Algorithms Are Everywhere - How Do They Work?

We take technology for granted. We expect low prices on goods purchased through Amazon, and we expect cars requested through Uber to show up promptly. We think less about the algorithms that make this technology possible and about the impact of the thousands of algorithms that make decisions, big and small, about our lives every day.

“We’re surrounded by these algorithmic systems,” says Christo Wilson, a CCIS professor. “Some of them are innocuous - Netflix recommends stuff to us and we say, “OK great.” Others are hugely consequential, like are you going to get this job, are you going to go to jail?”

Please read full article here

Student Software Development Team Wins Award for Community Service

Experiential learning at CCIS doesn’t end when co-op is over - it continues in the classroom. In Professor Mike Weintraub’s Software Development class this spring semester, students weren’t tasked with creating projects for made-up clients. Instead, they were split into teams, assigned a community partner and a project, and given a semester to bring that to life.

“Students need something that they can sink their teeth into,” Weintraub, says. “These [clients] are people who can’t do this kind of work. They’re not technically equipped and often can’t afford to do this. There was a real sense of someone depending on them and someone wanting assistance.”

Please read full article here

Community Service Award Highlights Student’s Commitment to Tutoring, Mentorship

Working toward a PhD is time-consuming: there’s research to be done, grants to be secured and papers to write. But Ben Greenman, who hopes to earn his PhD in computer science by 2020, made time to meet twice a week for four months with a high school junior, tutoring her in the basics of Java.

“It’s fun to be able to show her this brand new world of programming all day - and if she wants, this could be her career,” Ben says. “And now she has that new option.”

Please read full article here