Calling himself a “freshman,” Carnegie Mellon President Subra Suresh congratulated the Class of 2017 and told them that he’ll be learning right along with them.

“I’m starting with you, and I hope to learn with you,” he told more than 1,400 first-year students and their families during his welcome in the Baker Hall tent at the start of Orientation Week on the Pittsburgh campus.

President Suresh began his talk by telling the Class of 2017 a little bit about themselves.

One of the most selective — a record-high 18,879 students applied for admission — and diverse classes in CMU history, 44 percent of this year’s class is female, 17 percent come from more than 40 countries and 15 percent are underrepresented minority students.

“Seventeen percent of you had a perfect 4.0 grade point average in your high school. Twenty-two percent of you received a perfect math score on your SAT exam. About 100 of you had a perfect Critical Reading SAT score,” he said.

In stark contrast to current educational trends that are building increasingly larger (mass) online classes, the FlexMBA approach is designed to deliver the MBA program to focused sections of 20-30 students, who interact frequently with faculty, alumni, school resources, and each other online and in person. Although the experience will be slightly different than attending all of one’s classes on campus, the curriculum, access to leadership coaching and other university resources, and the standards required for graduation remain the same.

“There are no asterisks associated with this diploma,” said Robert Monroe, director of the FlexMBA program and associate teaching professor of business.

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**Inauguration Planned**

The Inauguration of Subra Suresh as Carnegie Mellon’s Ninth President will take place Nov. 14-15. Here’s a preview.

**Nov. 14**

Campus-wide Celebration
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
University Center

Crossing Boundaries, Transforming Lives Symposium Series:
Leveraging the Data Sciences
3 – 4:15 p.m.
University Center

New Paradigms of Teaching and Learning
4:30 – 5:45 p.m.
University Center

**Nov. 15**

Urgent Challenges in Energy and Environment
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.
University Center

Investiture Ceremony
3 – 4:30 p.m.
Carnegie Music Hall

More information online soon.

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**New Tartans: President Suresh Welcomes His First Class**

Kelly Solman

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**Flex MBA Gets Underway**

Mark Burd

Thirty graduate students from across North America have embarked on a new avenue in business education. The Tepper School’s Flex MBA program begins this fall as one of the world’s first top-tier business curriculums to be offered in a flexible “hybrid” format — part online, part on-site.

“The appeal of FlexMBA is that now professionals in any geographic region can pursue a top-level MBA education without relocating, which may otherwise be prohibited by their current job or family situation,” said Kelly R. Wilson, executive director of admissions at the Tepper School. “It is a way for students in virtually any location to experience the same curriculum and faculty as they would in the school’s full- and part-time MBA programs. That is an attractive option for someone who lives and works in a geographic area that is not accessible by traditional means.”

In stark contrast to current educational trends that are building increasingly larger (mass) online classes, the FlexMBA approach is designed to deliver the MBA program to focused sections of 20-30 students, who interact frequently with faculty, alumni, school resources, and each other online and in person. Although the experience will be slightly different than attending all of one’s classes on campus, the curriculum, access to leadership coaching and other university resources, and the standards required for graduation remain the same.

“There are no asterisks associated with this diploma,” said Robert Monroe, director of the FlexMBA program and associate teaching professor of business.
Q: How do you respond to people who say kids spend too much time playing video games?
A: Well, you shouldn’t eat too much candy either. Or carrots. And you shouldn’t listen to too much rock ‘n’ roll. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t good things about them. As a parent, you should really be playing the video games with your kid. First of all, that’s the time you’re spending together. And it opens the door to having that conversation about how much is too much.

Q: What are you most excited about in gaming right now?
A: One of the big things we’re doing at Schell Games is the Game Sprout project. Our idea is to invite people who are interested in trying to make games to bring their ideas forward. Lots of people have an idea, or they like to do art or coding, and they don’t know how to get it going. We want to help people get their games done.

Q: What is your reaction to games designed to change human behavior?
A: It was certainly quite an honor. Traditionally they’ve given awards to certain games. This is the first time they’ve given the award to an individual. Games that make the world a better place are very important to me. I’ve been very vocal about that. And it’s something I try to instill into the teaching that I do at Carnegie Mellon.

“FoldIt” in which Carnegie Mellon had some involvement. There is a difficult problem in the way proteins fold. If you can understand how proteins fold, it can help you design new drugs and solve all kinds of medical problems. They’ve used supercomputers to try to do it, and there are experts who have tried to figure it out.

Then someone said, what if we had an experience where thousands of people could fool around and experiment with it? Maybe somebody would solve some of these problems. So they made a video game. Here you go, try and fold some of these proteins. There are problems that people have worked on for 10 years and been unable to solve that the community, in a number of weeks, came up with a solution.

Then there are games designed to change you as an individual. One we worked on here at Schell Games was a game called “Play Forward.” We teamed up with Yale Medical. It’s a game designed to reduce the risk of HIV in young teenagers. There is a multi-year study going on with kids who’ve played this game to see whether it’s made a difference in their lives. The phrase I like to use is “transformational” games. For a while, people were saying “serious” games, which I think is a problematic phrase, because it implies that the games shouldn’t be fun.

