BC CS NEWSLETTER
0x7E8 VOL. 1

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Bellevue College Computer Science Newsletter! In this debut issue, we're excited to recap the exciting happenings of the Fall 2023 academic quarter. Dive into a detailed overview encompassing guest speaker events, engaging coding challenges, and collaborative team-building activities. Additionally, we'll spotlight key upcoming events for the winter quarter.
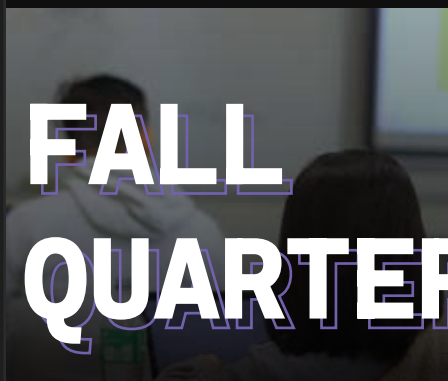
At BC Computer Science, our commitment to nurturing student success is unwavering. Inside this edition, discover a wealth of resources and opportunities tailored to our members. Join us as we delve into the vibrant world of computer science at Bellevue College!

AGENDA.txt

1 Fall Quarter's Recap
2 Student Spotlight
3 CS Scholarship
4 Calendar & Events
5 AI Resources
6 Student Resources
7 Career Hub
8 Did you know?
9 Coding Chalenges

Fall_Quarter_Recap.png — FALL QUARTER RECAP

Student_Spotlight.png — SPOTLIGHT

Winter_Schedule.png — CALENDAR & FUTURE EVENTS

Social Media   Problem   Output   Debug Console

BELLEVUE COLLEGE COMPUTER SCIENCE

BC CS Linktree

CS Club Discord

FALL QUARTER RECAP

INTERNSHIP TALK WITH NEERAJ MANDAL

Everyone knows that the job market for tech positions can be competitive, and internships are simply a way to get your foot in the door. That's why we asked software engineer at Microsoft, Neeraj Mandal to talk about his own experience applying for internships.

Neeraj encourages students to apply to internships early, consistently, and most importantly, often. It only took him 250 applications, but Neeraj still landed positions at Dell and Microsoft while also studying for his degree. Furthermore, he emphasizes how crucial it is to have a clear, well-rounded, and concise resume that is personalized to you and highlights all your qualifications.

He gave helpful tips, resources, and answered students burning questions surrounding the process. Neeraj's insights and experience will be invaluable to students over the coming year.

PUGET SOUND PROGRAMMING COMPETITION

Students attended their first programming competition of the year hosted by UW Tacoma on October 28th!

After separating into trios, teams competed in a round of Halloween-themed programming challenges. Members took turns writing code and solving problems of increasing difficulty. By the end of the competition, one of our teams achieved fourth place for their outstanding performance.

Congratulations and good luck on their next competition in May!

COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB LEETCODE COMPETITION

Inspired by the competition at UW Tacoma, the CS Club hosted its very own LeetCode event. Programmers of all backgrounds and experience levels were faced with a wide range of programming challenges and a time limit of merely three hours.

Congrats to Nathaniel, Shayan, and Ryan for coming out on top and demonstrating their superior coding skills. For other challenges like this, check the Computer Science Club Discord for weekly LeetCode challenges.

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txt Fun_Events.txt

Expedia_Groups_Technology_VP.txt
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CODE, CAREERS, CREATIVITY WITH EMIL RICCARDI

This quarter we welcomed back one of our original program advocates, Emil Riccardi, to talk about his career progression and how his five-year plan changed over the course of his career.

Emil currently works as the Technology VP for Expedia Group, but he did not necessarily envision himself in this type of position. Starting as a UW undergraduate student in anthropology, he had to take many steps to get where he is today. His key advice for students looking to find career success was to pursue their special interests. Incorporating your passions into your career and networking with people who share those passions is one of the few surefire ways to find fulfillment wherever you go.

Because of Emil's background, he was able to share a unique perspective on career progression within the tech industry. As a program manager and supervisor, Emil was able to coach students on the qualities that employers are looking for in potential new hires and how they can find success in positions that align with their interests.

Emil_R.png

Emil_R.png

Seattle_Bouldering_Project.txt
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SEATTLE BOULDERING PROJECT

HPP.png

After many long nights of debugging midterm projects, CS majors went indoor rock climbing to hang out and unwind. The walls presented a unique challenge for climbers of all abilities. While some of our students were avid climbers, most were total novices. However, with the support of the more experienced students many of our club members were able to complete their very first climb and reach the top of the wall. Here's to more rock climbing!

Halloween_Pumpkin_Painting.txt
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HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PAINTING

HPP.png

Did you feel the Halloween spirit looming over campus this October? The CS Club hosted a festive Halloween pumpkin painting event. Our students' creativity and excitement for the spooky season really showed in their designs. The decorated pumpkins were later lined up outside the lounge for potential trick-or-treaters.

