

# W. Victor H. Yarlott

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## Education

Florida International University

Miami, FL

Ph.D. in Computer Science

August 2015 – Present

Note: Took one year off (2014-2015) to return home to spend time with family

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

June 2014

GPA: 5.0 (on a 5.0 scale)

Master's Thesis: Old Man Coyote Stories: Cross-Cultural Story Understanding in the Genesis Story Understanding System

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

June 2014

GPA: 4.6 (on a 5.0 scale)

Minor in Writing

## Publications

**Yarlott, W.V.H.** & Finlayson, M.A. (2016) ProppML: A Complete Annotation Scheme for Proppian Morphologies. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Workshop on Computational Models of Narrative*, Krakow, Poland.

**Yarlott, W.V.H.** & Finlayson, M.A. (2016) Learning a Better Motif Index: Toward Automated Motif Extraction. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Workshop on Computational Models of Narrative*, Krakow, Poland.

Eisenberg, J.D., **Yarlott, W.V.H.**, & Finlayson, M.A. (2016) Comparing Extant Story Classifiers: Results & New Directions. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Workshop on Computational Models of Narrative*, Krakow, Poland.

**Yarlott, W.V.H.**, Gao, T., Cornelio, C., Finlayson, M.A (2018) Identifying the Discourse Function of News Article Paragraphs. In *Proceedings of the Workshop Events and Stories in the News*, Santa Fe, NM, USA.

## Awards

FIU Presidential Fellowship

2015 –2018

the top fellowship at FIU, given to fewer than 10 students / year

FIU SCIS Director's Fellowship

2015 –2018

the top fellowship within SCIS, given to fewer than 2 students / year

## Research Experience

MIT, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Cambridge, MA

Advisor: Patrick H. Winston

August 2013 – June 2014

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- Analyzed a body of 100+ stories from Crow literature.
- Created a set of 57 features that, through generalization and combination of redundant features, was reduced to a set of 16 features.
- Determined four features that most strongly characterized Crow folklore.
- Identified areas in which the Genesis story understanding system was unable to handle stories from Crow folklore.
- Collaboratively developed and enhanced mechanisms in Genesis to address shortcomings.
- Compiled a corpus of five Crow stories for use with the Genesis system.
- Tested Genesis's capabilities as a universal story understanding system.

MIT CSAIL: Evolutionary Design and Optimization Group

Cambridge, MA

Undergraduate Researcher

February 2011 – May 2011

Advisor: Una-May O'Reilly

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- Managed multiple virtual machines using VMWare's ESX virtualization software for use in load-testing for modeling virtualized application performance.

## Teaching Experience

MIT, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant – Elements of Software Construction (6.005)

January 2014 – June 2014

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- Course administration and development of problem sets and projects.
  - Teaching recitations and holding office hours for student instruction.
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## Work Experience

IBM Research

Yorktown Heights, NY

Summer Intern

June 2017 – August 2017

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- Developed system for improving automated, open-domain knowledge extraction using specialized natural language processing techniques, with ongoing collaboration to publish results.
  - Developed natural language module for an IBM project focused on knowledge extraction, acquisition, and knowledge-base building, collaborating with an internal team of researchers.
  - Worked with natural language processing technologies developed both internal and external to IBM.
  - Interfaced with multiple teams within IBM.
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IBM Research

Yorktown Heights, NY

Summer Intern

June 2016 – August 2016

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- Developed solution for improving hiring based on natural language processing and machine learning on unstructured resume text.
  - Worked with IBM Watson APIs available through the IBM Bluemix platform.
  - Worked with massive amounts of unstructured text data.
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## Vecna Technologies

Summer Intern

Cambridge, MA  
June 2012 – August 2012

- Migrated “Patient Self-Service” kiosk backend from Apache Struts to Apache Struts 2.
  - Developed and implemented algorithm to separate highly intertwined survey data from a single file into multiple files for ease-of-use.
  - General bug-fixing in a Java environment using Struts, Spring, and Hibernate.
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## MIT Lincoln Laboratory: Airborne Networks Group

Summer Intern

Lincoln, MA  
June 2011 – August 2011

- Ported essential tool chains over to MeeGo, a mobile GNU/Linux OS, to enable the development and deployment of ROS on Nokia N900 mobile phones.
- Prototyped user interface using Qt for the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS).
- Tested feasibility of the Open Build Service (OBS) as a deployment platform for mobile environments.

## Other Honors

Heidelberg Laureate Forum

exclusive (only 200 young researchers invited) academic forum to bring young researches together with Turing, Fields, Abel, and Nobel laureates.

Heidelberg, Germany  
September, 2017

AI for Good Global Summit (Invited Talk)

summit for global and inclusive dialogue on AI hosted by the ITU

Geneva, Switzerland  
May, 2019