AROUND CSE

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

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CSE NEWS

Sorin Lerner, CSE Department Chair

A Message from the Chair – Farewell from Sorin Lerner

"For big transitions in life, you often prepare ahead of time and think carefully what you're going to say. But then sometimes events happen and all that preparation goes out the window! I will step down as chair this coming July 1 and start on November 1 as Dean of the Bowers College of Computing and Information Sciences at Cornell University.

"Serving as chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering for five years has not only been the honor of a lifetime but also given me (and hopefully some of you) many cherished memories that will lift all of us into a wonderful future. This department is a gem that shines bright, and I am so thankful that I was able to help in making progress toward greater success. Here is to a wonderful time ahead for CSE and for the entire world of computing!"

Cheers to CSE's Graduating Class of 2025 – Tomorrow's Leaders

On June 6, the Class of 2025 celebrated the end of their academic journey at CSE and the beginning of their next phase as alumni. Students picnicked and rocked out to Revertebrae, a live band featuring CSE's **Taylor Berg Kirkpatrick**, **Nadia Polikarpova**, and **Loris D'Antoni** along with fellow musician Davide Cartasegna. A CSE student band also entertained.

At the annual CSE student awards ceremony, 26 students were honored in a variety of categories. Undergraduate students were recognized as recipients of the Award for Excellence in Research (**Sonia Fereidooni, Subash Katel**); the Award for Excellence in Teaching (**Anya Chernova**); the Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership (**Ishika Agrawal, Helena Bender**); the Award for Excellence in Contributions to Diversity (**Pallavi Gaikwad**); and the Alice Y. Wu Memorial Award (**Annie Liu**). **Anuj Jain** received the Jacobs School Ring Ceremony Award for Excellence in Computer Science and Engineering.

Master's students received the Award for Excellence in Research (**Kaiwen Jiang**, Honorable Mention **Hejia Zhang)**; the Master's Award for Excellence in Teaching (**Brandon Le**, Honorable Mention **Bella Jeong** and **Yuhang Jiang**); Master's Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership (**Mia Khattar**, Honorable Mention **Mihir Kekkar**); and the Master's Award for Excellence in Contributions to Diversity (**Khushi Patel**).

Doctoral students received the Dissertation Award (**Rex Lei, Jonathan Margoliash**); the Award for Excellence in Research (**Chang Eun Song, Rohan Mahapatra, Chhavi Yadav**); the Award for Excellence in Teaching (**Fatemeh Asgarinejad, Anshul Shah**); the award for Excellence in Service and Leadership (**Zachary Novack, Olivia Weng**); and the Award for Excellence in Contributions to Diversity (**Emma Hogan**).

Imani Munyaka Awarded a Hellman Fellowship

Computer scientist **Imani Munyaka** is one of three assistant professors in the Jacobs School of Engineering to receive a 2025-26 Hellman Fellowship. She was recognized for her distinguished work in usable security and privacy. [Read More](#)

NVIDIA's Gift to Hao Zhang – Advancing AI

Affiliate CSE professor **Hao Zhang** and his lab are the beneficiaries of a gift from NVIDIA — a [DGX B200](#) system — the world's most advanced platform for AI computing — in recognition of Zhang and his team's machine learning and systems research. [Read More](#)

CSE Research Shines Strong at CHI 2025

Eight faculty and affiliated faculty from the Jacobs School of Engineering's Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) presented papers at the [2025 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems](#) (CHI). [Read More](#)

UC San Diego Earns Two CVPR Young Researcher Awards

Associate Professor **Hao Su** and computer science alumnus **Saining Xie** (PhD '18) received Young Researcher Awards at the [IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2025](#). [Read More](#)

NOTEWORTHY

On June 4, Associate Professor **Rose Yu** gave a Distinctive Voices talk for the National Academy of Sciences on Physics Guided AI – a framework that fuses physics with machine learning to boost accuracy, efficiency, and insight.

On August 3, Professor **Mohan Paturi** and a team of faculty and mentors will welcome a new cohort of freshmen to 2025 SPIS, a [Summer Program for Incoming Students](#) with project-based learning and research in computer science and engineering.

Assistant Teaching Professor **Trevor Bonjour** will lead the 2025 [Computer Science and Engineering Early Research Scholars Program](#). Since its inception, CSE-ERSP has matched nearly 500 students with team-based research apprentice experiences, creating opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds.

CSE EVENTS

AAB Salutes the Class of 2025 – CSE's Newest Alumni

At its third annual "Debugging to the Finish Line" event, the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) celebrated the achievements of this year's graduating seniors and and master's students, welcoming them to CSE's alumni community. Eleven students were honored as CSE Alumni Board Scholarship Award winners, and **Anuj Jain**, who served as student rep on the alumni board, earned this year's [Award of Excellence in Computer Science and Engineering from the Jacobs School of Engineering](#).

Additionally, AAB invited the graduating class to attend the upcoming [Alumni Summer Picnics](#) planned in Seattle, the Bay Area and San Diego throughout the month of August.

RESEARCH CENTERS & INSTITUTES

CNS Celebrates the Legacy of Alan Turing

This month, we honor the birthday of the influential co-founder of computer science, Alan Turing. During World War II, Turing devised the techniques that led to breaking codes produced by Germany's Enigma machine – a breakthrough credited with accelerating the Allied victory by more than a year. Despite being referred to as a national asset, Turing was persecuted in the 1950s for being gay. He died by suicide in 1954.

In honor of Turing's memory, the Center for Networked Systems (CNS) established the Alan Turing Memorial Scholarship in 2015. The scholarship highlights the center's interest in celebrating students from all backgrounds and orientations and emphasizes its alignment with philanthropic partners who share these important goals. CNS is reviewing applications for the 2025-2026 scholarship and will announce recipients in the Fall.

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