

Development, with honours

Honours years are an excellent way for keen students to build their expertise and add depth to their university experience. They are particularly relevant for graduates in computer science and related disciplines, since they provide an excellent way for students to put into practice all the theory they have spent the previous three or more years learning.

In recognition of the considerable self-motivation and sheer hard work it takes students to complete an honours program, the AUC has this year awarded eight \$4000 scholarships to assist honours-year students in completing their work.

This year's recipients were:

Ben Swift

Australian National University

Kavinda Jayasinghe

La Trobe University

Sam Pohlenz

University of Adelaide

Jonathan Sokolowski

University of New South Wales

Myung-Hee Kim

University of New South Wales

Alex Mellor

University of Queensland

Sheryl Soo

University of Sydney

Kimberley Upton

University of Sydney

As we are well past the halfway mark in the year, we touched base with the recipients to find out how their work was going. Here's what a few of them had to share.



Sam Pohlenz

The University of Adelaide

What was your undergraduate degree in:

Computer Science

What is your honours project about:

My project is focused on Web services – in particular, context aware Web services. This means a Web service will look at things like the user's location, or perhaps the device the user is currently using, and adjust itself accordingly. 'Context' in this context may cover things like location, user preferences, device types, or even the current weather.

What have you completed so far:

My supervisor has developed a Universal Modeling Language (UML) model, called Context UML, that can be used to describe context aware Web services in a generic way. Using model transformation, we can convert that to an executable Web service. I'm basing the UML editing tool on ArgoUML, a Java-based open source UML diagramming tool.

What else do you have left to do:

I'm still working on the model transformation of it. At the moment, we have a system where we can build up a context aware Web service using the Context UML profile, and the next steps are going to be to convert that into an executable Web service.

How has the AUC scholarship helped you:

It has allowed me to reduce my hours spent at work, so I can spend more time on my Honours project.

What are your long-term plans:

I'll do a thesis on the project at the end of the year, and hopefully will be able to release a paper and get that published at a conference. That's my personal goal for this year. For next year, I have accepted a job in San Francisco with Good Dog Design, the company I'm currently working for in Adelaide.