



**Here, progress is always  
in progress.**

**School of Computing and  
Information**

2021 Annual Report

## SCI by the Numbers (fall term 2020)

67 Faculty

44 Staff

1,328 Total Student Body

902 Undergraduate Students

426 Graduate Students

**Departments:** Computer Science, Informatics and Networked Systems, and Information Culture and Data Stewardship

**Program:** Intelligent Systems Program

**Institutes:** iSchool Inclusion Institute, Modeling and Managing Complicated Systems Institute, Professional Institute at SCI and Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology

### RANKING



17th

in U.S. News & World Report's 2021 ranking of the best library and information studies graduate programs

### ALUMNI

18,000+ Total Alumni

#### Top countries where alumni reside:

United States, China, Taiwan, India, Canada, South Korea and Japan

441 graduates in 2020-21

### CAREER PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS

**Corporate partners:** The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation; CGI Inc.; Cigna; Deloitte; Google; Intalere; NetApp; Norfolk Southern Corp.; PPG Industries, Inc.; The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.; SAP; SEI; Sngular; VISIMO; UPMC

**Co-op/internship participation:** approximately 200 students per year

**Co-op/internship placement examples:** Google, Amazon, Facebook, Argo AI LLC, Mylan, SAP, FedEx, United States Steel Corporation, PPG

**Undergraduate postgraduation outcomes:** 95% job placement rate

**Job placement location examples:** PNC, University of Pittsburgh, Amazon, Deloitte, BNY Mellon, DICK'S Sporting Goods, UPMC

### RESEARCH

**Research strengths:** artificial intelligence, data science, machine learning, security, networking, social computing, human-computer interaction, computer systems, data management

\$6.3 million

Annual Research Expenditures

23 New grant awards during fiscal year 2021

### GIVING (FY 2021)

\$1 million+

Total Dollars Pledged

751 Total Donors

\$25,000+ Raised from 370 donors during the annual Pitt Day of Giving (a 93% increase over FY 2020)

Some photos in this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.



## Message from the Dean

The University of Pittsburgh School of Computing and Information (SCI) is resilient, pragmatic and confident. The past year was filled with unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, societal reckoning and school change. Many individuals also faced personal challenges and losses during the year.

We at SCI and in the broader Pitt community persevered, remaining optimistic as we navigated the year, and accomplished so much along the way. SCI students, faculty, staff and alumni forged ahead, undertaking our work with energy and optimism as we came together to write our ongoing story.

Our achievements are compelling. The incoming undergraduate class is the school's most diverse ever. The retention rate of students after their first year is phenomenal at 94.2%. Our 336 graduating undergraduates had an impressive 95% placement rate during a period of economic uncertainty. SCI's undergraduate programs are robust. For instance, the digital narrative and interactive design major, offered jointly with the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of English, increased from 19 students at the outset two years ago to nearly 100 today. New joint majors in computational social science and data science are starting.

The Master of Library and Information Science program is newly reaccruited by the American Library Association, a designation it has had since 1924-25, at the University of Pittsburgh since 1962. The new applied data-driven methods graduate certificate offers an entry into data methods for students whose background lies outside computing and information but whose goals require expertise in this area. Across our master's programs, there has been a 6% increase in enrollment compared to fall 2020. At the same time, it has been a trying period for international students who face particular hardship in pursuing their educational aspirations while the pandemic continues.

