Alexandra Nisenoff

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago   September 2017 - June 2021

B.S. in Computer Science with a specialization in Computer Security   *Chicago, IL*

B.A. in Astrophysics

Overall GPA: 3.737

Relevant Classes: (Graduate level) Intro to Computer Security, (Graduate level) Topics in Computer Security, Usable Privacy and Security, Cryptography, and Foundations of Computer Networks

RESEARCH

University of Chicago Center for Data and Computing   August 2020 - Present

Research Assistant for Prof. Nick Feamster   Chicago, IL

- Designing and coordinating user study on encrypted DNS settings on mobile devices and in browsers

University of Chicago Department of Computer Science, SUPERgroup   July 2019 - Present

Research Assistant for Prof. Blase Ur   *Chicago, IL*

- Developing code to automate the detection of website breakage due to tracking protection tools using Python, JavaScript, Puppeteer, and Selenium
- Parsed over 1TB of data breaches and performed password transformations for study on password reuse
- Creating a Qualtrics survey and app (React Native and Expo) to understand users' mobile device PIN modification strategies

University of Chicago Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics   October 2019 - June 2021

Research Assistant for Prof. Vikram Dwarkadas   *Chicago, IL*

- Designing and building an online database for radio supernova data (PHP, MySQL, and JavaScript)
- Updated Supernova X-Ray Database to be compatible with a newer version of PHP and fixed preexisting XSS vulnerabilities

University of Chicago Department of Geophysical Sciences   June 2018 - March 2019

Lab Technician for Prof. Elisabeth Moyer   *Chicago, IL*

- Optimized data reduction program in IDL, decreasing runtimes by 90% on typical output files
- Operated laser spectrometer to gather water isotopologue ratios in the atmosphere
- Implemented additional software capabilities for the spectrometer into existing LabVIEW code

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Summa Cum Laude, *GPA in top 8% of major (over past 5 years) and broad engagement with the college curriculum,* 2021
- Departmental Honors (Computer Science), 2021
- Dean's List, 2017-2020
- Enrico Fermi Scholar, *GPA in top 5% of major (over past 5 years) at end of 3rd year*, 2019-2020
- Dean's Fund Grant, *$1,500 UChicago grant for research expenses,* Fall 2020
- Jeff Metcalf Fellowship Grant, *$3,750 UChicago grant for summer internships*, Summer 2020
- Diversity Grant to USENIX Enigma, January 2020

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Alexandra Nisenoff, Nick Feamster, Madeleine A Hoofnagle, Sydney Zink. *User Expectations and Understanding of Encrypted DNS Settings*. 2021. NDSS DNS Privacy Workshop.

Other Publications

- Alexandra Nisenoff, Vikram V. Dwarkadas, Mathias C. Ross. *Supernova X-Ray Database (SNaX) Updated to Ensure Long-term Stability*. 2020 Res. Notes AAS 4 195.

ACTIVITIES

Expanding Your Horizons Chicago   August 2019 - Present
Organizing Committee Member   *Chicago, IL*
- Organizing student recruitment for annual STEM symposium for middle school girls

UChicago Maroon Newspaper   September 2017 - June 2021
Photo Section Editor and Staff Photographer   *Chicago, IL*
- Run staff meetings, photo critiques, and handle various logistical tasks for the photo section
- Take photos at protests, guest lectures, concerts, sports events, and art exhibits
- 2019 ICPA Award for Excellence in IL College Newspapers: General News Photo 2nd place

University of Chicago Department of Computer Science   January 2021 - March 2021
Course Staff for Introduction to Computer Security (86 students)   *Chicago, IL*
- Assisting with the development of computer security focused assignments
- Respond to student questions on class discussion board about computer security concepts and student specific debugging

College Core Tutor Program   January 2020 - March 2020
Peer Tutor   *Chicago, IL*
- Assisted 5-10 students per session with introductory computer science classes in Python, C, and Typed Racket

SKILLS

Programming:
- Proficient: Python, C, LabVIEW, and IDL
- Experienced: JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, HTML/CSS, R, React Native, and Expo

Applications:
- Proficient: Adobe Lightroom, Qualtrics
- Experienced: LaTeX, Wireshark