【Vol.1】 Report from Ryu Takeda

I'm going to introduce my life in Pittsburgh and the Language Technologies Institute (LTI) at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) as a first report.

CMU locates in Pittsburgh in the United States of America. CMU is one of the most famous universities in the computer science area, and it has produced many Turing award winners. The Turing Award is generally recognized as the highest distinction of computer science and the "Novel Prize of computing" [1]. I'm glad to have an opportunity to research at CMU.

Figure 1 CMU

The LTI is one of the institutes of the school of computer science (SCS), and it performs groundbreaking research in the areas of Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, Spoken Interfaces & Dialogue Processing, and so on [2]. There are about 630 undergraduates, 800 Master's and 500 Ph. D students in the SCS. More than half of students come from Asia in my impression. I was impressed that they always open laptop PC for programming and discuss something in the open spaces.

The LTI provides some opportunities to listen a lecture from researchers of other institute or university. "LTI colloquium" is one of such lectures [3]. I attend to the colloquium and listen to the latest research and the technologies.

My office is in the Gates Hillman Complex (GHC) that is the main building of LTI [4]. Three persons, including me, are in the room, and they belong to different laboratories. One member is a technical stuff, and the other is an associate researcher from CMU in Quarter. The researcher is good at programming of audio and image processing, and builds up several systems very fast. It encouraged me to learn and improve not only research skills but also programming skills during my stay in CMU.

Figure 2 Outside of GHC

Figure 3 My room

  I have a lot of new experiences and worries in daily life. I live in a quiet residential area and it takes about thirty minutes to walk to the CMU. There are many grocery/discount stores and natural parks near my apartment, which is convenient for me to live. I go to running to a large park almost every weekends to keep myself healthy. To my surprise, squirrels run everywhere. It is very cold in winter: the highest temperature of a day sometimes falls down under minus 10 degrees Celsius. Walking outside is dangerous, and I often slipped and fell. In contrast, the landscape with snow and illumination lights was beautiful in the Christmas season. Other experiences include false alarms, lockdown announcement (for public school), boil water advisory and so on, which makes me realize the importance of preparation for an emergency.

Figure 3 Night at CMU

Figure 2 Fire engines

I will report about my research activities at CMU in the next report.

I really appreciate for helps from Prof. Rudnicky, Prof. Komatani and other people that give me a chance to learn and research in such a good environment.

References

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turing_Award

[2] https://lti.cs.cmu.edu/

[3] https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/cmu-scs-lti/en/colloquium

[4] https://www.cs.cmu.edu/directory/rtakeda (final access on 2018/3)