ACM 2018-2019 Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

For Application Guidelines, see https://www.acm.org/chapters/student-chapter-excellence-awards

Award Category: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Chapter Name: *

University of Pennsylvania SIGGRAPH (47723)

City: *

Philadelphia

State/Province:

PA

Country: *

USA

Outstanding Activities: Chapter Contact Information

Please provide all required information

URL for your Chapter homepage: *

For example, https://www.acm.org

http://cg.cis.upenn.edu/siggraph/main.html

Facebook:

Who is submitting this application? *

Enter Submitter's name

Dzung Nguyen

Submitter's Email: *

Enter Submitter's email

dzungng@seas.upenn.edu

Faculty Sponsor Name: *

Norman Badler

Faculty Sponsor Email: *

badler@seas.upenn.edu

Outstanding Activities: Chapter Achievements

Provide brief descriptions as requested, and stay within the character limit for each

Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school (1500 character maximum) *

The University of Pennsylvania was established in 1740 as America's first university. Penn embraces an integrated ecosystem of resources, which fosters four undergraduate and twelve graduate schools. Penn has ample support for research, including undergraduate research, in fields of medicine, technology, business, and science.

Created in 1997, the Digital Media Design (DMD) Program integrates computer programming, mathematics, and design to provide undergraduate students with interest in computer graphics, animation, games, and other forms of interactive technologies the necessary resources to explore their interests. The largest employers of DMD's graduates are Dreamworks Animation, Disney Animation, Electronic Arts, Google, and Microsoft.

Penn Siggraph was established in 2001 as a community to foster a creative, collaborative, and nurturing environment for students in the DMD and Computer Graphics and Game Technology Masters programs. Since then, the community has witnessed an exponential increase in both size and member participation.

This year, the chapter has organized numerous weekly academic, professional, and bonding activities. Our most popular events are the skill-sharing workshops. We also host events to celebrate major holidays as a way to bring members together outside the context of academia. We also establish relationship with nearby chapters through social and academic events.

Outstanding Chapter Activities Essay Guidelines (4000 character maximum) *

Tell us about your chapter's most successful activity/activities. Be sure to describe each activity, including how many people participated, how it was funded, and what made it a success. If you have web pages for these activities, include the URLs.

Penn Siggraph has always been active and provide students with a variety of academic, professional, and community-bonding activities. This year in particular, the Upenn Siggraph Board has committed to maximize engagement from members, especially younger members to provide them with early sources of mentorship and help ease their transition to Penn.

Our most valuable and oldest event series is the skill-sharing workshop series. This series invites students within the community to give two hours presentations on a topic of their choice. This year, we have hosted workshops in Maya, resume-cover letter making, demoreal dos-and-don'ts, Houdini, website, and much more. To see all the workshops that we have had and associated resources, please visit our event page and scroll down to "Past Event" section: http://cg.cis.upenn.edu/siggraph/Events.html. Through the academic-related workshops like Houdini and Maya how-tos, students have expressed greater interest in the tools and many have incorporated the tools they learned into their projects and coursework. Students also get real-time feedback on their resumes, cover letters, and demo reel from upperclassmen and/or alumni, which have proven very helpful for their internship and job applications.

Penn Siggraph most-anticipated event this year was the Drexel-Penn Mixer event. Planning for the event occurred back in December of 2018 and the event happened in February of 2019. The aim was to bring local Siggraph chapters together in order to share our common interests and promote cross-community collaborations. The event had 70 attendees. Pizza and desserts were followed by a screening of 2018 Siggraph Conference featured films and a raffle drawing. Participants had the chance to discuss about the movies regarding tools and techniques that were featured. The event ignited friendships and communication both within and outside the Penn Siggraph community.

This year, in an attempt to promote stronger faculty-student and alumni-student relationships, we began two new series: Alumni Speaker Series and Meal with Professor series. Our most recent Alumni Speaker Series features Paul Kanyuk, an 2005 alum and currently a Crowds Supervisor at Pixar Animation Studios. Paul presented a presentation that he gave at Siggraph Asia on Universal Scene Description. The presentation was very informative, introducing major concepts and important advancements in USD over the past years. We had over 20 attendees, most of whom have not encountered USD and said they they were inspired to try it out and participate in the open-source community that helps to build and maintain the tool. In the following months, we will have speakers from Magic Leap, Electronic Arts, and Framestore to discuss various topics related to career in computer graphics. The Speaker Series is a special series because it is open to all students in the larger Engineering Department at Penn, not just CG students. This allows for greater exposure for the chapter and draw in members with diverse interests. Also happening in the following months are meals with our DMD and

Computer Graphics and Information Technology (CGGT) faculty. We initiated this series in hopes that the discussions will bring faculty members and students closer together, promoting research and learning opportunities.

To see a list and brief descriptions of our past activities, as well as a list of upcoming activities, please visit our "Event" page at http://cg.cis.upenn.edu/siggraph/Events.html.

All of our events are funded via the UPenn Student Activities Council (SAC), one of the six branches of Penn Student Government (https://sacfunded.net/)

This form was created inside of Association for Computing Machinery.

Google Forms