

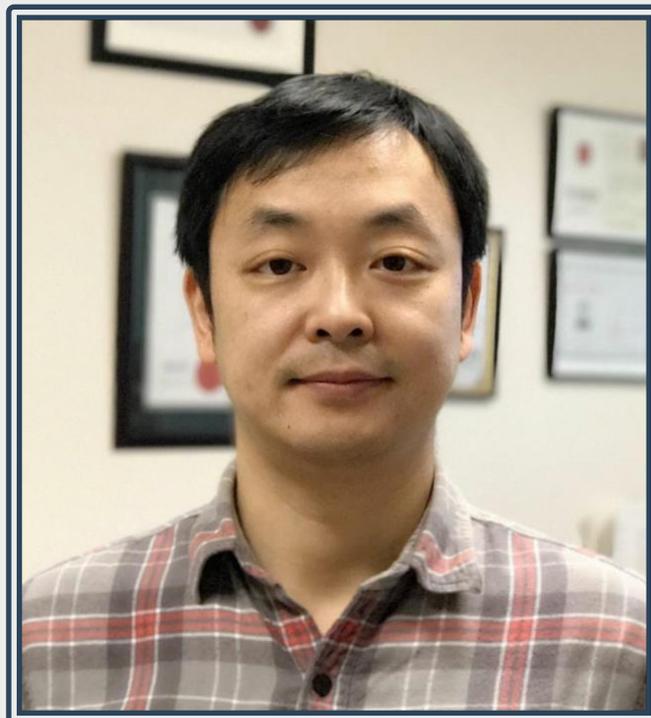
Yuanzhu Chen

Finalist

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies
Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship
2018

Dr. Yuanzhu Chen is an outstanding graduate student mentor. As Deputy Head of Graduate Studies in the Department of Computer Science at Memorial University, he has supervised and co-supervised 11 doctoral students and dozens of master students, many of whom have taken up positions in academia and industry in Canada and abroad. Dr. Chen is known for working tirelessly to foster critical thinking, scholarly rigour, and creativity in his graduate students, as well as professional competencies in written and oral communication, scholarly integrity, and interpersonal interactions. “Teaching is not something he does but also who he is,” writes a former graduate student of Dr. Chen, recalling the many hours spent together drafting scholarship applications and grant proposals.

Dr. Chen’s mentoring philosophy is guided by the belief that “once a master, life-time a father.” Much more than an academic advisor, he views his graduate students as brave individuals living complicated lives. Dr. Chen fosters a community network of graduate students at different stages of their research, which offers a supportive forum for sharing achievements and working to overcome challenges. A strong advocate for physical and mental health, Dr. Chen is known to hold office hours outside, often in the natural settings surrounding Memorial University. A favourite activity of his students was the Long Pond Challenge, which pushed students to communicate their ideas clearly and concisely while hiking on local trails. “Dr. Chen was the only professor who truly understood me,” reflects a former graduate student. “He is an exceptional communicator and a gifted teacher.”



Yuanzhu Chen is a Professor and Deputy Head of Graduate Studies in the Department of Computer Science at Memorial University of Newfoundland. His research interests include computer networking, mobile computing, complex networks, graph theory, Web information retrieval, and evolutionary computation.

