- **Name and address of chapter**

  WACM, University of Wisconsin-Madison's chapter of ACM--W

  Email: wacm@cs.wisc.edu

  Address: 1210 W. Dayton St., Madison, WI 53706-1613

- **Names and email addresses of chapter officers and faculty sponsor**

  CHAPTER OFFICERS:

  1. Fatemah Panahi, President (fatemeh@cs.wisc.edu)
  2. Margaret Pearce, Vice-President (mlpearce@cs.wisc.edu)
  3. Meenakshi Syamkumar, Secretary (ms@cs.wisc.edu)
  4. Mona Jalal, Mentoring Chair (jalal@cs.wisc.edu)
  5. Rasiga Gowrisankar, Activity Chair (rasiga@cs.wisc.edu)
  6. Yiran Wang, Historian (yiran@cs.wisc.edu)
  7. Zhang Cai, Web Mistress (zcaihaha@cs.wisc.edu)

  FACULTY SPONSOR:

  Andrea Arpaci--Dusseau (dusseau@cs.wisc.edu)

- **A brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members**
  - Description of chapter:

    WACM's mission is to foster an environment in the Computer Sciences department where women thrive. We are committed to making our students confident that they can excel in CS and have a bright future; consequently increasing the percentage of women in CS.

  - Description of school:

    University of Wisconsin-Madison is a reputed institution for CS research and engineering studies.

  - Number of chapter members: The chapter consists of approximately 120 members.

- **Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members.**
  - Number of students taking CS related courses: ~ 900 current students.
  - Typical majors of chapter members: Computer Sciences, Computer Engineering, Computer Science Education, Mathematics, Statistics and Business.

- **URL for your chapter home page (if you have one)**

  http://research.cs.wisc.edu/wacm/

- **An essay of no more than 500 words for each of the categories for which your chapter would like to be considered. You may submit an essay for more than one category. Guidelines for these essays appear below. Please be sure to abide by the 500 word maximum**

for the essay portion. If your essay is longer, only the first 500 words will be submitted to the judges.

WACM conducts activities with the main goal of providing a platform for women in CS to gather and interact with each other. Description of some activities (most of the events are funded by the CS Department unless otherwise stated):

- **Mentoring program:** WACM matches undergraduate students with graduate student mentors. This creates a support group of women for undergraduates. Mentors and mentees talk about grad school vs. working, how to prepare for an interview, volunteer work opportunities, and scholarship applications. Mentors also provide guidance to mentees about selection of CS courses based on the mentee's line of interest. The event includes a kick-off dinner where all the mentors and mentees gather to meet and get to know one another. Historically we have had around 50 mentees and 15 mentors for every semester. Success of the event roots on the friendliness and expertise of the mentors, who meet often with their mentees for coffee or lunch.

- **Speaker series:** Invite successful women from academia and industry to meet with women in CS in an informal setting. They discuss their work, keys to success, and how to overcome challenges. Previous speakers include: Leng Leng Tan, Oracle Senior Vice President; Laura Haas, IBM Fellow and Director, Technology and Operations; and Professor Sarita Adve, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mary Roth, research staff member at Accelerated Discovery Lab of IBM Almaden will be our speaker for this season.

- **WACM Hacks**: WACM co-organized a 12-hour hackathon this Spring along with Madhacks. The main focus of the mini hackathon was to attract women participants and first time hackers. We had female mentors from CodeChix Madison and WACM graduate students to ensure that women participants got the required help and motivation. We had 15% women participation (among total of 75 participants); one of the runner ups was a single-member team woman. The event was funded by EPIC, Google, Singlewire, Exis and Microsoft. (URL: https://www.madhacks.org/springfever/).

- **Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing**: Each year we organize sending more than 10 students to Grace Hopper, with priority to undergraduate students and first timers.

- **WACM explains:** Informational/educational sessions such as entrepreneurship, learning linux, etc. Typically we have more than 200 students attend these sessions, which are open to all CS students.

- **Company tours:** Every year we try to visit local company offices such as Microsoft Gray Systems Lab, Google Madison, and the Epic Systems headquarters. Undergraduates get a taste of what working in a company is like and have an opportunity to ask career advice. Each visit is funded by the hosting company.

- **Social events:** We hold social events such as an annual potluck to welcome new women in CS, de-stress gaming sessions, or Friday lunch meetups. The annual potluck is hosted by a female faculty at their home, where students get the opportunity to interact with faculty under an informal setting. Furthermore, each spring, prospective women graduate students join current WACM graduate students for brunch to learn about life as a CS graduate student at UW-Madison.