# Overview of the CREU 2018-2019 Program for Mentors

A Webinar for CREU Mentors 2018-2019

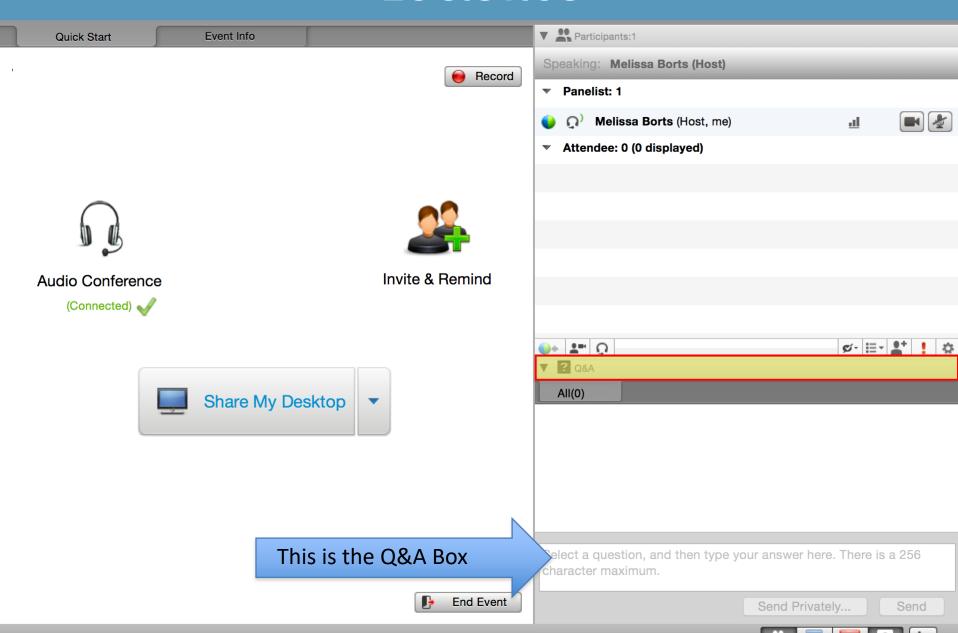
#### **Presenters**

Bonita Sharif, University of Nebraska - Lincoln Daniela Cárdenas, Program Manager, CRA Verónica Melesse Vergara, CREU Co-Director

The CREU program is sponsored and coordinated by CRA-W and IAAMCS



### **LOGISTICS**



## **Webinar Overview**

- Program Overview
  - CREU Mission
  - CREU Expectations
  - Milestone Timelines
- Best Practices
  - Lessons learned from successful Mentors
- Q&A



# **Program Goals**

- CREU Mission: Increase the number of women and underrepresented groups entering graduate studies in CS
- Program Structure: Enables successful student engagement in research:
  - Mentor provides guidance and structure
  - Research stipend frees students from other work
  - Regular reporting helps students stay on track

### Students will gain:

- Real world understanding of research
- Confidence in their technical abilities
- Experience working in teams
- Boosted interest in graduate school
- Diverse experience to support grad school applications



# **CREU Student Expectations**

- Students are expected to be actively engaged in research experiences including:
  - Working on a well-scoped and well-defined research problem
  - Using scientific methods to generate and/or test a hypothesis
  - Collaborating with colleagues
  - Collecting data or conducting experiments
  - Analyzing data with statistics or other tools
  - Explaining results
  - Writing or co-authoring a research paper or report
  - Presenting a research paper or report
  - Publishing a research paper or report



# **CREU Mentor Expectations**

- Mentors are expected to be actively engaged in supporting and monitoring their students' research experience including:
  - Carrying out weekly check ins with each student/team to discuss goals, outcomes, and on going tasks
  - Monitoring students' blogs on a weekly basis, completing blog reports on a monthly basis
  - Encouraging collaboration amongst team members
  - Analyzing data with statistics or other tools
  - Assisting students/team to submit research paper to conferences
  - Reaching out to CREU Co-Directors if additional assistance is needed



# **Program Required Reporting**

- Program Procedures and Requirements
  - <a href="http://cra.org/cra-w/creu/#financial-support">http://cra.org/cra-w/creu/#financial-support</a>

