

DALHOUSIE WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (WITS)

August is here, and that means it is time to prepare for the fall. At this time I would like to announce that I have decided it is time for me to step down as Chair of WiTS and give another dynamic female a chance to take WiTS into the future. It has been a pleasure spending the last 2 semesters as WiTS chair and I believe it is now time to give this experience over to someone else.

To find out about the positions open please visit the WiTS website at wits@cs.dal.ca. You can send in your nominations to e1332720@dal.ca with a subject of "Nominations", a nomination needs all of the following information to be effective: Your CS id (torch login), your Banner Number, the name of the person you are nominating, and the position you are nominating them for. If any of these things are not provided your nomination application will be incomplete and will be discarded. Election schedule for the new council of WiTS is as follows:

Nomination period: August 27 to September 10
Acceptance period: September 11 and September 13
Campaigning period: September 14 and September 16
Vote: September 17

The vote will take place on the 17th at 6pm by a secret ballot vote in the Atrium of the CS building. There will be pizza and pop as well for this event so come out and support the Dalhousie Women in Technology Society.

Liz Legere, WiTS Chair

CS SOCIETY DESK

2nd Floor, CS Building

I'd first like to thank everyone who helped make the Cape Split trip a success, I believe it was everyone working together which helped make the trip happen. Also, since the semester is coming to an end the society desk will be closing as of the 8th of August. But it will be reopening for September so be sure to come by your society desk and support your society next semester. Finally, I would like to say it has been a pleasure serving as the society desk manger and I wish all the best to the new fall society desk staff.

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Manya Sivanandam, Society Desk Manager

www.cssociety.ca | cssociety@cs.dal.ca



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

First I would like to say it has been a pleasure being the editor for the CS newsletter this semester. I would like to extend my appreciation to the CSS for letting me manage this newsletter and to all those who helped make this newsletter possible.

As another semester here at dal comes to an end I'd like to say farewell and good luck to those who are leaving Dalhousie. I would also like to thank both the Dean and the Society Desk Manager who have both contributed to this newsletter every month. The featured News from our Faculty Desk and Society Desk columns have helped make this newsletter a success and will hopefully continue to do so in the future semesters.

As always, all of us at CSS hope that this newsletter will continue to grow as the voice of students, faculty and staff.

Liz Legere, Editor

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTY DESK

Prepping for Teaching

So, it's August! End of term (again). For some of you, this is your last "end of term" as you head off into various jobs. For others, it is just a welcome break before the next term starts. For the profs, well – some of us will be taking vacation while others will be prepping for next term's courses.

What goes into prepping for a course? If it is a "new prep", i.e., a course the prof has not given before, probably more than you think. The common rule of thumb is that for a new prep, it takes about 5 hours of prep time for each hour of classroom teaching. This is why we try not to give a prof more than one new prep a year.

If it is a prof's second time for the same course, it takes about 3 hours for each hour in the classroom. These hours are so that we can figure out what we did wrong, what we left out, what we should have left out, examples that really work, etc. By the 3rd time we teach a course, it should take about 1 hour of prep for each classroom hour – enough time to freshen the notes.

What happens if the prof teaches it a 4th time? Well, unless it is the prof's research area, they probably should not be teaching the course again. We should be "rotated out" after the 3rd time teaching the course so that we don't become stale with that material. This rotation is often an over-constrained problem, but one we should be trying to solve. Maybe in 3110?

Michael Shepherd, Dean

www.cssociety.ca | cssociety@cs.dal.ca

NEWS FROM SOCIETY – SOCIETY WIRE

Hello everyone, I'd like to take this time to send out thanks for another great semester with the CSS. This semester we enjoyed many events such as the Office Space Geekbeer, the Ladies Night Geekbeer, our summer BBQ's and the Cape Split Day trip.

At our CSS meetings we worked on many things, such as revamping our constitution and have started planning for the orientation week events. Also we have added a new position on our society council: Geekbeer Manager (this is a paid position). Hiring will take place in the fall.

Other news that has been brought up at council meetings that you may not be aware of is that there is a new course being offered in the fall for CS students, the course is a new first year class; it is an elective course designed to give students a more broad view of computer science rather than just Java, Java, Java. Students from 2nd year and higher are also allowed to take it as a free elective.

And finally, elections are upon us. If you have yet to make nomination(s) for the fall CSS council and are a CS student, please do so immediately.

You can email you nomination(s) to the elections officer at scripter@cs.dal.ca with a subject of "Nominations", a nomination needs all of the following information to be effective:

- * Your CS id (torch login)
- * Your Banner Number
- * The name of the person you are nominating.
- * The position you are nominating them for.

If any of these things are not provided your nomination application will be incomplete and will be discarded.

The CSS election schedule is as follows:

Nomination period: (2 week minimum) July 27 to August 10
Acceptance period: (48 hour minimum) August 13 and August 14
Campaigning period: (48 hour minimum) August 15 and August 16
Voting period: (72 hour minimum) August 17 through August 20

To vote:

ssh to torch (<http://www.cs.dal.ca/studentservices/ssh.shtml> for help)
run /users/cs/scripter/vote and follow the directions.

Liz Legere, CS Secretary

www.cssociety.ca | cssociety@cs.dal.ca