Q: What do you think CMU is ranked No. 2 on Animation Career Review’s list of Top 50 Schools in the U.S. for Game Design and Development?
A: It’s very unusual that a school is equally strong in both art and computer science. And, in terms of the Entertainment Technology Center specifically, part of the reason I think we’ve got such a good reputation is there’s a big explosion of gaming into the educational space right now, because the medium is in the home. There’s a big opportunity there. And that’s a lot of what Schell Games is focused on.

Games help kids understand about persistence and patience. You have to keep trying. A lot of games involve working with others as a team in order to succeed, and there is real value in that as well.
Affairs, has played a prominent role at Levin, an assistant dean of Student activities. "It has been rewarding to mentor, learn from, and now as director of Orientation and Family Weekend, she engages in small-group discussions and families feel welcomed and connected.

The award, which recognizes "service to the university or any of its alumni organizations with continued effort in expanding the influence and prestige of CMU," will be presented to Levin during the Alumni Awards ceremony beginning at 5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27 in the College of Fine Arts’ Kresge Theatre. The ceremony is part of CMU’s Ceilidh Weekend, Sept. 26-29.

“It [Carnegie Mellon] is a special place with ordinary, down to earth students, faculty, staff and alumni who are capable of doing extraordinary things,” Levin said. “It has been exciting for me, during all my years in Student Activities and now as director of Orientation and First-Year Programs, to work with the ‘crème de la crème of the crop.’ It has been rewarding to mentor, learn from, advise, inspire and be inspired by students who want to make a difference.”

Levin, an assistant dean of Student Affairs, has played a prominent role at CMU since joining the university in 1977. In addition to the orientation program for incoming first-year students, she’s been among the chief organizers of several major university events, including Family Weekend, the Madrigal Dinner, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Spring Carnival.

“She has brought a richness and depth to our student activities, in particular the orientation and family weekend programs that are heavily influenced by her commitment and connections as an alumna,” wrote Rebecca Allison (BHA’96, HNZ’01), who nominated Levin for the award. “She has dedicated her life’s work to making her alma mater a world-class institution where students and families feel welcomed and connected.

“The National Association for Student Activities and the National Orientation Director’s Association has specifically recognized Carnegie Mel- lon’s outstanding orientation program under Anne’s leadership,” Allison added.

As part of the weekend orientation program, which helps students transition to college life and Pittsburgh, Levin instituted the “Last Lecture” program. Copies of the book, “The Last Lecture” by the late Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow, are mailed to incoming first-year students during the summer and they engage in small-group discussions facilitated by faculty and staff during orientation.

Levin believes the book gives students insight into the CMU culture and life in general, and the discussion with fellow classmates, which is facilitated by a faculty or staff member, enables them to relate some of the inhibitions they’re feeling as new members to the university community.

“Every year before orientation, I hear from several new students and parents about how happy they are to receive the book,” Levin said. “The messages of the book resonate with our stu- dents. The book is accessible and there is the CMU connection that is obvious.”

Levin, who held the first Madrigal Dinner in the mid ’80s, revived the event in 2007 after hearing from other alumni that there was interest in bringing it back. Levin said her favorite part of the Madrigal Diner “is seeing the event come to life — the decorations, the costumes, the entertainment, the food, the music, the singing and the response of the audience who every year appear to enjoy and appreciate the program.”

“It is worthwhile to guide and offer a core group of students an opportunity to help create, plan, promote and produce something that is unique and successful,” she added.

Levin also is an avid supporter of Spring Carnival. For many years, she and her staff were the advisers to both the Carnival and Sweepstakes commit- tees. She also was responsible for forming the Sweepstakes Alumni Committee to help provide guidance and advice.

“As an alumna, she recognizes the historical and cultural relevance of this event [Carnival] for our university and has been a champion of it even when

Ceilidh Weekend at a Glance

Thursday, Sept. 26 – Sunday, Sept. 29

Noon – 6 p.m., Alen She Exhibition, Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts (see story on page 12)

Thursday Sept. 26

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., 14th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration, Hunt Institute, Hunt Library

11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Ceilidh Weekend Kick-Off BBQ at The Fence

12:30 – 2 p.m., Alumni, Faculty & Staff Reception (invitation only)

7:30 – 9 p.m. – Film Screening: “Sign Painters,” Harris Theater, 809 Liberty Ave., downtown

Friday Sept. 27

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – 112 Years of CMU History & Tradition — in 60 Minutes or Less! A presentation by Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Holly Hippensteel

Saturday Sept. 28

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. – Address by President Subra Suresh

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Panel Discussion: Crossing Boundaries, Transforming Lives: The Impact of Brain and Mind Research (see page 5)

Noon – 2:30 p.m. – Carnegie Clans 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off and Ceilidh “Zero Waste” Tailgate Party

1 p.m. – Carnegie Mellon Football vs. Geneva College, Gesling Stadium

4:30 p.m. – CMU men’s soccer vs. Grove City, Soccer Field

8 – 10 p.m. – Carnegie Mellon University Choirs Concert

Sunday Sept. 29

Noon – 2 p.m. – Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Awards Luncheon
Making a Difference: Students Advance Technology for the Blind

While many Carnegie Mellon students were making their mark at Fortune 500 companies and startups, eight students and recent graduates spent their summer improving the lives of visually impaired children in India.

