

Touro College

1602 Ave J Brooklyn, NY 11230

Faculty sponsor: Shmuel Fink- Shmuel.Fink@touro.edu

Chapter officers: Nechama Miller- nrifkind1@gmail.com

Tova Lieberman- tovallieberman97@gmail.com

Touro College ACM Chapter

Our Chapter is a group of all women computer students aspiring towards careers in computers. We have about 40 motivated members who are strong students, love to learn and want to share knowledge and skills with the community. Our students are primarily majoring in Computer Programming and Information technology. We enjoy special meetings each semester with food, informational speakers and panels. This enriches our knowledge about the fields of work available to us and increases our passion to continue developing the skills we have been learning. We also put together a journal on data security where students wrote about issues that are relevant to computers today. Passionate students make receptive learners who can give back to the community.

Outstanding Chapter Activities

Early Sunday morning finds 40 high school students, not ‘sleeping in’, but in Touro College’s computer labs eagerly developing applications that are designed to resolve an issue. As women pursuing careers in technology, our ACM chapter started a Girls Who Code club on our campus this year. The Girls Who Code club aims to inspire students to pursue careers in technology and introduce them to concepts not learned in a regular high school curriculum. The club is free and open to members of the community who want to expand their horizons outside of school.

The students are divided into teams where each team brought up a current issue and is using technology to solve the problem. One team, for example, found that many people don’t really know when a larger package is more cost efficient than a smaller package. They are using MIT’s App Inventor to develop an Android app that will calculate the unit cost. Another team is developing a website for brides, with organized lists of things that need to be purchased to start a home and links to where those items can be purchased. Other teams are developing regents prep websites catered to what they feel is missing on other sites, Android quiz apps to develop awareness of various issues and several other websites and applications. Our members join the teams and assist with the projects, learning together with the students.

Our ACM members spent the first few months following the GWC 4Core Activity sets which introduced the students to fundamental programming concepts. They showed applicable videos

provided by GWC which encourage the students learning. Students worked with MIT's Scratch and then moved on to Codesters to learn the concepts that would build their programming skills. Students have fun challenging each other to create projects with the tools they have and the skills they have learned. It is inspiring to see so many students motivated to learn.

Touro's ACM chapter wants to instill in the community an awareness of technology and its development. Our chapter chose to reach out to high school students because that is when students begin to develop career goals and we'd like to expose students to technology and development at that opportune time. What better way to reach out than with a free club?

Additionally our club members participated in Hour of Code to inform students in our neighborhood about the field of technology, particularly programming. Our members went into 6 schools to teach about 140 students what it means to write code! Members had to be creative with lessons because not all rooms had computers and students had varying levels of knowledge.

Learning is empowering and as a club of motivated learners we have pleasure sharing our knowledge and skills with others. This year we've reached out to hundreds of local students to share our interests and knowledge and we are looking forward to reaching out to many more students in the future.

For more information about Girls Who Code visit: girlswhocode.com

For more information about Hour of Code visit: hourofcode.com

For more information about Scratch visit: scratch.mit.edu

For more information about Codesters visit: codesters.com

For more information about App Inventor visit: appinventor.mit.edu