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FINALS DE-STRESSOR

FDS.png

Despite the stress of finals preparation, students can still enjoy a fun afternoon of good board games and engaging conversation. Attendees indulged in various snacks, pizza, and desserts, and played games late into the afternoon. There were many exciting rounds of "Werewolf", "Exploding Kittens", and "Sequence" that ended in laughter. Thanks to CS Club for organizing such a joyous and stress-relieving evening!

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SPOTLIGHT
SPOTLIGHT

Hailey_Mandal.txt
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HAILEY MANDAL
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TWO-TIME CONSECUTIVE CS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Tell us a bit about yourself.
My name is Hailey Mandal and I am a senior in the Computer Science Program. I am originally a first-generation college student from Minnesota, and I started at BC in the Business Transfer Program.
What led you to the CS Program?
I am returning to college after being in the workforce for 7 years. I had made the change in my degree after my first year because I found myself playing it safe when pursuing a college degree.
How do you feel about this change?
It felt so good to finally go to college, but I didn't want to risk my chances of failing. Switching was the best decision I made. Computer Science is challenging but I've found the reward is far greater. The sense of accomplishment I feel after a final is something I've never experienced.
Tell us a bit more about your scholarship.
I have been awarded the CS Scholarship for the second year in a row. This has relieved financial tension and gives me the safety to take these chances. It also showed me that others believe that I will be successful. I could not imagine being where I am today. It is a 360 from the direction I was heading, and I love it.

Hailey.png

What's next for Hailey Mandal?
I secured an internship at T-Mobile over the summer as a Technical Product Manager, the career I wanted after graduation. I will remain with them part-time and will be converted to full-time employee in June.
What advice do you have for fellow students?
The advice I'd like to give is to build a community around yourself. Personally, it helps me see I wasn't alone in understanding concepts and growing passion for CS. Community isn't only classmates; it is faculty too. Go to office hours, ask questions, don't be shy! They care more about you than you know.
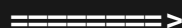

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Pets.png

BC_Foundation_Scholarship.txt

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🖼 **Calendar.png**

CALENDAR
CALENDAR

■ **THE NEW TECHNOLOGISTS INNOVATION ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION**
Friday, January 12, 2:30-3:30PM PT (Virtual)

■ **CS CLUB ALUMNI NIGHT**
Thursday, January 12, 6:00-8:30PM PT (BC Campus – A110)
A friendly meet and greet with alumni looking to reconnect

■ **HOW TO NAVIGATE A CAREER FAIR WORKSHOP**
Thursday, January 25, 3:00-4:00PM PT (Virtual & BC Campus)
Bonus Resume Help: 4:00-4:30PM PT (BC Campus)
Get tips on how to come prepared to a career fair
and ask questions during a Q&A session.

■ **CS INTERNSHIP AND NETWORKING FAIR**
Thursday, February 1, 1:00-3:30PM PT (BC Campus – U301)
Get a chance to learn about potential internships for
Summer 2024, and network with people in the field.

■ **BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWS WORKSHOP**
Thursday, February 8, 3:00-4:30PM PT (Virtual)
Learn how to prepare for behavioral interviews, see a demo
by professionals and get a chance to practice.

■ **TECHNICAL INTERVIEWS WORKSHOP**
Thursday, February 22, 3:00-4:30PM PT (Virtual)
Learn how to prepare for entry-level software development
technical interviews.

■ **FINDING YOUR CAREER PATH IN TECH PANEL**
Thursday, March 7, 3:00-4:00PM PT (Virtual & BC Campus)
Bonus Meet and Greet: 4:00-4:30PM PT (BC Campus)
Hear from a panel of tech professionals about their career
paths and get advice for your own progression.

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GENERAL COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENT

■ **HOLIDAYS/COLLEGE CLOSE**
■ **CLASS REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2024**
02/12 Registration open for current students
02/14 Registration open for new students
■ **FINALS DATE**
■ **TUITION DUE DATE**
03/12 Tuition due for Registration from 02/12 - 03/11
03/19 Tuition due for Registration from 03/12 - 03/26
03/27 Tuition due for Registration after 03/26

📅 Calendar

JANUARY

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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31						

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INTELLICASE BOT DESIGN COMPETITION
AI

Topcoder is excited to invite your students to participate in our Innovation Series – Challenge 1: "IntelliCase Bot (GPT)", a unique opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art conversational chatbot using open-source language models. This project aims to revolutionize the way users interact with Topcoder's extensive case study repository, enhancing both our sales approach and customer experience.

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txt **Objective.txt** ✕

OBJECTIVE:
Create an LLM-powered chatbot that effectively searches and presents thousands of Topcoder case studies. Because of the complexity and multi-source of these case studies, it has become quite difficult to search using the regular method. Thus, an AI chatbot is needed to understand and respond to user queries with high relevance, contextual insight, and proper presentation.