Specifically, they enhanced three technologies created by previous CMU researchers, including two forms of Braille Writing Tutors, and software that enables blind students to experience graphics by printing them out as braille patterns.

“It’s exciting to see how the device helps. When you see the students so excited by the games we created, when they are laughing and happy, it makes it all worthwhile,” said Shree Lakshmi Rao (A’13), one of the students selected for the innovative Student Technology ExPerience (iSTEP) internship that enabled her and the others to travel to India and put the skills they learned at CMU to use.

She was joined by Madeleine Clute (CS’14), Maddie Gioffre (E’15), Poonirma Kaniararu (CS’13), Aditya Kodkany (E’15), Vivek Nair (E’15), and Avia Weinstein (MCS’14) from CMU’s Pittsburgh campus; and Aveed Sheikh (TPR’14) from CMU’s Qatar campus.

The team worked with the Mathru Educational Trust for the Blind located in Bangalore. The trust includes the Mathru School for the Blind, which is a nonprofit and voluntary institution founded in 2001 to educate and rehabilitate visually impaired children and adults. In 2011, the trust launched a new center that caters to the education of children who are deaf and/or have multiple disabilities.

“IT’s a wonderful experience working alongside a multi-talented, international team and collectively trying to make a difference,” Sheikh said.

The iSTEP internship is a global effort of CMU’s TechBridgeWorld, a program devoted to improving life in developing countries by developing and implementing innovative technologies.

The goal of the Braille Writing Tutor is to provide an affordable and accessible means for children and adults in underserved communities around the world to learn how to write braille using the locally available slate and stylus method.

The original version of the device, which is connected to a computer, provides immediate audio feedback as the user writes on the electronic slate with the stylus. The tutor also teaches the basics, guides writing, corrects mistakes, provides opportunities for practice and motivates students through educational games.

“We have to keep in mind the restrictions that the Mathru Trust faces, and implement the features of the tutor accordingly. For example, to work around any problems with Internet connectivity, we had to make sure that a library of images could be built,” Kodkany explained. “And the user interface had to be easy and accessible enough for both blind teachers and those who did not have too much experience with computers in general.”

This summer’s iSTEP team also researched the feasibility of connecting the tutor to an Android smartphone instead of a computer for added portability. They also significantly enhanced the newest standalone version of this tutor, which is based on the original tutor, has onboard computing and is battery powered, which makes the device even more portable while maintaining affordability.

A new course offered this past spring by M. Bernadine Dias and David Kostie called “Software Development for Social Good” produced new code written by CMU students that the iSTEP team incorporated into their projects. Dias is TechBridgeWorld’s founder and director and an associate research professor in the Robotics Institute. Kostie is an assistant teaching professor in the Computer Science Department and a volunteer at TechBridgeWorld.

In addition to software development, the iSTEP team maximized their time with the Mathru school by conducting extensive interviews and user tests, and analyzing data in order to fully understand the impact of, and potential improvements to, the tutors. The CMU interns also trained the Mathru teachers to effectively use computers and other technology available to them at the school.

Study Nets New Signage, Adjusted Street Parking Rates

Street signage differentiating “premium” and “economy” parking has been added to several streets adjacent to the Carnegie Mellon campus as a result of a parking study being conducted by two faculty members at CMU’s Tepper School of Business in cooperation with the City of Pittsburgh.

“The sign coincides with the most recent adjustment in parking rates, identifying Tech and Frew streets as ‘premium’ parking at an hourly rate of $2.25, and classifying Margaret Morrison Street and part of Schenley Drive as ‘economy’ parking at a rate of 50 cents per hour.

The parking study is being directed by Stephen Spear, professor of economics, and Mark Fichman, associate professor of organizational behavior and theory. The research, which got underway this past January, involves periodic adjustment of hourly parking rates on four streets, based on usage, and is expected to continue through the end of 2013.

“The objective of our study is to use fundamental economic principles to find the optimum parking rates for each of these areas, balancing regular commuter usage with overall parking revenue,” Spear said. “Street parking is a commodity and the marketplace will define the relationship between cost and demand.

“If rates are too low, parking availability will be scarce, with low turnover throughout the business day,” he added. “This creates a competition among commuters for parking spaces early in the day and presents real challenges throughout the day for individuals who need to park for an hour or two in order to attend a class, meeting or even make a delivery. On the other hand, rates that are too high will cause all drivers to avoid using these parking areas, which underutilizes a resource and ultimately lowers revenue. In the past, we have seen both of these extremes involving these particular streets,” Spear said.