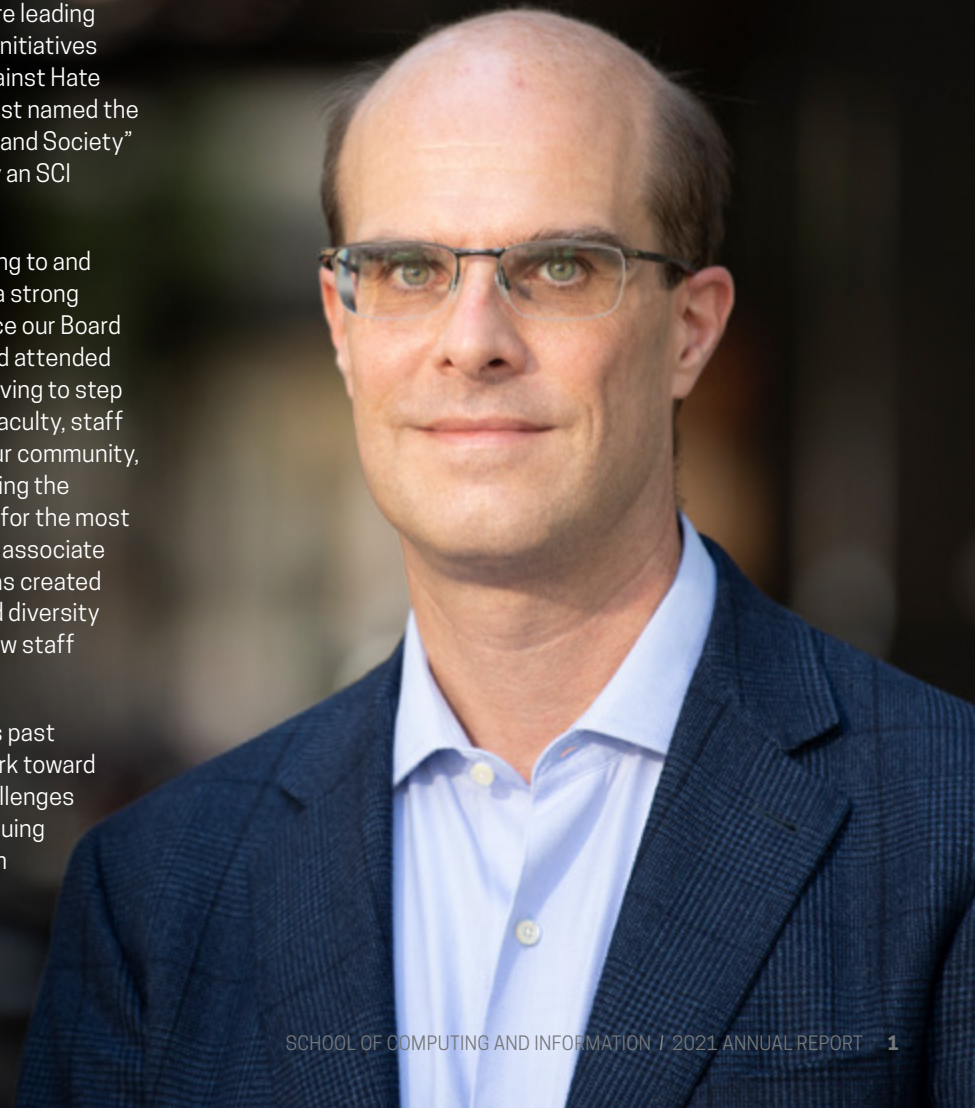
Our scholarship is growing, and our research expenditures and doctoral enrollment are at all-time highs. The Intelligent Systems Program had a 26% increase in PhD students in fiscal year 2021. Four stellar faculty members are joining the Departments of Computer Science, Informatics and Networked Systems, and Information Culture and Data Stewardship our ranks. Our faculty are leading and participating in new transdisciplinary initiatives such as SpectrumX, the Collaboratory Against Hate and the Pitt Disinformation Lab. The provost named the academic 2021-22 year the "Year of Data and Society" and announced that it would be chaired by an SCI faculty member.

To tell SCI's collective story, we are listening to and learning from one another in establishing a strong foundation. We've made strides to enhance our Board of Visitors, created a new alumni board and attended to our community's well-being. We are striving to step across boundaries to connect students, faculty, staff and alumni. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the number of individual donors to SCI during the annual Pitt Day of Giving increased 255% for the most successful day yet. A new leadership role, associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, was created to champion inclusivity, equity, justice and diversity in everything and anything we do. Eight new staff members joined SCI this past year.

Though we've accomplished a lot over this past year, SCI's story is far from over. As we work toward achieving our goals and taking on new challenges in the coming year, I look forward to continuing SCI's story together with energy, optimism and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
**Bruce Childers**  
Interim Dean and Professor

Our scholarship is growing,  
and our research expenditures  
and doctoral enrollment are  
at all-time highs.



## Pandemic Retrospective

When the coronavirus pandemic first shuttered Pitt's campuses in March 2020, the School of Computing and Information (SCI) had been exceeding the expectations of a new school in terms of high-quality faculty and a robust ecosystem of administration and support staff. Despite the challenging times, faculty, staff and students demonstrated a commitment to staying connected. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the school's flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing conditions.



