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ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction, Chicago, IL
March 5-8, 2018

Thanks to the Shackouls Honors College Travel Award, I had the privilege of attending the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction in Chicago in March of 2018. My main reason for attending the conference was to present a demonstration entitled “Therabot™: A robotic support companion” focusing on the development of a robotic stuffed dog used for therapeutic treatment of patients suffering from Post Traumatic Stress and other trauma related disorders. Presenting at this conference was invaluable as I was able to develop crucial technical communication skills and gain experience talking to experts about my work. I was able to connect with researchers around the world and gain feedback on this ongoing process.

Attending this conference also gave me important insights for my future academic plans. I plan to pursue a PhD with a research focus in Human Robot Interaction, so being exposed to research in this area allowed me to further consider the specifics of what I want to pursue and which universities I should consider. Overall, the conference was an enlightening experience that I will remember as one of the highlights of my undergraduate years at Mississippi State.