

Women in Computer Science
120 Deschutes Hall
1202 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1202

Chapter Officers:

Zoe Olson, President

zoeo@uoregon.edu

Kathryn Lovett, President

lovett2@uoregon.edu

Fiona Hebb, Vice President

fhebb@uoregon.edu

Alison Legge, Treasurer

alegge@uoregon.edu

Elizabeth Anajovich, Social Media Chair

eanajovi@uoregon.edu

Elizabeth Olson, Recruitment Chair

eolson@uoregon.edu

Vinitha Gadiraju, Secretary

vinithag@uoregon.edu

Molly Steelhammer, ACM-W Chair

msteelha@uoregon.edu

Rishika Krishna, Photographer

rkrishna@uoregon.edu

Faculty Sponsor:

Boyana Norris

norris@cs.uoregon.edu

Description of Chapter:

Professor Sarah Douglass and Professor Virginia Lo founded the organization in 1985, in order to provide support for women in Computer Science. Since then, it has gone through a variety of changes, hosting different events. Most recently, a few years ago we implemented an outreach program to K-12 groups with the intent of promoting STEM fields to women and minorities. That program is not currently running, but our group is interested in reintroducing K-12 outreach as part of our group activities. Last year we experienced an all-time low in membership, and are currently working to revive our organization. We do not have a concrete count of chapter members as our group is mainly an executive board that organizes and hosts events. There are about fifteen people that regularly attend our executive meetings, and our events tend to gather around forty attendees on average (not including the conference).

Number of Students in Computer Science: 300 (estimated)

Typical Majors of Chapter Members: Computer and Information Science,
Mathematics and Computer Science

URL: <http://wics.uoregon.edu>

Outstanding Chapter Activities Essay

Starting last year, WiCS has been hosting semi-quarterly speaker series. Last spring we held a five-week long speaker series, with talks by professors in the CS department. These talks included information about the path that led professors to their current positions, as well as information about their area of research. We continued this with another speaker series during fall term that involved speakers from industry. We had speakers from a variety of companies, small and large, and were able to hear their stories and advice on establishing a career. Our speaker series would range from ten to thirty or so participants. We worked to promote them by making class announcements, putting up posters, and sending out email reminders. Each event was catered with refreshments and was hosted on campus, with all support for the event provided by our department. Allowing students to become familiar with faculty members as well as local industry members, our events aimed to increase understanding surrounding viable paths that are open to computer science students. In addition, we attempted to invite a diverse group of speakers in order to promote inclusivity and provide positive role models to all members of the CS department.

In addition to our speaker series, our chapter decided to expand our activities this year by focusing on hosting the first student-run, women in computing conference in Oregon. The conference, TechTogether, was a one-day event to bring together high school, college, and professional age women to strengthen the career pipeline for women in computing, inspiring the young through connection with the experienced. Most professionals can narrow the pivotal moments in their career to a specific mentor that helped them along the way. This special relationship, how it starts and grows, was the focus of TechTogether. The event was capped at 150 attendees to encourage serious conversations and connections. The event included presentations, keynotes, workshops, and networking. We attracted participants through various means of promotion. We reached out to our community at Oregon through email, posters, and class announcements. We also contacted sister

organizations at other schools in the Pacific Northwest in order to promote the conference and reach out to CIS and engineering departments directly to spread the word about this event. We ended up with a little over 100 participants from more than six different schools, including two high schools. Initially, we had more registrants but the actual turnout was a little bit less. With two main keynote speakers and a panel, as well as a mentor lunch where student attendees had a chance to talk to professionals in their field of interest, the event had a lot of opportunities for learning and networking. We were only able to host this event due to the support of our university, and funding received from NCWIT through their Student Seed Funding program. More information on the event can be found at this site: <http://www.techtogetheroregon.com/>