**"I'm glad Pitt was able to make it happen. I think next year, when things are hopefully back to normal, we're just going to enjoy it that much more than we would've."**

Joy Gimei, sophomore studying information science

**"The staff were incredible. I don't think we missed a beat as far as making sure that the students and the faculty were taken care of."**

Sharon Bindas, senior director of business administration



## Transitioning to Online Instruction

Following the University's guidance, SCI moved all its classes online in March 2020. Faculty, staff and students worked together during this unprecedented time to navigate the challenges of remote learning and develop solutions to create an environment that fostered engagement and learning.

## Providing Virtual Opportunities for Students



In addition to its classes, SCI began offering a variety of experiential learning programs remotely. Throughout the year, SCI hosted a number of virtual professional development events with corporate partner organizations as well as a virtual career fair through the Career Center. In addition, students were able to participate in more than 25 virtual activities outside the classroom, such as the annual She Innovates and Steel Hacks

hackathons. By transitioning these offerings online, SCI was able to continue to provide high-quality programming while prioritizing the health and safety of its community.

## Virtual Faculty Search

When the pandemic began, SCI had to transition the remainder of its 2020 faculty search candidate talks to virtual presentations. After a successful search, SCI hired nine new faculty members, five of whom were new to the Pittsburgh region. With the help of faculty colleagues and staff support, these new faculty members were able to successfully begin their first term of online instruction. In December, SCI began a fully remote faculty search, which resulted in four new hires in 2021.

## Virtual Hallways

Interim Dean Bruce Childers began hosting “virtual hallway” events to replicate the informal conversations and idea exchanges that happen in an in-person environment. Each week, faculty and staff members were encouraged to bring their ideas and join in vibrant discussions about everything from processes and procedures to postpandemic planning. Additionally, these informal gatherings provided the opportunity to see colleagues and maintain crucial connections while apart.

**“I’m looking forward to meeting students and getting back on campus, but I’m also looking forward to people getting vaccinated and to people taking care of each other. I don’t want safety to be a distraction. I want it to be an enforcement of eagerness to learn.”**

**Ahmed Ibrahim**, teaching assistant professor, Department of Informatics and Networked Systems

**“Our students clearly demonstrated that they are up to the task of being as rapidly dynamic and adaptable as the fields in which they are studying. Whether in person, remote or hybrid, our students know how to make an impact.”**

**Wes Lipschultz**, senior director of student and academic affairs

## 130 North Bellefield Avenue


In September 2020, discussions began about the need for a new space to accommodate the growth and collaborative nature of the School of Computing and Information. In early 2021, the school got its first look at the new space—located on the fifth floor of 130 North Bellefield Avenue—which will include open work spaces, a kitchen, large collaboration spaces, two conference rooms, a maker space and offices.

Sharon Bindas, SCI's senior director of business administration, who is leading the renovation project, sees this space as an opportunity to envision a flexible postpandemic environment that puts the SCI community at the heart of a vast network of collaborators.

"We have a vision of utilizing this space as a testing space where faculty are encouraged to conduct collaborative research University-wide," Bindas says. "We want to be very creative in how we use 130 North Bellefield to benefit faculty, students and corporate partners."

A key element of this space is its ability to adapt and evolve—just as the fields of computing and information constantly do. The design of the space will allow for continuous updates and changes, which will extend to the opportunity for faculty research and collaboration to change as the fields progress.

The space is scheduled to open by the end of the spring 2022 term.



**"To be there as partners, we need to have that collaborative spirit. This space, at least the way we're envisioning it, is this sort of vehicle by which to do that."**

Bruce Childers



## Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The School of Computing and Information has appointed Rosta Farzan to serve in the newly created role of associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion. In this new role, Farzan will look to create a more inclusive space, provide scholarships and increase inclusive activities for students using perspectives from the school's students, faculty and staff. By bolstering a welcoming and respectful community, Farzan wants to work on providing more equitable opportunities within the school and to ensure that historically underrepresented groups enter the field of computing and information at greater levels.

**"We are the ones who feed those environments. If we don't train more diverse students who are ready for these jobs, then we're not going to have that population in those jobs."**

Rosta Farzan



## The Year of Data and Society

The 2021-22 academic year has been designated the Year of Data and Society at the University of Pittsburgh, and Eleanor "Nora" Mattern, director of the Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology and teaching assistant professor at SCI, will chair the initiative.

