

Dalhousie Women in Technology Society (WiTS)

Hello Everyone

As the Chair of WiTS I would like to extend a welcome to all the new and returning students. At this point you may be asking yourself: What is WiTS and/or how can I join? The answers to these questions are as follows.

WiTS is a society designed to help promote, help, and encourage women in technical fields such as computer science. Our group holds monthly meetings as well as social and educational events to help women in technology. As well our society is open to all, i.e. We have many men in our society as well, part of helping women in technology is helping men and women work together so to help us with that we appreciate the support that our male members offer us.

To answer the second question of joining, you could not pick a better time to join WiTS then right now. We are currently in the process of getting ready for elections, which means there are many positions open for students to take. All you have to do to join is send an email to Gillian Russell, our communications rep, at russell.gillian@gmail.com with your name and email address and she will add you to the WiTS mailing list. If you wish to run for a position you can also send an email to our elections officer at el332720@dal.ca with the subject line nominations, your CS ID(torch login name), your banner number, the position nominating for, and the person you are nominating for that position.

The positions in WiTS that are up for elections are as follows;

Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Rep, Events Rep, Education Rep, Member(s)-At-Large, Graduate & Multidisciplinary Graduate Rep, Undergraduate Reps(Computer Science and Informatics: both Junior and Senior), Athletics Rep, Co-op Rep, and Alumni Rep.

If you want to take part in WiTS please feel free to nominate yourself, or if your know someone who would be good for one of these positions please nominate them by Wednesday September 10th at 11:59pm. The election itself will then take place on Wednesday September 17th at 6pm by secret ballot. The election will be held in the atrium of the computer science building and there will be pizza and pop for sale as well as a Wii to play so come out for a night of fun and elections. Also for more information about WiTS and its elections visit our website at <http://wits.cs.dal.ca> or email me at el332720@dal.ca.

Liz Legere, WiTS Chair

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



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News from Our Faculty Desk

Identity Theft

We have all heard about Identity Theft, but probably most of us think, “It will never happen to me. Well last month it happened to me.

It started with the perpetrators getting hold of one of my credit card numbers. I do not use this card very often but it was used in Europe about a month prior to the problems starting. First, I received a credit card statement with a charge for an item that I did not recognize so I called the CC company and put that item into dispute. It turns out that this was the “test” transaction by the perpetrators to see if the number was valid. Then, I happened to call the CC company about something else and they wanted to know if I still lived in Toronto... This quickly got bumped up to the fraud department.

It turns out the perpetrators had used my card number and other easily attainable personal information to change the address and phone number associated with the credit card. This way, all bills would be redirected to the (presumably fake) Toronto address and it would be a while before I discovered the problem. I was lucky that I caught it early and I am not responsible for the charges incurred.

However, the CC companies report all new/changed information to at least 3 credit bureaus. So, now the credit bureaus thought I lived in Toronto as well. I put fraud alerts on all my credit cards, banking, credit bureau files, etc. I also have requested the addresses and phone numbers at the various institutions be corrected (that's another story). Now I'm just waiting to see what other damages has been done.

So, the moral of the story is – be careful with your personal information. When the secure portal asks for your mother's maiden name as the security password, just make one up – the real one is too easy to find. Oh – and buy a shredder.

Michael Shepherd, Dean

News from the CS Society President

Hi Folks

As President of the CS Society, I'd like to extend a welcome to all of our new students, and to welcome back our returning students. There are a few questions I get from students every year, so I thought I'd use this space to address some of them.

Q. How do I become a member of the CS Society?

A. If you're in CS, Informatics, or a CS graduate degree, then you just need to pay your tuition. That's right. You're automatically a member. Students in CSCI 1100 are also members. Otherwise, email me, and we'll see about getting you a membership.

Q. Why do I need to pay my tuition before I'm a member?

A. We collect \$10-\$15 from all members through their tuition (The exact amount depends on your degree program). This money is used to fund events for society members, and travel grants for grad students and others to attend conferences.

Q. What sort of events does Society run?

A. Our event offerings include Geekbeer, Video Game Tournaments, board game nights, hikes, trips to see prominent speakers (e.g. Steve Wozniak), a formal dinner and dance and award gala, movie nights and others. We also organize intramural teams.

Q. So what's coming up?

A. Well, we've got a Starcraft tournament planned for this Saturday, and a more detailed events schedule should be arriving in your inbox soon!

Q. How can I contact Society?

A. You can reach me by email at jdoucette@cs.dal.ca, or you can check our website at www.cs.dal.ca/~society. We're also looking for new council members (people who want to get a bit more involved in the inner workings of society) so everyone is welcome to attend our meeting this Thursday in Teaching Lab 3 on the first floor at 5:30pm. See you then!

John Doucette, CSS President