Students	Mentors	
<ul> <li>Weekly Blogs</li> <li>Students must keep up-to-update weekly blog detailing:</li> <li>Work accomplished including literature review and research methodology</li> <li>Short and long term research goals</li> <li>Outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monthly Blog Updates</li> <li>Mentors should closely monitor and guide their students during the research project.</li> </ul>	
Mid-year Report •Each CREU team will be expected to submit a Mid-year Report	<ul><li>Quarterly Progress Reports</li><li>Update from mentor on state of project and student involvement</li></ul>	
Final Report •Each CREU team will be expected to submit a Final Report	<ul> <li>Final Report</li> <li>Final report from mentor on CREU project and level of student involvement</li> </ul>	



## **Travel and Research Supply Requests**

### Submit all Requests in Advance of Making Purchases

- Research Experience Related Travel Request
  - CREU participants are able to receive funding for domestic travel for activities directly related to the student's research experience.
  - Submit Travel Request 3 months prior to the conference event.
- Research Supply Funding Request
  - CREU participants are able to receive funding for supplies used for CREU research.
  - CREU does not provide reimbursement for general purpose computing equipment such as laptops or iPads.
  - Submit supply requests prior to purchasing the equipment.



# How can we help you?

### WE WANT YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS TO SUCCEED!

- Reach out to CREU Co-directors and CRA-W staff with questions and requests for assistance: <a href="mailto:creu@cra.org">creu@cra.org</a>
- This year, we are using Slack as a platform to communicate with CREU program participants.
  - We appreciate your active participation. If you do not have access to Slack as well as the #creu2018-2019 channel yet, please contact us.
  - We have public #mentors and #students channel as well that you are welcome to use.
- Flag issues to us as they arise. The earlier we know, the earlier we can find a solution.



# BEST PRACTICES: Bonita Sharif, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

# Project Plan

- Conduct an empirical study on how developers use Stack Overflow.
  - Literature Reviews (picked by mentor initially)
  - Experimental Design (RQ, experiment setup, threats to validity, metrics, analysis)
  - Analysis and Results
  - Informal dissemination
  - GHC Submission
- Connect to a larger research project in the lab.
  - Communicate with other team members on extending and testing code structure
  - Schedule lab for their study
  - Recruit and Schedule participants for their study
  - Conduct study

# Student Roles – Mentor Perspective

- Teams with members whose skills complement each other work best
- All need to learn presentation skills and should present either formally or informally weekly.



- All need to learn how to use a reference manager (Zotero, bibtex,...)
- All need to learn writing skills
  - Start a template of the end of year report early and keep adding to it
  - CREU provides a template
- Create an environment conducive to collaboration

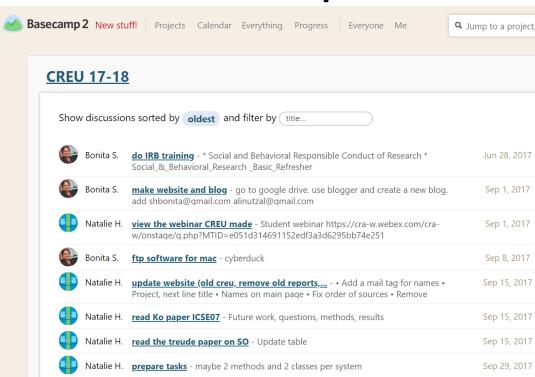
## Note on Literature Reviews

- Teach students how to perform extended literature searches.
- Teach students how to read and review.
- 1 page write-ups for each paper read
  - Motivation, RQ,
     Hypothesis, Method,
     Results, Future Work
- Summary table highlighting key features
- Ask probing questions

## Paper Summary Table

Venue/Year	ID	Author List	Title	Research Question	Method	Results
29th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE'07) Year: 2007	[1]	Andrew Ko Robert <u>DeLine</u> Gina <u>Venolia</u>	Information Needs in Collocated Software Development Teams	-What information do developers seek? -Where do they seek this information? -What prevents them from finding information?	-N = 17  -researcher observed participant with handwritten notes as if the researcher was a new employee and needed to job shadow the participant -focused on goal-oriented tasks (e.g. finding a bug rather than key strokes)	-discovered 21 questions developers ask the most important -what coworkers are doing is #1
ICSE'11 Waikiki, Honolulu, HI, USA Year: 2011	[2]	Christoph Treude Chad <u>Barzilay</u> Margaret-Anne Storey	How Do Programmers Ask and Answer Questions on the Web?	What kinds of questions are asked on Q&A websites for programmers?Which questions are answered and which ones remain unanswered?Who answers questions and why?How are the best answers selected?How does a Q&A website contribute to the body of software development knowledge?	-extract questions and answers from Stack Overflow -38,419 Questions -68,467 answers	-Questions: How-to, discrepancy, environment, error, decision help, conceptual, review, non-functional, novice, noise -Answered questions: View, conceptual, and how-to/novice more frequently

