

## Student Profile

### Anastasia Shuba – Computer Engineering PhD Program



#### Your Time at UCI

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

*The internship that I had throughout my undergrad had some research aspects to it, and through it I learned that I enjoyed research. I was also considering teaching as a possible career path and wanted to open up the option of teaching at a higher education institution.*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*I did my B.S. in Computer Engineering at UCI, so I had established relationships with several professors and had familiarity with their research.*

If you are conducting research, how would you explain your research and its significance to your grandparent?

*Lucky for me, most of everyone these days (including my grandparents) carry a smartphone and have some idea of the risks involved. These devices contain a lot of sensitive information, such as your contacts, the web pages you visit, the apps you use, your login information, and more. Unfortunately, many apps frequently share this sensitive data with third parties without properly acquiring the user's consent or even informing her. Typically, this information is collected to serve users personalized ads. So in our [research lab](#) we are working on a system for preventing exposures of personal information and blocking ads on mobile devices.*

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

*For over half my life I've been training in the martial art of Aikido and am currently one of the instructors at [Ikazuchi Dojo](#). Most of my hobbies revolve around some sort of physical activity, be it Aikido, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, rock climbing, or swimming. But every once in a while I also like to sit down and get lost in a good book or a good video game.*

#### Reflections

What are you most proud of accomplishing (so far) in your graduate program?

*Getting the The Andreas Pfitzmann Best Student Paper Award at Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium that was held in July 2018 in Barcelona, Spain.*

## **Career**

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

*I'm hoping to be a professor at a university, where I can keep doing my research and continue developing as a teacher.*

How do you hope to make a difference?

*Currently we have many great solutions that are aimed to help with issues such as privacy, climate change, and poverty. However, none of them will make a difference unless they are backed up by policies and regulations. So I am hoping to eventually end up in politics where I can draw on my expertise in research and engineering to start implementing solutions for these complex problems.*