Agenda

- 9:30-10am Coffee & pastries
- 10-10:20am: Introduction and Welcome
  - Interim Dean Pollock, College of Engineering
  - Prof. Tevfik Bultan, Department Chair
- 10:20-11:20am: Graduate Awards - Prof. Chandra Krintz
  - Graduate Alumni Awards (MS & PhD)
  - Outstanding BS/MS student
    - In memory of Caitlin Scarberry
- 11:20am-12pm: Undergrad Awards - Prof. Misha Sra
  - Undergraduate Alumni Award

2023 Computer Science Award Ceremony

June 16, 2023 ESB 1001

UC **SANTA BARBARA**

Demand for Computing Education

Applications to Computer Science programs are at an all time high!

In terms of number of applications received by academic units:

- ***CS ranks 1st among graduate programs at UCSB***

  ~2K applications

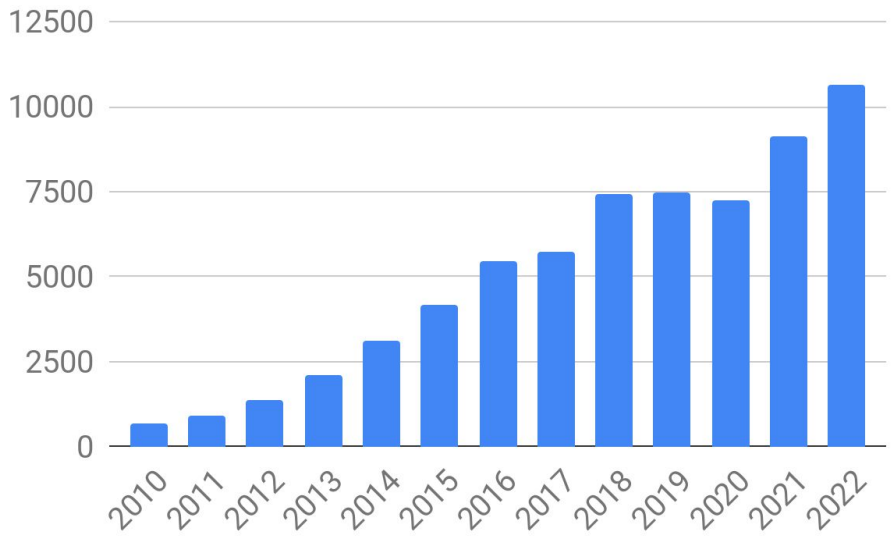
  ~20% of all grad applications to UCSB

- ***CS ranks 2nd among undergraduate programs at UCSB***

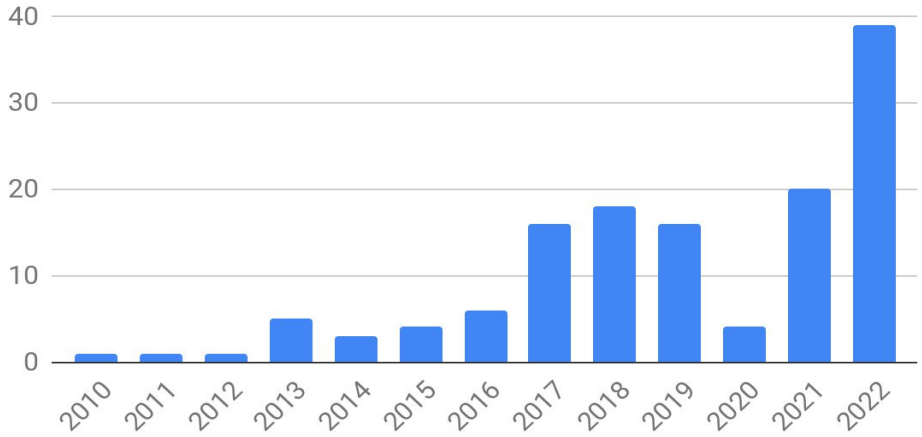
  10K+ applications

  10-fold increase the previous decade

of Applications to Computer Science BS Degree



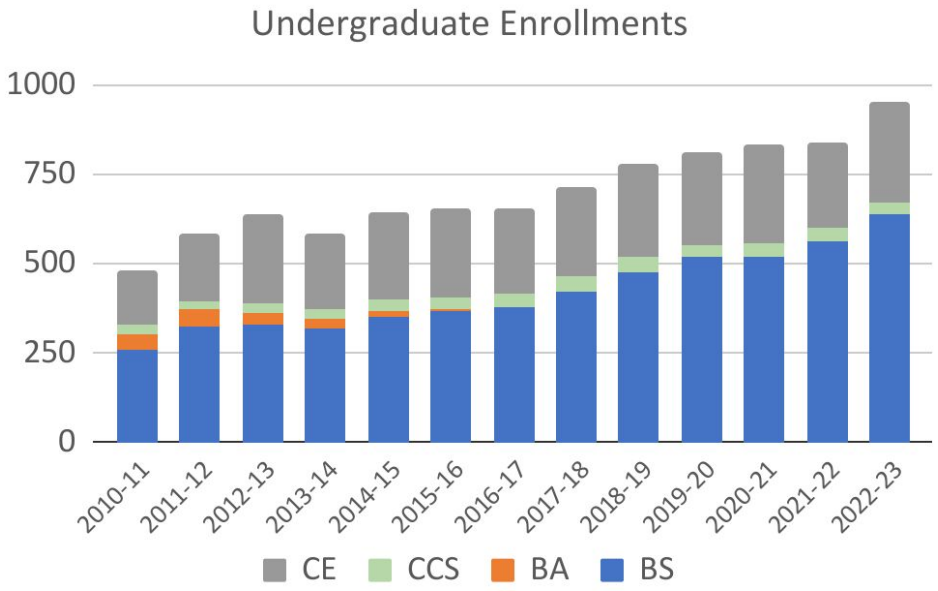
of Incoming Regents Scholars to Computer Science



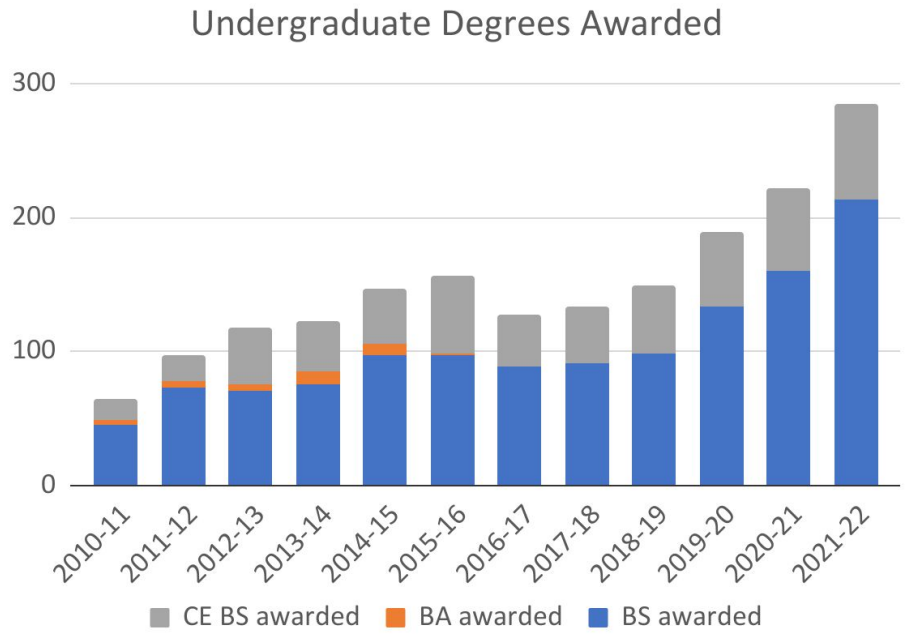
UCSB CS class of 2026:

- Among 5000+ UCSB freshmen, there are only 54 Regents Scholars, and 39 of them are CS students!

