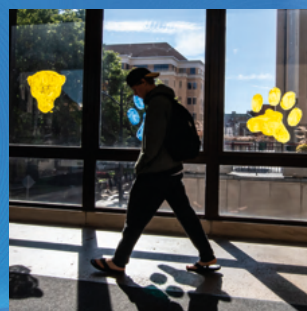
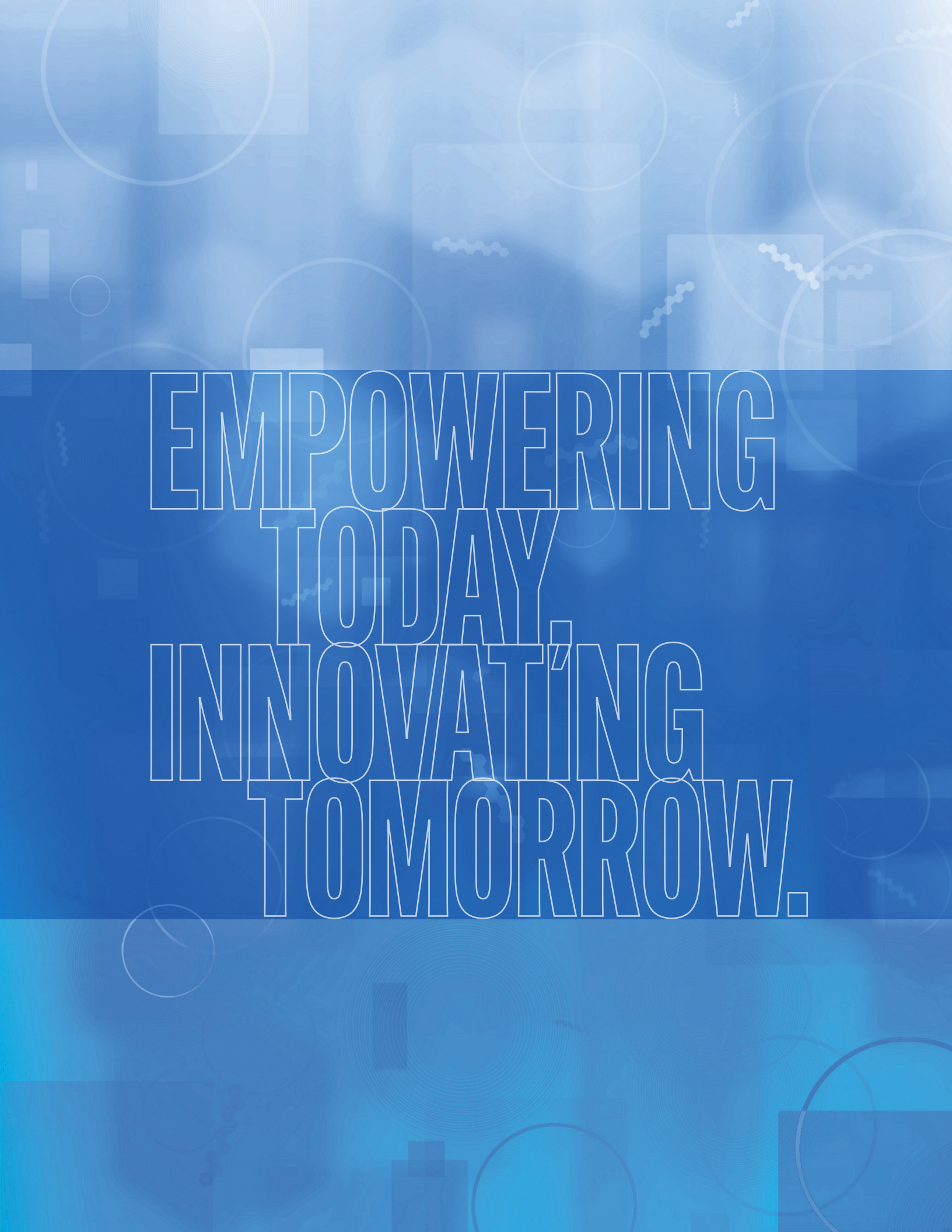




EMPOWERING TODAY

School of Computing and Information
Fiscal Year **2025 Annual Report**



The background is a vibrant blue gradient. It features a faint world map in the center. Overlaid on the map and background are various semi-transparent geometric shapes: circles, squares, and rectangles. Some of these shapes contain white line art, including bar charts and line graphs with upward-trending arrows. The overall aesthetic is modern, technological, and business-oriented.