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TECHNOLOGY:
Focus on open-source language models that can be locally served, with options to use additional third-party libraries that might enhance the performance or functionality of the language models.

USER INTERFACE:
A web chatbot-like interface is recommended, alongside a web portal for configuration and analysis.

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EVALUATION CRITERIA:
Solutions will be judged on accuracy, response relevance, user satisfaction, and technical efficiency, including ease of integration and adaptability. This challenge offers a platform for your students to apply their skills in a real-world scenario, with the chance to win cash prizes nearing $10,000. It's an excellent opportunity for practical experience and showcasing their talents in a global arena.

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TOOLS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AI

Artificial intelligence has been a rapidly growing industry for several years. Here are some resources that assist you in building your first generative AI.

1. Gain foundational knowledge of how LLMs work by taking the "Generative AI with Large Language Models".

2. Build GenAI apps fast with Bedrock. Learn Bedrock APIs, SDKs, and open-source software LangChain, FAISS and more.

3. GenAI with SageMaker, a Quickstart solution for tweaking and customizing the open-source models.

4. Code faster with CodeWhisperer. Build applications faster and more securely with your AI coding companion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ========>

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Student_Resource.png

STUDENT RESOURCE
STUDENT RESOURCE

Maximize your success at Bellevue College by utilizing college resources throughout your academic journey.

Financial Aid for Spring 2024 deadline on February 1st
Apply for Financial Aid early to alleviate any stress for upcoming quarters.

Academic Success Center
To guarantee student success, Bellevue College offers free tutoring for all students.

BC Benefits Hub including food pantry and emergency student funding
Bellevue College supports students experiencing financial difficulties and food insecurity. We are here to provide the necessary help.

Counseling Center
Bellevue College offers extensive and professional counseling for any student who is struggling with their mental health

Disability Resource Center
Bellevue College provides important academic accommodation to ensure student equity in education access.

CS Student Resource
Need a bus pass to get to campus? Or do you need textbooks for class? Reach out to Margo for a free voucher at margo.ikegami@bellevuecollege.edu

txt **cover_main.txt** ✕

Career_Hub.png

CAREER HUB
CAREER HUB

Check out the following programs that support and mentor young professionals throughout their academic journey. Credit: Asad Nur.

CODEPATH
CodePath is a program for supplemental learning that is open to students of all experience levels. Get more projects under your belt, expand your portfolio, and connect with industry professionals looking for candidates like you.

GIRLS WHO CODE COLLEGE LOOPS (GWC)
A community-based program specifically catered for college-age women that works on connecting professionals and students in tech. College Loop hosts weekly community building meetings during the school years.

MLT CAREER PREP
Looking for a career mentor? MLT matches you with mentors that follow you throughout your academic journey. Mentors can help you find your passions, practice interview skills, and build your resume. MLT even partners with tech companies to help connect you to internships in your field.

COLORSTACK
Colorstack is geared towards the development of Black/African American and Latinx students in the tech industry. They are a club-like community aimed at providing resources and support such as conferences and networking events.

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🖼 Did_You_Know.png

DID YOU KNOW?
DID YOU KNOW?

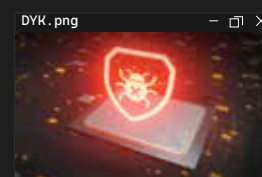**THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER**
Did You Know the first computer programmer was a woman named Ada Lovelace? Thanks to her mathematical talents, she wrote an algorithm for Charles Babbage's early mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine, making her the world's first computer programmer.

THE FIRST COMPUTER VIRUS
Did you know the first computer virus to spread in the wild was the "Elk Cloner" virus in 1982? It infected Apple II systems through floppy disks and displayed a playful poem. The virus duplicates and spreads by copying itself into a clean floppy disk.

DYK.png

DYK.png

txt **Challenge.txt** ✕

🖼 Code_Challenges.png

CODE CHALLENGE
Don't Open Dead INSIDE

You have a collection of bizarre text files where consecutive words are written vertically instead of horizontally, as in this image. This makes the files very hard to read. You are to write a program that will convert the vertically written files into the normal horizontally written files.

INPUT (FROM FILE: I.IN.TXT)
The input file will consist of multiple vertically written text files, each terminated by a single blank line.

OUTPUT (TO FILE: I.OUT.TXT)
The output should consist of horizontally written text files such that the first line of a converted file has the first words of every line in the vertically written file, and the second line has the second words of every line, and so on. Each horizontally written file should be terminated by a single blank line.

SAMPLE INPUT
DON'T DEAD
OPEN INSIDE

This written of
sentence vertically, horizontally.
is instead

SAMPLE OUTPUT
DON'T OPEN
DEAD INSIDE

This sentence is
written vertically, instead
of horizontally

📄 Submission.txt

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PRIZES: Announced in the next issue
LANGUAGES: C++, Java, Python, etc.
SUBMISSION EMAIL: cs@bellevuecollege.edu