Building upon a 2021 report from the University's Data Science Task Force, this initiative will increase the reputation, visibility and awareness of responsible data science within and outside the Pitt community. It will require every undergraduate student to acquire a basic understanding of data and data methods, create inclusive educational programs to offer training in data science and implement a structure that knits together people and practices in data science.

Mattern's focus is on socially responsible data work and ensuring that data collection, analysis and sharing are done by faculty, researchers and students in ways that serve our communities. The Year of Data and Society will support events and grants that promote the areas of ethics, social responsibility and the impact of data on society.

**"This theme is deeply relevant to all of us at the University of Pittsburgh. As students, educators, researchers and citizens, we can be responsible data practitioners and use data in ways that benefit the public good."**

Nora Mattern



**Year of  
Data and  
Society**



## New Academic Programs

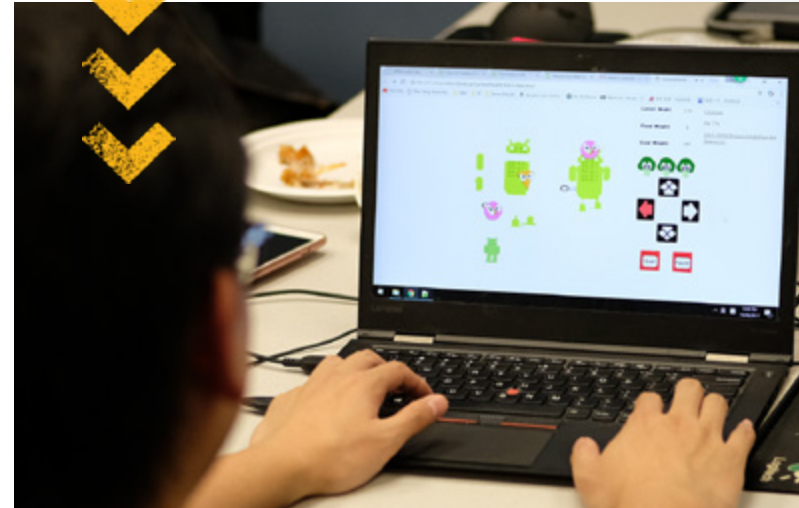
### Advanced Data-driven Methods Graduate Certificate

As data generation increases exponentially in all facets of life, from health care to social media, the workforce faces a shortage of data professionals who can leverage that data to make decisions and predict outcomes.

In response to the need for more data professionals, the School of Computing and Information developed the 12-credit Graduate Certificate in Applied Data-driven Methods that launched in the fall 2021 term. This certificate, which was designed for students whose academic background lies outside computing and information, will provide students with a deeper understanding of skills such as programming, machine learning and data cleanup. The program will expand career possibilities and empower graduates to navigate the vast amounts of data they likely will face in the workforce.

### Data Science Undergraduate Major

SCI also launched a new undergraduate major in data science, developed jointly with the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, which students began studying in fall 2021. Students will gain critical skills that span key areas of statistics, computing and mathematics, with foundational training providing the four areas of literacy—data, algorithmic, mathematical and statistical—that every student needs in order to master data science. Graduates will be able to work as data science professionals or pursue graduate study in programs that involve data in a significant way.



**“It’s about more than just the computing. It’s about understanding the data you’re processing and making decisions based on it and being able to justify those decisions.”**

**Adam Lee**, associate dean for academic programs and professor, Department of Computer Science





## Redesigned Bachelor of Science in Information Science

In 2020, the faculty of the Department of Informatics and Networked Systems redesigned the Bachelor of Science in Information Science program to empower the next generation of data and network specialists, information systems analysts, interface designers and more to gain a wider breadth of knowledge and be better prepared for an ever-changing workforce. The program focuses on three interconnected pillars: data analysis, networks and security and human-centered systems. By combining foundational skills in the three pillars and input from industry leaders, students will be better equipped to make informed, user-based decisions and solve complex problems in their careers.

**“All of these different pieces of data in isolation may not mean much, but when you’re putting them together, you can get insights from the data and you can make better decisions that can solve problems in a more efficient manner, a sustainable manner.”**

**Prashant Krishnamurthy**, chair and professor, Department of Informatics and Networked Systems



### **Computational Social Science Undergraduate Major**

The accelerating availability of data on human decisions and interactions from social networks, digitized text and a variety of senses, along with the ability to model and predict these patterns at scale, reveal exciting new opportunities and daunting societal challenges.

