2016 ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award & 2017 CS David J. Kuck Outstanding Thesis Awards

Internal Deadline: 10/10/2016 10/21/2016
External Deadline: 10/31/2016 (ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award)

ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award:
ACM established the Doctoral Dissertation Award program to recognize and encourage superior research and writing by doctoral candidates in computer science and engineering. Nominations are limited to one per university or college, from any country, unless more than 10 Ph.D.s are granted in one year, in which case two may be nominated. Dissertations will be reviewed for technical depth and significance of the research contribution, potential impact on theory and practice, and quality of presentation.

See http://awards.acm.org/doctoral_dissertation/nominations.cfm for additional information.

David J. Kuck Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award:
Computer Science nominees for the ACM award will also be considered for this CS award; a single winner is typically chosen. This award was established by alumni, friends, and former students in recognition of Professor Emeritus David Kuck's intellectual and leadership contributions. Awards are based on the quality and impact of the Ph.D. thesis. This award is typically presented at next fall's CS @ ILLINOIS Alumni Awards Ceremony.

David J. Kuck Outstanding M.S. Thesis Award:
This CS award was established by alumni, friends, and former students in recognition of Professor Emeritus David Kuck's intellectual and leadership contributions. Awards are based on the quality and impact of the M.S. thesis. This award is typically presented at next fall's CS @ ILLINOIS Alumni Awards Ceremony.

Eligibility:
PhD dissertations successfully defended between October 2015 through (and including) September 2016. Exceptional dissertations completed in September 2014, but too late for submission last year will be considered. ACM says: "The dissertation submitted should be a finalized version; if a student or advisor thinks a dissertation will be more competitive after revision, the dissertation defense should be postponed if necessary."

For Kuck MS Thesis Award: MS degrees conferred between October 2015 and September 2016.

Each advisor should nominate no more than one PhD thesis and no more than one MS thesis.

By 5pm on 10/10/2016, the following materials should be submitted to Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu, 2252 SC):

A) ACM Dissertation / Kuck PhD Thesis Awards:
1) Nomination by the thesis advisor. This must include:
   a) Name, address, and phone number of the advisor;
   b) Name, mailing address and email address of the candidate;
   c) Title of PhD thesis, date PhD thesis was defended, and date PhD thesis was deposited;
   d) Suggested citation if the candidate is selected. This should be a concise statement (maximum of 25 words) describing the key technical or professional accomplishment for which the candidate merits this award;
   e) Nomination Statement, 200-300 words in length, addressing why the candidate should receive this award. This should address the significance of the dissertation, not simply repeat the information in the (thesis abstract.
2) A PDF version of the thesis. (Draft versions are allowed for the department's Oct. 10 deadline and for consideration for the Kuck PhD Thesis Award; however a final version of the thesis must be ready by ACM's Oct. 31 deadline to be submitted for the ACM Award.)
3) Nominee's CV.
4) At least 3, and not more than 5, supporting letters from experts in the field who can provide additional insights or evidence of the dissertation's impact. (Note that, for the ACM Award, ACM requests that faculty nominators bundle these letters. I.e., the nominator will see these letters. Also for ACM: "The nominator/advisor may not write a letter of support."

B) Kuck MS Thesis Award:
1) Nomination by thesis advisor. This must include:
   a) Name, address, and phone number of the advisor;
   b) Name, mailing address and email address of the candidate;
   c) Title of thesis and date MS degree was conferred;
   d) Suggested citation if the candidate is selected. This should be a concise statement (maximum of 25 words) describing the key technical or professional accomplishment for which the candidate merits this award;
   e) Advisor's letter of recommendation, discussing the of the significance of the dissertation. This should be at a fairly high-level that will appeal to selection committee members who may not necessarily be familiar with the nominee's area.
2) A PDF version of the thesis.
3) Nominee's CV.

Additional Dissertation Awards:
In addition, the following organizations offer dissertation awards.

1) SIGCOMM - Deadline: Nov. 30. Eligibility: "The final dissertation defense should take place at the nominee's host institution during the 12 months before the submission deadline..." Limited to one nomination per department. Please contact Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu), well in advance if you want to apply.
2) SIGDA - Deadline: Nov. 30. Eligibility: “Each department of any university may nominate at most two Ph.D. dissertations whose final submission date is between July 1st of the previous year and June 30th of the current year.” Please contact Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu), well in advance if you want to apply.

3) SIGSOFT - Deadline: Dec. 15. The award is for an outstanding dissertation (in software engineering) dated within one year preceding the nomination due date. A nominee must be a SIGSOFT member at the time of nomination.

4) SIGMOD - Deadline: Jan. 2017? Eligibility: “final version of each nominated dissertation must have been accepted by the candidate’s department on or after September 1 of the previous year.” An endorsement from the department head is required. Please contact Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu), well in advance if you want to apply.

5) SIGPLAN - Deadline: Jan. 5, 2017? Eligibility: Defense during the previous calendar year.

6) SIGCOMM - Deadline: April 2017? Eligibility: Defense during the previous calendar year.

7) SIGKDD - Deadline: March/April 2017? Eligibility: defense during the previous calendar year. Limited to one nomination per department. Please contact Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu), well in advance if you want to apply.

8) SIGMM - Deadline: May 2017? Nominators must be SIGMM members. “The PhD thesis to be nominated for the award must be deposited at the nominee's Academic Institution between January and December of the previous year of nomination.”

9) SIGSAC - Deadline: July 2017? “Nominations are limited to one doctoral dissertation per department.” The final dissertation defense should take place at the nominee’s host institution during the calendar year prior to the conference but prior to the submission deadline.

10) SIGOPS - Deadline: July 2017? “Each year, a department is allowed to nominate one Ph.D. thesis produced in that department.” “The thesis must have been defended successfully at most two years before the conference at which the award will be presented.” Please contact Colin Robertson (colinr@illinois.edu), well in advance if you want to apply.

Faculty, if your SIG offers a new dissertation award that is not listed here, please email me.