Chapter Name: Concordia University Wisconsin ACM-W Student Chapter

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GRACE Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/cuwgrace

Description of Chapter and School

Concordia University Wisconsin is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the World. The Computer Science department at CUW views, teaches, and advocates for Computer Science and Information Technology as liberal arts worthy of study and capable of facilitating a holistic view of knowledge, service, and opportunity. Our chapter – nicknamed "GRACE" for "Girls Rocking Algorithms, Computing, and Engineering" – was formed in order to support, encourage, and recruit women into the exciting field of computing.

The Computer Science department currently has over 100 Computer Science and Information Technology majors and minors. Many more students take CS and IT courses. Our department has 5 full time faculty members.

The department has been passionate about creating an atmosphere that welcomes women and celebrates the unique strengths and abilities that they bring to the field. GRACE has over twenty confirmed members and welcomes many more individuals to its monthly events. Chapter members are typically computer science or information technology majors or minors, or graduate students studying in the master's in Information Technology or master's in Computer Science programs.

GRACE began as a simple idea when three computer science professors and one staff member were brainstorming ways to advocate and support women in technology. It's amazing that from this humble beginning GRACE was successfully chartered by both the ACM-W and CUW's Student Government Association in only a few brief months. Today, less than a year and a half later, GRACE is already a popular organization with a consistently high event turnout. With a mixture of over 20 undergraduate and graduate students, staff members, and professors, GRACE offers a variety of activities to serve students during all phases of their academic careers.

Concordia University Wisconsin ACM-W Student Chapter: Outstanding Chapter Activities

Our chapter puts on many events over the course of the school year. All our events are funded through the Student Government Association of our school and the Computer Science department. The events are open to our members and anyone else interested in learning more about technology. Below is a listing of our most successful events of the 2016-2017 school year.

Ada Lovelace Day 2016

We celebrated **Ada Lovelace Day** in October by inviting people to take pictures with a CG Ada Lovelace. We had about 20 participants take pictures with Ada. What made this event successful was that we set it up in a high traffic location, which enabled a variety of students to be involved and allowed us to widely promote the history of women in technology.

The **Winter Bash** was our big activity of the 2016 fall semester. We planned games, food, and other activities to thank group members and recruit new members for the spring semester. 30 to 40 people participate in this event. It provided students with an opportunity to relax at the end of the semester, enjoy fellowship and free food, and win door prizes.

Winter Bash 2016

In February, the owner of a local software development company gave a **Job Preparation** to our group. 15 students attended the event. The presenter shared tips and skills to navigate through the application and interview process of job-hunting, and she encouraged students to prepare for a bright future in the technology industry.

Ozo Night: Spring Semester 2017

Ozo-Night event gave students the opportunity experiment with robots. Students were able to "code" their own mazes for the Ozobots to go through, experimenting with different commands to make the Ozobots perform dance moves, make turns, and spin. At least 30 people attended the event and interacted with the robots. Solid on- and off-campus advertising enabled us to provide students with a unique learning opportunity.

In April 2017, our CS department hosted their second hackathon. We hosted a meeting to help our members come up with ideas and polish their skillsets for the for the hackathon. 15 people attended the pre-hackathon meeting to discuss ideas and get tips for the actual hackathon. Several of our officers participated in the hackathon and encouraged their fellow students throughout the day.

Faculty Sponsor Dr. Michael Litman takes a break while board members (from L to R) Alexis Rolenc, Katelyn Smith, and Grace Seying work steadily during the Computer Science Hackathon.

Coming up, we are planning a Spring Bash (similar to last year's popular Winter Bash) at the end of the spring semester. We also have a technology movie night in the works where we will be showing the film *Hidden Figures*. This will provide members a chance to learn more about the history of women in computing – and, of course, celebrate it!

With a strong officer board and support from the Computer Science department, we look forward to even more exciting events in the future.