

Undergraduate Internship Program

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This short report provides a summary of the activities carried out during my visit at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), hosted by J. Ziko Kolter on the Computer Science Department (CSD) of the School of Computer Science (SCS) from August 5th to October 3rd, 2014.

My main goal was to develop a web platform for a new materials science database. Since I had no previous experience with web development, this task was particularly valuable to me as it allowed me to obtain new skills. The final result was a web framework for finding, parsing and managing image data which laid the foundation of a collaborative effort between Computer Science and the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Department.

Besides having contact with my host, I had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Elizabeth Holm, Prof. Anthony Rollett (MSE), Prof. Abhinav Gupta (SCS), and some of their students involved in this project. Each of us presented our work, I was introduced to some computer vision techniques and we discussed future work in which I hope to remain involved.

The environment in the Gates-Hillman Complex was very stimulating. From the various lectures and seminars offered, the lecture I attended on "Watson and the Era of Cognitive Computing" given by Guruduth S. Banavar especially peaked my interest.

I also attended a lunch sponsored by CMU Portugal on my last day on campus where I had the opportunity to meet and share my experience with the program's director and staff.

The whole experience was very enriching from a cultural and social standpoint as well. The city of Pittsburgh has a lot to offer and it was great to explore it while enjoying the company of wonderful people.

Overall, my participation in the Undergraduate Internship program was very rewarding and I would definitely recommend it to anyone in my field of study.

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