To navigate this new landscape, SCI has launched a new computational social science major jointly with the Department of Political Science in the Dietrich School. This major will prepare students to understand, engage with and innovatively solve evolving, complex multiscale challenges such as climate change, transnational political violence, cybersecurity and privacy, social polarization and inequality.

### **Test-optional Admission**

In 2020, the University announced that it would be offering test-optional admission for majors at the undergraduate level for the fall 2021 term, and SCI opted to participate. This new admission process ensures that no potential student is denied the opportunity to be considered for admission and encourages applicants to holistically consider experiences, interests and the outcomes they seek in their careers and lives when applying. Test-optional admission, which has now been extended through fall 2023, has produced an 11% increase in the number of applicants and a 12% increase in the number of incoming first-year students at SCI in the fall.





## Pitt2Pitt Program

The University's Pitt2Pitt program offers new Pitt grads expedited admission to and scholarships of up to \$5,000 for more than 60 graduate and professional programs across 12 Pitt schools.

As training in computing and information has expanded career possibilities and as technical training continues to benefit professionals in several other fields, SCI has joined Pitt2Pitt. Since fall 2020, SCI has opted to award these scholarships to students who are pursuing master's programs in library and information science (either on campus or online), computer science, information science and telecommunications.



Camilo Correal finished his undergraduate degree in English writing in spring 2020 decided to stay at Pitt as a student in the Master of Library and Information Science program. He plans to pursue a career as a children's librarian in the public library system. As part of

the inaugural cohort of Pitt2Pitt scholarship recipients, Correal says that this scholarship opportunity and the encouragement he received from his advisors and professors only reaffirmed this exciting career decision.

"Pitt was always my first choice, but Pitt2Pitt really helped with that—the process of being able to talk to the teachers, the grad program advisors were always very open," Correal says. "All of the resources at Pitt made it very easy to choose to stay at Pitt."

## Department and Program Spotlight

### Department of Informatics and Networked Systems

Since the 1960s, the Department of Informatics and Networked Systems has been home to world-class academic and research programs at the junction of information, systems and networks and human cognition and behavior.

Our faculty and students pursue advances in technology to meet the increasingly sophisticated information needs of people and businesses in a connected society. Our alumni produce research; innovate in technology; and are at the forefront of improving day-to-day life across a spectrum of industries, including health care, manufacturing, finance, technology and human services. We seek to empower humans and society through modeling, analyzing and designing systems that are accountable, resilient, trustworthy, sustainable and ethical.



### SCI Faculty Members Receive NSF Grants

Associate Professor Rosta Farzan and Professor Martin Weiss both received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Weiss' project with the University of Colorado will study the efficient use and sharing of radio spectrum as demand for wireless systems continues to grow. Farzan's work with other Pitt colleagues aims to use big data to address community problems in Pittsburgh communities.

**"Our faculty and our students come from very diverse academic backgrounds—from computer science and electrical engineering to psychology and physics. Our strength is the broad diversity in skills, expertise and perspectives within this community of scholars that enables us to address the societal, technological and organizational challenges facing us now and in the future."**

Prashant Krishnamurthy, chair,  
Department of Informatics and  
Networked Systems





## Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship

Situated at the nexus of people-centered and ethical issues in computing and information, the faculty of the Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship educate and empower information professionals in the department's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) and PhD programs.

Our MLIS graduates lead in meeting the information needs of people, organizations and communities. Our PhD graduates become researchers and educators in graduate programs around the world. The MLIS program, which is offered both on campus and online, has been continuously accredited by the American Library Association since accreditation began and was the first degree program at the University of Pittsburgh to be offered online.



**"Our faculty of 12 enthusiastically educates its MLIS and PhD students in experiential learning through 30 core and elective courses, collaborates with SCI and University faculty in research projects that serve communities and individuals and facilitates thoughtful dialogue about social justice and technology among faculty and students across the Pitt campus through the programs of the Sara Fine Institute."**

**Mary K. Biagini**, chair, Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship

## ICDS Teaching Assistant Professor to Chair Pitt's Year of Data and Society

Teaching Assistant Professor Eleanor "Nora" Mattern will chair the University's Year of Data and Society. Data science now permeates education, government, medicine, engineering, entertainment, science, the arts, the humanities and business, touching nearly every facet of life. All parts of the University collect and use data, and each offers unique perspectives on how data can contribute to student and faculty success, human well-being and the greater social good.



