



Information Systems Program

Dietrich College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Carnegie Mellon University
4800 Forbes Avenue
3032 Hamburg Hall
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-3890
(412) 268-9592
gdillio@andrew.cmu.edu

March 10, 2020

To whom it may concern:

As her Academic Advisor at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), I write in full recommendation of Ru Jia to be considered for the Carnegie Mellon Women's Association (CMWA) award.

Ru has been an advisee of mine for four academic years and in that time, I have had dozens of interactions with her as she sought my academic advice, and as she worked towards completing her major in Information Systems (IS). Ru has been, like most students at Carnegie Mellon University, very involved in designing the direction of her education. She has been fully committed to giving every assignment, test, and course her best effort, which I think reflects in her overall QPA of 3.90. In addition to completing her degree in Information Systems, Ru will also graduate with three minors: Business Administration, Politics & Public Policy, and Statistics.

In addition to making the most of her academics, Ru has been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities with one common theme in mind... the advancement of women in their academic pursuits. She has a passion for ensuring that women are given enough professional development opportunities and recently volunteered to help improve operational processes for a nonprofit, Forte Foundation by leveraging her technical skills. The Forte Campus Ambassador Program is one of the largest national women's nonprofit professional development network and it gives undergraduate women an opportunity to take on a leadership role on campus, while helping Forte accomplish its goal of launching women into meaningful careers. While serving as a Campus Ambassador for Forte, Ru also promoted leadership learning resources provided by the organization to the women community at CMU. She applied the same principles as a Database Assistant Intern for Dress for Success, a nonprofit promoting women's economic independence. Ru built and implemented a donor management database, which was a huge success. Ru was also the Vice President for Women in Business here at Carnegie Mellon. As the only technology major on the executive board, Ru spearheaded initiatives at the intersection of technology and business. Ru has also been an active mentor for the Chinese Student Scholars Association, where she guided underclass female students on navigating career choices and college work. In addition, Ru is a Highland Ambassador for the Alumni Association. In this role, Ru

reached out to the local alumnae network and invited recent graduates to share their experiences of transitioning into the workplace with current students. Lastly, Ru has been a teaching assistant for two years in four different departments; Computer Science, Information Systems, Business and Modern Language where she constantly did her best to support ALL students with their academic pursuits.

Information Systems is in the process of implementing a Women in IS program, which we are incredibly excited about! The Women in IS Peer Mentoring Program is designed to provide mentorship and foster connections for first-year women in the Undergraduate Information Systems Program and to provide support and resources that will increase their success and engagement as they transition to the university community. Ru immediately reached out to express an interest in getting this program up and running. Despite currently studying in Washington this semester, Ru has been able to contribute via email, phone, and Zoom. The overall goal of the program is to empower women in the program to realize their full potential at Carnegie Mellon and beyond through facilitating mentorship relationships and providing opportunities for networking and leadership development. It's quite fitting that Ru has been helping build this program from the ground up because this is who she is.

It matters deeply to Ru that she continues to give back to what she calls her "home base" of the Information Systems program, where she developed a passion for technology that in a lot of ways has served as her north star. She seeks to explore the impact of technology through strategic lenses of business and public policy, which has clearly inspired her to learn and contribute more. Ru strives to help others getting the most out of a valuable experience with IS and CMU. It has been an honor having Ru Jia as an advisee and I am strongly recommending her for the CMWA award. Please feel free to contact me to further discuss her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Gary DiLisio
Associate Director of Undergraduate Education
Carnegie Mellon University
gdilisio@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-9592