The study seeks to let the market-place identify hourly rates at which parking spaces are more than three-quarters full during regular business periods. This establishes a reasonable level for usage and revenue while allowing for some parking availability throughout the business day.

“The city’s new pay-by-license plate multi-space meters have made the process of periodically adjusting parking rates feasible,” Fichman said.

“And this technology presents future opportunities in fine-tuning parking rates. We have now documented the eb and flow of daily, weekly and seasonal fluctuations in parking, along with the impact that hourly rates have on usage. [With classes in session], we are entering into a new data period for our research, which will impact the next rate adjustments.

“We appreciate the cooperation of the city on this project. We are confident the outcomes will be beneficial for all of the stakeholders involved with parking around CMU,” Fichman said.
Math Mavens

Three Olympic Medalists Among Freshman Class

The class of 2017 is full of high-achieving students — valedictorians, humanitarians, scholarship winners, and even some Olympic medalists.

Samuel Zbarsky won a silver medal as a member of the U.S. team competing in this summer’s International Physics Olympiad in Copenhagen. In July, Ray Li and Thomas Swayze traveled to Santa Maria, Columbia, as part of the United States team that participated in the International Mathematical Olympiad. The team, coached by Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences Po-Shen Loh, placed third out of 97 countries and both students came home with silver medals for their individual performances.

“It’s been my number one academic achievement so far,” Swayze said.

In preparing for their respective Olympiads, the students practiced problems that were exponentially harder than any math or physics problem they experienced in high school classes.

This prepared them well for the type of material they expect to learn in college and, as with any Olympic-caliber students, the three first-years were highly sought after by top universities across the country.

“Having these students here means that the university is strong enough to support the best talent in the world. I come to work each day with a large smile because our students are exciting students to teach,” Loh said.

Li, Swayze and Zbarsky all said they chose Carnegie Mellon because of the Knaster-McWilliams Scholars program in the Mellon College of Science (MCS), which provides them with enhanced learning and research opportunities, and the potential to learn from highly regarded Carnegie Mellon faculty.

The students, who are all Knaster-McWilliams Scholars and prospective mathematical science majors in MCS, also are excited about other things campus has to offer.

“Carnegie Mellon is a very diverse community, and there are a lot of people in many different disciplines. It will be exciting to be around people in my own major, but also in areas like art and drama,” Li said.
More than 50 individuals and teams have been nominated for this year’s Andy Awards, the university-wide program that honors staff for their outstanding performance, commitment and positive impact on the university.

Awards will be given in six categories: Dedication, Commitment to Students, Innovation, Culture, University Citizenship and Community Contributions. This year’s ceremony will be held at noon, Thursday, Oct. 10 in McConomy Auditorium. A reception in Rangos Ballroom follows the ceremony.

And the nominees are:

**Innovation**

THE AGILE ACQUISITION RESEARCH TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; 1ST ROW): KURT HESS, WILL HAYES. (2ND ROW: CAROL WOODY, GERALD MILLER, MARY ANN LAPHAM. NOT PICTURED: STEPHANIE BELLUMO, TIMOTHY CHICK, JON GROSS, SUZANNE MILLER, KEN NIDIFFER, STEVE PALMQUIST, AND EILEEN WRUBEL (MCS’97).

THE CIT RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): JASMINE SUN, CATHY SCHAEPER, MEIGHAN HARDING, KERI BAKER, AND DONNA MANAND. NOT PICTURED: DANIEL GIAMMATTIO (HNZ’06).

THE INI’S PITTSBURGH-SILICON VALLEY MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; 1ST ROW): KARI GAZDICH (HNZ’03), JESSICA BECKER, MARILU S. LUNDEEN (DC’13), LINDA WHIPKEY. (2ND ROW: LISA CURRIN, CHRISTA JONES, MIRA ANGELOVA (HNZ’02, TPR’06), JENNIFER BURKETT FYVRE, NANCY DOYLE, JAMIE LOHNEKE (HNZ’09), PAT MARTZ, ANN RITCHIE (DC’05). NOT PICTURED: MAYNARD ALVAREZ, SYLVIA ARPIN (TPR’03), WENDY FONG, JESSIE HAD, KURT HAVERSTOCK, NGOC HO, SYLVIA LEONG, ALBERT LIU, STACY MARSHALL, ROBERT NIEU, GERRY PANELO ELIZONDO, HECTOR RAISTRULLO, MIKELYNN ROMERO, RUBEN ROMERO, JAZZ SABIAN, GABRIEL SOMLO, NICHOLAS TSAMITIS, TERRI WEINBERG, AND MARY CHRISTINE ZEISE.

THE MEDIA TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; 1ST ROW): WAYNE K. GORDON, WILL JOHNSON, PONDA VALERO, CLAUDIA SHADE, AND JOSEPH GRECO (CIT’09, CIT’13).