Undergraduate Enrollments

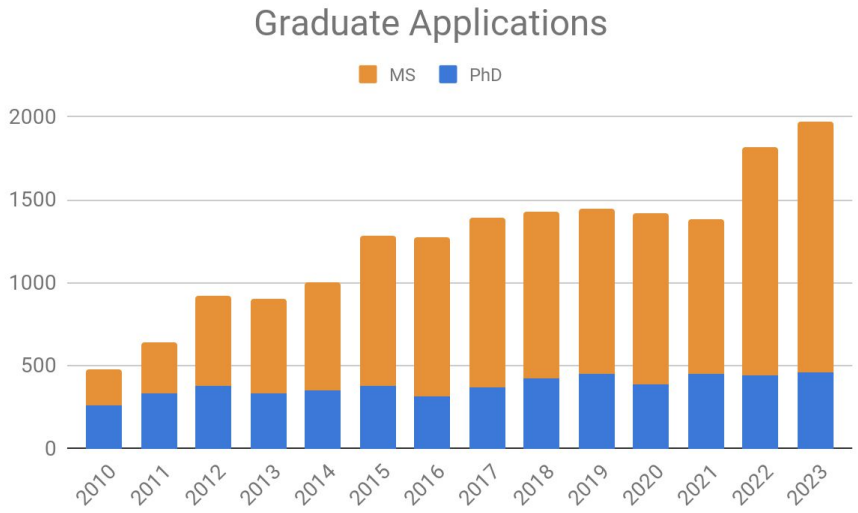


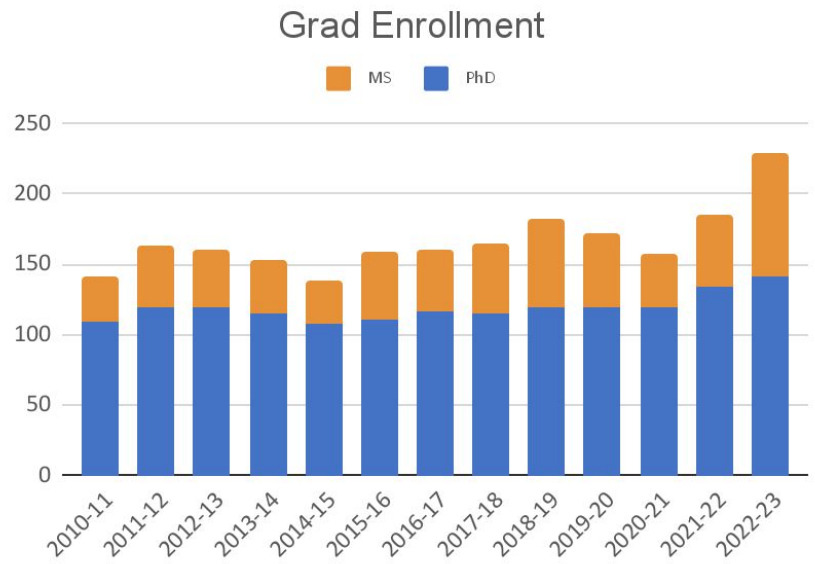
BS Degrees Awarded

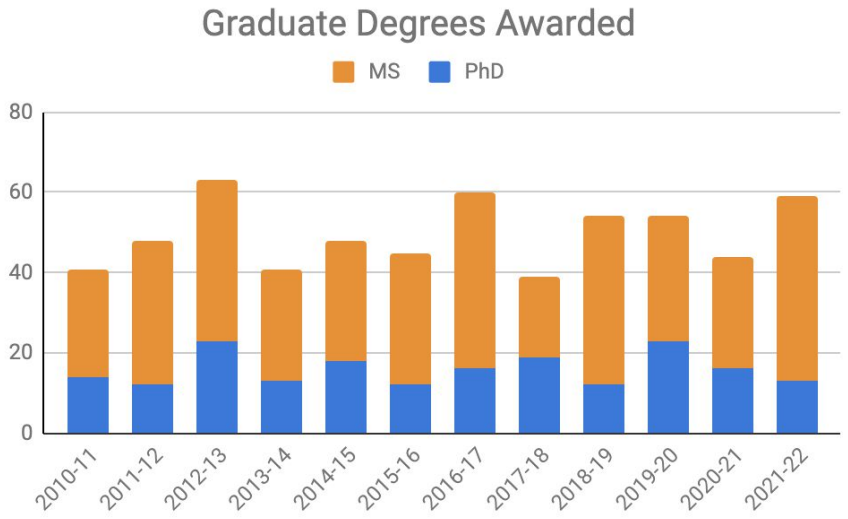


- Avg. Incoming Freshman GPA: 4.42
- Avg. Cumulative GPA: 3.65

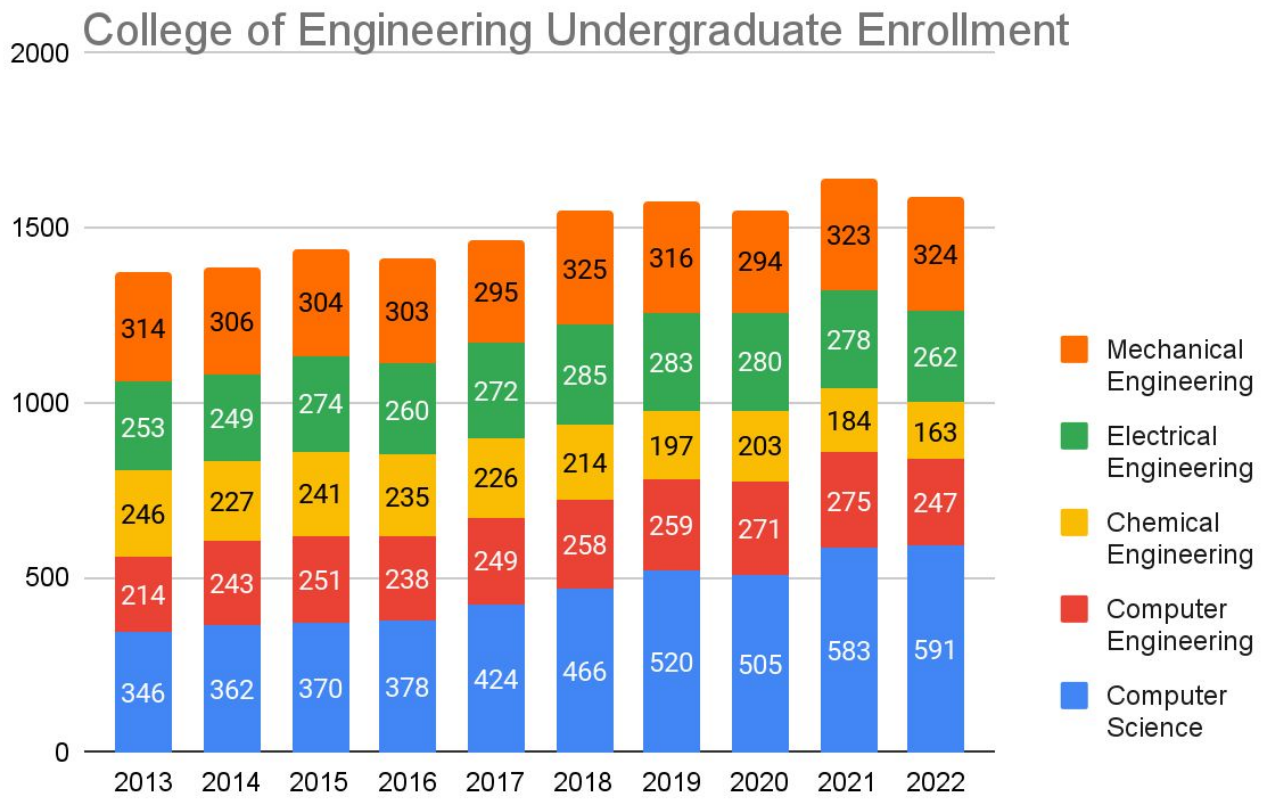
PhD & MS Demand, Enrollment & Degrees Awarded