# Basecamp



#### **CREU 17-18**

February 5

Completed	to-dos

August 10	Main TODOs  / prepare final report  / read Li paper  / update blog  / conduct study-finish by end of april  / summarize tasks  / create a presentation for quest  / prepare the summary of queries
March 27	Main TODOs  ✓ Create pre and post questionnaire for part B (questions)  ✓ submit a modification to IRB.  ✓ submit Sahaj's IRB certificate
March 21	Main TODOs  ✓ finalize tasks for part b
March 15	Main TODOs  ✓ prepare word file and include the summary for 2 tasks for IRB submission  ✓ change the tasks to make the instruction more precise
March 13	Main TODOs  submit to quest present the niovelli paper pilot the study choose 4 questions from niovelli's study to read and answer. and prepare survey for it submit to grace hopper?
February 16	Main TODOs  ✓ prepare workspace for study
February 13	Main TODOs  ✓ upkeep table of methods and classes  ✓ 3 methods and 3 tasks for each system  ✓ add a zip file for android source code
February 12	Main TODOs  ✓ read Calefato paper  ✓ read the treude paper on SO  ✓ read Ford paper  ✓ rename paper files to correct format

√ write up the workflow for the study

Main TODOs

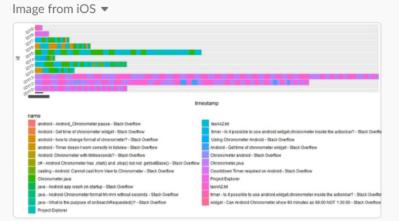


## Our local slack

@nmhalavick is it possible to change the colors a bit for the current graph? The colors seem too close together

is that an easy change?

Natalie Halavick Here's the graph. Does this look okay?



Bonita Sharif colors are better but the graph is fuzzy and blurry can you make it bigger and then export?

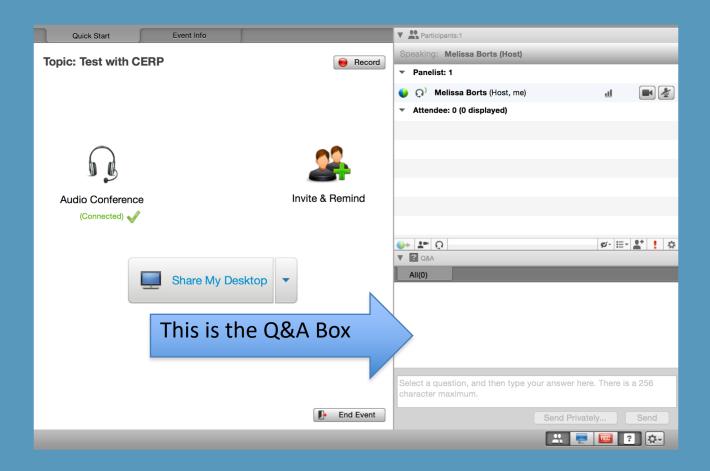
Tuesday, September 18th

07:17 **Natalie Halavick** If you haven't sent the poster, I just updated it. If you already did, it should be fine with the old graph.

# Recommendations for New Mentors

- Meet with your students every week regardless of progress.
- To-do list with deadlines + Messaging + Document storage.
  - E.g., basecamp + slack + dropbox
- Have students maintain to-do list(s) and volunteer for tasks.
- Brainstorm solutions with students. They need to own the project.
- Monitor blog reports and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Have students understand what it means to check off an item on a to-do list.
- Have students do dry runs on presentations in front of your group.
- Never forget the end goal preparing your students for grad school.

### **Questions**



### Resources

Visit conquer.cra.org for resources for your REU experience

Encourage your students to join the CRA-W mailing list, **CRA-W Updates**, by going to bit.ly/1McQCDd

Follow @CRAWomen to find out about upcoming events or programs

