



March 16, 2020

To: Jessica Shirley, President, Carnegie Mellon Women's Association
Re: CMWA Nomination for SCS

Dear Jessica,

On behalf of the Dean of the School of Computer Science, we are thrilled to nominate **Megan Ung** as our recipient for 2020. Megan is a terrific student academically, finishing her undergraduate degree in just 3 years! In addition to carrying a heavy course load every semester, she has served as an undergraduate researcher, teaching assistant, and is actively involved in our student organizations, *Women@SCS* and *SCS4ALL*. Megan has worked diligently on behalf of the community, and especially for the community of women.

Megan has worked enthusiastically in *Women@SCS* and *SCS4ALL* on behalf of the SCS community contributing to programs that help ensure students (especially women) do not miss opportunities for professional development, for networking, for mentoring and for encouragement. Megan has been a committee member since her first year at CMU, attending and contributing to meetings, events, and activities. Her demonstrated commitment suggests she will be one of those students who continues a strong association with the School of Computer Science after her graduation.

One of the ongoing successful programs of *Women@SCS* is the Big/Little Sisters mentoring and networking program. Megan joined as a little sister when she arrived at CMU and in the following years became a Big sister, meeting with her little sister regularly, helping her feel comfortable in the SCS environment, and contributing to the sisters activities. Tiffany Nakai (CS first year) is Megan's little sister and wanted to add her support: "Megan is very supportive and nice. She gave me a lot of advice on pursuing computational biology and is overall a fantastic Big Sister!"

Megan oversees a small team of students to maintain, develop, and design the web sites of *Women@SCS* and *SCS4ALL*. She has shown excellent team building skills and communicates daily to keep the sites fresh. Megan has a gentle, unassuming personality and shows her strength through responsibility, listening, and wise judgments. She shows maturity in understanding that the web site represents the public face of *Women@SCS* and *SCS4ALL*. Megan sends out reminders, leads the weekly meetings, is responsive to "urgent" changes and, most recently, has been responsible for moving the *SCS4ALL* site over to the CMU content management system. Annie Chen (CS sophomore) is a new member of the web team and wanted to add her support: "Megan is always so willing to get things done, even if it means taking time out of her schedule to help other people with their work. Even as a leader, she wants everyone to be on the same

page and is very understanding of what other people are dealing with and where they come from. Megan's caring and hard-working personality is shown not only in her own work, but also in others' work when she is able to help others as well."

Megan is the leader of SCS Day, an annual community-building event. Megan leads the team that organizes a day of workshops culminating in a talent show, all aimed at showcasing the non-geeky talents of our students, staff, and faculty. Angela Yi (CS sophomore) who works with Megan on SCS Day wanted to add her support: "Megan is incredibly hardworking and is always on top of things! I love Megan's smile and I really admire her ability to create a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere wherever she goes. I loved working with her to plan SCS Day and would love to work with her again in the future!"

Another specific example of Megan's leadership is her work with TechNights. TechNights is a free weekly program of CS activities for local middle school girls held on campus. TechNights workshops are taught by our students and include lessons and hands-on experience in a wide range of CS/STEM concepts. As well as being a regular volunteer at TechNights, Megan has taken the lead and taught the following workshops: Hummingbird Robots and Finch Robots using BirdBrain Technologies, Genome Assembly, Concurrency, and a workshop called Symmetry & Wallpaper Groups is in the works. On top of all this Megan built and maintains the current TechNights Web site. Olivia Zang (TechNights administrator) wanted to add her support: "Megan's passion for and dedication to educating younger girls about technology really shines through in her volunteer work with TechNights. She warmly and patiently engages with the girls making learning complex topics fun and easily understandable for middle schoolers! Megan is a natural leader and teacher and I am excited to see what she does next!"

Megan is graduating at the end of this spring semester with a computer science major and a computational biology minor, after just 6 semesters at CMU, with University Honors. Megan's involvement with academics was not limited to taking courses. Since her first year, she has been a part of the CyLab Usable Privacy and Security Laboratory (CUPS) doing research. In Fall 2019, Megan carved out time to serve as a TA for the course 15-213 (Introduction to Computer Systems). Megan made use of her summers to prepare herself for life after graduation by doing internships at technology companies. Most recently, she was an intern in the FAIR (Facebook AI Research) engineering team, and she will be taking up a full-time job at Facebook after graduation. Besides recommendations from Dr. Carol Frieze and Dr. Dilsun Kaynar in SCS, Megan has unanimous support from the SCS Undergraduate Review Committee.

We are so grateful for Megan's contributions to the School of Computer Science community, and she is an inspiring role model for middle and high school girls. We believe she is an excellent recipient of the CMWA scholarship for 2020.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Cortina
Teaching Professor and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education
School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University