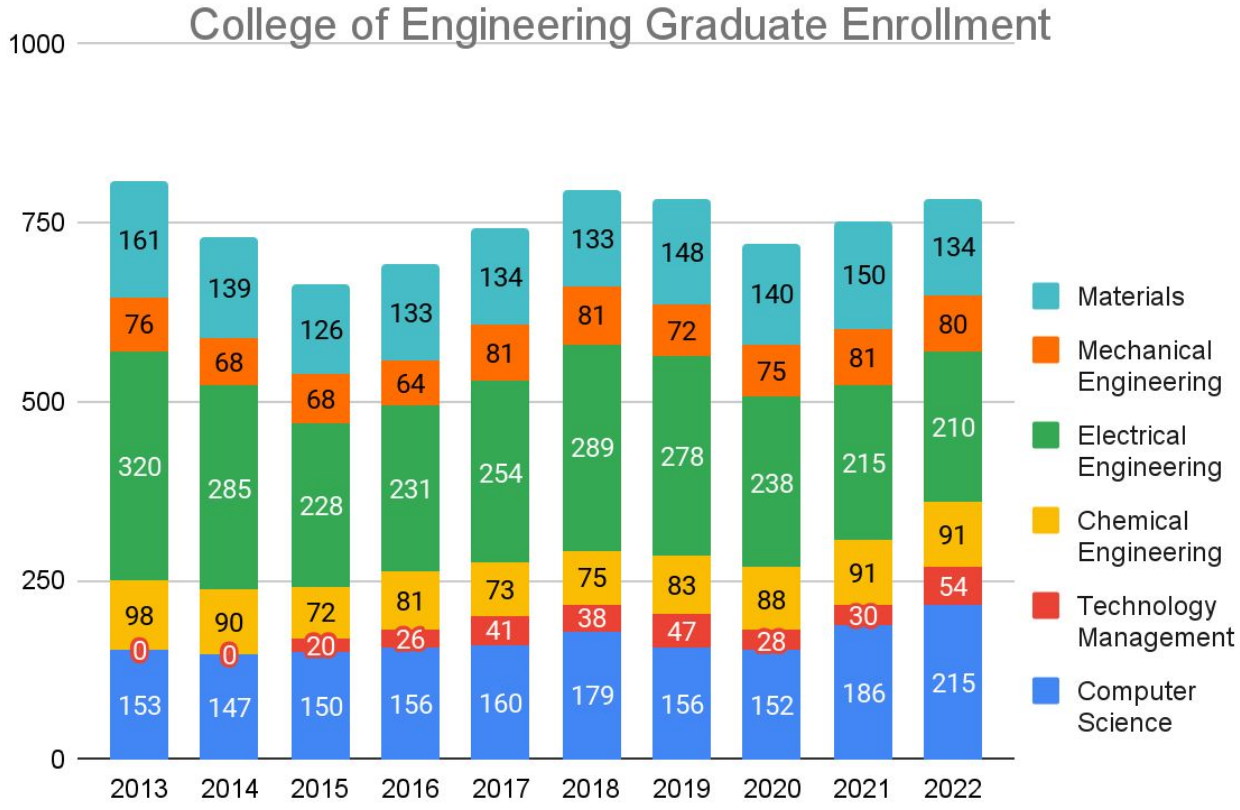






Computer Science is the Growth Engine of the College of Engineering

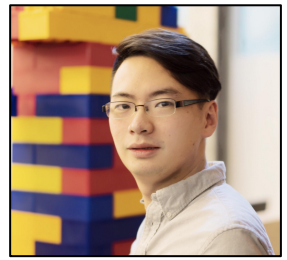




2020-2021

- **Jonathan Balkind**, Assistant Professor, Phd 2020 Princeton, Area: computer architecture, programming languages, operating systems

- **Shiyu Chang**, Assistant Professor, Phd 2016 UIUC, Area: machine learning, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, computer vision



- **Lei Li**, Assistant Professor, Phd 2011 CMU, Area: artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing

- **Eric Vigoda**, Professor, Phd 1999 UC Berkeley, Area: randomized algorithms, computational complexity

2022

- PhD 2018 Rutgers University
- Area: computational science education, data science education, human information behavior

Ziad Matni
Teaching Professor

2023

- PhD 2020 University of Calgary
- Research Area: high-performance scientific computing, data privacy and embedded ethics

Maryam Majedi
Teaching Professor

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Computer Science

New Affiliated Faculty

Haewon Jeong, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Yao Qin, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

Outstanding Staff

Greta Carl-Halle
Business Officer

Sheryl Montoya
Financial Services Manager

Maritza Fuljencio
Student Affairs Manager

Alexander Molenaar
Contracts & Grants Manager

Mackenzie Christie
Contracts and Grants Analyst

Bryan Salazar Pazmino
Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Hanna Wong
Undergraduate Advisor

Bella Cardoso
Graduate Advisor

Rosalia Torres
Financial Administrator

Jasmine Moreno
Communications & Special Events Assistant

Debra Nordyke
Academic Personnel & Operations Coordinator

Tim Robinson
Coordinator, Seclab & Network Science Research Group

Roxanne Morales
Personnel Coordinator

Laura Langan
Administrative Assistant, Crml

Noah Spahn
Software Engineer, Seclab

Outstanding Research

UCSB to lead NSF-funded research institute for next-level AI-powered cybersecurity

MAY 4, 2023

This article was originally published by Sonia Fernandez with The Current.

Read the full article here.

Malware. Ransomware. Zero-day exploits. There's no rest when it comes to protection from cyberattacks. And in an increasingly connected world, with expanding digital spaces and access to tools like artificial intelligence, attacks are likely going to become more sophisticated and numerous.

That's why a group of the nation's best computer scientists and engineers have come together to form the National Science Foundation-funded Institute for Agent-based Cyber Threat Intelligence and OperatioN (ACTION), an effort that brings the continuous learning — and now, reasoning — of AI to the constant situational awareness that is fundamental to cybersecurity.

DARPA Selects UCSB Led Team for the HARDEN Program

DECEMBER 8, 2022

A UCSB led team was one of the eight teams selected by DARPA for the Hardening Development Toolchains Against Emergent Execution Engines (HARDEN) program. HARDEN program's goal is "to create practical tools that will prevent exploitation of integrated computing systems by disrupting the patterns of robust, reliable exploits used by attackers, and depriving the attackers of emergent execution engines."

The UCSB project is titled: "EMERGENCY: A Unified Framework for Discovering, Modeling, Analyzing & Mitigating Adversarial Emergent Computations." The PIs for the project are Professors Tevfik Bultan (lead), Yu Feng, Christopher Kruegel, and Giovanni Vigna from UCSB, and Professors Aravind Machiry (UCSB CS alumnus) and Milind Kulkarni from Purdue.

Michael Beyeler Receives $1.5 Million NIH Grant to Develop Bionic Eye

OCTOBER 5, 2022

This article was originally published by Andrew Masuda with The Current.

View the complete news release here.

(Santa Barbara, Calif.) – Good vision is essential to everyday living, yet approximately 12 million America aged 40 and over live with vision impairment, including 1 million who are legally blind, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although some affected individuals can be treated with sur or medication, and recent advances in gene and stem cell therapies are showing promise, no effective treatments exist for many people who are blinded by severe degeneration of, or damage to, the retina, optic nerve or the cortex. In such cases, an electronic visual prosthesis, or bionic eye, may be the only o

Michael Beyeler, an assistant professor of computer science and psychological and brain sciences at UC Santa Barbara, aims to bring to the mainstream an AI-powered bionic eye that can generate artificial visi

Jonathan Balkind Receives NSF Early CAREER Award to Go Faster in the Cloud

Achievements

Monday, March 20, 2023

by **James Badham**

Assistant Professor Johanthan Balkind.

Jonathan Balkind, assistant professor in the UC Santa Barbara Computer Science Department, has received a five-year, $630,000 NSF Early CAREER award that will allow him to develop a new application for cloud computing.

"It's really an honor to receive the CAREER award!" Balkind said. "This is my first funded NSF proposal and was the first time I made a submission for the CAREER. I've had to pinch myself at least once to believe that it really happened. I'm really looking forward to driving this project over the next five years."

Balkind will use a technique called microarchitectural checkpointing to redesign computer processors for cloud-based serverless computing, which is a new paradigm favored by cloud developers.

An Empowering Fellowship

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Fuheng Zhao, a third-year PhD student in UC Santa Barbara's Computer Science (CS) Department, has received a prestigious Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship. The fellowship funds two years' worth of tuition and fees, and provides an annual cash stipend of $42,000. Fellows also receive opportunities to build relationships and collaborations with Microsoft research teams. The technology company launched the global fellowship program to identify and empower the next generation of exceptionally talented computer science researchers. According to Microsoft Research, the program received a record number of applications this year, and the thirty-six recipients should interpret the fellowships as recognition of their accomplishments and the potential for future impact Microsoft sees in them and their research.

16 Poster Presentation MICCAI Monday DAILY

Greedy Optimization of Electrode Arrangement for Epiretinal Prostheses

Ashley Bruce is a recent graduate from UCSB and a Software Engineer at Veeva.

Michael Beyeler is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Psychological & Brain Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ashley and Michael speak to us ahead of their poster presentation this afternoon about their work exploring the optimal arrangement of electrodes in epiretinal prostheses.

Prof. Elizabeth Belding's 1999 Article on AODV Routing Reaches 30,000 Citations

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

In 1999, Prof. Belding's first paper, co-authored by Charles Perkins of Sun Microsystems, introduced the Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) routing protocol as a novel means of routing data packets in mobile networks. This work helped set the stage for networking in the then nascent mobile ad hoc and mesh networks and has heavily influenced the development of the research field in the subsequent two decades. The paper, which also received the 2018 ACM SIGMOBILE Test-of-Time award, has recently passed the 30,000 citation mark!

Read the paper here.

Congratulations to Professor Belding!

