

**Name:** The College of William and Mary ACM Student Chapter  
**Address:** Williamsburg, Virginia

### **Chapter Officers**

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**Chapter Webpage:** <http://wm.acm.org/>

**About the School:** William and Mary is the second oldest university in the United States, established in 1693. The school is relatively small, with only about 6,300 undergraduate students. This small number of students allows the school to maintain close-knit classes, with 86% of classes containing 40 or fewer students. William and Mary prides itself on producing students with a diverse liberal arts education while also offering a wide range of research opportunities. The school offers bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D programs in computer science, with the PhD program being ranked 77th among all schools in the 2016 edition of the U.S. News & World Report graduate school rankings.

**About the Chapter:** The William and Mary Student Chapter of the ACM has been present on campus for several decades now. Following a period of dormancy on campus, the chapter was revived in late Fall 2016 to provide a community for the ever-growing number of computer science students at William and Mary. The goals of the chapter in its most recent form are to provide preparation for technical interviews, to supplement the College's curriculum with seminars covering topics of interest not covered by the CS department, and to foster a passion for building things outside of the classroom.

**Number of Chapter Members:** A core group of about 25 students who show up to most events, with 142 students subscribed to our listserv who occasionally show up to events.

**Number of Students Taking Computer Science:** 848 undergraduate enrollments across all computer science courses offered in Spring 2016.

**Number of Graduating Undergrads with CS Degrees in Spring 2015:** 56

**Typical Majors of Members:** Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics

### **Activities:**

Interview Preparation Workshops

Our budding relationship with William and Mary's Cohen Career Center allowed us to

hold technical interview preparation workshops in the Career Center on Monday nights. Technical interviews are a part of almost any software development interview, and these sessions helped to close the gap between knowledge learned in class and the skills needed to succeed in a technical interview. These events fluctuated between 15 and 5 attendees.

### How to Get An Internship

This seminar, led by three upperclassmen with diverse internship experience (the range covered academic, startup, and large corporate internship experiences), was aimed at underclassmen who might be confused about how to make a technical resume, where to apply for internships, or what the timeline was for getting those internships. This event is particularly relevant for a school like William and Mary, where most of the school's widely disseminated internship advice is aimed towards non-technical jobs. The event had about 20 attendees.

### Intro to Web Programming

William and Mary does have a Web Programming course in its catalogue, but the class hasn't been offered in several years, despite popular demand. The William and Mary ACM offered a one-hour seminar teaching the very basics of web programming including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Ruby on Rails. The course did not aim to have students building working websites after only an hour, but rather to help students get past the overwhelming nature of web programming so that they could pick a topic and start learning at their own pace. The event had 15 attendees.

tribeHacks: <http://www.tribehacks.com/>

After a series of successful smaller activities in the Fall, the chapter decided in February 2016 to cap off our revival year by reviving William and Mary's very own hackathon, tribeHacks, a 32 hour event where students can come together and try to build something amazing. tribeHacks I was put together by a single student in the spring of 2014. It was a huge success, but there was no one to carry on the event in 2015. The William and Mary chapter of the ACM decided to adopt the event for its own, and set to planning tribeHacks II. To fund the event, we contact the sponsors of the previous tribeHacks, as well as several companies that have been gaining interest in hiring William and Mary grads. In the span of 2 months, we managed to raise a grand total of \$17,000 and put on a hackathon with about 100 attendees - a feat that normally takes anywhere from 4 to 9 months. We were able to welcome students from our school, as well as from Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Christopher Newport University, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From our 100 attendees, 19 fascinating projects were submitted, ranging from natural language processing to crowd-sourced drone control. These projects were judged by a panel of industry professionals, academics, and the Secretary of Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Karen Jackson.