EMPOWERING
TODAY,
INNOVATING
TOMORROW.

DEAN'S ANNUAL UPDATE



With today's work,
we continue building
the foundation needed
to meet tomorrow's
challenges.

At the School of Computing and Information (SCI), we believe that **connection, empowerment, innovation, and transformation** aren't just words. They are the pillars that shape who we are and who we aspire to be. They define our work, from groundbreaking interdisciplinary research to opening new doors for professional and intellectual growth. The pillars are the foundation upon which we build a stronger, more vibrant future.

Over the past year, SCI has embodied that ethos of empowering today and innovating for tomorrow in expanding academic programs, increasing research, and elevating external awareness of the remarkable work happening across our school. Much has been accomplished. Research expenditures reached about \$8.3 million this past fiscal year. Our Master of Data Science program grew in its first year, with 702 enrolled students for Summer 2025. We launched our inaugural alumni awards program at Homecoming 2024. Computer Science's graduate programs ranking rose five spots from its 2024 U.S. News & World Report ranking to #51, and our library and information science program rose to #16 on the Best Library and Information Studies Programs list.

We know that a thriving tomorrow depends on the strength we build today. As we look ahead, we will expand our efforts in first-year retention, graduation and job placement, multi- and interdisciplinary research, academic programming, and community belonging. We are refining our faculty mentoring model to ensure sustainability, piloting new initiatives that involve community colleges in our academic programs and strengthening faculty-student partnerships with the Frederick Honors College. New research efforts are taking shape in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and sustainability.

This journey is not one we take alone. We are committed to expanding engagement across the communities we serve, reaching more people in an increasingly data- and technology-driven world. Our 3Sixty program will continue to grow, supporting engaged scholarship for both undergraduate and graduate students and connecting learners inside and outside of SCI with Pitt's Community Engagement Centers and local partners.

Time never stands still and neither do we. Our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and partners not only keep SCI moving forward day by day but also cultivate a school shaping a digital future that includes and uplifts all.

Our goals will take time, focus, and collaboration. But I have no doubt that together, we can build something extraordinary.

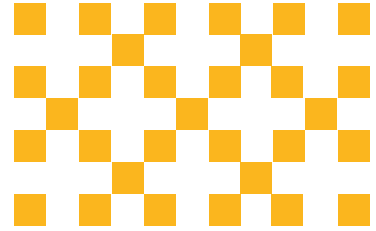
Thank you for being part of SCI's journey. Let's keep building tomorrow—starting today.

Sincerely,

Bruce R. Childers

Dean and Professor

BY THE NUMBERS



Unless otherwise noted, all data covers fiscal year 2024-2025

SCI POPULATION

(as per the University Factbook)

69

FACULTY

55

STAFF

1,864

STUDENTS

1,220

UNDERGRADUATES

644

GRADUATE STUDENTS

DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS, AND INSTITUTES

Departments:

- Computer Science
- Informatics and Networked Systems
- Information Culture and Data Stewardship

Programs:

- Intelligent Systems Program

Institutes:

- Sara Fine Institute

RANKINGS

(from U.S. News & World Report unless otherwise noted)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

#19

in Best Bachelor's in Computer Science Programs

#39

(tie) in World University Rankings for Computer Science

#51

in Graduate Computer Science Studies

#189

in Best Universities for Computer Science

INFORMATICS AND NETWORKED SYSTEMS

#1

in Best Schools for Information Science in Pennsylvania by College Factual

#16

in Best Information Sciences Schools by College Factual

INFORMATION CULTURE AND DATA STEWARDSHIP

#16

in Best Library and Information Studies Programs (tie)

STUDENT OUTCOMES

96% Graduation placement

93.3% First-year student retention

CAREER OUTCOMES

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Aerotech
- American Eagle Outfitters
- BNY Mellon
- CGI
- Deloitte
- DICK's Sporting Goods
- Duquesne Light Corporation
- Eaton
- NetApp
- Neuraville
- PNC Bank
- PPG Industries
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- UPMC
- Wolfe LLC

Number of students that have had an internship or co-op when they graduate:

81.4%

SITE EXAMPLES

(in addition to corporate partners)

- Amazon
- ANSYS
- Hitachi Rail
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Microsoft
- Pfizer
- UPMC

TOP EMPLOYERS

(in addition to corporate partners):

- University of Pittsburgh
- Ernst & Young LLP (EY)
- Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC)
- Allegheny Health Network
- Amazon
- Epic
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- KPMG
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Westinghouse Electric Company
- FedEx
- Naval Nuclear Laboratory
- Highmark Health
- Allegheny County
- AmeriCorps
- National Institutes of Health

