

SCS TODAY | December 18, 2020

[A late-day M-W-F bulletin from the SCS Dean's Office]

SCS TODAY will not be in your Inbox for two weeks, December 21 - January 1.
I wish everyone in SCS peaceful holidays – and a restful winter break!

SCS NEWS

— Research Professor [Reid Simmons](#), who teaches [Autonomous Agents](#) with Assistant Teaching Professor [Stephanie Rosenthal](#), said using AI to grow vegetables is a good way for students to put into practice the knowledge of AI-based autonomous agents that they learned in class. It turns out [automated greenhouses are a good match to the need for a course exercise](#).

— The Ph.D. Coffee Chats program wrapped up its inaugural semester, connecting remotely more than 300 Ph.D. students, of which 40 percent were first-year students. Read more about the program from Helen Zhou, head of the Social Connectedness Working Group of the Dean's Ph.D. Advisory Committee, <https://scs-phd-deans-committee.github.io/2020-12-17-coffee-chats.html>

— Registrations for the upcoming SCS Day [ART SHOW](#), [TALENT SHOW](#) and [PET VIDEOS](#) are now open. Register before January 21. Scheduled for February 26, [SCS Day](#) is an annual day of pride for the School of Computer Science when we celebrate the talents and passions of members of the SCS community. The theme this year is Around the World.

— During the winter break, as in past years, our Computing and Building Facilities teams will steward our physical resources as usual. SCS Computing Facilities sent a reminder yesterday about hours of operation.

— **If you need a new Zoom background image, enjoy the attached winter illustration of Gates & Hillman Centers.**

STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

— As the spring semester approaches yet the pandemic continues, most SCS staff will continue to work remotely for the foreseeable future. If you need to come to campus to retrieve or drop off items for a brief, one-time visit, [after winter break](#) send your request to the [SCS Building Facilities](#) team for assessment and approval before you come to campus. Remember that CMU's [COVID-19 Updates](#) page is regularly updated with information and resources for the CMU community, and the [SCS Return to Campus](#) page has current SCS-specific updates.

BE SMART | STAY SAFE | WEAR A MASK | PLEASE!

Until January 4,
---- 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.