

# Meet Our Cognitive Science Major Alumni



## Kevin Wainczak, Class of 2018

*Major:* Cognitive Science  
*Minor:* Software Engineering

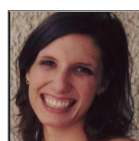
"The focus of my studies has been on furthering my understanding of how people perceive and process the world around them. I hope to apply my coursework in cognitive science and software engineering to problems we face and find human-focused solutions. After graduation I'll be working at Deloitte Digital as a consultant for the federal government."



## Alana Yoel, Class of 2011

*Major:* Cognitive Science &  
Mechanical Engineering  
*Concentration:* Robotics

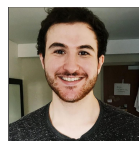
"My focus at CMU was on understanding mechanical systems, sprinkled in with a bit of computer science and psychology. After CMU, I moved to the Bay Area to start a fashion technology company, building clothing and accessories with sensors and other electronics in them. Since then, I have been focused on the manufacturing side of mechanical engineering."



## Lauren Gumbel, Class of 2011

*Major:* Cognitive Science  
*Minor:* Music Theory

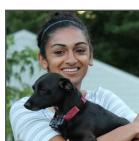
"I primarily researched how children learn and brain development. I became a Special Educator through Teach For America and then into a college counseling role, and am now transitioning into education nonprofits."



## Avi Romanoff, Class of 2018

*Majors:* Cognitive Science &  
Human-Computer Interaction

"My focus of studies at CMU include future, experimental, and alternative interactions and interfaces. In August, I will join Google in Mountain View, CA as a product manager. I'm very interested in building software and companies."



## Amritha Mallikarjun, Class of 2014

*Majors:* Cognitive Science &  
Human-Computer Interaction  
*Concentration:* Language Learning

"I really immersed myself in research in the Psychology Department with Erik Thiessen, where I learned about infant language learning and bilingualism. I now am a 4th year Ph.D candidate researching, among other topics, how pet dogs and service dogs understand words, and how this compares to infant language comprehension."



## Alan Hsu, Class of 2004

*Major:* Cognitive Science

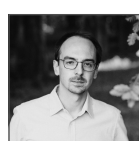
"Besides my cognitive science coursework, I also did premedical requirements, entered medical school, did a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in psycho-oncology and consultation-liaison psychiatry. I am currently an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego and an attending psychiatrist specializing in psychiatric care of patients."



## Ian Quah, Class of 2017

*Major:* Cognitive Science  
*Concentration:* Machine Learning

"Most of my senior year I was involved in research which was truly the highlight of my time at CMU (side note, my biggest regret was that I did not get involved in research earlier on!). I work as a Machine Learning Engineer specifically in Reinforcement Learning for trading, but prior to this, I worked as a general contractor in ML."



## Julian Missig, Class of 2006

*Majors:* Cognitive Science,  
Human-Computer Interaction

"I tried to absorb everything I could about the relationship between people, user interfaces, and computers: how to study people's understanding, design for it, and build better for it. I now design and prototype user interfaces for potential Apple products. My team's work helps the company which products we should build for real."



## Sydney Choi, Class of 2018

*Majors:* Cognitive Science &  
Human-Computer Interaction  
*Minor:* Business Administration

"I am using my cognitive science background to think about and solve design problems rooted in human behavior. After graduation, I will be pursuing a career as a user experience designer and hope to eventually specialize in designing displays for vehicles such as driverless cars."



## Caitlin Lovett, Class of 2005

*Major:* Cognitive Science  
*Minor:* Computer Science

"I focused on non-conscious human processing and mobile robotics. I am currently a Software Engineer at Google but I began as an Analytical Linguist (at Google) when I graduated CMU."