REU-CAAR: You’re Here!
Credit where Credit is Due

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In 2010 a Univ of MD Cybersecurity REU produced a 20-page document:

Cybersecurity Scholars Handbook.
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- Bill G modified this boring handbook into a fascinating ~ 280-slide talk!
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Auguste: Why are you telling them all that?
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▷ Bill G modified this boring handbook into a fascinating ∼ 280-slide talk!

Auguste: Why are you telling them all that?
Bill: In academia its very important to credit past work!
Purpose of This Talk

1. Who are the mentors?
2. What are the projects?
3. What is expected of you?
4. What should you expect of us?
5. Nuts and bolts of how the program works.
6. Advice on how to get the most out of this summer!
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REU: Research Experience for Undergraduates.
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CAAR: Combinatorics, Algorithms, and AI for Real Problems.
REU-CAAR

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CAAR: Combinatorics, Algorithms, and AI for Real Problems.

Discuss Find a topic within CS that this title does not cover?
REU: Research Experience for Undergraduates.
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Discuss Find a topic within CS that this title does not cover?

Systems, HCI, Software Engineering, anything else?
REU-CAAR: TEAM!
Mentors

1. Classical and Quantum Error Correction: Victor A and Phillip F.

2. Improved Machine Translation for Wikipedia: Marine C and Eleftheria B.

3. Parallel Algorithms for High Dimensional Clustering: Laxman D.

4. Fair Decision Making: Furong H.

5. Exploring the Hilbert Geometry: Auguste G. and Dave M.

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   Furong H.

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6. **Using Markov Dec. Processes to Mitigate Climate Risk:**
   Aviva P.
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  Wrote the grant, finds the mentors,

- Housing: Jennifer Arseneault.

- Your Salary: Jodie Grey.

- Lots of Stuff: Sharron McElroy.

- Arrange REU Lunches: Deborah Jackson.

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- Airport, Amtrak Pickups: Darling, Clyde, Alex, Auguste.

- Help with Final Presentations: Clyde.
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REU-CAAR:
Very Brief History
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2013-2016

From 2013-2016 we had projects in

- Crypto and Security
- Data Science
- Ramsey + Something more Applied (AI, ML, SAT-Solvers)
- Applied Algorithmic Graph Theory
- Algorithmic Game Theory
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2017-2022

Big change. Projects in the fields above but also Quantum Computing, AI-fair allocation (e.g., Kidney Exchange), AI-NLP, and AI-Image Processings. The AI projects all had a mathematical component. We changed the name to Combinatorics, Algorithms, and AI for Real Problems.
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2. Bill G. has been the PI (Principle Investigator) 2013-2024.

3. Samir Khuller was co-PI (co-Principle Investigator). 2013-2019

4. Samir left UMCP, became chair at NW in Spring 2020. John Dickerson has been co-PI 2020-2024.

5. For 2022-23-24 we got additional money for a helper. In 2022 Auguste is that helper. He will 
   (1) co-mentor a group, and 
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7. We will share some activities with them.
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Program Goals and Expectations
Program Goals

1. **Research!** What is Research? Discuss!

    - Work on problems where the answers are not already known.
    - Expose you to a variety of career paths. Discuss! Grad School, Industry, Government, Writer for the Simpsons, Hobo, Other.
    - Build skills. Team Work, Communication, Project Management.
    - Build a network with faculty and students. Useful for the future!
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3. **Build skills**
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4. **Build a network** with faculty and students.
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What the Program Expects of You

1. Show up every weekday.
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1. Show up every weekday. On time and sober. 10:00AM-4:00PM
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This is the Wrong Way To Look at the program

I invite you to talk about jobs you've had. I'll go first.

Upshot

1. This program should not be seen as a job where you put in your 8 hours a day and then you're free to do what you want.
2. You are here because you care about Quantum or AI or Bias or Geometry or Mitigating Climate Change.
3. So you should want to keep working on your projects, perhaps on a lower level, after you go back to the dorms.
4. Talk to each other in the dorms about your projects!
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What the Program Expects of You: Restart

1. **Show up every weekday.**
What the Program Expects of You: Restart

1. **Show up** every weekday. On time AND sober.
What the Program Expects of You: Restart

1. **Show up** every weekday. On time AND sober. 10AM-4PM.
What the Program Expects of You: Restart

1. **Show up** every weekday. On time AND sober. 10AM-4PM. You should want to work longer, but prob back in the dorms.
What the Program Expects of You: Restart

1. **S**how up every weekday. On time AND sober. 10AM-4PM. You should want to work longer, but prob back in the dorms.

2. **P**articipate in assessments such as surveys.

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4. Check e-mail. Reminders, notices, requests will be emailed.

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6. **A**ttend lunches, talks, and other activities. (Talks and some activities joint with REU-BRIDGE.)

7. **G**reat talks: Attend them and at the end of the semester you will give them. (Joint presentation with REU-BRIDGE.)