## Department of Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science celebrated 55 years of teaching and research excellence in 2021.

Our alumni can be found around the globe, making changes to the ways we administer health care, conduct business, provide education and more. Despite the pandemic, we had an excellent year. Our faculty and students received 10 best-paper awards at international conferences, including papers with undergraduate students as first authors. One undergraduate student was named a 2021 Computing Research Association Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award Honorable Mention, and another received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. One faculty member received an NSF CAREER Award.

**“The faculty and students of the Department of Computer Science are committed to using technology to make an impact that is felt around the world. From our high-quality education to our research scholarship, the department strives to change the face of education, health care, government, industry and society as a whole. Given the amazing successes of our faculty and students, especially in the past year, I am extremely optimistic for the future of the department.”**

**Alexandros Labrinidis**, chair, Department of Computer Science

## Faculty Member Receives NSF CAREER Award

Assistant Professor Adriana Kovashka received an NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award this year. Her project is titled Natural Narratives and Multimodal Context as Weak Supervision for Learning Object Categories. Object detection is the task of recognizing object categories by learning from a data set. However, existing methods assume a data set labeled meticulously by humans who draw boxes around objects in images and provide the category name. This project explores a new form of less-expensive supervision akin to how children learn to name objects.





## Intelligent Systems Program

The Intelligent Systems Program (ISP) is a premier, 34-year strong multidisciplinary graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh dedicated to applied artificial intelligence (AI).

Many of Pitt's acclaimed schools are represented through our associated faculty, including the School of Medicine, School of Law, School of Education, School of Computing and Information, Swanson School of Engineering and Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. ISP offers a well-balanced foundation in the fundamentals of AI with advanced research and training in many disciplines, including computer science, biomedical informatics, cognitive psychology, information science, education and law.

## ISP Director Referenced in AI Magazine

ISP Director Vanathi Gopalakrishnan was referenced in AI Magazine for contributing an original definition for "intelligence" and its impact on general artificial intelligence.

**"ISP offers a breadth and depth of expertise in multidisciplinary applied AI that is unparalleled."**

**Vanathi Gopalakrishnan,**  
director, Intelligent Systems Program



## Faculty and Staff

### RECENT FACULTY ADDITIONS

#### 2020-21

**Wonsun Ahn**, teaching assistant professor,  
Department of Computer Science

**Malihe Alikhani**, assistant professor,  
Department of Computer Science

**Arjun Chandrasekhar**, teaching assistant  
professor, Department of Computer Science

**Morgan Frank**, assistant professor,  
Department of Informatics and Networked  
Systems

**Chelsea Gunn**, teaching assistant  
professor, Department of Information  
Culture and Data Stewardship

**Ahmed Ibrahim**, teaching assistant  
professor, Department of Informatics and  
Networked Systems

**Xiaowei Jia**, assistant professor,  
Department of Computer Science

**Rebecca Morris**, teaching associate  
professor, Department of Information  
Culture and Data Stewardship

**Luis de Olivera**, teaching assistant  
professor, Department of Computer Science

#### 2021-22

**Na Du**, assistant professor, Department of  
Informatics and Networked Systems

**Kuo-Ting “Tim” Huang**, assistant  
professor, Department of Information  
Culture and Data Stewardship

**Kaushik Seshadreesan**, assistant  
professor, Department of Informatics and  
Networked Systems

**Longfei Shangguan**, assistant professor,  
Department of Computer Science

### FACULTY PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

**Bruce Childers**, interim dean (appointment)

**Nicholas Farnan**, lecturer II, Department of  
Computer Science (promotion)

**Thumrongsak “Tan” Kosiyatrakul**,  
lecturer II, Department of Computer Science  
(promotion)

**Adam J. Lee**, professor, Department of  
Computer Science (promotion)

**Eleanor Mattern**, director, Sara Fine  
Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and  
Technology (appointment)

**Mary K. Biagini**, chair, Department of  
Information Culture and Data Stewardship  
(appointment)

**Rosta Farzan**, associate dean for diversity,  
equity and inclusion (appointment)

**Matthew Burton**, lecturer, Department of  
Information Culture and Data Stewardship  
(reappointment)

**Marcia Rapchak**, teaching assistant  
professor, Department of Information  
Culture and Data Stewardship  
(reappointment)

