"Big data" affects us all. How do we begin to harness it to solve problems large and small? How do we design applications for big data that are accessible to everyone? Christophe Bisciglia (B.S. '03) is seeking the answers to these questions. For his efforts, he recently returned to campus to collect the Diamond Early Career Award, one of UW College of Engineering's highest honors.

In a fast-paced first leg of his career, Bisciglia emerged as a visionary who transformed how businesses use big data by co-founding two startup companies, Cloudera in 2008 and WibiData in 2010. Cloudera, based in Palo Alto, has since grown into a leading provider of open-source, Apache Hadoop-based software and services run on banks of networked computers, with an impressive array of large corporate clients, 600 employees, and a corporate value of about $4 billion.

Bisciglia left Cloudera in 2010 to launch San Francisco-based WibiData and get back to his application roots. He is now executive chairman of the company, which uses a variety of open-source big data tools to help clients — many of them Fortune 150 companies in retail and media — develop real-time, personalized applications across the web, mobile, and other channels.

Bisciglia's work with students and efforts to encourage the professional development of young employees is his greatest source of satisfaction. "We invest a lot of time in training the brightest and most talented and in building a company where they learn, grow, and develop into leaders," Bisciglia says. "Many have become CTO's at other companies or have launched their own startups. I'm tickled to see where they go and to keep in touch."

"The goal all along has been to bring great people together to develop world-class data management systems that benefit companies and people everywhere."

Bisciglia — and fellow 2015 honoree Yaw Anokwa (page 4) — are the 12th and 13th CSE alums to receive a Diamond Award since the award's inception in 2006. Previous Diamond Award winners may be viewed at:

www.cs.washington.edu/alumni/UW_recognition/