Related People

Elizabeth M. Belding

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

Marianne Arriola Recieved NSF's Prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship

APRIL 4, 2023

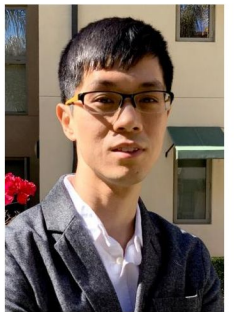
Marianne Arriola, who is working in the Dynamo lab with Professor Ambuj Singh, is the proud recipient of NSF's prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship. She is a Computing student in the College of Creative Studies (CCS) and a UCSB CSEP research intern. Her research interests are in computational biology, data mining, applied machine learning, and dynamical systems modeling.

This fellowship aims to support a diverse and high achieving scientific and engineering workforce, particularly in underrepresented groups.

Related People

Ambuj K. Singh

CS Alumnus Wenhu Chen Named Canada CIFAR AI Chair



OCTOBER 27, 2022

CS Alumnus Wenhu Chen has been named one of eight new Canada CIFAR AI Chairs. Professor Chen wil work with the nation's leading researchers to build a powerful artificial intelligence research ecosystem, in order to propel Canada's lead in priority areas under the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy at CIFAR.

Professor Chen's appointment will bolster Canadian research in priority areas of the second phase of the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, which consists of AI for health, AI for energy and the environment, the fundamental science of AI, and the responsible use of AI.

In the CIFAR press release, Executive Director of the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, Elissa Strome, said, The n Canada CIFAR AI Chairs joining Amii and the Vector Institute are an extraordinarily talented group of researchers who will continue to educate and inspire the next generation of AI leaders and advance resea in exciting and important areas".

Wenhu Chen received his PhD from UCSB in 2021, where he was advised by CS Associate Professor Willi Wang. Professor Chen went on to become an Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo in June 20 He is currently a Research Scientist for Google, where he focuses on research in Natural Language

Stellar Students

A Rising Star in Computer Science

Achievements

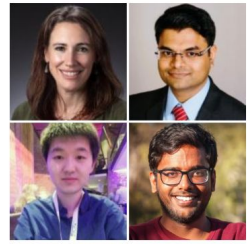
Wednesday, October 26, 2022

UC Santa Barbara computer science PhD student **Sharon Levy** has been selected to participate in the prestigious Electrical Engineering Computer Science (EECS) Rising Stars program. The annual event is an intensive two-day workshop for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars of historically marginalized or underrepresented genders who are interested in pursuing academic careers in electrical engineering, computer science, and artificial intelligence (AI) and decision making.

"Being invited to the workshop is a great academic opportunity, and I am extremely happy to have received this recognition," says Levy, who is one of eighty-five people invited to this year's workshop, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin on October 27 and 28.

2022 EECS Rising Star Sharon Levy, a fifth-year computer science PhD student

Udit Paul, Jiamo Liu, Arpit Gupta and Elizabeth Belding receive Best Long Paper Award at ACM Internet Measurement Conference 2022



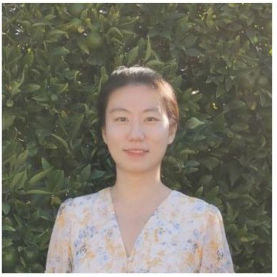
NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Udit Paul, Jiamo Liu, Professor Arpit Gupta and Professor Elizabeth Belding's paper, "The Im
Contextualization of Crowdsourced Active Speed Test Measurements", has been awarded th
Paper Award at the ACM Internet Measurement Conference 2022 (IMC 2022).

Professor Belding summarized their paper as follows:

> "This work is timely given the recent focus on crowdsourced speed test measuren
> policy-related decision-making. Our paper argues that using these measurements
> understanding their context is problematic. Though the community had internaliz
> speed-test results can be misleading, no one knew the extent of skews in such cro
> datasets. One significant roadblock in contextualizing these measurements was to
> subscription tier (10 Mbps vs. 100 Mbps plan). A speed test result of 10 Mbps is ju
> user subscribed to a 10 Mbps plan, but it is quite problematic if it subscribed to a

Yimeng Liu Named Finalist for Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship



NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Third-year PhD student Yimeng Liu was selected as finalist of Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship (Q
Together with Pulkit Tandon from Stanford University, they proposed "Ultra-Low Bandwidth Strear
Talking-Head Videos via Generative Models".

The Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship (QIF) supports PhD students in their research endeavors, in
advance the next generation of technological innovation. Finalists were selected from a pool of ov
proposals across the globe.

Yimeng works with Professor Misha Sra at Perceptual Engineering Lab. She is interested in designi
studying machine learning enabled human-computer interaction systems.

Related People

Misha Sra

Zichen Chen Receives the Innovative Application of AI Award from AAAI

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Zichen's paper titled "Efficient Training of Large-scale Industrial Fault Diagnostic Models through Federated Opportunistic Block Dropout" won the Innovative Application of AI award from the Association for Advanced Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) on February 9th, 2023. The paper was presented during the 35th Annual Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-23) held in Washington DC, USA from 7 to 14 Feb 2023. The IAAI Conference, through the Innovative Applications of AI Awards, honours case-study papers that describe deployed applications with measurable benefits that include some aspects of AI technology (https://aaai.org/about-aaai/aaai-awards/).

The team from Nanyang Technological University led by Prof. Han Yu and Zichen have proposed a new

CS Student Anisha Kabir Named Honorable Mention for Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award

DECEMBER 28, 2022

CS student Anisha Kabir was named Honorable Mention for the Computing Research As
2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award.

Anisha began her research through Professor Diba Mirza's Early Research Scholars Progr
program she joined the NLP group, working under the guidance of Professor William Wa
Sun on improving long text summarization models. Her group was able to publish and p
the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference. The following year Anisha worked
Alex Mei and mentor Sharon Levy on mitigating unsafe recommendations within natural
and they published their work at the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Langu

Read the full paper here.

Related Links

Congratulations to our 2023 summit.cs Winners

MARCH 22, 2023

The UC Santa Barbara Computer Science Department hosted its annual summit.cs event, uniting undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, alumni, and industry partners in a program of sharing ideas and making connections. The event included Capstone presentations and awards, as well as a distinguished lecture by David Fenke – an American entrepreneur, businessman, and technical advisor. Fenke currently serves on the UCSB College of Engineering Dean's Cabinet and has been a trustee of the UC Santa Barbara Foundation since 2017.

TRANQUILITEA (partner: WellHealth) placed first, while FAT STACKS (partner: Allthenticate) placed second. Finally, OVERSEA (partner: NavSea landed third place. Congratulations!

Watch summit.cs 2023 here.

JUNE 14, 2023

GauchoAI Places 2nd in AlexaPrize SimBot Challenge

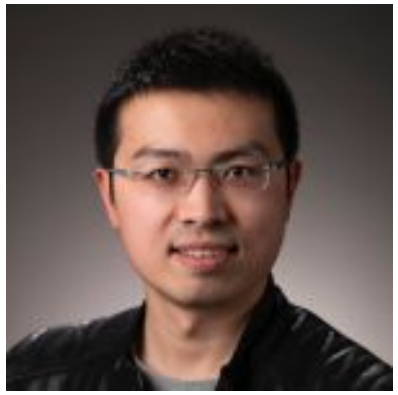
Congratulations to UCSB team GauchoAI, who placed 2nd in the AlexaPrize SimBot Challenge. The team, led by Professor Xifeng Yan and Professor William Wang, was awarded $100,000 for their innovative work on the next generation of virtual assistants.

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Computer Science

Faculty Accomplishments

Assist. Prof. Arpit Gupta

- ACM Internet Measurement Conference - Best (Long) Paper Award
- IRTF - Applied Networking Research Prize
- ACM CCS - Best Paper Honorable Mention Award



Assist. Prof. Lingqi Yan
ACM SIGGRAPH - Best Paper Honorable Mention

Prof. Elizabeth Belding
ACM Internet Measurement Conference - Best (Long) Paper Award

Assist. Prof. Lei Li
Amazon Research Award

Prof. Tobias Höllerer
Induction to the IEEE VGTC VR Academy

Faculty Accomplishments

Prof. Timothy Sherwood
ACM - Elevated to Fellow

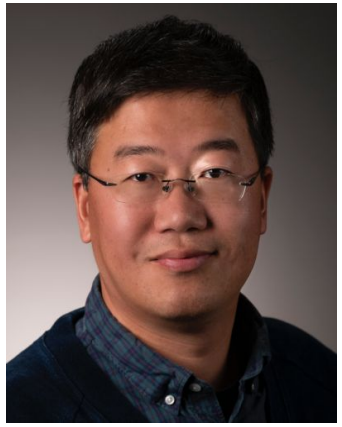
Assist. Prof. Misha Sra

- NSF Early CAREER Award
- Hellman Family Faculty Fellowship

Assist. Prof. Michael Beyeler
NIH Director's New Innovator Award

Assist. Prof. Jonathan Balkind
NSF Early CAREER Award

Assist. Prof. Yu Feng
ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation Distinguished Paper Award



Prof. Xifeng Yan

- VLDB Test of Time Award
- Alexa Prize SocialBot Grand Challenge Award
- Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge 2nd Place

College of Engineering
Class of 2023
Outstanding Faculty Award

- Graduating seniors in every undergraduate degree program in UC Santa Barbara's College of Engineering select one outstanding faculty member each spring.

