UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

— Allen Newell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award

This award is presented annually by SCS, recognizing undergraduate research that exemplifies the scientific process, rigorous analysis and deep impact.

Winner:
Ramgopal Venkateswaran for his thesis "Two Problems in Quantum Computing and Quantum Information Theory: Quantum Approximate Counting with Non-adaptive Grover Iterations, and The Quantum Union Bound Made Easy"
Advisor: Ryan O'Donnell

Runners-up:
Rhea Jain, "An Exploration of Approximation Algorithms for Steiner Forest"
Advisor: Anupam Gupta
AND
Cayden Codel, "An Exploration of the Divide and Distribute Fixed Weights Stochastic Local Search Algorithm"
Advisor: Marijn Heule

— SCS Alumni Award for Undergraduate Excellence

This award recognizes technical excellence in research and development by a graduating senior participating in the thesis research program.

Winners:
Rachel Cleaveland, "Formal Verification of Next-Generation Airborne Collision Avoidance System with Adversarial Intruder Behavior"
Advisor: André Platzer
AND
Varsha Kumar, "Visual Odometry in Darkness for Planetary Micro-Rover Autonomy"
Advisor: William "Red" Whittaker

SCS NEWS + AWARDS

— Don’t be fooled by the cuteness: OtterTune uses machine learning to viciously optimize databases automatically, improving performance and efficiency. The company announced a commercial version of its service and $2.5 million in seed funding last week. OtterTune is based in Pittsburgh and full of CMU talent: seven of its 12 employees are either CMU faculty or alumni.


— SCS assistant professors Henny Admoni and Fei Fang are among eight CMU faculty members to receive
Career Development Chairs to support their continued research and teaching. Admoni was named the A. Nico Habermann Assistant Professor in the Robotics Institute (RI) and Fang was named the Leonardo Assistant Professor in the Institute for Software Research (ISR). Congratulations!

— People serving time in U.S. jails and prisons are almost constantly monitored. A new study from Cylab explores people’s understanding, attitudes and reactions to such surveillance. The research received an Honorable Mention award at last week’s Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Computer-Human Interaction conference (CHI 2021).

— Also from CHI 2021, researchers in the ISR intend to improve privacy regulations that often determine who has access to what data and how. Their recent study explores the notion of “meaningful privacy control” – privacy choices that are both desirable to users and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the California Consumer Privacy Act.

— Students worked on cross-disciplinary teams to explore light as art, interactive design and programming in the minicourse “Interaction and Expression Using the Pausch Bridge Lighting” – the 10th time a bridge lighting course was taught.

— Huanchen Zhang, who earned his Ph.D. from SCS in 2020, has won the 2021 ACM SIGMOD Jim Gray Doctoral Dissertation Award for his work on methods to reduce the memory overhead on search trees in database management systems. The award recognizes the previous year’s best dissertation in the database field. Huanchen’s thesis advisers were Computer Science Department faculty members Andy Pavlo and David Andersen. Pavlo won the same award in 2014 for the dissertation he completed at Brown University.

FOR FACULTY
— SCS Partnerships will hold virtual office hours tomorrow, 1 - 2 p.m. Join Dan Jenkins via Zoom.

Until next week,

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REMEMBER YOUR RESOURCES
Connect with a Dean’s Advisory Committee if you have questions or concerns you want to share. Connect with a representative leader from SCS Council if you’d like to submit a topic for Council to consider. Coronavirus Updates & Information and FAQ | CMU Health Services, 412-268-2157
SCS Alerts & Resources | For Students | For Staff | For Faculty | For Researchers