GIVING (FY25)

Total gifts and commitments

\$5,973,763

Total donors

406

Thank you to those who gave

\$25,000

and above

- Anonymous
- Amazon
- Elsie H. Hillman Foundation
- Google
- Mark Cuban Foundation
- Microsoft
- Pittsburgh Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Posner Foundation
- Teresa "Terri" Tunick

ALUMNI

Total number of alumni: nearly

22,000

Top countries where alumni reside
(by number of graduates)

- United States
- China
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Saudi Arabia

PITT DAY OF GIVING 2025

Total gifts

\$23,355

Total donors

170

LASTING LEGACIES

Michael S. Williams (SCI '83) and Dr. James G. Williams (SCI '66, '72G)

When asked about his continued support for SCI, Michael S. Williams (SCI '83) has an easy explanation: investing in the future.

Williams, a longtime donor to the school and current President & Chief Executive Officer at Metallus Inc., has found that fostering a Pitt legacy and giving back comes easily, especially since his late father, Dr. James (Jim) G. Williams, made a significant impact on SCI.

While Jim was teaching at Chartiers Valley High School in 1963, he read about a computer course at Pitt's former School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS), or what is now called SCI. That course spurred his decision to pursue a Master of Library Science degree, which Jim earned in 1966, followed by a doctorate in 1972, and a faculty position at SLIS in 1976.

In his time at Pitt, Jim spurred innovations both on- and off-campus, including the first automated interactive library for the blind and physically handicapped for Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and a medical information system for UPMC-Montefiore. Beyond Pitt, Jim developed a judicial information system for Westmoreland County and a copy mark conversion system for the Xerox Corporation as well as helped establish the Kuwait National Library.

After 37 years of teaching at Pitt, Jim retired in 2001 as a distinguished faculty member, department chair, and professor emeritus. But Jim's impact on SCI doesn't stop there.

The James G. Williams Scholarship Fund was created not only to honor Jim's legacy, but to support an outstanding student enrolled in the Master of Science in Information Science program.

"He passed away two years ago, and my wife Melanie and I have started supporting my father's scholarship fund via annual donations to keep the legacy and his love for the University and student learning continuing long into the future," said Michael.

Honoring the past and transforming the future is something SCI takes to heart, and the school's dedicated alumni and donors play an invaluable role.

For Michael, his deep connections to SCI are all about family: in addition to his father, Michael's wife, and two of their children have also graduated from the University. In addition, the ties to SCI have contributed to who Michael is today and the success he has achieved.

"We invest in the future of students and the school to evolve the future of our country and the long-term success of society," Michael explained, noting why he and his wife prioritize supporting SCI.

The commitment of donors like the Williams family continue to support SCI's mission to advance research, inspire and educate, engage with communities, and serve others through computing, library, and information sciences.

"It's about investing in the future success of the country and society. We can make a difference! SCI is a great school with great professors, and a great environment to learn and thrive," said Michael.

Interested in supporting SCI?

Contact Laura Everhart
Director of Development
at laura.everhart@pitt.edu.





“We can make a difference! SCI is a great school with great professors, and a great environment to learn and strive.”



Dr. James (Jim) G. Williams
(SCI '66, '72G)

Michael S. Williams
(SCI '83)



Van Pierce
(SCI '20)

Summer Fowler
(SCI '99, '00G)

“Having a mentor provides an opportunity to bond with someone who can use their knowledge and expertise to guide you in the right direction,” said Pierce.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

SCI Alumni Connections

After graduating from SCI, graduates walk away with knowledge essential to success in their post-grad paths—skills, experience, and importantly, esteemed connections. SCI students have countless opportunities to connect with mentors who will guide them throughout their journeys, and Van Pierce (SCI '20) found success in his career after meeting Summer Fowler (SCI '99, '00G), a fellow alum who would soon become a valuable mentor and colleague. Pierce now works at TORC Robotics with Fowler, thanks to a courageous move at a networking event years ago.

In October 2019, Pierce attended the SCI Executive Brunch, where Fowler was the keynote speaker. Inspired by her expertise, Pierce struck up a conversation, which would open the door to a years-long mentorship between the two.

"During my initial interaction with Summer, I immediately knew she was someone worth staying in touch with," said Pierce. "She is among the most intelligent, sincere, authentic, and wise people I know! She has vast wisdom and knowledge regarding information security, and she's always enthusiastic and willing to share that knowledge."

