Senior hires catapult the University of Washington in machine learning and “big data”
Four senior hires, building on CSE’s existing strength, position the University of Washington at the forefront of machine learning and “big data.”

Jeff Heer will join us from Stanford University, where he is a faculty member in the Computer Science Department. He is a superb researcher in the design of interactive, visual data-analysis tools, as well as tools for data cleaning and transformation. Jeff is the recipient of a Sloan Research Fellowship and a Technology Review TR35 Award for the top innovators under the age of 35.

Carlos Guestrin, Carnegie Mellon University’s Finmeccanica Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science, is widely regarded as one of the world’s leading researchers in machine learning for his GraphLab parallel machine learning system and many other contributions. He is the recipient of a Sloan Research Fellowship, a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the IJCAI Computers and Thought Award, and was named one of the 2008 “Brilliant 10” by Popular Science magazine.

Emily Fox, from the Wharton Statistics Department at the University of Pennsylvania, is a creative new talent. Her research interests include Bayesian and nonparametric Bayesian approaches to time-series and longitudinal data analysis, with an emphasis on extensions to high-dimensional data. Emily will join UW’s Department of Statistics with an adjunct faculty appointment in CSE.

Ben Taskar, the University of Pennsylvania’s Magerman Term Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Science, is an outstanding researcher in machine learning, particularly in its applications to natural language processing and computer vision. He is the recipient of a Sloan Research Fellowship and an ONR Young Investigator Award.