Academy Update

October was an eventful month in the CS Academy, and we have lots to look forward to! In addition to our second lunch speaker, we hosted our SB Tech Event for students in our introductory computer science classes. Representatives from our local Amazon Alexa office and True Digital Surgery gave presentations and answered students’ questions about their work. See below for a student’s perspective on this event.

We are gearing up for this year’s Hello, World! project. Hello, World! is a service learning program run in partnership with the CS Academy Foundation. Students who participate in the program work as a team with the guidance of a mentor from the tech industry to develop an app for a local non-profit. This year's project and program application will be announced soon via NEO!

In other exciting news, we selected new computers for the PC lab and have started the approval and purchasing process. When they arrive later this school year, students will have the opportunity to help and learn how to set them up while earning community service hours. Students will be notified of when this will happen via NEO.

Our first social lunch of the year will be for sophomores on Tuesday, November 16. An invitation was sent via a NEO message to all sophomores. Be sure to RSVP so we have food for you!

Upcoming Events

11/16 Sophomore social lunch: Lunch will be provided
12/3 iOS Mobile Programming class field trip
12/14 Lunch speaker: Ashvini Varatharaj, PhD student at UCSB

Club Meetings

Thursdays at lunch: Maker’s Club
Last Wednesday of each month at lunch: Girls Who Code

Student Work

This month we are showcasing work created by students in Exploring Computer Science. The students coded “choose your own adventure” style stories. You can see the code for the stories by clicking on “Show code” at the top of each story.

Damian created this story to demonstrate programming concepts that make the code more elegant and concise.

Vincent R. created this story about microaggressions being experienced
domestically.

Quinn Lewis created this story about microaggressions.

*The students named above have chosen how they would like their names listed here.

**Recent Events**

**Lunch speaker**

The Computer Science Academy welcomed Jordan Mash, a software engineer at OpenText. He spoke to students at lunch to give insight into what it's like to work as a computer scientist.

One of his favorite parts of his job is being faced with new challenges each day. Projects can be fast or be worked on over several years. He gets to collaborate with other computer scientists. A day's task can go from coding to problem solving via Zoom meeting. The hours are flexible but he likes to structure his day because he finds this most productive.

He took his first computer science class his first year of college. He instantly liked it because it is logical, and knew he wanted to pursue a career in it. He has been consistently working in computer science since he graduated college. He recommends it because it's a stable profession and is needed everywhere! He thinks it's great that students are getting involved and encourages us to continue taking classes. Thank you Jordan Mash!

--Marielle Janigian

**SB Tech**
As a student in the CS Academy I really enjoyed the SB Tech event here at school. The first presentation was about Amazon's Alexa and the three visitors from the Santa Barbara team came to discuss and answer any questions that relate to Alexa and how it works. What stood out was the discussion about work environments, how Alexa works and how a team of developers can work together all around the world in a seemingly unison form. Many of us asked questions to the group of three visitors including myself. My personal question was about how much of Alexa is machine learning and the rest is direct human work and the visitors answered that question beautifully.

The next event was a visitor from a digital surgery company that specializes in the technology used to help conduct surgery with digital imaging lenses. The visitor discussed the many uses for this type of technology and showcased images taken from said technology to present how it is used first hand. The visitor also discussed briefly how the technology works from a hardware point of view to a software point of view. All students including myself were all fascinated and learned that this was how surgery is being recently conducted and how computer science can be integrated into the medical field. The whole event was amazing and I wish for there to be more events and showcases! I thank the visitors and supporters for making it possible and it makes for a much more fun experience outside of school time for computer science. My name is Vincent Razo and I am a junior at Santa Barbara High School and I am a member of Santa Barbara High School Computer Science Academy.

--Vincent Razo

**Extracurricular Activities**

Below are a couple of the opportunities shared with students via NEO.

**Cutler-Bell Prize and Scholarship**

If you have completed or plan to complete a CS project outside of what is required for your CS classes, you may want to apply for the Cutler-Bell Prize. The Cutler-Bell Prize is a $10,000 scholarship for seniors who want to study CS or technology in college and have pursued computing challenges outside of class.
To learn more about the award and apply by the January 18 deadline: [https://csteachers.org/page/csta-acm-cutler-bell-prize](https://csteachers.org/page/csta-acm-cutler-bell-prize)

**Studying CS in College**
I know many juniors are beginning to think about where to apply to college, and seniors are working on college applications. The slides linked below contain information about how to strengthen your application and ideas for schools to consider if you are planning to study computer science or a related field in college.

Remember that you can always stop by the CS Academy or email me if you have questions or would like help with the college application process.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ExA7PMdsGjRMP6dfxhMcOTyssl88JmrelmDkXZkm0Ek/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ExA7PMdsGjRMP6dfxhMcOTyssl88JmrelmDkXZkm0Ek/edit?usp=sharing)

**Learning Cybersecurity**
Cybersecurity is an area of high need in the job market, and working in cybersecurity provides continuous opportunities for learning and problem solving. If you'd like to learn more about cybersecurity and have the opportunity to win scholarships while you're at it, check out CyberStart America. You can register for free and play games that teach you the basics of cybersecurity up to very advanced concepts and techniques. Click on the link below to learn more and register.

[https://www.cyberstartamerica.org/](https://www.cyberstartamerica.org/)