Academy Update

In January, students connected during our Game Day on Zoom, learned from a panel of UCSB students and their professor, and completed final projects in their CS classes. This month we are looking forward to two virtual field trips: SB Tech, which is designed for introductory students to learn about local tech companies and career paths, and the combined Silicon Beach/College Bound field trip, which is designed to expand second and third year computer science students’ knowledge of career and post-secondary educational opportunities.

We are also beginning to plan our Creative Computing summer camp, which will likely be run at least partially in a virtual format this summer. The camp is run by CS Academy students for 6th and 7th grade students with the goal of introducing a diverse group of younger students to the fun and creativity of computer science. Students who are interested in helping with the camp should watch for messages with more information in the near future.

Student Work

At the end of last semester, AP Computer Science students completed their final projects using the Java programming language.

Carrington Mitchum, Julia Stewart, and Barrett Collins created a version of the game Connect Four. To play their game, click here and then click “Run.”

Cooper Lender created a game where you have an animal and during the game you fight other animals, level up, and gain coins. The images below are from the game.

Upcoming Events

2/9 - 2/11 4-5pm SB Tech (virtual) Field Trip
2/23 - 2/25 4-5pm Silicon Beach (virtual) Field Trip
3/2 12:15-12:45pm March Lunch Speaker: Alum Zach Parent from Google
3/3 5:30-6:15pm Parent Night

Club Meetings

Mondays 11:30-12:15 pm Maker’s Club
Wednesdays 3:30-4:00 pm Game Development Club
Every other Wednesday 12:15-12:45 pm Girls Who Code
Recent Events

Lunch speaker
I learned a lot from Professor Franks and all of his students (Sam Sheridan, Robin Hollingsworth, Lawrence Lin, and Meng Vong). It was really great to be able to hear/see what it is like to be doing computer science at the college level. They talked about all of their projects and how the code they make can benefit scenarios in the real world. One example that I remember was of a program I think Sam Sheridan made to look through websites to find illegal information. One takeaway that I got from these lunch speakers was that you don’t need to be super experienced to start studying computer science in college. Some of the students hadn’t taken any classes before college, but with good studying habits and hard work they improved to be able to make awesome programs. I realized how lucky I am to be able to take some classes in high school to give me more options in the future.

--Dana Whitney