

Outstanding CSE Students for 2010-2011

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Computer Science - William Armke

William Armke is currently enjoying his time at UNT pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics. He is interested in computer graphics, and spends some of his free time learning about graphics hardware and programming with DirectX and OpenGL. He would like to thank all of his professors for their support during his time at UNT. William enjoys listening to music, reading articles, and playing games in his free time.



Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Computer Engineering - Farica Mascarenhas

Farica Mascarenhas who is Indian, was born and raised in Kuwait. She started out at UNT as a freshman in 2008 and now she is a junior working towards a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering with a minor in Mathematics and Management. She expects to graduate in Spring 2012. She enjoys programming but she plans to specialize in Wireless Networks and Communication.

Farica has worked as a part time Computer Support Technician for the Office of the President and currently works as an Engineering Ambassador in the College of Engineering. Last summer, she was selected to participate in a research program hosted by UNT called the Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research (SUPER). Her research was based on Molecular Dynamics: Simulation of Polymers. In this program, she worked with Dr. Witold Brostow, and called him an exceptional professor in the Material Science and Engineering Department.

Farica enjoys outdoor activities, spending time with family and friends, dancing, traveling and listening to music. She would like to take this opportunity to thank her professors in the CSE Department who thought she deserved this prestigious award and supported her during her academic years.



Outstanding Master's Student in Computer Science - Ning Luo

Ning Luo is originally from China. She received both of her B.S. and M.S degrees from the University of Science & Technology, Beijing. When she was at the university in China, she received several competitive scholarships, such as SONY scholarships (only ten undergraduate students are selected in the whole university each year), and was an honor undergraduate student of Beijing when she graduated.

Since Ning joined UNT, she has had a cumulative GPA of 4.0. She received USC scholarship for 2009-2010 academic year and RIM Graduate Scholarship in 2011. As a research assistant, Ning has contributed to several large projects. She worked with Dr. Costas Tsatsoulis on NASA funded project "Sensor Web Agents that Negotiate" (SWAN), and with Dr. Yan Huang on "Low Cost Wireless Network Camera Sensors for Data Collection and Traffic Monitoring" project funded by the Texas Department of Transportation. Ning's thesis was based on her second project.

Ning would like to express her most sincere gratitude to her thesis advisor, Dr. Yan Huang, who has always been there steering the direction and providing the guidance as best as she can. Ning would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Bill Buckles and Dr. Costas Tsatsoulis. Their mentoring went far beyond the projects and enabled her to grow intellectually during the time at UNT.



Outstanding Master's Student in Computer Engineering - Okobiah Oghenkarho

Oghenkarho Okobiah received his B.S in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University, Brookings in 2008. He worked for a year as an Electrical Engineer. His interest in chip and processor design led him to pursue his Masters in Computer Engineering. He began his Masters studies at UNT in the Fall 2009 semester. His area of interest is Nanoscale VLSI Systems Design. Under intense supervision from his major professor Dr. Saraju Mohanty, he was able to complete his Master's thesis in time. He received the Academic Achievement Scholarship in 2010. Feedback from Dr. Elias Kougianos was always provided, which gave industrial perspectives to his research.



Oghenkarho defended his thesis titled "Exploring Process-Variation Tolerant Design of Nanoscale Sense Amplifier Circuits" in October 2010. Following his graduation, he immediately continued as a Ph.D. student in the same field. His Ph.D. dissertation is supervised Prof. Saraju Mohanty and co-supervised by Prof. Elias Kougianos. His is funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) award as a research assistant in the NanoSystem Design Laboratory (NSDL). His current research interests include Kriging metamodeling and fast optimization of differential circuit designs to mitigate the effects of correlated process variations in them. He will present his first publication in this area at the highly selective GLSVLSI 2011 conference.

In his spare time (which is rare to come by), Karo likes to read novels, play tennis and learn how to play the violin.

Outstanding Doctoral Student in Computer Science and Engineering - Samer Hassan

Samer Hassan, a native of Egypt, received his B.S. in Physics from Cairo University with honors. As the highest achieving student in the graduating class, he was awarded the Mahmoud Mokhtar Award for Excellence in Physics. After graduation, he won a full scholarship at the Information Technology Institute in Egypt where he pursued a post graduate diploma; and later, due to his commendable performance, was awarded the Institute's Outstanding Student Award.



Subsequently, he joined UNT and received his M.S. in Computer Science. Throughout his studies, he has actively promoted multiculturalism and diversity on campus, thus leading to him being awarded the Outstanding International Graduate Student Award, which recognizes excellence in both academic and extracurricular endeavors.

Currently, Samer is pursuing his Ph.D. in Natural Language Processing under Dr. Rada Mihalcea. He has published 12 articles at top tier conferences and received the "Best Student Paper" award from the IEEE International Conference for Semantic Computing. As part of his academic services, he served as guest editor for the Speech and Language Journal and co-chair of the TextGraph-4 Workshop.

Additionally he served as a program committee member/reviewer for 15 conferences and workshops. In the summer of 2010, Samer did an internship at the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California, where he was awarded the Google Ph.D. Intern Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year, which is granted to the top Ph.D. interns at Google. During his internship, he was also chosen to serve as a Google Student Ambassador at UNT, where he subsequently founded the Google Student Chapter organization.