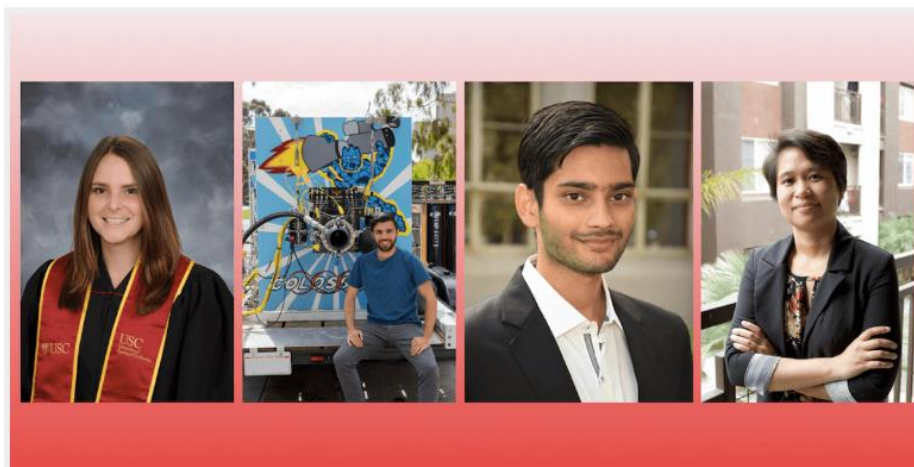


"Historic and Unprecedented" 2020 Master's Awards Ceremony

Alex Baker | May 8, 2020

The achievements of outstanding students were commemorated at the 2020 Viterbi Master's Student Awards



SARA STEVENS, RYAN HORTON, NAMAN MUNOT, NICOLE FRANDA. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULI LEGAT.

On Monday, May 4, the USC Viterbi School of Engineering recognized the achievements of its star graduate students at the 2020 Viterbi Master's Student Awards. Conducted via Zoom, the ceremony celebrated USC Viterbi master's students who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields.

USC Viterbi Dean Yannis C. Yortsos kicked off the "historic and unprecedented" event by speaking about COVID-19 and the invaluable role that these engineers will play in addressing the pandemic and other challenges in the future.

"If there is anything we have learned from this unprecedented experience," said Yortsos, "it is that only through science and engineering can we conquer such calamities. You will be the generation that will accomplish this."



JATIN CHOUDHARY, WINNER OF THE OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD. PHOTO COURTESY OF JULI LEGAT.

Awards were given for outstanding work in research, mentorship, academics and more. The Department of Computer Science, for example, presented the Best Research Award to Nicole Franda for her work in robotics. She was part of a team pursuing resilient techniques in multi-robot systems, or coordinating behavior among a group of robots to function even when the environment presents unanticipated challenges.

More than 120 people attended the celebration of achievement, including awardees, their families and friends, and USC Viterbi faculty members.

Pictures of the awardees can be found [here](#).

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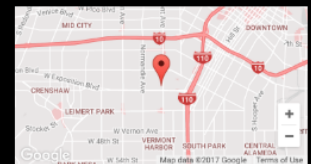
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