(2ND ROW): BRIAN RICHARDS (HNZ’12), KENNY BLAIR (HNZ’13), DAVID DYE, BRIAN PARKER, CHUCK DEAN, DOMINIC BARTOLOMUCCI, RICHARD NOULLET, AND DAN NOULLET.

NOT PICTURED: DAVID BRIGGS, ANTHONY FARAH, BRIAN FITZGERALD, AND TIFFANY HABAY.
Dedication

The Defense Industrial Base Team (From left to right): Vanessa Jackson, Charles Yarbrough, Tenai Cutting, Michael Murray, and Donald Ranta

Community Contributions

Efthia Barron
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jeffrey Harris
Environmental Health & Safety

Continued on page eight
Commitment to Students

Rachel Burcin (HNZ’07)
Robotics Institute

Andrea Francioni Rodney (DC’94)
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Sumitra Gopal
Robotics Institute

Connie Herold
Institute for Software Research

Howard Lipson
Software Engineering Institute

Helen Wang (DC’99)
Student Life

Far left: The Computational Biology Team (From left to right): Thero Gulish (DC’13) and Nichole Merritt

Left: The Student Information Exchange Team (From left to right): Dot Foote, Patty Riether, and Lisa Zirngibl

Culture

Samuel Boyer
College of Engineering

Michael Nee
Human Resources

Michele Tomasic
Software Engineering Institute

University Citizenship

Romayne Botti
College of Engineering

Jonathan Chu (CS’04)
Software Engineering Institute

Ann Mathias, Office for Research Integrity and Compliance

The Campus Design and Facility Development Team (From left to right; 1st row): Ellen Romagni, Susan Patterson, Ralph Horgan, Karen Spells, Andrew Reilly, (2nd row): Maxim Dorosa, Wen Li (A’12), Adam Homer, Georgia Sager, Ed Hydzik, Kevin D. Forc, Janice Held (HNZ’11), Harold Major, Bob Repp

The CMU Student Experience Study Team (From left to right; 1st row): Holly Hippenssteel, Janel Sutkus. (2nd row): Hyunn Ro, Andy Merrill, Gina Casalegno, Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, Not pictured: Amy Burkett (MC8’90), Faculty Team Member

The Content Management System Team (From left to right): Doug Blair (DC’85), Heather Manfredi, Terry Bates, Matt Siko, Dom Travisano Not pictured: Karen Bernten

David J. Randolph
Drama

David Reinehr (DC’98)
Software Engineering Institute
Bob Iannucci To Head Silicon Valley Campus

Distinguished Service Professor Bob Iannucci has been named associate dean and director of Carnegie Mellon’s Silicon Valley campus. He succeeds Martin L. Grits, who has stepped down after serving as director since 2009. “I am honored to be named head of CMU’s innovative and entrepreneurial campus that sits in the middle of Silicon Valley, the worldwide hub of technology innovation,” said Iannucci, director of the CyLab Mobility Research Center. “CMU’s international reputation for research and academic excellence, coupled with the entrepreneurial opportunities here in Silicon Valley, make this campus a truly unique place.”

College of Engineering Dean James H. Garrett, Jr. said Iannucci’s stellar research reputation and his experience as an interdisciplinary educator and researcher at CMU-Silicon Valley make him ideally suited for the position.

Alumni House Renovation Underway

The Alumni House is being renovated to improve the building’s overall conditions and efficiencies and to re-establish it as a welcome center for visiting alumni, alumni volunteer meetings, and as available, other university gatherings. The work will include exterior and interior renewals, including a reconfiguration of the existing floor plan to better accommodate alumni activities. Once completed, Alumni House also will be home to the offices of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

The project, expected to be completed by late fall 2013, is being managed by Turner Construction and the architectural design firm Perido Weisskopf Wagstaff & Goettle (PWWG). PWWG’s team includes two Carnegie Mellon alumni from the School of Architecture, Sheldon Goettle (A79) and David Kennedy (A08).

CMU Board Elects New Trustees

Carnegie Mellon’s Board of Trustees has elected six new members to three-year terms. They are:
- Kushagra Bajaj (TPR 1997), vice chairman, Bajaj Group, Mumbai, India;
- Ronald Bianchini (E 1986, 1989), co-founder, president and CEO, Avere Systems, Pittsburgh;
- Eric Giler (TPR 1977), chief executive officer, Wiftricity Corporation, Watertown, Mass.;
- Edward Grefenstette (TPR 1998), chief investment officer, Dietrich Charitable Trusts, Pittsburgh;
- Jeffrey Housebold (CMU 1991), president and CEO, Shutterfly, Redwood City, Calif.; and
- Manu Narayan (A 1996), actor, singer and musician, New York City, N.Y.

Bianchini is returning to the board after being initially elected in 2006. Grefenstette is a former treasurer and chief investment officer at CMU.

Download the CMU Mobile Alert App

Environmental Health & Safety has released a free iPhone mobile app for the university community that provides information on what to do in the first few minutes of 21 emergency situations — from having an active shooter on campus and fires to bomb threats and cardiac arrest.

