



CSE NEWSLETTER: A LOOK INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT

Message from the Chair

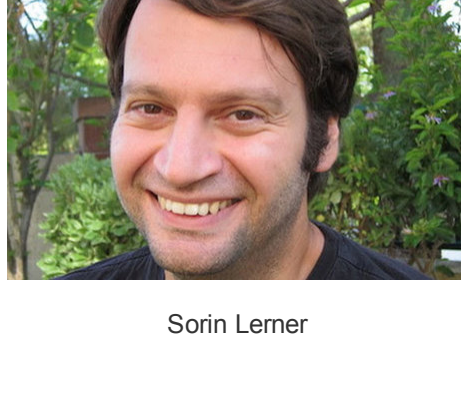
At times, it seemed like 2020 might last an entire lifetime, but here we are in December for a holiday season unlike any in recent memory.

We will long remember 2020 for the challenges we faced: COVID-19, remote learning, budget crises and social unrest. As I look around CSE, I am struck by how well we have risen to the occasion on these and many other issues. Despite the barriers, we approached each problem with a sense of optimism and a sincere desire to find solutions.

If you click on our 2019-2020 Annual Report, below, you will get a good sense of CSE's many accomplishments during the school year. It was challenging, but it was also quite successful.

I do not have a crystal ball and cannot say what 2021 will be like. However, I have complete confidence that the students, staff and faculty who make up the Computer Science and Engineering Department will adapt to whatever 2021 will bring. We've shown what we can accomplish, and we will continue to strive for a better tomorrow.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.



Sorin Lerner

Sorin Lerner, CSE Department Chair

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Check out CSE's [2019-2020 Annual Report](#), which offers a great snapshot of the department's achievements.

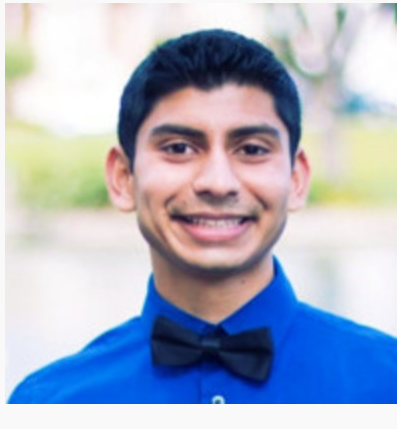
CSE NEWS

Integrating Renewables into the Power Grid

The National Science Foundation has awarded a [\\$39 million grant](#) to a team of UC San Diego engineers and computer scientists, including Rajesh Gupta, to build a testbed that integrates diverse energy sources into the power grid, such as solar panels, wind turbines, smart buildings and electric vehicles. The goal is to make the testbed available to research teams and industry by 2025.

Meet UCSD's Deep Mind Fellows

CSE is proud to announce our inaugural [DeepMind Fellows](#): Anshuman Dewangan, Ulyana Tkachenko and Garrett Wolfe. Funded by DeepMind, a London-based artificial intelligence company, the fellowships support machine learning graduate students from underrepresented communities. UC San Diego is one of three universities in the United States participating in the program.



Anshuman Dewangan



Ulyana Tkachenko



Garrett Wolfe

NOTEWORTHY

[Robust AI](#), a robotic startup co-founded by [Professor Henrik Christensen](#), is developing a cognitively-driven AI platform that gives robots better problem-solving capabilities. The company recently raised [\\$15 million in venture capital funding](#), bringing its total to \$22.5 million.

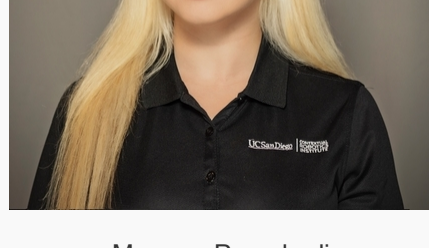
Ph.D. student [Maryam Pourebadi](#) recently received the Graduate Student Leader award, which is given to a student who tirelessly advocates for their fellow graduate students. Pourebadi has been a leader in the Graduate Women in Computing (GradWIC) group, as well as CSE's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

[Bonnie Huang](#), [Kabir Nagrecha](#), [McKenna Lewis](#) and [Raechel Lewis](#) were recently honored by the Computing Research Association as part of the [Outstanding Undergraduate Researchers](#) program.