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3. **Background:** Explain *why* the research is important! How it fits into other things!
4. **Connection:** Help connect you to their colleagues, graduate assistants, others.
What Faculty Mentors Expect from You

1. Communication:
   - Be clear in verbal & written comm.
   - Seek clarification, ask questions, provide suggestions.

2. Assertiveness:
   - Think for yourself and support your own ideas.

3. Maturity:
   - Be reliable for what your mentor asks you to do.

4. Enthusiasm:
   - Be interested in the project, field, and topic.

5. Responsible:
   - Tell your team changes that affect your participation.

6. Adaptability:
   - Be flexible and open-minded.

First letters spell out CAMERAd. Better for a Vision REU.

Credit Auguste thought of making the first letters spell words.
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Issues that Probably Won’t Arise But Need to be Discussed
Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

1. If you feel uncomfortable, seek advice and guidance from others. Bill G., Auguste G., or Furong H. (One of the REU-CAAR mentors) can offer assistance and direct you to campus resources for help. Note that in the United States there is Mandatory Reporting: if a mentor or director hears about a case of sexual harassment, they must report it.

2. While this slide is about Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, feel free to talk to Bill G., John D., or Furong H. about any issue, even if it is uncomfortable.
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Do Your Part

Good News That You Know:

1. You get a stipend.
2. You get free room and some meal money.

If you do not do your part you could be asked to leave, which will mean you get less of your stipend. This is RARE! (once in 2014 and once in 2016).

What is 'your part':

SPACE AGE and CAMERA
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Complain SOONER Rather than Later

Better to get a problem resolved EARLY, whatever they are.
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Key to a good relationship:
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In any problem or dispute that arises the important thing is
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NOT fixing it and making things work out
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its finding whose to Blame :-}
Schedule and Activities
You should all know about each others projects:
First Week++ Talks

You should all know about each other's projects:

For all projects $p$
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For all projects $p$

there exists a mentor $m$ for project $p$ and a day $d$ such that
First Week++ Talks

You should all know about each others projects:

For all projects $p$
there exists a mentor $m$ for project $p$ and a day $d$ such that
mentor $m$ gives a talk on project $p$ on day $d$. 
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In symbols

$$(\forall p)(\exists m, d)[\text{MENTOR}(p, m) \land \text{TALK}(p, m, d)].$$
First Week - Lunch

1. Monday 12:00-1:00 lunch in IRB.
2. This lunch you will play telepictionary!
3. Tu, We, Th, Fr- Lunch in the union or IRB from your meal card.
4. Bill will join you for lunch some of the first week.
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First Week

1. Red Tape stuff (hopefully ends Tues).
2. Every day of the first week, at 4:00, a talk by a mentor on their project.
3. Research—Every day.
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Most Weeks

1. Get here by 10:00AM go to your projects room.
2. Research 10:00-12:00 (approx)
3. Lunch 12:00-1:00 (approx). MONDAY lunch IRB
4. Research 1:30-4:00.
5. Talks on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00.
6. Every other Friday you get your paycheck! Don't blow it all on supercomputer time!
7. At night talk about Applying Quantum error correction, ML, and Geometry to Mitigate World Hunger
8. Weekends— Explore Washington DC! or College Park! (Check the metro website—lots of trains are not running at times.)
9. Some of these items may change (e.g., lunches, talks may be a diff day).
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   Jill Biden is the first First Lady to have a PhD.
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3. Go to the Whitehouse and say hello to President Biden. He increased the NSF funding!
   Univ of Del ugrad President Biden did a sr thesis on Exploring the Hilbert Geometry.
   Howard Univ ugrad VP Harris’s did a sr thesis on Classical and Quantum Error Correction.
   Jill Biden is the first First Lady to have a PhD.
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Explore Washington DC On Your Own AND

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Upshot: Visit President Biden and other DC sights in June.

Upshot: There are websites that have metro information—check them before any excursion.
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Other Things We Will Do

1. Discussion of Ethics of Research.
2. Discussion of graduate school (with guests).
3. Game Nights with Pizza!
4. Final presentation the last week.
5. Unexpected things will happen! Always expect the unexpected! (Is that a paradox? A project for Summer 2024 REU.)
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Summary of Projects and People
1. Classical and Quantum Error Correction

2. Elevator Pitch

Alice wants to send Bob a string $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$. But the channel is noisy! There are ways to send $x$ such that errors will be detected and corrected (if there aren't too many of them.) One way is to send $xxx$. There are better ways. CLASSICALLY. What if you had QUANTUM methods! Can you do better? They will find out!

3. Students

Michael, Cella, Milan
1. Classical and Quantum Error Correction

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3. **Students** Michael, Cella, Milan
1. Improving Machine Translation for Wikipedia

2. Elevator Pitch

  Machine Translation uses deep learning. This sounds great :-). But it's not :-(. If only we had a large set of texts to experiment on and see what goes wrong. OH. We do! Wikipedia. This project will use translations of Wikipedia pages to understand and evaluate different Machine Translation Services. The goal is to see when they do badly and find ways to make them better.

