

Mechanical Engineering Department Seminar

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1130 Mechanical Engineering
111 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455



Designing to Support Strong Tie Relationships

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What do the relationships between childhood best friends, parents and children, and A.A. home group members have in common? These are all examples of “strong ties” — types of connections that are key to reducing loneliness, providing a support network, and growing together as individuals. My research focuses on using technology to support such strong-tie relationships, and I present three examples from my work. First, after endeavoring to understand the needs of parents and children who live apart, I designed and built the ShareTable to address some of the challenges they face. Second, I investigated technological support for remote play between a child and a remote partner, such as a best friend who has moved away. Third, I examined the opportunities and challenges in using technology to support strong-tie relationships among those recovering from addiction and alcoholism. I'll discuss my new and ongoing work at University of Minnesota inspired by each of these three contexts.



Bio: Svetlana “Lana” Yarosh is an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science & Engineering Department at University of Minnesota. Her research in HCI focuses on embodied interaction in social computing systems. Lana is currently most proud of getting both the NSF CRII and the NSF CAREER awards, of her best papers at CHI 2013 and CSWC 2014, and of receiving the McKnight Land Grant Professorship. Lana has two Bachelors of Science from University of Maryland (in Computer Science and Psychology), a Ph.D. in Human-Centered Computing from Georgia Institute of Technology, and two years of industry research experience with AT&T Labs Research.