

A man in a black tuxedo with a white shirt and black bow tie stands behind a clear acrylic podium. He has a red boutonniere on his lapel and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color with several golden Oscar statues visible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Congratulations to

**Parag Havaldar**

for winning a 2017

**Academy Award  
in Technological  
Achievement**

**USC** Viterbi

Photo/Courtesy of AMPAS

The USC Viterbi School of Engineering congratulates **Parag Havaladar**, PhD '96, and faculty in the Department of Computer Science for winning an Academy Award in Technological Achievement at the 2017 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Scientific and Technical Awards. Havaladar was honored for the original development of an expression-based facial performance-capture technology in association with Sony Pictures Imageworks.

For 12 years, Havaladar was the fulcrum of research and development teams on Hollywood blockbusters like The Polar Express, Monster House, Beowulf, Watchmen, Alice in Wonderland, and The Amazing Spiderman series. In each film, he toyed with formulas and mechanisms that set up animation rigging and image capture for facial expressions — the skeleton that animators and filmmakers then use to paint vibrant photorealistic, or, in some cases, exaggerated depictions of actors' faces in surreal worlds.