**Vanathi Gopalakrishnan**, director,  
Intelligent Systems Program  
(reappointment)

### FACULTY RETIREMENTS

**Stephen Hirtle**, professor emeritus

**Rami Melhem**, professor emeritus

**Taieb Znati**, professor emeritus





## NEW STAFF HIRES

**Don Bonidie**, senior director of financial administration

**Elly Bresz**, research administration manager

**Larissa Ciuca**, director of student success

**Elizabeth Defide**, human resources specialist

**Kevin Loya**, senior pre-award research administrator

**Patrick Martyn**, academic records specialist

**Julianna Rohac**, undergraduate recruitment specialist

**Heather Springel**, budget and finance manager

## STAFF PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Sharon Bindas**, senior director of business administration

**Rachel Parkes**, director of advising

**Molly Sorice**, academic records coordinator

## STAFF RETIREMENTS

**Carolyn Loether**, administrative assistant and former assistant to the dean

**Susan Williams**, contracts and grants administrator

## SELECTED FACULTY AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND ACCOLADES

**Malihe Alikhani** received a Google exploreCSR grant to support students from underrepresented groups pursuing graduate studies and computing careers.

**Kayla Booth** received a 2020 Provost's Award for Diversity in the Curriculum.

**Paul Cohen** received a U.S. Army grant for his project, HEURISTICS: Hyperlocal Elicitation and Understanding of Risks to Stability in Complex Systems.

**Adriana Kovashka, Diane Litman, Malihe Alikhani, Yu-Ru Lin, Dmitriy Babichenko** and **Rosta Farzan** received PittCyber Accelerator Grants.

**Adriana Kovashka** received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award.

**Yu-Ru Lin** was featured in the National Geographic article "Why Our Minds Can't Make Sense of COVID-19's Enormous Death Toll."

**Yu-Ru Lin** was appointed to the steering committee for the Collaboratory Against Hate.

**Diane Litman** received an NSF grant for her project, FAI: Using AI to Increase Fairness by Improving Access to Justice.

**Eleanor Mattern** was appointed chair of the University of Pittsburgh Year of Data and Society.

**Daniel Mosse, Malihe Alikhani, Diane Litman, Daqing He, Seong Jae Hwang, Yu-Ru Lin, Morgan Frank, Xiaowei Jia** and **Xulong Tang** received Pitt Momentum Funds grants.

**Marcia Rapchak** received the American Library Association's 2021 Beta Phi Mu Award for distinguished service to education for librarianship.

**Rob Rutenbar** was named Distinguished Professor.

**Erin Walker** received a Google 2020 Award for Inclusion Research for her project, Developing a Dialogue System for a Culturally-responsive Social Programmable Robot.

**Erin Walker** and **Diane Litman** received an NSF grant for their project, NRI: INT: Designing Effective Dialogue, Gaze, and Gesture Behaviors in a Social Robot That Supports Collaborative Learning in Middle School Mathematics.

**Martin Weiss** received a 2021 Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring.

**Youtao Zhang** and **Xulong Tang** received an NSF/Intel grant for their project, FoMR: A Software and Hardware Co-design for Addressing the Performance Bottlenecks in Secure Non-volatile Memory.

## Students and Alumni

### STUDENT AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND ACCOLADES

**David Ayodele** (MSIS '21), **Jason Frank, Quinnan Gill** and **Simon Kioko Jr.** (advised by Teaching Assistant Professor Ahmed Ibrahim) placed fourth in the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

**Max Dudek** (BS '21) received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Kunal Gandhi** founded Simpl, a fitness technique tracking app, and was awarded \$25,000 in the Rice Business Plan Competition. Gandhi also received the Young Entrepreneur Award from the NFL Players Association for his app.

**Richard Goulazian, Andrea Michael** (BS '21), **Courtney Sheridan** and **Zhengming Wang** developed VaccinatePA, a website to help people find available COVID-19 vaccines in their area.

**Simon Kioko** received a Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program.

**Katelyn Morrison** (BS '21) was selected to be SCI's student speaker at commencement, was nominated for the 2021 Emma W. Locke Award, was a recipient of a University Honors College Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Fellowship, was voted the Women in Computer Science club's vice president for 2020-21 and received the Department of Computer Science Outstanding Undergraduate Award.