Beginning as an IT intern at Argo AI, Pierce has pursued his IT career at various companies. Confident in Pierce, Fowler guided him through the transition to joining TORC Robotics, where she is the Chief Information Security Officer, and Pierce officially joined in April 2024, now working as an IT Enterprise Applications Manager.

"When Van introduced himself to me at a networking event where I was speaking, I was immediately impressed with his presence," said Fowler. "We are now at our third self-driving company together, and I can honestly say that I would want Van on my team at any company. Van has really grown—from intern to IT engineer to project manager to now being a technical lead and managing people. The credit belongs to him, because he is not only open to mentorship, but he seeks it and genuinely learns from everyone around him. What Van really needed was sponsorship, and I have been fortunate to be in positions where I could serve as a sponsor who vouches for Van's work and promotes his capabilities."

Reflecting on his time at SCI, Pierce is grateful he took that initial leap to speak to Fowler at the event. Pierce found speaking up challenging due to his speech disability. That day, he took a chance on himself, and it resulted in a years-long relationship full of guidance, wisdom, and success.

"Having Summer as a mentor has been an invaluable resource in my career journey," said Pierce. "She's seen me grow from an intern to a young working professional. I attribute not only my professional success but also my newfound confidence to Summer. Despite my speech impediment, Summer advocates for me to be in spaces I typically wouldn't have access to due to my disability. I'm thankful to call Summer a mentor and a friend."

Pierce and Fowler's experience reflects the importance of mentorship at SCI and beyond. Mentors, including alumni, can provide fellow students and alumni with advice, support, and opportunities to learn and grow inside and outside of their professional lives.

"Mentorship is an excellent way to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional life," said Fowler. "Pitt and SCI provide students with tremendous opportunities to learn everything from fundamentals to advanced concepts, and there is much more to learn in a career setting that a mentor can help a new employee to navigate. A great mentor/mentee relationship is very much two-way. I learn as much from Van as he learns from me. The key is to have a relationship with trust so that there is honesty and respect to tackle big problems and celebrate big wins."

Pierce encourages fellow students to take that next step and connect with people, even if it may feel intimidating to do so.

"Having a mentor provides an opportunity to bond with someone who can use their knowledge and expertise to guide you in the right direction," said Pierce. "Receiving guidance from alumni allows you to get a diverse and unique perspective from someone who was once in your shoes. Graduates, keep in touch with the professors, faculty, and staff at SCI—they will always be there and be rooting for you!"

—Alyssa Morales (A&S '25)

TRANSFORMING FUTURES

Graduates Empowered By SCI's Corporate Partnerships

Meet Isabela Garcia (SCI '23) and Joy Gimei (SCI '24), two SCI alumni who met as undergraduates and are now both friends and colleagues at a top four consulting firm in Pittsburgh.

When Garcia first arrived at Pitt, it was the first year that the information sciences (IS) major was offered to first-year students.

She explained that it wasn't a large

program at the time, and most people didn't even know what information science was. To give the program more of a platform at Pitt, Garcia and some friends founded the Official Association for Students of Information Science (OASIS). This club would serve as an on-campus resource for IS students to meet one another, get involved, and have fun with others who share similar interests.

One year later, Joy Gimei arrived at Pitt as an undergraduate, knowing she wanted to major in IS from the start. Getting involved in OASIS was a no-brainer, and later, Gimei became the president of the club where her friendship with Garcia began to blossom.

"OASIS allowed me to gain confidence in myself and the things I am passionate about," said Joy Gimei.

In this interview, Garcia and Gimei laughed as they reminisced about one of their favorite OASIS memories—a painting night for members of the club. Garcia had brought birdhouses, treasure chests, and other figurines for a crafting event, but she forgot one key item: paintbrushes. What followed was a hilariously chaotic night of finger painting, improvising with paper towels, and getting creative to make their crafts work out despite the odds being against them.

Now, the two friends can look back on these memories and be grateful for the close friendships they made through getting involved in campus clubs like OASIS. Plus, building relationships with classmates in similar academic programs

can be incredibly valuable for future careers, offering support and opportunities that last well beyond graduation.

Both Garcia and Gimei now work at Deloitte, one of SCI's corporate partners. Gimei, a Government and Public Services Analyst, connected with Deloitte through a conversation with a Pitt alum at their booth during the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. Meeting someone who shared her experiences at Pitt made the conference feel far less intimidating and opened doors for new connections that later helped her get a job at the company.

