board of *Mathematics Magazine*, a peer-reviewed expository publication of the Mathematical Association of America.

**Brinn Strenger:** is the Associate Director of Student Supports for the Arlington and Miami campuses of Khoury. Her programming included the Arlington campus's first Khoury Research Showcase, a continuation of our "Tech Talk" series highlighting local partners and researchers, and our "Exiting the Bridge" seminar series with our Align students. She also co-created and led the Khoury Student Leader Retreat in Arlington, where 10 incredible Khoury students from across the Northeastern Network built leadership skills and improved our cross-campus.

**Dr. Huihui Wang:** is the Director of Computing Programs on the Arlington campus for Khoury College of Computer Sciences. Dr Wang continues to collaborate with students and faculty at

Khoury and beyond to write proposals to secure external grants and publish papers in peer-reviewed journals and transactions. She was recently selected as an Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics (IF=11.7).

### \*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\*

#### Panel



The panel “The Evolving Role of AI in Cybersecurity”, was held on April 15, 2026. This interdisciplinary panel was about the Intersection of AI, Cybersecurity, and Policy. Four panelists (from right to left in the picture) Alex Perez-Palma, Daria Bahrami, Awalin Sopan and Dan VanBelleghem from cross sectors joined the panel. Our very own Dr. Hawthorne still led and moderated this successful panel.

#### Guest Speaker Series

- On a snow day in January 2026, four researchers from the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan virtually visited NU ARL campus and shared their newly established Center for Research on AI Security and Technology Evolution (CREATE) in North America and their ongoing AI and Cybersecurity projects.
- In late February, Dr. Emek Kose from Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research gave a talk entitled “Decoding infections: Barcoded HIV and TB”.
- A Principal Technical Support Engineer at Oracle America Inc., Sowjanya Karri gave a talk “Developing Interpretable Generative Models for Transactional Financial Data Security” in late March.

#### Student Series

- **ACM student chapter:** the first graduate student chapter ACM across all NU campuses worldwide. The officers Ibraheem Khan, Ruby Lo, and Suchir Vangaveeti started this student chapter in March 2026 under the faculty supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Hawthorne.

- **ACM-W student chapter:** The first ACM Women student chapter in Northern Virginia was established in 2025. It is currently led by student officers Promise Owa (President) and Yike Li (Vice President), under the supervision of Dr. Youna Jung.



- **Cisco Social Net Impact Challenge Top 10:** Three of our Northeastern University master's students Siddhant Saha and Ruby Lo (Khoury), Lauren Yeom (CSSH) competed in the prestigious Cisco Social Net Impact Challenge, a global competition and they earned an award as among the Top 10 Best Globally. They were named runner-up finalists for the coveted top 5 positions, which would have sent them to Cisco headquarters to present their project to investors and Cisco leadership.
- **DMV University Pitch Program:** Yue Li represented the Khoury College of Computer Sciences in the DMV University Pitch Competition, presenting Wave Particle, currently in development, aimed at supporting users in daily life through interactive and personalized experiences.
- **HackwithDC (Top 3):** A team of Khoury ARL students—Karthik Emani, Pradhyumna Soni, and Uryaswi Bhowmick participated in an 8-hour hackathon organized by Devnovate at the AWS Skills Center. The theme was Thoughtful Agents for Productivity, and honestly, it was such a fun experience.
- **Northeastern University's First Interdisciplinary Tech Policy Initiative:** In a groundbreaking first not only for our Arlington campus, but for all Northeastern University, master's students, launched the first Cross-Collegiate Innovation Alliance (CCIA). This historic collaboration brought together students from Khoury, CSSH and COE for the

newest event series, "NextGen Tech Policy", designed to tackle real-world challenges at the intersection of technology and policy.



**NextGen Tech & Policy Hackathon (The 1<sup>st</sup> Place):**

Khoury ARL students--Bansi Bhesaniya, , Uryaswi Bhowmick, and Suchir Vangaveeti got the 1<sup>st</sup> place. This event was created by the CCIA. Another group of Khoury

ARL students--Ibraheem Khan, Siddhant Saha, George Arthur, Anton Menchaca, and Arth Patel also participated in this event. Kathan Thakkar, Uryaswi Bhowmick, and Suchir Vangaveeti got the 1<sup>st</sup> place. This event was created by the CCIA. Another group of Khoury ARL students--Ibraheem Khan, Siddhant Saha, George Arthur, Anton Menchaca, and Arth Patel also participated in this event.

- **Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) NU ARL:** our WiCyS NU-ARL student chapter served as the local host at the WiCyS conference in DC.



- **Khoury ARL student project showcase** was held on April 20. We had 27 posters presented this year. Over 40 students from four programs presented their work, and interacted with judges and industry professionals.



The Khoury College team in Arlington thanks you for your trust, support, and commitment to help us grow and strengthen your academic community and external partnerships. We wish you a well-deserved rest and rejuvenation during the winter break. Congratulations to our cohorts of Khoury College Arlington computer science graduates, in AY 2025-2026! You made it! Best wishes to all our students and their loved ones.

*Drs. Huihui Wang*, Director of Computing Programs and *Elizabeth Hawthorne*, Director of Cybersecurity Programs on behalf of the entire Khoury College Arlington Team