3. Students

  Linh, Osama, Grace, Angela
Marine-Eleftheria Translation Project

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3. **Students** Linh, Osama, Grace, Angela
Parallel Algorithms for High-Dim Clustering

Elevator Pitch

Clustering is taking a set of data and grouping it in meaningful subsets. EXAMPLE: take the set of students at UMCP and group them by major and by GPA and by GPA-in-the-major. For a very large dataset this is slow. What to do? What if we use a PARALLEL algorithm on a PARALLEL machine. We will implement state-of-the-art parallel algorithms and see how they do!

Students

Papa, Mohammad, Andrew
1. Parallel Algorithms for High-Dim Clustering
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Laxman Parallelism/Clustering Project

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3. **Students** Papa, Mohammad, Andrew
Furong’s Fair Decision Making

1. Fair Division Making

2. Elevator Pitch

At one point it was hoped that automating decisions would decrease human bias. But instead there are times when it inherits human bias. Darn! This project looks at how to deal with that (and reduce bias) in the context of ML/AI for decision making.

3. Students

Selena, Amy, David
Furong’s Fair Decision Making

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3. **Students** Selena, Amy, David
Auguste-Dave Geometry Project

Exploring Hilbert Geometry

Computational Geometry asks questions like Given a set of lines find all of the points of intersection. It is assumed they mean lines in the plane or perhaps $\mathbb{R}^n$. What if you are in another space? A curved space? What can you do? You can do this project!

Students Zofia, Sally, Daniel, Carlos.
Auguste-Dave Geometry Project

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3. Students Zofia, Sally, Daniel, Carlos.
Aviva’s Markov Decision for Climate Risk

1. Using Markov Decision Processes to Mitigate Climate Risk

2. Elevator Pitch

Farmers in India need your help! Small changes in climate lead to big changes in when to plant crops. They need to predict the weather AND tie that into decision making for crop planting. We will use MATH and AI to do this!

3. Students

Nick, Jasmine
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Funding
Who is Funding This?

1. National Science Foundation (NSF).

2. Google/An Zhu (An Zhu was an ugrad at UMCP who worked in Theory).


4. Other Schools mini-grants pay stipends.

5. KAUST: King Abdullah Univ. of Sci. and Tech. They want to foster good relations between Saudi Arabia and America. They fund students from Saudi Arabia who are already at American Schools, to go to REU programs.

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Bill Gasarch’s Mother is Pearl (Nee Winkler) Gasarch
Irwin Winkler

Bill Gasarch’s Mother is Pearl (Nee Winkler) Gasarch

Pearl Gasarch’s Brother is Irwin Winkler
Irwin Winkler

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Irwin Winkler is a producer in Hollywood.
Irwin Winkler

Bill Gasarch’s Mother is Pearl (Nee Winkler) Gasarch

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Irwin Winkler is a producer in Hollywood.

1. Produced over 50 movies
2. Directed 7 movies
3. David Selznick Lifetime achievement award for producing
4. Produced Rocky1,...,6, Goodfellows, Creed 1,2,3

For more about him: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005563/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1

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Irwin Winkler has established a charitable foundation that gives money to
Irwin Winkler has established a charitable foundation that gives money to (a) many worth causes and (b) our REU!
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Adam Winkler

Adam Winkler is Irwin’s son who administers the foundation.
Adam Winkler is Irwin’s son who administers the foundation. He’s a law professor so he understands academia.

Adam Winkler has written two books: "Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America" and "We the Corporations: How American Businesses won their civil rights". The latter book was not only praised for its non-boring nature but was also a nominee for the National Book Award.
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*It is deeply shocking that We the Corporations is not boring.*
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Show me the Money!

Where Does the Winkler Money Go?

Things the NSF won’t pay for:
Show me the Money!

Where Does the Winkler Money Go?
Things the NSF won’t pay for:
► Money for housing for non-citizens.
Show me the Money!

Where Does the Winkler Money Go?
Things the NSF won’t pay for:

▶ Money for housing for non-citizens.
▶ The REU Lunches.
Does Where You Got Your Funding Matter? NO

1. Some of you are NSF funded.
2. Some of you are KAUST funded.
3. Some of you are Iribe funded.
4. Some of you are Google/Zhu funded.
5. Some of you are funded by your own school/Winkler/UMCP.
6. Some of you are not funded.
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**All REU students are created equal.**
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None of this will matter except:

1. Those funded by Google/Zhu or Iribe will be asked to write a letter thanking them. I will be asking this in September.
2. KAUST may ask their students to fill out forms.
3. The local HS students did not get those 100 emails asking for their travel plans.
Questions from You?

I welcome questions now and anytime!