

PHOEBE CHUA

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EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine, CA June 2021 (Expected)

Ph.D. in Informatics

- **Data Science Certificate Program**, March 2017 (Expected)
- Chair's Award (Recognition of promise to make strong contributions to Informatics research)

Messiah College, PA May 2016

B.A. in Mathematics (Hons) with minors in Computer Science and Statistics, GPA 4.0/4.0

- Trustee's Scholarship for Excellence (Merit-based full-tuition scholarship awarded to six incoming students)
- Dr. Dorothy Gish Women in Leadership Award (Awarded to five students)
- International Service-Learning Grant by the Mulberry Foundation

University of Oxford, United Kingdom Fall 2015

Oxford Study Abroad Program, Operations Research and Econometrics, GPA 4.0/4.0

RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Graduate Researcher, Department of Informatics, UC Irvine Fall 2016-Present

- **Connecting Refugees.** Designing and implementing a technological intervention that helps refugee youth integrate into their host communities
- **Dance Craft.** Developing and examining a Kinect dance game that enables children with autism to improve their body and spatial awareness

Innovation Intern (UX Researcher, Interaction Designer, Web Developer), Tandemic, Malaysia Summer 2016

UX Researcher, Interaction Designer, Web Developer, Asia Pacific Youth Innovation Challenge

- Designed and implemented UNICEF's online innovation challenge that brought together 950+ youth and senior policymakers from 29 Asia-Pacific countries to champion children's rights
- Focused on user needs by conducting usability research during each product phase
- Led the creation of information architecture and paper prototypes before co-developing the Challenge website

UX Research Mentor, SEAGULL 2016

- Trained undergraduate leaders from 11 Southeast Asian countries to work with social impact organizations and address complex societal issues by applying design thinking and consultancy frameworks

Group and Project Leader, The Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research, Messiah College, PA

Project Leader, Opportunities in Business and Educational Development

2013-2015

- Partnered with Ruth Education Centre to create a professional development program that improves the business acumen and future prospects of Burmese refugee youth in Malaysia
- Funded by the Mulberry Foundation and Messiah College, this program benefits 300 refugees every year

Group Leader, Education Group

2014-2015

- Supervised project managers and oversaw four academic empowerment projects that impacted 400+ people from underprivileged communities on four continents

Project Member, Africa WASH and Disability Study

June 2013

- Conducted fieldwork and user studies to facilitate business and assistive technology developments in Ghana
- Increased the potential adoption rates of assistive latrine chairs and water tippers from 40% and 50% to 89% and 99%

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

- **3D Map** (2016). Interactive 3D campus map created with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, WebGL, and Google API.
- **Block Blockers** (2015). Physics game created with Processing that teaches the effects of gravity and friction.
- **Winter Beater** (2014). Interactive program built using Python and Java that uses combinatorial optimization to determine the shortest route between frequented buildings in Messiah College.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Informatics, UC Irvine Fall 2016-Present

- Facilitated discussion sessions for 105 students in User Interaction Software course
- Guided students to develop portfolio websites and improve user experience through user research and testing

Teaching Assistant, Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Physics, Messiah College Spring 2012-2016

- Conducted help sessions open to 670 students enrolled in any mathematics and statistics courses
- Assisted faculty members with instructing labs, creating supplemental course materials, and grading

Undergraduate Computer Science Researcher, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program, Washington University in St. Louis, MO Summer 2015

- Studied communication strategies in spontaneous teams, with applications to robotic disaster relief efforts
- Implemented and evaluated online and communication algorithms using MATLAB
- Mathematically analyzed the theoretical limits of online and communication algorithms
- **Workshop Paper:** "Coordinated Versus Decentralized Exploration In Multi-Agent Multi-Armed Bandits." Chakraborty, M., Chua, P., Das, S., Juba, B. NIPS Workshop: *Learning, Inference and Control of Multi-Agent Systems*. Barcelona, Spain (December 2016)

Undergraduate Mathematics Researcher, REU Program, Pennsylvania State University, PA Summer 2014

- Classified intersections of max-plus closed conical hemispaces, with applications to optimization
- Implemented a max-plus algorithm using Java and modeled conical hemispaces using Maple
- **Conference Presentations:** "Classifying Intersections of Closed Conical Hemispaces." Chua, P., Kahrs, N., Zhang, Y., Nitica, V. *Moravian Undergraduate Mathematics Conference*. Bethlehem, PA (February 2015); *Mathematical Association of America EPaDel Section Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA (October 2014)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Secretary and ICS Representative, Engineering/ ICS DECADE Student Council, UC Irvine 2016-Present

- Facilitate events and outreach activities to support and increase the number of women and underrepresented graduate students at UC Irvine

Treasurer, Multicultural Council, Messiah College Spring 2015, Spring 2016

- Managed an annual budget of \$30,000 and oversaw five umbrella organizations that promote cultural diversity
- Facilitated the Annual International Banquet for 400+ people, the largest student-run banquet on campus

Assistant Advisor, Educational Games Carnival, Malaysian Care, Malaysia 2011

- Organized an educational carnival for 200+ Burmese refugee children and youth, involving 80+ volunteers and funding from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.S. Embassy, and Hasbro

SKILLS

UX Research: Qualitative and quantitative research, user experience, usability, persona development

Programming: Python, Java, Processing, Prolog

Web Development: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, WordPress

Mathematics and Statistics: MATLAB, Maple, SAS

Languages: Fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Malay; Conversant in Cantonese