SCS TODAY | November 4, 2020
[A late-day M-W-F bulletin from the SCS Dean's Office]

SCS NEWS
— [Beyond data: helping renters avoid evictions](#). Data is at the heart of CREATE
Lab's [EarthTime](#) visualization tool, and [Pittsburgh housing data](#) has been a particular focus for project
scientist Anne Wright for the past two years. But then that focus shifted with the onset of the coronavirus
pandemic.

— [AI outperforms humans in speech recognition](#). Alex Waibel, who holds faculty appointments in both the
Language Technologies Institute and at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany, reports that
his German lab has developed a computer system that for the first time outperforms people in recognizing
conversational speech.

— SCS students are organizing and piloting a new, student-led [Graduate Application Support Program](#). The
program is designed to give applicants feedback before they formally submit their application, especially for
applicants who have fewer resources available to them or come from traditionally underrepresented
backgrounds. While the time commitment varies, the anticipated time requirement is around a few hours
during the first two weeks of November. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out the mentor sign-up form
by this Friday, November 6: https://forms.gle/EUJFWLNRg27KVmFF7

FIRST DAY AFTER ELECTION DAY
— Election Day is over. My thanks to everyone who voted and volunteered. Now, we wait. And waiting to
learn who will be the elected leader of the United States for the next four years can be an unsettling part of
our democratic process. But let's hope we get this right rather than fast. All of us know these past several
months have been challenging and the next few days will be no exception. Based on where things stand
today, I ask you to remain available to each other. And to be patient, regardless of the election outcome you
hope for. I've heard of a few Slack conversations today where good discussions were happening and
thoughtful support was being offered. Keep it up! While we don't know if calls for recounts in certain states or
any protests are on the horizon, I join with CMU President Farnam Jahanian in asking that we in SCS – and
the entire CMU community – [embrace patience and unity](#) in the days ahead.

NEXT FRIDAY
— Friday, November 13, 5 p.m.: Coming up in the CONVERSATIONS series, [Ilana Redstone](#) of [Heterodox
Academy](#) – a nonpartisan collaborative that provides frameworks, tools and community to thousands of
educators, administrators and students – is the special guest. As a nonprofit, HxA works to improve the
quality of research and education by promoting open inquiry, viewpoint diversity and constructive
disagreement in institutions of higher learning. [Register here](#).

Until Friday,
---- Martial

[SCS NEWS](#) | [SCS EVENTS](#)

*All of us share [A Tartan's Responsibility](#) and as members of the CMU community we must do our part to
prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you plan to come to campus, you must complete the [CMU Self-
Assessment Survey](#). Even if you're not coming to campus, CMU Community Health & Well-Being strongly*

encourages daily completion of the survey.

REMEMBER YOUR RESOURCES
CMU Coronavirus Updates & Information and FAQ | CMU Health Services, 412-268-2157
SCS Alerts & Resources | For Students | For Staff | For Faculty | For Researchers
Connect with a Dean's Advisory Committee if you have questions or concerns you want to share.