

October 04, 2016 | By Doug Ramsey

UC San Diego Department and UCTV Launch 'The Computer Science Channel'

The screenshot shows the website for 'The Computer Science Channel' on the University of California Television (UCTV) platform. The top navigation bar includes 'uctv home', 'blog', 'schedule', 'find a video', and a search box. The main header features the channel's name, 'the Computer Science CHANNEL', and the affiliation 'UC San Diego Computer Science and Engineering'. A large featured video thumbnail for 'Anu Mupparthi At The Heart of Computer Science' is prominent, with a subtitle 'AT THE HEART OF COMPUTER SCIENCE' and a description 'Anu Mupparthi: from computer novice to Google engineer.' To the right, a vertical list of program thumbnails includes 'At The Heart of Computer Science', 'The Quadcopter Class', 'Teaching Computer Science Online', and 'Decoding the Microbiome'. Below the main content, a navigation menu offers categories like 'Bits & Bytes', 'Computing Primetime', 'Alumni Profiles', 'Computing Around UC', and 'Welcome'. A search bar with a 'Refine Search' button is present, along with sorting options for 'Date' and 'Popularity'. A list of search results shows two video thumbnails: 'Teaching Computer Science Online' (dated 9/30/2016) and 'The Quadcopter Class' (dated 9/30/2016). On the right side, a 'LEARN MORE' section lists various resources: 'CSE Website', 'CSE Newsletter', 'CSE Events', 'CSE Brochure', 'Center for Visual Computing 8-page Brochure', and 'CSE Alumni Quarterly'.

Screenshot of The Computer Science Channel home page at launch on October 1, 2016

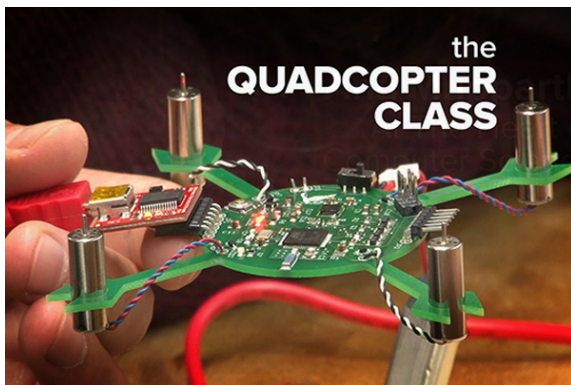
University of California Television and the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department at the University of California San Diego have launched The Computer Science Channel online. The new video channel begins service on October 1 with a slate of new and existing content.

“Our faculty are directing research that is transforming the world in a variety of ways and have made us one of the top research departments worldwide,” says CSE Chair Dean Tullsen, who recorded a welcome video on the channel. “We have a dynamic student population at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, who are making a difference both on campus and in a variety of leadership positions after they graduate.”

The computer-engineering professor went on to note that computer science is increasingly integrated into our daily lives. Adds Tullsen: “This channel is bringing stories about how computer science is revolutionizing many industries and disciplines, from computer graphics to computational biology.”

The Computer Science Channel aims to connect viewers to the world of computing and its impact on the world around us. New content produced for the Channel in a partnership between CSE and UCTV will also begin airing on UCTV and UCSD-TV over cable and online television services such as Roku and Amazon Fire in the near future.

“UCTV is looking forward to presenting the people and stories from UC San Diego and around the University of California, that make computer science such an important and fascinating field,” says UCTV Director Lynn Burnstan.



Scene from CSE Prof. Steven Swanson's Quadcopter Class video report.

New video features debuting on the channel in October include a series called **Bits & Bytes**, a collection of short features (generally from three to 20 minutes in length). They include a 14-minute report on “Teaching Computer Science Online” – about UC San Diego’s pioneering computer scientists who are in the vanguard of a new movement to offer high-level computer science courses (known as massive open online courses, or MOOCs) to meet some of the pent-up demand for high-level computer science education around the world. So far, over 1,000,000 learners around the

world have registered to take the UC San Diego faculty-developed courses via the two largest

online education platforms, Coursera and edX. Some of the UC San Diego MOOCs have surpassed 250,000 learners each. The report features interviews with CSE professors Pavel Pevzner, Ravi Ramamoorthi, Scott Klemmer, Christine Alvarado and Mia Minnes, as well as Beth Simon, a professor who recently moved from CSE to the Education Studies program to help UC San Diego faculty to adopt some elements of online learning to their courses in the classroom. (Simon spent the last two years on leave at... Coursera.)

Bits & Bytes also features a six-minute interview with CSE professor Steven Swanson and students in his course for seniors, dubbed “The Quadcopter Class.” In it, students build tiny quadcopter drones as a capstone project, and in the process get comprehensive experience in conceiving, designing, building and programming a remote-controlled quadcopter. “Some of us knew how to do the software, some of us knew how to do the hardware. I came in knowing a lot about quadcopters but not too much about the hardware or software behind them,” says undergraduate David Smith. “It’s a really good class to learn something and to do a fun project.”

The Computer Science Channel will also document where some of the department’s students go after graduation. For the October launch, the **Alumni Profiles** section poses the question: How does a single mom on her own, far from home, achieve success in the world of computer science? In her own words, CSE alumna Anu Mupparthi (B.S. '08, M.S. '11) describes the special roles the department and the field of computer science played in her development from single-parent computer novice to software engineer at Google Photos.



CSE alumna Anu Mupparthi (B.S. '08, M.S. '11) is now a software engineer at Google.

The joint CSE and UCTV channel also features Computing Primetime, a year-old series of long-form programs (30 to 60 minutes in length) about how computer science is interacting with and transforming many other disciplines and sectors. Among the episodes now available on The Computer Science Channel are:

- “Decoding the Microbiome”, a conversation between CSE professors Larry Smarr and Rob Knight about the role that computing, cyberinfrastructure and gene sequencing play in helping better understand the role the microbiome plays in human health. (Smarr also directs Calit2, while Knight directs the new Center for Microbiome Innovation.);

- “Visual Computing”, about the new, interdisciplinary Center for Visual Computing with its director, CSE Prof. Ravi Ramamoorthi, CSE lecturer Jurgen Schulze, and Cognitive Science professor Zhuowen Tu;
- “Computer Engineering for Exploration”, a discussion between CSE Prof. Ryan Kastner and Qualcomm Institute research scientist Albert Lin; and
- “Cyber Security: Planes, Trains and Automobiles”, in which former CSE Chair Rajesh Gupta talks with two of UC San Diego’s top cyber security experts, CSE professors Stefan Savage and Hovav Shacham.

Another section of the Channel is dedicated to **Computing around UC**, featuring video segments and programs related to computer science and produced at any of the 10 University of California campuses. The initial programming includes pieces about two UC San Diego researchers: the aforementioned Rob Knight of CSE and Pediatrics, who won the 2015 Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science; and Jacqueline Kerr, a researcher in the Qualcomm Institute’s Center for Wireless and Population Health Systems. Kerr’s hour-long presentation focuses on what wearable cameras and GPS can tell us about human behavior.

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UC San Diego’s [Studio Ten 300](#) offers radio and television connections for media interviews with our faculty, which can be coordinated via studio@ucsd.edu. To connect with a UC San Diego faculty expert on relevant issues and trending news stories, visit <https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/media-resources/faculty-experts>.