- **Diba Mirza** was selected to receive the 2022-23 Computer Science Department's Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award. This marked the **fourth** time in the past five years that Diba has received the commendation.

Diba Mirza
Associate Teaching Professor

Faculty Accomplishments

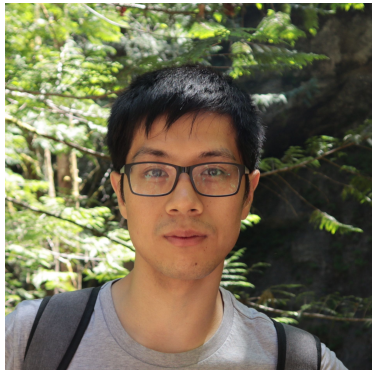
- Received the British Computer Society's prestigious Karen Spärck Jones Award, named after the pioneer of information retrieval.
- Received the CRA's Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentoring Award for his dedication to exceptional mentorship.
- Co-supervised the team that was awarded 2nd place in the Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge.

William Wang
Associate Professor

Accomplishments of CS Alumni

Mohammad Javad Amiri
Assist. Prof. at Stony Brook University
Joined CS Department

Justin Tjoa
NSF CSGrad4US Fellowship



Wenhu Chen
Canada CIFAR AI Chair

Mai El Sherief
Assist. Prof. at Northeastern University
Joined CS Department

Xin Eric Wang
Assist. Prof. at UC Santa Cruz
Supervised the team that was Awarded 3rd place in the Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge

Agent-based Cyber Threat Intelligence and OperatioN (ACTION) Institute

L to R: Professors Ambuj Singh, Christopher Kruegel, João Hespanha, Giovanni Vigna

Computer Science Presents:

Distinguished Graduate Alumni Awards

Computer Science Distinguished MS Alumnus Award

Sanjay Suri
Chief Product and Technology Officer – Nykaa

Sanjay Suri is the CTO of Nykaa – He is an Internet Entrepreneur based in New Delhi. He earned his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Masters degree in Computer Science in India before coming to UCSB, where he graduated with a MS in Computer Science.

Over his career of 25 years he has worked both in the US and India across large technology giants - Oracle Corp and Amazon - and multiple startups. He has spent more than half his professional life in startups and he attributes his affinity to startup life to his spirit of Adventure.

He is an avid trail runner, triathlete and spends a substantial time trekking and bike packing.

Computer Science Distinguished PhD Alumnus Award

Dr. Luca Foschini
President & CEO of Sage Bionetworks

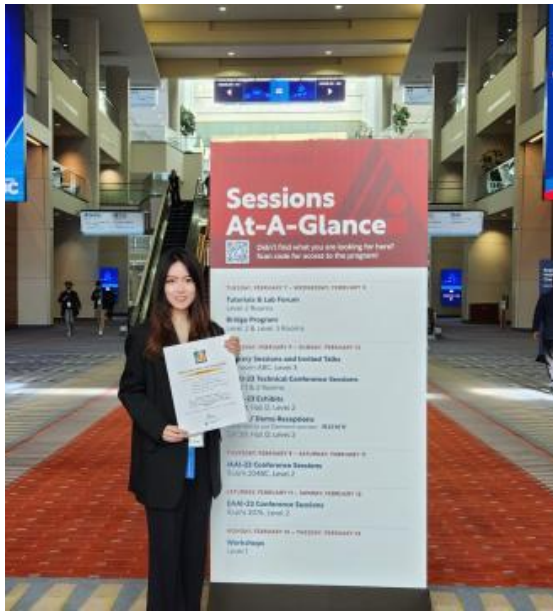
Dr. Luca Foschini is president and CEO of Sage Bionetworks. Prior to this, he co-founded and served as Chief Data Scientist at Evidation for 10 years. Dr. Foschini's has focused on digital medicine, particularly in the areas of data collection and analysis methodology. He has co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and given talks on topics including machine learning in healthcare, continuous health monitoring, and privacy in high-dimensional data.

Luca holds a PhD in Computer Science from UCSB and a Master's degree in Computer Engineering from the Sant'Anna School of Pisa. He has also conducted theoretical computer science and cybersecurity research in academia and industry, including research positions at Google and Ask.com.

Computer Science Presents:

Graduate Student Awards

2022-23 Graduate Student External Awards



Zichen Chen

Advisor: Misha Sra

Selected as the 2023 AAAI recipient of the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Award. IAAI honors case-study papers that describe deployed AI technology applications with measurable benefits

Sharon Levy

Advisor: William Wang

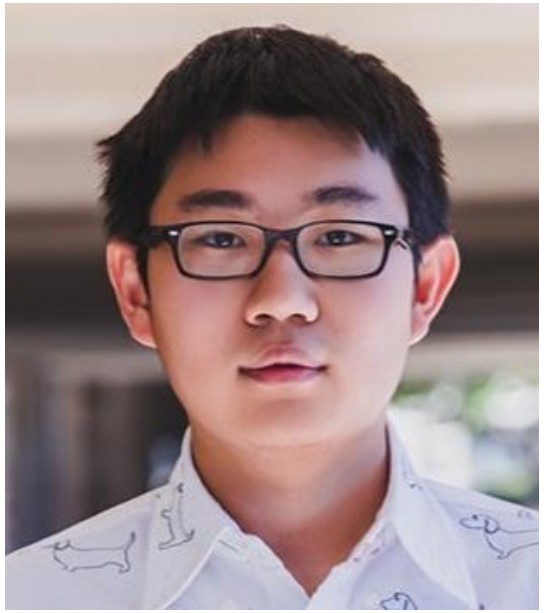
Selected as one of 150 women nationwide invited to the 2022 Rising Stars in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) Workshop and hosted by UT Austin

Yimeng Liu

Advisor: Misha Sra

Selected as the 2022 Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Finalist, which invests in University PhD students and their forward thinking ideas.

2022-23 Graduate Student External Awards

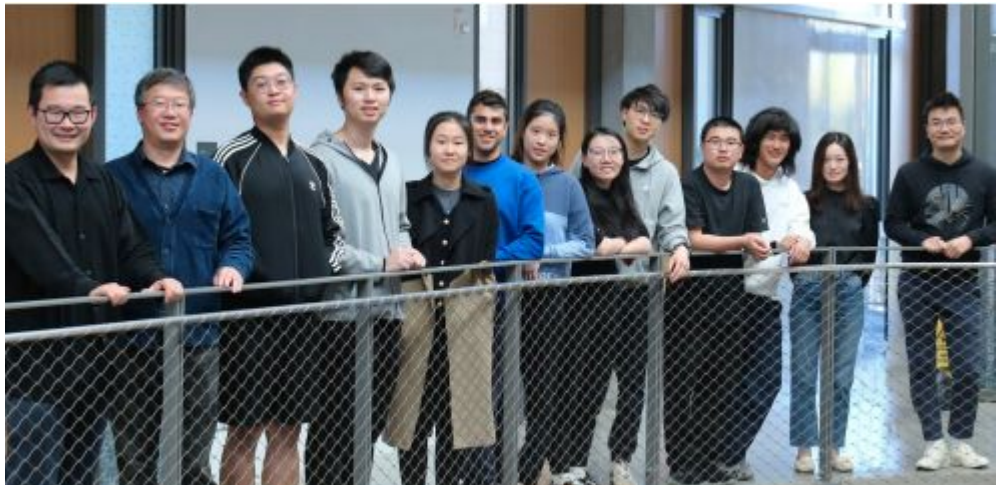


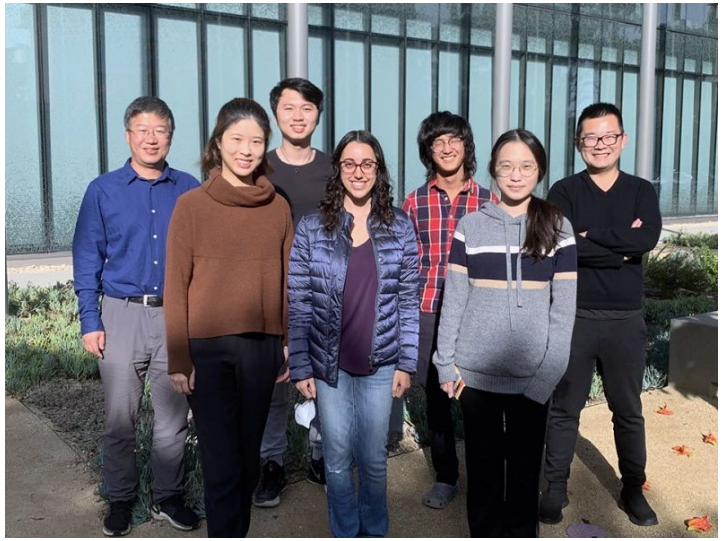
Fuheng Zhao

Advisors: Divy Agrawal & Amr El Abbadi

Selected as one of 36 recipients globally of the Microsoft Research Fellowship, presented to exemplary students to acknowledge their contributions & provide funding for their research

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science





GauchoAI Team

Advisors: Xifeng Yan and William Wang

Selected as the 2nd place team in the worldwide Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge. The Alexa Prize is a unique industry-academia partnership program which provides an agile real-world experimentation framework and tools for accelerating scientific discovery. University students have the opportunity to launch innovations online and rapidly adapt based on feedback from Alexa customers. The SimBot Challenge's goal is to advance the development of next-generation virtual assistants that help humans complete real-world tasks by continuously learning.