The mobile app, available at the iTunes Store, also provides links to important websites, locations of AEDs and automatic dialing for University Police, Safety Escorts and 911. The app for Android smartphones is under development.

Please note that the CMU Mobile Alert App is not the same as the CMU Alert emergency notification system, which sends voiceemail and text messages to registered subscribers if there is an event/incident that threatens public safety.

Download the app and register for CMU Alert at www.cmureg.cmich.edu/alert

Remembering the Good Old Days

When looking back on the movies, television shows, road trips and life more generally, we often perceive our past experiences as better than the same kinds of experiences we have today. Carey Morewedge, associate professor of marketing at the Tepper School, says these “nostalgic preferences” are tricks our minds play on us.

New research by Morewedge finds that the workings of memory seem to tilt our view of the past with rose-colored glasses, biasing what we remember in ways that profoundly impact how we evaluate the past in comparison to the present.

“Memory seems to operate much like a record store, stocking the hits of the past, and both the hits and the duds of the present. Rather than recognize this bias, however, we inconsistently believe that what we remember is representative of the entire category of experiences, giving rise to nostalgic preferences,” explained Morewedge, who analyzed how people rate television shows and movies of the past and present in his research titled “It Was A Most Unusual time: How Memory Bias Engenders Nostalgic Preferences.”

Hats Off in Silicon Valley


A Superheroes Welcome

SENATORS AT CARNEGIE MELLON IN QATAR ENLISTED THE HELP OF COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES TO WELCOME MORE THAN 100 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 25 COUNTRIES DURING ORIENTATION. THIS YEAR’S ORIENTATION THEME WAS “LEAGUE OF TARTANS” WITH CLASSROOMS ACROSS CMU-Q DECORATED AND NAMED AFTER COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES.

Wind Farms, Solar Plants Best in the East

You may think the best place to build a wind farm would be on the Great Plains, and the prime spot for a solar plant would be in the Southwest. But that’s not the case according to CMU researchers.

The main reason to build wind and solar plants is to reduce air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions, so building in Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania, where alternative energy sources replace electricity generated by coal plants, is a better bet.

That’s the conclusion of a paper, titled “Regional Variations in the Health, Environment and Climate Benefits of Wind and Solar Generation,” authored by four CMU experts from the Center for Climate and Energy Decision-Making — Kyle Siler-Evans, Ines Lima Azvedo, M. Granger Morgan and Jay Apt. Their paper was published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

CMU’s CHIMP To Compete in DARPA Challenge

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has selected a team from Carnegie Mellon’s National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) to compete this December in trials for the DARPA Robotics Challenge, a competition aimed at spurring the development of robots that can assist humans in mitigating and recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

The NREC team is now assembling its four-limbed robot, called the CMU Highly Intelligent Mobile Platform, or CHIMP. The human-size robot is designed to perform tasks, such as climbing ladders, driving vehicles and closing valves, that must be accomplished during the competition.

“Designing and building a robot as sophisticated as CHIMP in a matter of months is an enormous undertaking, but we’re accustomed to meeting that kind of challenge at Carnegie Mellon,” said Tony Stentz, NREC director and leader of the Tartan Rescue Team. “DARPA’s decision is a big vote of confidence and our team is excited. We can’t wait to get on with it.”

SUMMER SNIPPETS

THE REA R E 137 STUDENTS IN THIS YEAR’S INCOMING CLASS, THE LARGEST ENTERING CLASS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CAMPUS.

Download the CMU Mobile Alert App

Environmental Health & Safety has released a free iPhone mobile app for the university community that provides information on what to do in the first few minutes of 21 emergency situations — from having an active shooter on campus and fires to bomb threats and cardiac arrest.

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Download the app and register for CMU Alert at www.cmureg.cmich.edu/alert

A Superheroes Welcome

SENATORS AT CARNEGIE MELLON IN QATAR ENLISTED THE HELP OF COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES TO WELCOME MORE THAN 100 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 25 COUNTRIES DURING ORIENTATION. THIS YEAR’S ORIENTATION THEME WAS “LEAGUE OF TARTANS” WITH CLASSROOMS ACROSS CMU-Q DECORATED AND NAMED AFTER COMIC BOOK SUPERHEROES.

Hats Off in Silicon Valley


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Emmy Nominees Exude Excellence

Eleven Carnegie Mellon alumni and a new associate professor have been nominated for a 2013 Emmy Award, recognizing excellence in television. The nominees cover several categories, including acting, writing, producing, art direction, costumes and lighting, reflecting the breadth and depth of education students receive in the School of Drama.

