TAKE THE SYMPTOM SURVEY DAILY | TAKE THE TARTAN TEST WEEKLY | All of us share A Tartan's Responsibility.

SCS AWARDS

— Congratulations to **Fei Fang**, assistant professor in the Institute for Software Research and **Andreas Pfenning**, assistant professor in the Computational Biology Department who recently received NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) awards – the foundation's most prestigious award for young faculty members. Fei will use her award to build on research that integrates game theory with machine learning to examine scenarios where multiple agents with their own goals and preferences work together, like the collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local communities to protect wildlife from poachers. Andreas' research will explore why vocal learning or mimicry is found in some species and not others, examining on a molecular level the cell types that make up a region of the brain associated with mimicry and the regulatory elements within the cells that tell the genes what to do.

— Last month, CMU and the Richard King Mellon Foundation announced a $150 million investment, $45 million of which will help build a Robotics Innovation Center – a new facility that will provide robotics researchers with about 150,000 square feet of space at Hazelwood Green for research, integration, iteration and commercialization.

— Congratulations to **Maria Florina "Nina" Balcan**, a professor in SCS's Machine Learning and Computer Science Departments, who received the inaugural Cadence Design Systems Chair in Computer Science in recognition of the impact her work has had in her departments and across CMU. A passionate serial innovator whose work touches many aspects of machine learning, Nina focuses her research on learning theories, artificial intelligence, algorithmic economics, game theory and optimization.

— Five CMU students with ties to SCS were selected for the inaugural Amazon Graduate Research Fellows Program, established to further Amazon's commitment to supporting promising researchers across academia. The five fellows are **Nil-Jana Akpinar, Natalia Lombardi de Oliveria, Divyansh Kaushik, Emre Yolcu** and **Minji Yoon**. Congratulations!

NEWS IN BRIEF

— The Significant Otter app, primarily for smart watches, allows couples to communicate with each other from the heart, based on their sensed heart rates. Fannie Liu earned her Ph.D. from the Human-Computer Interaction Institute (HCII) and was part of the team from CMU, Snap and the University of Washington that built Significant Otter.

— Researchers in the Computational Biology Department have developed a new process that could reinvigorate the search for natural product drugs to treat cancers, viral infections and other ailments. **Bahar Behsaz**, a project scientist in the Metabolomics and Metagenomics Lab says that natural products are still one of the most successful paths for drug discovery and thinks their work will enable researchers in the lab to take it further with their algorithm and a computational model that's orders of magnitude faster and more sensitive.

Until next week,
---- Martial

REMEMBER YOUR RESOURCES

Connect with a Dean's Advisory Committee if you have questions or concerns you want to share.

Connect with a representative leader from SCS Council if you'd like to submit a topic for Council to consider.

Coronavirus Updates & Information and FAQ | CMU Health Services, 412-268-2157

SCS Alerts & Resources | For Students | For Staff | For Faculty | For Researchers