2022-23 Graduate Student Campus Fellowship Awards

Yeganeh Aghamohammadi
Advisor: Jonathan Balkind

Selected for a Graduate Research Accelerator Fellowship

Joyce Passananti
Advisor: Tobias Hollerer

Selected for a Graduate Research Mentor Program Fellowship

Galen Pogoncheff
Advisor: Michael Beyeler

Selected for a Graduate Research Accelerator Fellowship

Yuke Wang
Advisor: Yufei Ding

Selected for a Graduate Dissertation Fellowship

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

UCSB 2023 University Award of Distinction

- Presented annually to graduating graduate students in recognition of excellence to students who have made an outstanding contribution to a particular area of UCSB student life and community activities.
- The awards recognize academic achievements along with in-depth or focused involvement and significant achievement in campus or community activities.
- Alex is involved in the CS Early Research Scholar Program (ERSP), as well as completing his own graduate research including publishing papers, and also has been an Undergraduate Learning Assistant and a Teaching Assistant for CS

Alex Mei

Advisor: William Wang

College of Engineering
Outstanding Teaching Assistant

- Presented annually in recognition of excellence as a Teaching Assistant, as selected by the graduating seniors in Computer Science
- **From students:** *"Junrui is one of the best TA's I've worked with throughout my undergrad. He always goes above and beyond in helping students. He is extremely accommodating with his office hours, going so far as to be available for whole days to help students with assignments. He is very patient when explaining difficult concepts and is always available and reachable over Slack. Without his help, I would not have enjoyed or learned as much from this class."*

Junrui Liu
Advisor: Yu Feng

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

Computer Science Outstanding TA Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of excellence as a Department of Computer Science Teaching Assistant
- **From faculty:** *"Alex's innovative approach to teaching is truly impressive… What sets Alex apart from other TAs is their unwavering commitment to student success. Alex is without a doubt the best TAI have had the privilege of working with in my 15 years in academia."*
- **From students:** *"He is always very clear and explains the questions completely. Alex is very responsive and designed great materials. He made sure to spend time with every student and answer all their questions. He explained things thoroughly and provided resources. He understood all the course material very well and was a great teacher. Alex was the best!"*

Alex Mei

Advisor: William Wang

Computer Science Outstanding TA Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of excellence as a Department of Computer Science Teaching Assistant
- **From faculty:** *"Under her preparation and demonstration, we were able to run the machine problem and its automatic evaluation using gradescope platform and real datasets for training neural network models. Krushna completed a great effort in making the course better and helping our students learn more."*
- **From students:** *"Krushna did a great job teaching and her section was run well. She is amazing, patient and very nice. She is good at explaining ML concepts and terminology for homework."*

Krushna Chirag Shah

Instructor: Lei Li

Computer Science Outstanding Publication Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of excellence as a main contributor of a paper accepted or published in 2022-23
- Lead author Robert McLaughlin
- For the paper titled “A Large Scale Study of the Ethereum Arbitrage Ecosystem” which appeared at USENIX Security 2023
- Co-authors: Christopher Kruegel and Giovanni Vigna

Robert McLaughlin

Advisors: Christopher Kruegel and Giovanni Vigna

Computer Science Outstanding Publication Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of excellence as a main contributor of a paper accepted or published in 2022-23
- Lead author Udit Paul
- For the paper titled "The Importance of Contextualization of Crowdsourced Active Speed Test Measurements"
  - The paper received the Distinguished Paper Award at the 2022 ACM Internet Measurement Conference
- Co-authors: Jaimo Liu, Mengyang Gu, Arpit Gupta and Elizabeth Belding

Udit Paul

Advisor: Elizabeth Belding

Computer Science Outstanding Mentoring Award

- Presented annually in recognition of significant contributions to mentoring undergraduate students
- **From faculty:** Sharon "has mentored a total of 14 undergraduate students for their Computer Science research in the last three years. By mentoring, I mean that every single week she devoted numerous hours of her time to talk to these students, and guide their research… Under her guidance, 9 students have published 5 papers at to computer science venues, which consistently have acceptance rates lower than 25%."
- **From students:** "Sharon excels by being responsive and always making time for her mentees for any questions we may have; she is willing to dive deep into technical issues that arise and frequently provides invaluable insights to help strengthen our research projects."
- Sharon also won the competitive **2023 UCSB Graduate Division Fiona & Michael Goodchild Campus Graduate Mentoring Award**, which recognizes one PhD student each year campus-wide that has distinguished themselves as a mentor of undergraduates

Sharon Levy

Advisor: William Wang

Computer Science Outstanding Dissertation Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of a Ph.D. dissertation of technical excellence and high impact
- **Thesis topic:** "Responsible AI via Responsible Large Language Models"
- Sharon is a leading scholar in the emerging area of Responsible AI with international reputations and she has published 16 top conference and journal papers at premier venues in Artificial Intelligence.
- UCSB has acknowledged Sharon's research with three distinct fellowship awards: the Regents Fellowship in Computer Science, the Holbrook Foundation Fellowship, and the Amazon Fellowship
- Sharon will complete a postdoc at Johns Hopkins in 2023 and has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Rutgers University in 2024

Sharon Levy

Advisor: William Wang

Computer Science Outstanding Dissertation Co-Award

- Presented annually in recognition of a Ph.D. dissertation of technical excellence and high impact
- **Thesis topic:** "Assessing the Presence and Extent of Digital Inequity"
- Udit's dissertation research is addressing critical and timely problems around digital inequity in the U.S.
- He developed a broadband-plan querying tool (BQT) and this work has revolutionized the ability to analyze Internet Service Provider's (ISPs) pricing trends, discovering wide-scale digital redlining.
- The information from his dissertation can arm residents, communities, and local governments with the data they need to challenge ISPs about over-stated coverage and poorly performing home connectivity.

Udit Paul

Advisor: Elizabeth Belding

The Caitlin Scarberry Memorial Award

- The ***Caitlin Scarberry Memorial Award*** was established to honor the memory of Caitlin Scarberry, a 2019 UCSB BS/MS graduate in Computer Science, who died from brain cancer in 2021. Caitlin's prime motivation was to make a positive impact on the world and to encourage other women to follow her path to pursue careers in Computer Science and Engineering.