And the nominees are:

- **Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Movie**

- **Outstanding Art Direction for a Multi-Camera Series**
  John Shaffner (A’76), nominated twice in this category for “The Big Bang Theory” and “Two And A Half Men”; Ann Shea (A’80), also nominated twice in this category for “The Big Bang Theory” and “Two And A Half Men”

- **Outstanding Art Direction for Variety or Nonfiction Programming**
  Eugene Lee (A’62), “Saturday Night Live”

- **Outstanding Costumes for a Series**
  Eduardo Castro (M’77), “Once Upon A Time”

- **Outstanding Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for a Variety Special**
  Robert A. Dickinson (Hon 2005), nominated twice in this category for “The 55th Annual Grammy Awards” and “The Oscars”

- **Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series**
  Jeffrey Klarik (A’69), “Episodes”

- **Outstanding Art Direction for a Miniseries or Movie**

“Southland” received a nomination for Outstanding Stunt Coordination for a Drama Series, Miniseries or Movie, and “Shameless” received a nomination for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series. Both shows are produced by alumni John Wells (A’79) company, John Wells Productions.

Incoming School of Drama Associate Professor of Costume Design Suttirat Anne Larlarb was nominated as part of the team that produced the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. Larlarb was production designer and responsible for designing many of the hundreds of costumes worn during the ceremony, as well as many of the sets.

Find out who wins during the live broadcast at 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22 on CBS.

**Alumni Win Eight Tonys**

Earlier this year CMU alumni won eight Tony Awards in six categories for their excellence on Broadway. In case you missed it, CMU winners were:

- **Best Lighting Design of a Play**
  Jules Fisher (A’60, H’13) and Peggy Eisenbarth (A’83), “Lucky Guy”

- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play**
  Judith Light (A’70) for her role in “The Assembled Parties.” (In 2012, she won the same award for “Other Desert Cities”)

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical**
  Patina Miller (A’06), “Pippin,” penned by Stephen Schwartz (A’68) while he was a student at Carnegie Mellon

- **Best Play**
  Martin Platt (A’71) and Jamie deRoy (A’67), who produced “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike”

- **Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical**
  Billy Porter (A’91), “Kinky Boots”

- **Best Costume Design of a Play**

Peter Hylenski (A’97) also was nominated for Best Sound Design of a Musical for “Motown The Musical.”

At the 67th annual Tony Awards ceremony last June, several alumni were presenters and performers, including “Newsies” lead Corey Cott (A’12), Zachary Quinto (A’99), Andrew Gehling (A’05) and Megan Hilty (A’04), who recently wrapped up the second season of NBC’s “SMASH” and joined a new comedy on NBC — “Sean Saves the World,” premiering Oct. 3.
Cooke Re-appointed

Peter Cooke has been re-appointed to a second five-year term as head of the School of Drama, beginning this January.

“The School of Drama has experienced a true renaissance – regionally, nationally and internationally – thanks to Peter’s strong vision, his work ethic, his aesthetic, and his positive impact on the school,” wrote College of Fine Arts Dean Dan Martin in an email to the Drama School community.

“He deserves high praise for his accomplishments during his first term as head, including the successful recruitment of promising new faculty, for generating significant support for capital and operating needs, for encouraging collaboration with other units at Carnegie Mellon and in the community, for the school’s bold steps forward in embracing and integrating technology in the creative processes, and for the heightened visibility and stature of the School of Drama,” Martin wrote.

Levin Honored

Continued from Page Three

there have been challenges and changes over the years,” Allison said.

“She had a unique way of both nurturing us and allowing (and empowering) us to lead; a skill that makes her an ideal person to work with students who are finding their way as new adults,” said CMU alumna Christa House (BHA ‘97, TPR ‘99).

In support of her nomination, 2004 graduate Jennifer Cerrally praised Levin for her consistent support and dedication.

“She is an ideal mentor, inspiring confidence and making all who work with her feel valued,” she wrote. “She had a unique way of both nurturing us and allowing (and empowering) us to lead; a skill that makes her an ideal person to work with students who are finding their way as new adults.”

“Her greatest service is not through the performance of a discrete task or role, but rather in the accumulation of the many years of small services — for example, engaging students and alumni and connecting them with each other — that she has provided to thousands of students and alumni over the years,” Cerully said.

This past April, Levin was featured in “Her Campus,” an online publication for college women that feature such national topics as style, health, life, love and career.

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Flex MBA Gets Underway

Continued from Page One

technologies. “Admission and graduation require the same high standards that we hold for our on-campus MBA formats, and students follow the same curriculum taught by the exact same faculty. Face-time and personalization are critical components of business education. We will utilize technology to deliver appropriate components of the curriculum and will engage our access weekends to spur group learning and interaction.”

Access weekends will occur at the end of each mini-semester — approximately five each year — when class sections will gather on a Carnegie Mellon campus to interact with alumni and student services, to complete exams, work in teams and begin new class instruction for their next courses. The inaugural access weekend in Silicon Valley in October.

“Access weekends are unique in that they physically bring together students with faculty, student services and they also include alumni,” Monroe said. “We believe this will greatly help remotely-based students get connected and stay connected with the larger school community, and will help us to engage our strengths in alumni and corporate partners.

“Furthermore, being flexible in location will enable us to connect with multiple geographic areas during the course of the program. Areas including New York, and Washington, D.C., are currently being considered for the future access weekends,” he added.

