

## **Testimonials for REU-CAAR 2020**

(This was a Virtual program because of COVID.)

### **Anthony Ostuni (Mentored by Wisely Wong)**

The REU-CAAR program was an immensely beneficial experience. I gained confidence reading and understanding publications, performing original research, and working in a collaborative environment. The program's mentors were knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful, and the provided activities were fun and engaging. Furthermore, CAAR fully persuaded me to apply to graduate studies, in order to continue learning and researching in computer science and mathematics.

### **Hrishee Shastri (Mentored by Andrew Childs)**

I came from a small liberal arts college, so I had no idea what collaborative research looked like at a large research institution. REU-CAAR eased me into that environment with advisers and fellow students that care. I also learned a lot about what graduate school in CS would look like, which ended up convincing me to pursue it after college.

### **Raymond Feng (Mentored by Tom Goldstein)**

REU-CAAR was a fantastic program. I had a great experience with my group and my mentor Prof. Goldstein, and I learned a ton across many different areas from working on our project even in a few short weeks. Even though we were remote this year, Prof. Gasarch (the director of the program) and my mentor were incredibly accessible throughout which made the program go so much more smoothly. In addition, we were still able to get to know everybody in weekly activities and game nights (done virtually because of COVID). I would absolutely recommend REU-CAAR to anyone interested in computer science research!

### **Kandasamy Chokkalingam (HS Student) (Mentored by William Gasarch and Josh Twitty)**

REU-CAAR was a great way to spend my summer. It helped further my research interests and gave me a good glimpse of what doing research in college and graduate school would be like. I didn't have much of a specific background in my project to begin with, but the mentors were great in getting everyone up to speed. They taught us what we needed to know and heard out our questions. I especially liked that we got to hear from other mentors and groups so that everyone knew what projects were being worked on. I

would definitely recommend the program for anyone interested in computer science research.

**Kate Hu (Mentored by Furong Huang)**

Although REU CAAR is remote this year, it is still a fantastic experience. I'm interested in theoretical ML research and this program has exposed me to a variety of research questions in this field. It helped me gain a better sense of what directions I may want to go into in grad school. The experience of directly working with a professor also allowed me to have a taste of grad school. I would highly recommend the program to anyone interested in learning more about doing computer science research.

**John Pomerat (Mentored by Soheil Feizi)**

I had a wonderful time attending REU-CAAR. The weekly talks were informative, and the research was both challenging and engaging. Over the course of the 10 weeks, I learned a significant amount and got comfortable working in an academic research environment. If you're curious about what research is like or are interested in working on challenging theoretical problems, I would definitely encourage you to apply.

**Ariel Steinsaltz (Mentored by William Gasarch and Josh Twitty)**

This REU program was an interesting educational experience. I got to learn new things about math and computer science and try new techniques. We got talks on a variety of different topics to expand our learning. There were also fun math problems to work on and (virtual) game nights and other opps to socialize with other REU students in a challenging time.