- This award is presented annually to an outstanding BS/MS student who has excelled in their academics as well as in research, teaching, and/or impact to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

The Caitlin Scarberry Memorial Award: Computer Science BS/MS Student of the Year

- Presented annually in memory of Caitlin Scarberry and in recognition of an outstanding BS/MS student who has excelled in their academics in addition to research, teaching, and/or DEI

Contributions:

- **Research**: Alex has published two first-authored papers at top AI conferences with another THREE papers under review. He is by far the most passionate research student … [and will likely] become the most influential AI researcher in the history of our BS/MS classes
- **TA/ULA Performance**: Alex has been a ULA/TA for 4 quarters: (for CS8, CS16, CS165B, and CS190I special topics). Alex is the best TA that I have experienced … at UCSB
- **Course Performance:** he ranks #1 in his class with 4.0 GPA with mostly A+ in his courses.
- **Participation in DEI Related Activities**: Alex spends more than 5-10 hours per week mentoring ERSP students, a program dedicated to promoting diversity in CS

Alex Mei

Advisor: William Wang

Computer Science MS Student of the Year

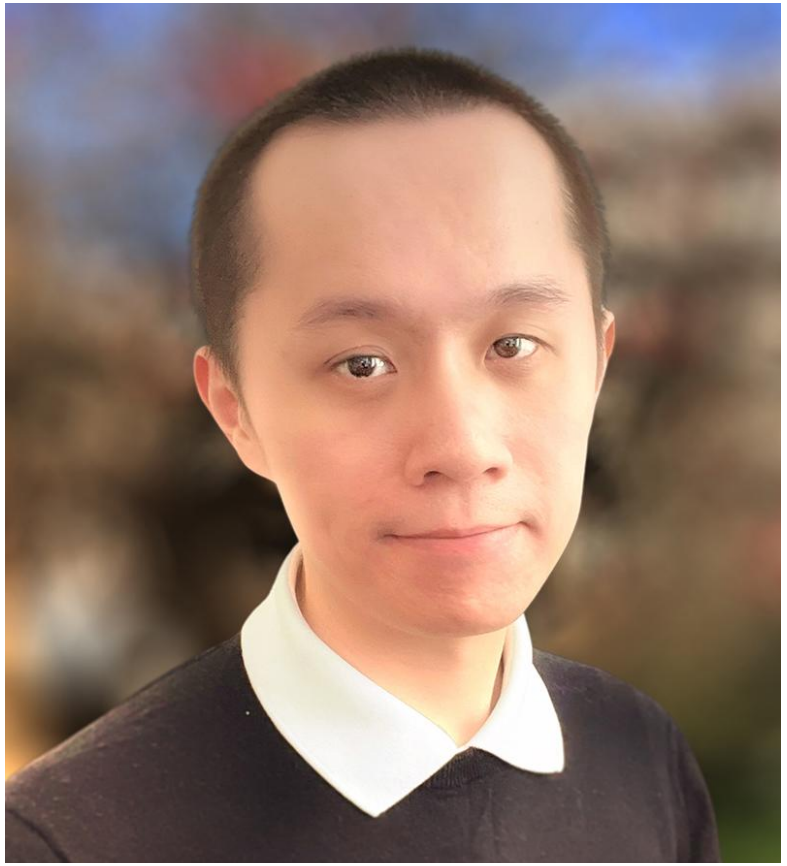
- Presented annually in recognition of a Masters student who has excelled in both research and either department service or teaching
- **From faculty:** *"Reeva was my TA for multiple quarters and is one of the best TAs I have ever had, her MS project was just mind blowing (she built this whole healthcare system herself). She has a 4.0 in our program with multiple A+ grades. She is a brilliant, kind, thoughtful, creative, and driven individual."*
- *"I learned from Reeva that you can do a master project in a way that is full of passion, leadership and great execution. I will take her project as a role model for my future MS projects."*

Reeva Mishra

Advisor: Xifeng Yan

Computer Science PhD Student of the Year

- Presented annually in recognition of a Ph.D. student who has excelled in both research and either department service or teaching
- **From faculty:** *"Yanju's research is in the general field of software engineering (SWE) and programming languages (PL)… Yanju's award-winning work has made outstanding contributions in tackling some of the key challenges in program synthesis."*
- Yanju published ten papers in *all* of the top conferences in SWE and PL: PLDI, OOPSLA, CAV, FSE, ASPLOS, and Security & Privacy
  - He won the ACM SIGPLAN distinguished paper award at PLDI 2022.
- He was the teaching assistant for a wide range of CS courses including a special topics course in program synthesis, PL, data structures, introductory programming, CS foundations, and an introductory CS course for non-majors



Yanju Chen
Advisor: Yu Feng

Congratulations to our graduates!

PhD Grads

Hojjat Aghakhani
Dheeraj Baby
Priyanka Bose
Yanyu Chen
Zhuowei C.
Dipanjan Das
Will Eiers
Zexi Huang
Mert Kosan
Luis Larios Cardenas
Sharon Levy
Shiyang Li
Sikun Lin
Chong Liu
Isaac Mackey
Austin McEver
Udit Paul
Rachel Redberg
Nazmus Saquib
Esther Showalter
Shlomi Steinberg
Yuqing Wang
Hong Wang
Ming Yin
Chris Zhang

Congratulations to our graduates!

MS Grads

Nagarjun Avaraddy
Satyam Awasthi
Navya Battula
Nikunj Baid
Lijuan Cheng
Avishek De
Tyler Ekaireb
Lara Floegel-Shetty
Vinothini Gunasekaran
Aaron Jimenez
Ajit Jadhav
Apoorva Jakalannanavar
Kaiwen Li
Sydney Lim
Shichang Liu
Xinyu Liu
Yanchen Lu
Zechen Ma
Sunil Madhow
Deept Mahendiratta
Samridhi Maheshwari
Sara Mandic
Alex Mei
Reeva Mishra
Iris Moini-Nazeri
Lucas Nguyen
Surya Pugal
Lianke Qin
Leron Reznikov
Vivian Ross
Tina Shi
Madori Spiker
Yuval Steinhart
Shubham Talbar
Avani Tanna
Rhys Tracy
Katie Turnlund
Arjun Vellore Baabu Prakash
Sharath Vemula
Nathan Wachholz
Kyle Wong
Jiaxin Wu
Bryan Xu
Saikumar Yadugiri
Rory Zahedi
Eddie Zhang
Henry Zhang
Jiarui Zhu

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

Computer Science Presents:

Distinguished Undergraduate Alumnus Award

CS Distinguished Undergraduate Alumnus Award

Michael Rosengarten

Founder and CEO, Camino Technologies

UCSB: BS CS 2010

During his time at UCSB, Michael served in a number of service roles in our community, including as President of UCSB's ACM Chapter. Since graduating from UCSB CS in 2010, Michael first worked at Yahoo, before becoming a Co-Founder and CTO at OpenGov. He served as Founder and CEO of Persista before most recently founding his startup, Camino Technologies.

Camino's mission is "Economic development is critical to creating safe and vibrant communities. That's why we're building the next generation of technology to power the permitting process: beautiful, intuitive, and intelligent software that cuts down growing workloads while seamlessly connecting citizens with their governments."

Computer Science Presents:

Undergraduate Student Awards

Computing Research Association's Outstanding Researcher Award Honorable Mention

- This prestigious award program recognizes undergraduate students in North American colleges and universities who show outstanding research potential in an area of computing research
- Anisha started in research through the Early Research Scholars Program, working in Natural Language Processing. Her team's paper, "Mitigating Covertly Unsafe Text within Natural Language Systems" was published in EMNLP 2022.

Anisha Kabir
Honorable Mention
Advisor: William Wang

Barry Goldwater
National Scholarship and Excellence in Education

- The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to serve as a living memorial to honor the lifetime work of Senator Barry Goldwater.
- Marianne was selected as one of 417 undergraduate student recipients across the nation.
- "The Goldwater scholarship reinforced my goal to obtain a PhD."

Marianne Arriola
Advisor: Ambuj Singh

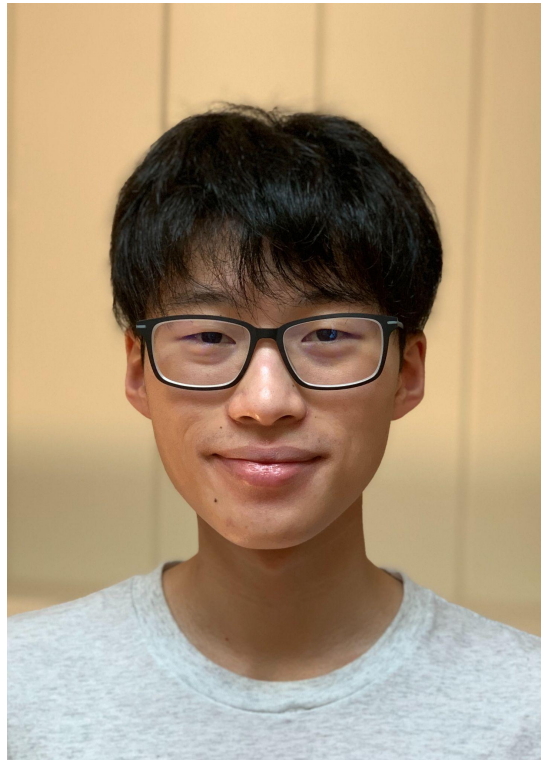
National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) 5-year fellowship seeks to ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States.
- Marianne Arriola is a Computing student in the College of Creative Studies (CCS) and a UCSB CSEP research intern. Her research interests are in computational biology, data mining, applied machine learning, and dynamical systems modeling.

Marianne Arriola
Advisor: Ambuj Singh

UCSB Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

- Presented to four distinguished undergraduate researchers each year at UCSB, intended to honor exemplary contributions to research in their discipline.
- Research contribution: started research via Early Research Scholars Program (ERSP) in natural language processing (NLP) and with NLP research group. Research paper was accepted by the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) in 2023 and presented his work at the event.