Garcia also noted the influence of networking, recalling an email she received about an executive breakfast event for first-year students only. After attending, this was where her network began to grow, catalyzing a series of doors opening that would lead her to an internship at PPG, then later a job at Deloitte. By showing up to on-campus events and getting to know the current employees, her familiarity within the company was a helpful factor in landing the job. Now, Garcia works as a Business Technology Analyst in the firm's financial sector, working with organizations such as banks and retirement services to develop solutions for managing their data. Gimei works in the government sector of the firm and is an analyst for local and state agencies. She emphasized how reassuring it was to have a familiar face when joining Deloitte, and now they both thrive in their roles at the company.

Garcia pointed out how useful the lessons she learned in SCI are in her current role at Deloitte, both in terms of technical skills and professional development.

"The classes I took with Leona Mitchell (Director of the Undergraduate Program, Department of Informatics and Networked Systems; Founding Director, SCI Professional Institute) are incredibly relevant to my current job," she explained.

Gimei echoed Garcia's praise of Mitchell's approach, explaining how the project-based courses helped them grasp the holistic aspects and human dynamics of technology. She also shared how her experiences as president of OASIS and her involvement in a sorority gave her valuable opportunities to step outside her comfort zone and build confidence.



Isabela Garcia
(SCI '23)

Joy Gimei
(SCI '24)

"My best advice would be to take things one step at a time, and trust that you'll end up where you're meant to be," said Gimei.

As these stories show, SCI offers countless opportunities for students to get involved—even fun activities and extracurriculars can contribute to professional growth and lead to meaningful connections. This philosophy drives SCI to foster a strong sense of community, not only preparing students for their future careers but also creating lasting memories along the way.

—Abbey Kosmalski (A&S '26)



STAFF AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Miranda Acosta received the *Exceptional Early Career Achievement Award* from the Office of the Chancellor.

Mackenzie Ball represented SCI's *Alumni Mentoring Program* at Pitt's 2025 *Mentoring and Advising Summit* as a panelist.

Matt Barbosa was promoted to Director of Information Technology.

NEW STAFF HIRES

Jocelyn Behr, Temporary, Academic Records

Maria DiPastino, Master of Data Science Student Success Specialist

Laura Everhart, Director of Development

John Faulkner, Undergraduate Advisor

Jane Graham, Development Associate

Kerry Hanahan, Faculty Affairs Manager

Adam Hobaugh, Systems Administrator

Joe Ioli, Human Resources Specialist

Rebecca Labovitz, Academic Scheduler

Kailyn Lukaszewski, Student Success Coordinator

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

5 YEARS

Alexa Bakalarski
Communications and Marketing
Coordinator

Heidi Davis
Intelligent Systems Program
Administrator and Finance Assistant

Laura Finkle
Academic Records Specialist

Danielle Minyo
Recruiting and Admissions Specialist

Kristine Pugliese
Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Mara Silver
Online Program Data Analyst

10 YEARS

Mackenzie Ball
Director of Outreach
and Alumni Engagement

20 YEARS

Kelly Shaffer
Department of Informatics and
Networked Systems Department
Administrator

50+ YEARS

Robert Hoffman
Director of Operations

SELECT STUDENT AND ALUMNI AWARDS, GRANTS, AND RECOGNITIONS

Makayla Chang (SCI '28) was one of the winners in the Tech track for Hacking4Humanity 2025.

Charlotte Chung (SCI '21) received the 'I Love My Librarian' Award.

Maria Harrington (SCI '08) received the Research Incentive Award from the University of Central Florida In-Unit Research Incentive Award Program.

Scylla Humbert (SCI '25G) received a travel award to attend the Society of American Archivists Conference.

Maria McCauley (SCI '01) was elected 2026-27 President of the American Library Association.

Caden Milne (SCI '26) won first place and the Wolfram Prize at SteelHacks XI.

Adita Nayak (SCI '28G) was part of the winning team at the Allegheny County Department of Human Service's 2024 Local Government Case Competition.

Ryan Praskovich (SCI '15) received the 2024 CEO Award for Innovation by the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Alireza Javadian Sabet (SCI '26G) won the Poster Competition at Data Science Day 2025.

Produced by the SCI Communications Team

Susan Orr, Director of Communications and Media

Sasha Kotarski, Communications and Media Manager

Alexa Bakalarski, Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Communications Interns


Elizabeth Kissmeyer-Nielsen (A&S '27)

Abigail Kosmalski (A&S '26)


Alyssa Morales (A&S '25)


Sanjana Pejathaya (SCI '27)

Learn more: www.sci.pitt.edu

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