The FlexMBA program draws on the Tepper School’s nearly 20 years of experience conducting distance learning programs and replaces the Flex Mode MBA program, which was primarily corporate-centric. While utilizing new technologies to deliver content, the program embraces the importance of consistency, high-standards, accountability and maximizing student interaction. The Tepper School admissions team has already begun recruiting the next class of MBA candidates. 
Driving the Future, Without a Driver

Byron Spice and Chris Swaney

Raj Rajkumar and his research team are working to reduce the thousands of accidents, injuries and fatalities on the nation’s roadways by eliminating human errors and indiscretions by taking the driver out of the driver’s seat.

Earlier this month, Carnegie Mellon’s conventional-looking, self-driving 2011 Cadillac SRX put on a show for transportation officials by negotiating highway traffic while safely changing lanes and merging during a 33-mile drive from Cranberry, Pa., to Pittsburgh International Airport.

Unlike some previous self-driving vehicles, including Boss, the autonomous Chevy Tahoe with which CMU won the 2007 DARPA Urban Challenge, the SRX doesn’t bristle with exotic and expensive sensors. Instead, its six radars and six lidars, similar to those already in use on America’s highways, are unobtrusively embedded in the car’s bumpers, mirrors and body panels. Its computers are hidden under the cargo floor.

In addition to controlling the steering, speed and braking, the autonomous systems also detect and avoid obstacles in the road, including traffic cones and barrels, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists, pausing until they are safely out of the way. The systems provide audible warnings of obstacles and communicate vehicle status to its passengers using a human-like voice.

“The car’s electronics are simply more reliable than people and will protect drivers from their own bad behavior as well as those of others, such as drinking or texting,” said Rajkumar, co-director of the CMU-General Motors Autonomous Driving Collaborative Research Lab.

“This car is the holy grail of autonomous driving because it can do it all — from changing lanes on highways, driving in congested suburban traffic and navigating traffic lights. This car and the research team behind it are proof that Carnegie Mellon continues to be a leader on this emerging frontier,” Rajkumar said.

Rajkumar suggests that self-driving vehicles will begin to be commercially available around 2020 as near-term costs as well as social and legal concerns are addressed. In the meantime, however, these technologies can be incorporated gradually, allowing drivers to adapt while adding safety and convenience.

Rajkumar said adaptive cruise control and lane departure warnings, already available in some cars, are examples. The next step could be on-demand autonomy, where the car takes complete control under specific scenarios, such as low-speed driving in bumper-to-bumper traffic or driving on single lane highways.

Driving Collaborative Research Lab.

or texting,” said Rajkumar, co-director of the CMU-General Motors Autonomous Driving Collaborative Research Lab.

Riot Grrrl Comes to CMU’s Miller Gallery

Pam Wigley

The early ’90s pioneering punk feminist movement Riot Grrrl inspired many people around the world to pursue socially and politically progressive careers as artists, activists, authors and educators.

That movement comes to CMU this fall, when the Miller Gallery presents “Alien She,” an exhibition of the movement’s lasting impact, before it goes on tour nationally.

The exhibit focuses on seven contemporary artists working in a wide range of disciplines, including visual art, music, documentary film, new media, writing and performance, and provides a new view into the passion and diversity of the original Riot Grrrl movement.

The exhibition opens Friday, Sept. 20, with a reception, “Revolution and Reception," from 6 - 8 p.m. The reception will be preceded by a 5 p.m. tour led by the curators and many of the artists. The exhibition and opening events are free and open to the public.

Riot Grrrl formed in reaction to violent sexism, racism and homophobia in the punk music scene and in the culture at large. Emphasizing female and youth empowerment, collaborative organization, creative resistance and DIY ethics, Riot Grrrl helped a new generation to become active feminists who created their own culture and communities to reflect their values and experiences.

The movement spread, with chapters opening in at least 29 states and 21 countries, and with many new chapters forming in recent years.

In a curatorial statement, exhibition curators Astria Suparak of CMU’s Miller Gallery and Ceci Moss of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco observe that Riot Grrrl’s influence on contemporary global culture is increasingly evident — from the Russian collective Pussy Riot’s protest against corrupt government-church relations to the popular teen website “Rookie,” and the launch of Girls Rock Camps and Ladyfest music and arts festivals around the world.

“Riot Grrrl fostered community, action and creation,” Suparak said. “This exhibition provides a view into the passion and diversity of the original Riot Grrrl movement and highlights how these ideas have broadened, evolved and mutated in the work of contemporary artists.”

The exhibiting artists are Ginger Brooks Takahashi (North Braddock, Pittsburgh), Tammy Rae Carland (Oakland, Calif.), Miranda July (Los Angeles), Faythe Levine (Milwaukee), Allyson Mitchell (Toronto), L.J. Roberts (Brooklyn) and Stephanie Syjuco (San Francisco).

The Miller Gallery, located in the Purnell Center for the Arts, is open to the public from noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.