Matthew Ho

Advisor: William Wang

UCSB 2023 University Award of Distinction

- Presented annually to graduating students in recognition of excellence and who have made an outstanding contribution to a particular area of UCSB student life and community activities.

Doris Wei

College of Engineering
Outstanding Senior Award

- Presented annually by the College to the graduating senior(s) with the highest cumulative grade point average from each degree program.

Nicholas Brown

College of Engineering
Hynes-Wood Award

- Presented annually by the Engineering Student Council in recognition of outstanding contributions to student activities in the College of Engineering.

Shivani Sista

CS Capstone Projects

Innovative solutions to real industry problems

Algorand FOUNDATION

appfolio

pwc

NAVSEA NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND

Allthenticate

Forta

WOLL

Capstone Sponsors

Instructors

Prof. Tobias Hollerer

Prof. Giovanni Vigna

CS Capstone Projects

Innovative solutions to real industry problems

Best Project: *TRANQUILITEA*

- **Partner**: Artera
- **Team**: Heather Dinh (Lead), Victoria Reed (Scribe), Archana Neupane, John Rollinson, Samar Khan
- **Project Overview**: Create an app that by reducing anxiety levels of patients will hopefully serve to better mental health. Through this app, patients can visualize their improvement over several days as their biometric data analysis and self-reflections will be recorded.

CS Distinction in the Major
Capstone Track

Nicholas Brown
Forta Network

Michael Curtis
Artera

Heather Dinh
Artera

Bowen Duanmu
Algorand

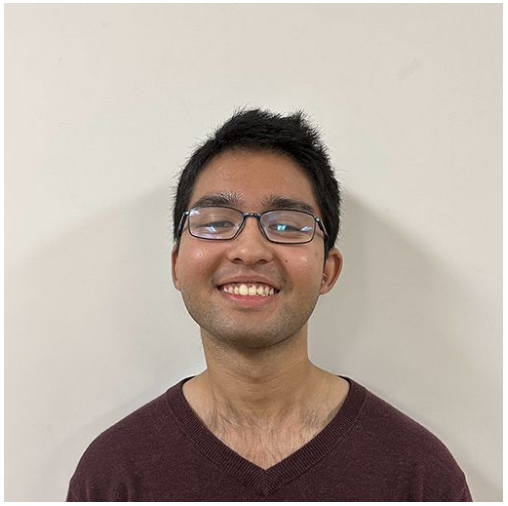
Jason Dunne
Appfolio

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Computer Science

CS Distinction in the Major Capstone Track

Xichen He
Algorand

Alejandro Rojas Rodriguez
Forta Network



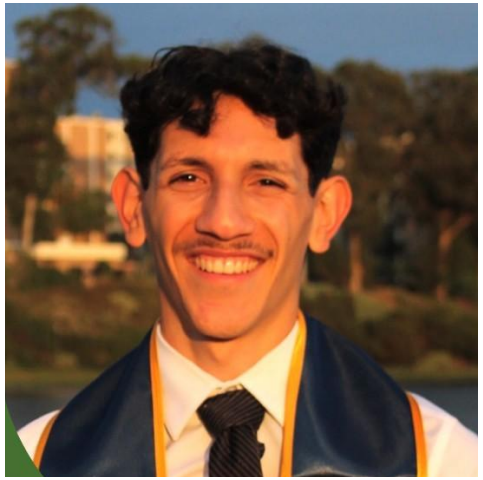
Arjun Singh
Allthenticate

Ning Xia
Algorand

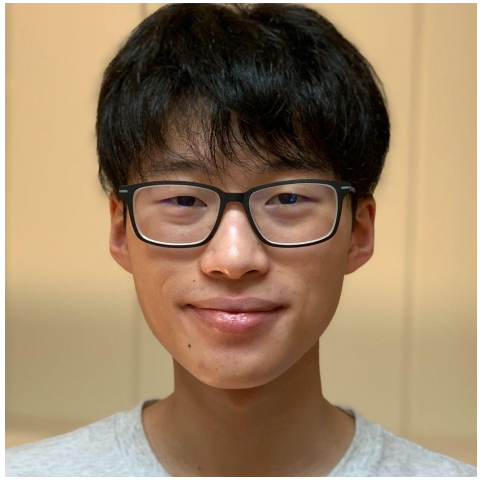
Simon Yu
Allthenticate

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

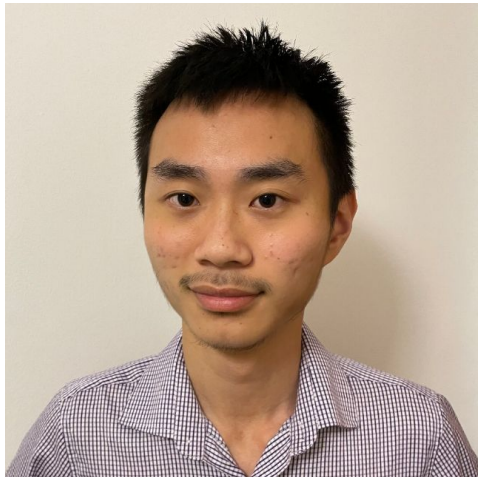
CS Distinction in the Major Research Track



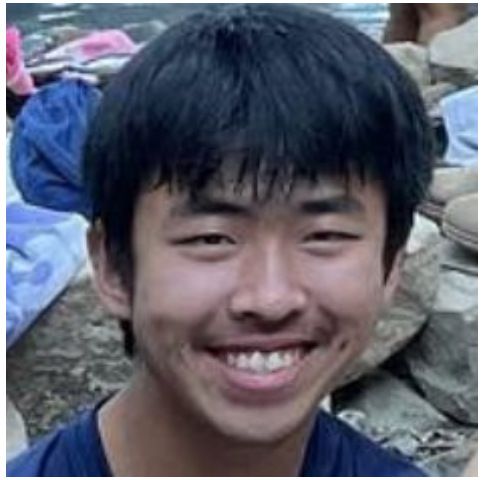
Isaiah Garcia
Advisor:
Arpit Gupta



Matthew Ho
Advisor:
William Wang



Yifan Ke
Advisor:
Shiyu Chang



Kevin Lai
Advisor:
Eric Vigoda

CS Distinction in the Major Research Track

Ethan Meade
Advisor:
Michael Beyeler

Rowan Tran
Advisor:
Prabhanjan Ananth

Xiyue Wang
Advisor:
Xifeng Yan

Haotian Xia
Advisors:
Linda Petzold and
Yuan-Fang Wang

Computer Science Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

- Presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions, and sustained commitment and excellence in research contributions.
- Marianne has focused on computational biology and deep learning for 3D vision and has made contributions in the space of machine learning for graphs. After graduation, she will join Cornell University's PhD program

Marianne Arriola

Advisors: Ambuj Singh

Computer Science Outstanding Mentor Award

In recognition of outstanding and sustained teaching and mentorship

Zackary Glazewski

Bryan Zamora Flores

UC SANTA BARBARA
Computer Science

Computer Science Student of the Year

- Presented annually in recognition of outstanding leadership, excellence in academics and research, and performing "above and beyond the call of duty" when engaging with students and the CS community
- Shivani is an Engineering Honors student, and her participation includes: President of UCSB Society of Women Engineers (SWE), CS Early Research Scholar Program (ERSP), CS Bionic Vision Lab (Research), and UCSB Pops Orchestra (violin)
- After graduating in 2024, plans to either attend medical school or pursue a graduate degree involving research in the medical and bioengineering fields.

Shivani Sista

Advisor: Michael Beyeler

Thank you for joining us!

Event Organizers

Prof. Chandra Krintz

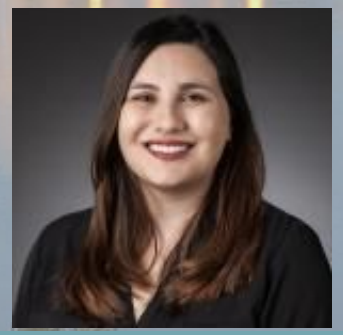
Prof. Misha Sra

Maritza Fuljencio

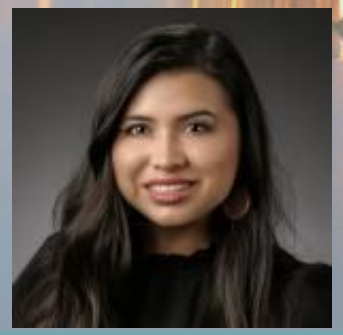
Greta Halle

Bella Cardoso

Bryan Salazar Pazmino



Hanna Wong



Jasmine Moreno

Debra Nordyke

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