UPSILON PI EPSILON

Jeffrey L. Popyack

Student Achievement Across the Globe

GREETINGS!

It's always a pleasure to read and review scholarship applications from committed and energetic students. After another round of applications, the Executive Council of Upsilon Pi Epsilon is happy to announce the winners of scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year. Plans are also underway for the 2015 National Convention, again to be conducted in cyberspace.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon

Upsilon Pi Epsilon is an honor society founded at Texas A&M University in 1967. Its mission is to recognize academic excellence at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Computing and Information Disciplines. It is the first, and only, existing national honor society serving these disciplines, with more than 275 chapters in the United States and abroad. UPE provides scholarships and awards to student members of UPE, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and IEEE Computer Society. As a founding sponsor of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), UPE provides awards and prizes for ICPC contestants. UPE also provides an annual award to the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC). If you are interested in starting a UPE chapter at your college or university, I am certain that's the best idea you have had all day! The UPE website [1] contains a wealth of information that will be helpful for you.

Student Awards for 2014-15:

UPE awarded scholarships totaling $14,750 to students who have recorded a dizzying slate of accomplishments while maintaining excellent academic performance. This year's recipients have been impressive as always, and the activities they have led and participated in have certainly been inspirational. Prepare to be uplifted:

THE RECIPIENTS

UPE Dan Drew Scholarship ($1500)

Dan Drew was the chapter advisor for the group of six students who founded Upsilon Pi Epsilon, at Texas A&M University in 1967. He was a professor and later the Director of the Computer Science Division at Texas A&M.

Awardee

Filip Srajer
(Czech Technical University in Prague, Grad)

Filip has been president and webmaster for his UPE chapter. He is studying computer vision and machine perception.

UPE Jim Nolen Scholarship ($1500)

James Henry (Jim) Nolen was a Professor of Computer Science at Baylor University, where he founded their UPE chapter. He served ACM as the International Director of Student Programs.

Awardee

Ryan Patrick Haley
(DePaul University, undergraduate student)

Ryan is treasurer of the UPE chapter, president of the DePaul security club, and captain of their Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition team. He is pursuing a BS in Information Assurance and Computer Security, with minors in Computer Science and Finance.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Executive Council Awards ($1500 each)

Undergraduate

Hannah Lenore Pinkos
(Drexel University)

Hannah earned a BS in Computer Science, with minors in Mathematics and Fine Arts, and is now attending Georgia Tech for graduate study in Computer Graphics. She has been very active as chapter treasurer, teaching and research assistant, and student ambassador.

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If there is one underlying theme for all the awardees, it is dedication—whether to service for the community, getting others involved, or pursuit of academic excellence.

Graduate

Alberto Uriarte
(Drexel University)
Alberto is a Computer Science Ph.D. student studying Artificial Intelligence, and is president of the UPE chapter. Under his leadership, the chapter was quite active, and was awarded "Best Large Chapter Report" at the UPE National Convention.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Special Recognition Scholarships ($1250 each)

These students received special recognition for outstanding contributions to UPE:

Undergraduate

Cesar Gerardo Villa-Garcia
(Florida International University)

Franceska Xhakaj
(Lafayette College)

Graduate

Huston McCord Bokinsky
(University of South Carolina)

Disa Njabulo Mhembere
(Johns Hopkins University)

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Scholarships ($1000 each)

Undergraduate

Anthony Joseph Calabresi
(Salem State University)

Ruben Gimenez
(University of Bridgeport)

Graduate

Jasmine Danielle Bowers
(North Carolina A&T State U)

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Scholarships ($750 each)

Graduate

Ammar Jamil Odeh
(University of Bridgeport)

Total scholarship amount: $14,750

UPE/ACM Student Chapter Scholarship Awards

Founded in 2000, the UPE/ACM Student Chapter Scholarship Awards are given jointly by UPE and ACM to those who best "display excellence and professional commitment to the computing and information technology field." Applications were received from throughout the world, evidencing some talented and passionate student leaders. Winners received awards of $1000 each. The four 2014-2015 winners are shown below.

The Awardees:

Maruan Al-Shedivat
(KAUST/Saudi Arabia and UCSD, graduate student)
Maruan is an officer of his ACM chapter at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, and a visiting graduate student at University of California, San Diego. He has co-organized ACM Python Tutorials at KAUST, weekly Code Clinics for those who need help and training for programming teams preparing for competitions.

Tyler Allen
(Western Carolina University, undergraduate student)
Tyler has been a member of the WCU chapter of ACM for four years, and is serving his second year as president. The chapter has increased greatly in membership during this time, and has held a varied slate of well-attended academic and social events.

Nicholas Botzer
(Slippery Rock University/PA, undergraduate student)
Nicholas has been president of both the ACM and UPE chapters at Slippery Rock. The chapter has held many events, notably a resume/interview training workshop in partnership with IT professionals, and departmental coffee hours. He has also served as a peer leader for the freshman CS course for three years.

Victoria Chen Wu
(University of Missouri - Kansas City, undergraduate student)
Victoria has served as chair of her ACM chapter, and has organized training sessions for newbies who are interested in participating in programming competitions. Additionally, her chapter has teamed with their IEEE chapter to host and sponsor teams for the IEEE Xtreme programming competition and hosted a Code Jam event.

If there is one underlying theme for all the awardees, it is dedication—whether to service for the community, getting others involved, or pursuit of academic excellence. It's heartwarming and provocative to realize there is so much going on around us. If you know somebody who deserves recognition, please encourage them to apply for the next round of awards.

Cheers,
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References

[1] Upsilon Pi Epsilon website; http://upe.acm.org/. Accessed 2014 November 12.



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