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UC San Diego
JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

AROUND CSE

News and highlights from your
Computer Science and Engineering Department
at the University of California San Diego

CSE Newsletter | Fall 2025

CSE NEWS



UC San Diego's New AI Major Is Here

Already at the forefront of AI research, the university launched a new AI major within the Jacobs School of Engineering's Department of Computer Science and Engineering with connections across the entire campus. This is one of the first programs of its kind in the United States. [Read More](#)



UC Awards \$18 Million to Scale Up AI in Science

The University of California has awarded research grants to advance AI. CSE faculty will participate in two of the three initiatives. This includes Associate Professor **Yufei Ding** and **Zhiting Hu**, who is affiliated with CSE, in the "Materials Discovery" group and Assistant Professor **Lianhui Qin** in the "Multiphysics Applications" group. [Read More](#)

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Renovation Update: New Server Room Propels CSE into New Age of Computing

CSE's 2,900 square foot state-of-the-art server room came online in October 2025. As the space gets utilized, it is expected to have direct and immediate impacts on research and education. Its mechanical infrastructure was designed to meet the department's 1.2 megawatt data server load while anticipating future computing needs. [Read More](#)



Computer Scientists Win Best Paper Award at SIGGRAPH 2025

A research team led by Assistant Professor **Tzu-Mao Li** won Best Paper Award for developing a rendering method that uses a “ratio estimator” to improve speed and computational cost.

[Read More](#)



Pioneering ML Researcher Receives New Award from Google

Assistant Professor **Amy Ousterhout** was recognized with the 2025 Google ML and Systems Junior Faculty Award for groundbreaking research in operating systems and networks in datacenters. [Read More](#)



Computer Vision Expert Wins Frontiers of Science Award

Assistant Professor **Hao Su** received a Frontiers of Science Award for widely impactful research introducing core methods used for 3D deep learning across vision, graphics, and geometric computing. His 2017 paper has been cited over 20,000 times. [Read More](#)



New Faculty Join CSE in the Jacobs School of Engineering

The Jacobs School welcomed six new faculty including three in CSE: Professor **Marc Niethammer** in computer vision and machine learning, Professor **Hovav Shacham** in security in deployed systems, and Assistant Professor **Thuy-Duong “June” Vuong** in theoretical computer science. [Read More](#)

NOTEWORTHY



Seven CSE undergrad programs rank top 10 among public schools according to U.S. News & World Report 2026 Best Colleges: Cybersecurity #4, Computer Systems #6, Programming Languages #5, Computer Science Program #6, Computer Science Artificial Intelligence #7, Computer Science Theory #7, Computer Engineering #9.



Professor **Leo Porter** and **Beth Simon** (PhD '01), a teaching professor in education studies, received the International Computing Education Research (ICER '25) Lasting Impact Award for [Peer Instruction: Do Students Really Learn from Peer Discussion in Computing?](#)



Congratulations to Associate Professor **Rose Yu** who was named the 2025 Samsung AI Researcher of the Year for groundbreaking contributions in AI. [Read More](#)



Associate Professor **Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick**, Professor **Julian McAuley**, **Sean O'Brien** (PhD '26), and **Zachary Novack** (PhD '26) received the International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference (ISMIR '25) Best Paper Award for [Are You Really Listening? Boosting Perceptual Awareness in Music-QA Benchmarks](#).



Assistant Professor **Daniel Grier** and **Jackson Morris** (PhD candidate) received the Computational Complexity Conference (CCC '25) Best Paper Award for [Quantum Threshold Is Powerful](#).



Professor **Pat Pannuto** and **Tyler Potyondy** (MS '23) received the Operating System Design and Implementation (OSDI '25) Jay Lepreau Best Paper Award for [Building Bridges: Safe Interactions with Foreign Languages through Omniglot](#).



Associate Teaching Professor **Gerald Soosai Raj**, Professor **William Griswold**, **Anshul Shah** (PhD candidate), **Thomas Rexin** (BS/MS '25), and undergraduates **Anya Chernova** and **Gonzalo Allen-Perez** received the International Computing Education Research (ICER '25) Best Paper Award for [Needles in a Haystack: Student Struggles with Working on Large Code Bases](#).

CSE EVENTS



PRISM Annual Review

November 11-13
Atkinson Hall

CSE Holiday Celebration

December 5
(stay tuned for details)



CSE Beginning of the Year Event: Noise, Crowds & Festivities

CSE welcomed students and faculty to campus at its annual Beginning of the Year Event. Professor **Steven Swanson**, the new department chair, kicked off the festivities held in the iconic Bear Courtyard. Attendees could take a swing at a piñata, join an Ice Breaker Challenge for a chance to claim a raffle prize, and snag swag by following CSE social media.



Summer Internship Symposium: Making STEM Accessible

Earlier this month CSE hosted its 12th annual Summer Internship Symposium with a poster session and award ceremony highlighting the achievements of participants. Roughly 50 student presenters showcased work from their 8+ week, full-time summer internships with companies across the United States and Japan. [Read More](#)

Halloween Pumpkin Carving – A Cherished CSE Tradition



RESEARCH CENTERS & INSTITUTES



2025 USENIX Security Test of Time Award: Securing Automotive Systems

Researchers from UC San Diego's [Center for Networked Systems](#) – a team that includes **Stefan Savage**, who is the co-director of CNS and a professor in computer science – were recognized for their lasting influence on the field of cybersecurity. [Read More](#)



Two UC San Diego Undergraduates Awarded Prestigious Scholarships

The Center for Networked Systems has awarded the 2025-2026 [Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship](#) and the [Alan Turing Memorial Teradata Scholarship](#) to two undergraduate students – one a public policy major and the second an anonymous recipient. [Read More](#)



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