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Education

Carnegie Mellon University   **Aug 2014 – Dec 2017**
Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering   **Pittsburgh PA**
With University Honors
Overall GPA: 3.93/4.00

Research Experience

Carnegie Mellon University: Image Science Lab   **Jan 2017 – Present**
- ❖ **Supervisor:** Prof. Aswin Sankaranarayanan   **Pittsburgh, PA**
- ❖ Researching, developing, and analyzing accuracy of computational camera models
- ❖ Developing prototype of spherical imaging device

Carnegie Mellon University: Inorganic Nanoparticles for Chiral Separation   **Oct 2014 – Dec 2017**
- ❖ **Supervisor:** Dr. Nisha Shukla   **Pittsburgh, PA**
- ❖ Synthesize and characterize gold nanoparticles in chiral sensing/separation
- ❖ Establish procedure for reproducible production of faceted gold nanoparticles

Stony Brook University: Antibacterial Applications of Graphene/Polymer Blend   **Jun – Aug 2013**
- ❖ **Supervisor:** Prof. Miriam Rafailovich & Prof. John Jerome   **Stony Brook, NY**
- ❖ Established methodology for synthesizing antibacterial polymer structures
- ❖ Synthesized material that could puncture microbial films

Northeastern University: Gas Sensing Properties of Functionalized Graphene   **Aug 2012 – Jun 2013**
- ❖ **Supervisor:** Prof. Swastik Kar   **Boston, MA**
- ❖ Researched applications of graphene in vapor detection
- ❖ Developed gas sensing probes, using graphene, for detection of acetone

Northeastern University: Genetic Regulation of Cell Migration in *C. elegans*   **Jun – Aug 2012**
- ❖ **Supervisor:** Prof. Erin Cram   **Boston, MA**
- ❖ Utilized RNAi to study genetic regulation of distal-tip cell migration in *C. elegans*
- ❖ Established relation between specific gene sequences and migration patterns

Publications & Presentations

Ozturk B., **Zhao Y.**, et. al. Atomically Thin Layers of BNCO with Tunable Composition. *Science Advances*. **1** (2015). http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/6/e1500094

Zhao Y., Nuhfer, T., & Nisha Shukla. "Synthesis and Characterization of Tetrahexahedral Gold Nanoparticles." Berg Symposium, Carnegie Mellon University. Doherty Hall, Pittsburgh, PA. 21 Sep 2015. Oral Presentation.

Projects

Cartoon Interpolation Animator   **Dec 2016**
- ❖ Animate 2-D image using interpolation: manipulate using cage, skeleton, spline interpolation
- ❖ Implemented program in Python, using python image library for speed optimization and user interface

Racing Simulation using OpenCV Motion Detection   **April 2015**
- ❖ Presented as one of top 15 projects (of ~400 students) for 15-112 Spring 2015 Course

❖ Used OpenCV library to create racing game that could read hand and feet motion of user as controls

Awards & Honors

Andrew Carnegie Society (ACS) Scholar	**Sep 2017**

❖ Recognized as one of 40 students from graduating class for academics, involvement and leadership

Eta Kappa Nu, IEEE Honor Society	**Nov 2017**
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society	**Nov 2016**
CMU Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	**May 2015**
National Merit Scholarship Finalist	**May 2014**
Siemens Science Competition Semifinalist	**Oct 2013**

❖ Selected as semifinalist (300 total) for outstanding original research report

Work Experience

Teaching Assistant (TA), 18-240 at Carnegie Mellon University   **Aug 2017 – Present**
❖ Lead lab section of 30 students, weekly project to deepen students' understanding   **Pittsburgh, PA**
❖ Perform course-support tasks: grading, tutoring at office hours, leading review sessions

Software Development Engineer Intern, Amazon.com   **May 2017 – Aug 2017**
❖ Working on Amazon AWS, Elastic Compute Cloud Team   **Seattle, WA**
❖ Designing and implementing container service

Teaching Assistant (TA), 15-112 at Carnegie Mellon University   **Aug 2016 – Dec 2016**
❖ Lead recitation of 20 students, weekly lecture to deepen students' understanding   **Pittsburgh, PA**
❖ Perform course logistics: grading, tutoring at office hours, leading review sessions

Skills

Programming/Computing:
   ❖ **Strong:** Python, C, SystemVerilog
   ❖ **Proficient:** C++, Matlab, Linux
   ❖ **Limited:** Version Control (Git), Qt
Languages: Fluent in English and Chinese (Mandarin)

Volunteer Activities

Mentor, Higher Achievement   **Oct 2014 – May 2017**
❖ Tutored group of 2-5 middle school students in project design and scientific method
❖ Created and implemented projects to teach programming and experimental design