

Name: Sam Houston Association of Computer Scientists (SHACS)
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Chapter Command Structure:

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About Sam Houston State University:

(www.shsu.edu)

Established in 1879 as the Sam Houston Normal Institute, Sam Houston State University has emerged as a pioneering institution in Criminal Justice and a household name in Texas Education. However, it is also an emerging name in the field of computer science, especially in the digital forensics community. In fact, as of the 20th of April, 2017, the first PhD in Digital Forensics was approved to be made in the upcoming years, and that will be recognized as the first in the world according to faculty and student research. SHSU is committed towards making a collegiate education affordable yet comprehensive, not relaxing its standards in any form when it comes to the quality of the education that it can offer its students. The motto of the school demonstrates its commitment to excellence, that “The Measure of a Life is its Service.” SHSU believes that by working together with local communities, as well as providing a place for all of its students to thrive, will improve the world through technical and non-technical contributions that they can offer.

About Sam Houston Association of Computer Scientists (SHACS):

(www.shacs.org)

Facebook: facebook.com/shsushacs
Twitter: twitter.com/shsu_shacs
Discord: discord.gg/wX5F8ys

Established in 1983, The Sam Houston Association of Computer Scientists (SHACS) began forging a connection with the computer science department that continues 34 years later. The chapter's focus has been on acting upon the mission statements of both the ACM and Sam Houston State University. Despite a brief hiatus in the early 2000s, SHACS has gone through phases of growth and decline, dependent on the leadership that has headed the organization. Having gone through a recent phase of decline, SHACS currently consists of a team of 78 members, having grown from 15 members as of January in 2017. The chapter works tirelessly to try to fulfil the needs of a relatively large membership pool. Those that wish to see academic growth can now enjoy free tutoring from the senior membership of the organization, and they can also enjoy a colloquia/professional speaker series that seeks to promote academic and industrial awareness in an always-evolving fields. Every year, SHACS offers its FutureTech Conference (shacs.org/conf), attempting to expand the networks of our membership and all that wish to attend it. To combat differing leadership styles, and to have a contiguous feel to the way the organization is led, the outbound administration set up an aide initiative for officer positions, training them in their duties and responsibilities before they take power. This will lead to future growth for the organization that it will enjoy for years to come. The main motivations of SHACS is to be visible and relatable across communities, whether that is on campus, in the United States, or even the world. The quote from Sam Houston encapsulates well the way that SHACS leadership is trying to enhance the organization: "A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under."

Department Statistics

Number of Computer Science Undergraduate Students:	512
Number of Computer Science Graduate Students:	103
Typical Majors of Chapter Members:	Computer Science Mathematics Software Engineering Technology

Essay: Recruitment Drive

SHACS, the ACM chapter of Sam Houston State University, has recently undergone a rebranding and revamping of its image since the new chair took office in January. The organization stood at 15 recorded members, with talk of some of them leaving unless drastic changes occurred, so a new standard for recruitment was developed, under the supervision of Mr. Andrew Anderson. To begin with, SHACS made the efforts to visit every classroom in the computer science department, whether that be undergraduate or graduate leveled classes. A presentation was developed in powerpoint and shown in class, and it was never delegated to the professors to advertise for the organization on behalf of SHACS. Officers took time to go round and promote awareness of the changes that SHACS was undergoing.

The information included history on SHACS and the ACM, including the mission statements of both the school and the ACM, an introduction to the officers, and the benefits that they could receive by signing up with SHACS. Due to SHACS having a dedicated room inside the Computer Science department of the school, the ACM flyers and posters were left in the room for anyone to pick up and get to know about the organization, the ACM, and what we could offer them. This was SHACS' first attempt to rally the computer science department around the idea that its culture could change, and as previously stated, the membership rose from 15 recorded members to a historic 78 members, the first time that the organization has grown so large.

This might seem paltry compared to other organizations that have north of 200 members, but when you consider that SHACS has seen a 500% increase in its membership in the span of 3 months, the average recruitment can be seen to be about 20 members per month. Now, SHACS has an opportunity to capitalize on a strong foundation for its recruitment, aiming to reach its next goal of more than 100 members within the next year. The relative diversity of the organization by ethnicity, religion, and even by academic study, has seen a sharp increase, working closely with the Turkish Student Organization on campus and even recruiting a fair share of them into our organization. SHACS takes itself seriously, spending more than 3 hours in discussion and election for its 5 new officers, and the quality of the team that they chose is the beginning of a successful year ahead.