

DALHOUSIE WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (WITS)

The Dalhousie Women in Technology Society (WiTS) is kicking off our summer with some great events. First on the list is a Clay Café and then will soon be followed in July and August with an Ice Cream Social and a Make Magazine day where people get together to build toy robots. It is going to be a blast so feel free to come have some fun, and support women in technology here at Dalhousie.

As well, for those who are interested in getting involved with our society there are positions on the wits council waiting for you. Or if you are not able to join us now, in September there we will be holding our second AGM in order to elect the new with council for the fall term and there is a place in it for you. More information about the AGM and election/voting procedures will be sent out later this semester so look for it in the August edition of this newsletter.

This Month's Event:

Sunday **June 22nd** from 3:30pm to 5:30pm – Clay Café, 6413 Quinpool Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia
For more information, email legerel@sympatico.ca or visit the Clay Café website at <http://www.claycafe.ca/>

This Month's Meeting:

Friday **June 27th** @ 11a.m. - Computer Science Building, Room 311

Liz Legere, WiTS Chair

CS SOCIETY DESK

2nd Floor, CS Building

Candies are back!

Tux is back from his hibernation and brings with him tons of candies!! So come by the Society Desk and pick a candy!!

Everyday is Special!

So what's today? "I love my dentist day", "Hug your cat day" or "Mourn for your money day"? Well, walk by the Society Desk and take a peek at the white board to find it out for yourself!!

T-Shirts at Barbeque!

The Friday barbeque has an extra item on its menu this summer ... T- shirts!
So grab your CS shirt soon and start flaunting your department!

Manya Sivanandam, Society Desk Manager

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



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

Another month has past and once again here comes another newsletter. At this point I would like to take the time to invite students to submit something of their own for the newsletter next month. It doesn't have to be long, just something to do with computer science and or technology in general. Could be an overview of some of the research you are doing, or perhaps just something interesting, like new research or some discoveries that are being made in computer science that you came across and would like to share with the rest of the CS department. In any case, please email whatever you'd like to see get into the next issue of this newsletter to me at legerel@sympatico.ca and I will see that it gets in the July issue of the Computer Science Newsletter. If you'd like to see your name in this newsletter next month, I'd like to make it happen!

Liz Legere, Editor

NEWS FROM OUR FACULTY DESK

Your Educational Experience

One of the directions in the Faculty's strategic plan has evolved from providing the best educational programs to providing the best educational experience. The distinction between the two goals is significant. Whether at the undergraduate or the graduate level, an important part of your education happens beyond the class lectures and beyond the set of course requirements.

Your educational experience includes how you are able to continue learning on your own and from your peers and how you contribute to a larger community. We will be exploring avenues such as how to better augment undergraduate classes with labs, how to help students explore new technologies more easily, how to get a better view of the breadth of computer science as a discipline, and how to have students better exchange their knowledge and experiences with one another at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Changes have to be balanced with the resources available in the Faculty and the time that each of you can reasonably dedicate to your studies. The educational experience would need to come through collaboration between the Faculty, the CS Society, the local ACM chapter, and WiTS.

Naturally, we will also be examining the Faculty's academic programs to provide the strongest base from which you can launch your career, whether in industry or in academia. We will be looking at whether we should be creating specializations within degrees, which specializations would be sustainable, and how to look ahead to best prepare for the next technology wave. We think about how to engage all of you better into computer science as a discipline to help you find the niche that really catches your interest.

We are in the initial stages of planning and prioritizing the possible options for this part of the strategic plan, so there is plenty of time to let us know your thoughts. You can send your suggestions to me at mcallist@cs.dal.ca or send them through the CS Society cssociety@cs.dal.ca.

Mike McAllister, Associate Dean

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

NEWS FROM SOCIETY – SOCIETY WIRE

The summer is upon us and your council is ready with a bunch of exciting events in the making. As always we have our weekly CS Geekbeer and on the 20th after the building renaming we are having a special Office Space Geekbeer. So bring all your friends to watch the movie, be served by bartenders covered in flair and wear an Office Space costume for a chance to win Milton's red Swingline stapler! Also this summer we are having weekly BBQ's in front of the CS Building on Friday's starting at approx. 11:30am. And finally we are also planning events such as paintball, and various sporting events for later this summer. Be sure to see our next issue for more information of these events.

As you may already know the Computer Science Society will be meeting weekly on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in Teaching Lab 3 of the Computer Science Building. But what you may not know is that there are open positions on council that could be filled by you. This semester we have a large number of unfilled positions and we would like to see more people come out to our meetings and start to fill these positions. The following positions are not filled:

- 1) **Vice President External** - *VP-External is responsible for reporting on activities (e.g., joint works, interesting news, external funding) between The Society and the external parties with which it deals.*
- 2) **Vice President Internal** - *VP-Internal is responsible for reporting on activities within the faculty: undergrad committee, graduate committee, Dean's Advisor committee, etc.*
- 3) **Social Representative** - *The Social Representative is responsible for the planning and execution of social events throughout the term (and for those of you who are hesitant, we now have a Geekbeer manager so being Social Rep can finally mean something besides Geekbeer planner ;)).*
- 4) **Undergraduate Computer Science Representative** - *Undergraduate Computer Science Representative is responsible for representing students in all years of undergraduate degrees in Computer Science only.*
- 5) **Junior Undergraduate Representative** - *Junior Undergraduate Representative is responsible for representing students in the first and second year of all undergraduate degrees in the Faculty of Computer Science (Computer Science and Informatics).*
- 6) **Undergraduate Informatics Representative** - *Undergraduate Informatics Representative is responsible for representing students in all years of undergraduate degrees in Informatics.*
- 7) **Multidisciplinary Graduate Representative** - *Multidisciplinary Graduate Representatives are responsible for representing graduate students in the Faculty of Computer Science, to attend meetings on behalf of all graduate students and to keep the students informed in multidisciplinary degrees.*
- 8) **Co-op Representative** - *Co-op representatives are responsible for acting as a liaison between students and the co-op office and attending co-op meetings to which students are invited.*
- 9) **Member-At-Large** – *The responsibility of the Member-At-Large is to represent the Faculty of Computer Science as a whole and to act on the direction of the Council.*

Society Meeting Highlights:

1. Appointed a Geekbeer Manager to organize and run the weekly Geekbeer event
2. Discussion of events to be done for the summer and during Orientation week this coming September

Liz Legere, CS Secretary

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