

Summary of My Conference Experience

Charmaine Beluso

This summer I co-wrote a paper based on the research I conducted this summer at my REU in UC San Diego. On November 4th, Anfeng Xu and I represented the Depth-Sensor Enclosed Application (D-SEA) team as I presented the paper at the Sixth National Workshop for REU Research in Networking and Systems (REUNS) hosted by the 16th IEEE International Conference on Mobile Ad hoc and Smart Systems (MASS) in Monterey, CA.

This was my first conference to ever attend let alone present at, and it was definitely a learning experience. Before I presented, there were other students who conducted research at other REUs, and I was able to learn about what they did over the summer. I was also able to meet these students and ask them about their research experiences. The presentations were divided into four groups depending on what the paper was about: Data and Systems, GPU and Hardware, Networks and Applications, and Security. Our team's paper was put into the GPU and Hardware category since our paper was based on how we created the D-SEA prototype.

The moments leading up to my time to present was not as nerve-wracking as I thought it would be since I had practiced my presentation several times, and I was comfortable in talking about the topic. Out of all the presentations during our category, the audience asked me the most questions. I think this is because our paper topic was different in that our prototype was not improving a current mechanism, but rather, we created a totally new device that dealt with underwater technology which, in itself, is really interesting. I am very thankful for this REU experience because without it, I would not have written a research paper and turned it in for conference submission.

Overall, my experience at the conference strengthened my public speaking skills and expanded my network. This experience has also encouraged me to further pursue my goal of going to graduate school and has made me comfortable at creating technical reports and presentations. I cannot wait to see our paper, titled "D-SEA: The Underwater Depth Sensing Device for Standalone Time-Averaged Measurements," published in the main proceeding of IEEE MASS conference.