[Rose Yu](#), [Julian McAuley](#), [Henrik Christensen](#) and Ph.D. student [Canwen Xu](#) were among the featured presenters at the [2020 Neural Information Processing Systems](#) annual meeting. In addition, [Rui \(Ray\) Wang](#) won the best paper award at the NeurIPS 2020 Machine Learning for Public Health workshop.

The [Contextual Robotics Institute](#) showcased several projects at the recent [IROS 2020](#) conference. There were autonomous vehicles, as well as bartending and insect-like robots. The conference was held virtually from October 25 to November 25.

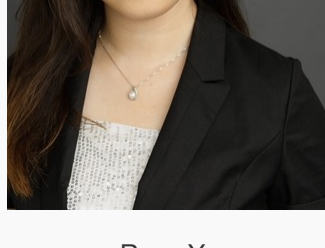
Meet [Rose Yu](#), one of CSE's newest faculty members. Yu recently arrived from Northeastern University and is developing physics-guided machine learning techniques to model spatiotemporal data.



Maryam Pourebadi



Henrik Christensen

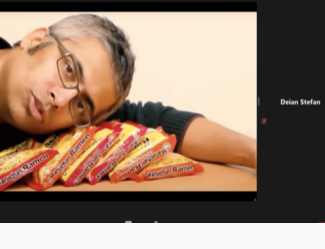
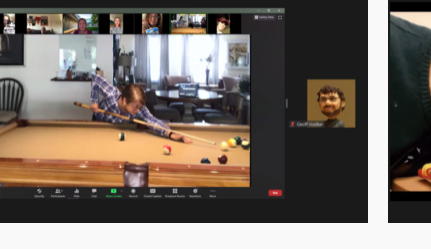
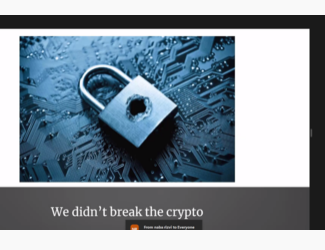
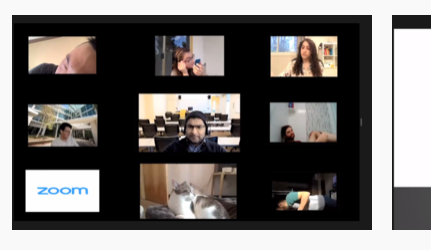
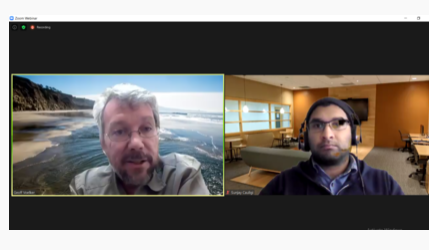


Rose Yu

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Holiday Party 2020

Like everything else this year, the CSE Holiday Party was...distant. Still, we always have a good time, and the annual skits from [faculty](#), [staff](#) and [students](#) were as good as ever.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ranjita Bhagwan Honored with Inaugural ACM India Award

The Association for Computing Machinery India Council has honored Ranjita Bhagwan, Ph.D. (CSE '04) with the inaugural [2020 ACM India Outstanding Contributions in Computing by a Woman Award](#). The award recognizes women professionals who have made fundamental contributions to computing in India.

Didem Unat Receives European Research Council Grant

Didem Unat, Ph.D. (CSE '12) assistant professor at Koç University in Turkey, was awarded a prestigious €1.5 million [ERC Starting Grant](#) for her project, BeyondMoore: Pioneering a New Path in Parallel Programming Beyond Moore's Law.



Ranjita Bhagwan



Didem Unat

For more news about Computer Science and Engineering department graduates, check out our latest [CSE Alumni Magazine](#).

CENTER FOR NETWORKED SYSTEMS

Eustaquio Aguilar Ruiz Receives Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship

Eustaquio Aguilar Ruiz, a senior majoring in physics, has been honored with the 2020-2021 [Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship](#) from UC San Diego's Center for Networked Systems. This is the fifth year CNS has recognized a student, in a program touching on networked systems, who supports the LGBT+ community.



Eustaquio Aguilar Ruiz

CSE VIDEO HIGHLIGHT

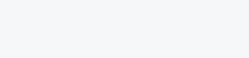
One of the awesome skits at the recent holiday party.



Let us know what's newsworthy. We want to hear from you about the projects and people (including students) we should include in newsletters, articles and the CSE website. Let us know what's up at cse-communications@eng.ucsd.edu.

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