**J. Stephanie Rose** received a 2020-21 Newman Civic Fellowship and a STEAM Studio seed grant.

**Gabriel Thrower** (BS '21) created the app Bar Spy to help local restaurants and was a finalist in the Randall Family Big Idea Competition, which received local media attention.

**Vasco Xu** (BPhil '20) received an honorable mention in the 2021 Computing Research Association Outstanding Undergraduate Researchers awards program.

**Jinpeng Zhou** received the Orrin E. and Margaret M. Taulbee Graduate Award for Excellence in Computer Science.

SCI students reactivated and rapidly grew the Computer Science Club to more than 200 members and offered many events and activities throughout the year.

### ALUMNI AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND ACCOLADES

**Mohammed Altamimi** (PhD '14) was named governor of the Communications and Information Technology Commission in Saudi Arabia and awarded the King Abdulaziz Medal of the First Class following a royal order.

**Girish Chavan** (MSIS '04) became the chief technology officer of Astrata, Inc.

**Yvonne Chen** (MST '94), **John Liu** (MS '93) and **Joshua Xiang** (MS '94) were appointed to the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Global Advisory Council.

**Amir Masoumzadeh** (PhD '14) received an NSF CAREER Award.

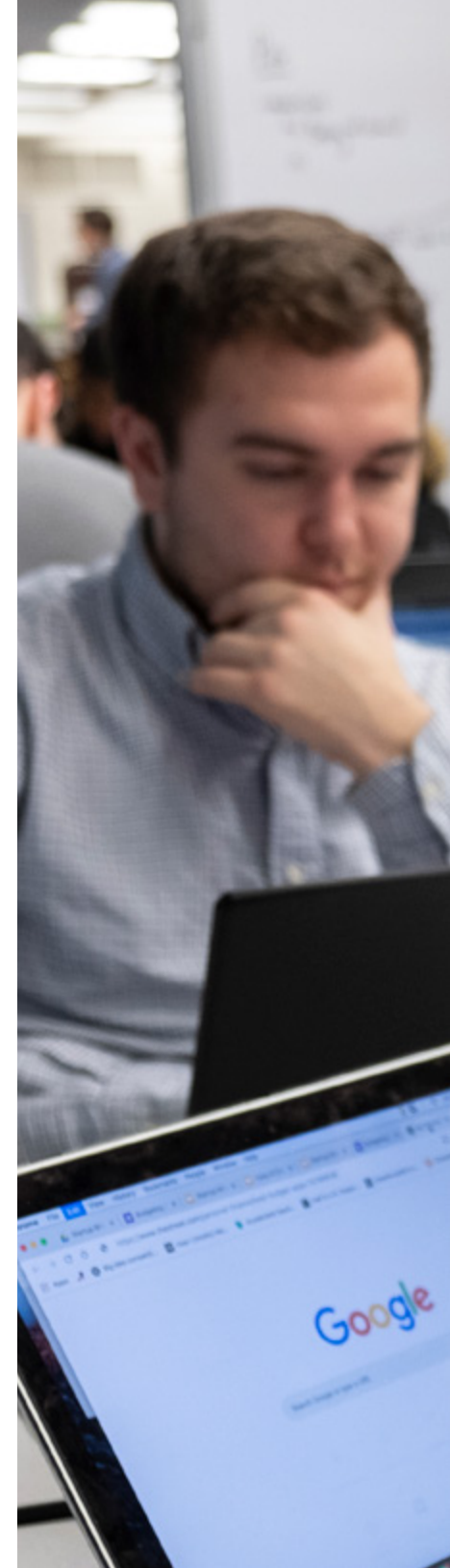
**Skye Patrick** (MLIS '00) received the Innovate@UCLA 2020 Executive Leadership Award for community impact and a Durfee Foundation 2020 Stanton Fellowship.

**Stephanie Reinhardt** (MLIS '14) received the Michigan Library Association's 2020 Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth.

**Andy Rhodes** (BS '87) was appointed to the NewYorkCIO Advisory Board.

**Shaghayegh "Sherry" Sahebi** (MS '13, PhD '16) received an NSF CAREER Award.

**Lisa Schreiber** (BS '82) was listed among the Top 25 Women Leaders in Cybersecurity of 2020 by The Software Report.









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